

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

in the first Assembly that shall meet; and that it be recommended, that no person, be capable of being elected for a District, that is not possessed, either in his own right, or in right of his Wife, of a Seigneurie within the Province.

That the person elected speaker of the Assembly shall take the Oaths of Allegiance, Supremacy, and Abjuration, and also subscribe the Test required by the Act of the twenty fifth of Charles the second, Chap: Second.

By the foregoing regulations your Lordships will observe, that it is probable, that the House of Representatives will consist nearly of an equal number of Protestant & Roman Catholic Subjects; and that, as those to be elected for the Cities of Quebec and Montreal, and for the Town of Trois Rivières, must of necessity be Protestants, so it will be most likely, though not of necessity, that those for the Districts will be persons professing the Roman Catholic Religion; and we trust, that, when your Lordships consider the state of this Colony, in respect to the very great Superiority in number and property of the new Subjects, you will not think the rule of proportion between one description and the other to be more favorable to the new Subjects than Justice and equity require.

As to the proper times for the meeting of the Assembly, the nature and form of the Writ for election, and the Various other minute regulations incident to such an institution, they are matters, which must be left to the discretion of His Majesty's Governor, who will doubtless regulate his conduct herein, by what has been approved and found most beneficial in other Colonies, so far as such precedents conform to the peculiar Situation and circumstances of Quebec.

We are now come, my Lords, to that part of your Lordships Order, by which we are directed to consider of the present state of the Colony of Quebec in regard to the Administration of Justice, religious Establishments, and Revenue; and what may be proper to be recommended to the consideration of the Legislature there, for the welfare and interest of the Colony in these several points.

The general observations, which we have before submitted to your Lordships upon the state of the Colony of Quebec, in respect to these essential parts of it's interests, together with the remarks contained in the Governor's Letters already referred to, make it unnecessary for us to enlarge further upon the necessity there is for some speedy reform and regulation in these matters; and although the forming a precise and just opinion of what that reform and regulation should be, may at first sight seem to be accompanied with the greatest difficulty; yet as all these great objects have already been fully considered, and the Subject matter discussed at the proper Boards, and by His Majesty's Law Servants;¹ and as we have every other information, that could be collected from the correspondence of His Majesty's Governors, and from the examination of persons best acquainted

¹ See report of Yorke and de Grey, p. 251.