

First Report. With regard to the representation of Lincoln, instead of returning to elections by ridings, it would be better to adopt some uniform system throughout the colony, in which, of course, that county would be included. It would not tend to equalize the state of the representation, were the 2d riding to send one member for its 5,000 wealthy inhabitants, while the village of Niagara containing about 1,200 souls was also permitted to send its member. To give the five townships composing the 4th riding one member for it 4,848 inhabitants, while the four townships of which the county of Dundas consists continued to send two to represent a population of only 3,758, and having less assessed real estate than the 4th riding, would be no improvement on the present imperfect representation of the people.

Organization
of Legislative
Council,

The state of the Representation in the House of Assembly, as well as the whole of its proceedings, are deeply affected by the present organization of the Legislative Council. A great proportion of the members of that body consists of Executive and Judicial Officers of the Government, deriving their incomes principally from their offices held during the pleasure of the Executive, dignified Ecclesiastics receiving salaries or other compensation from the Crown, retired Judges enjoying pensions not granted for life by the Legislature but held during the will of the Executive, and Naval and Military Officers on half pay, the local Government at the same time being in all respects independent of the votes of the H. of Assembly. So long, therefore, as the present formation of a Legislative Council shall last, there can be but very faint hopes that those measures earnestly desired by the people and sanctioned by successive Houses of Assembly will become Laws. There is, too, a constant reference in the House of Assembly to the prospective opinions of a branch of the Legislature over the deliberations of which it is evident that the Executive Government exercises a powerful influence.

a bar to the
prosperity of
the Province.

Judicial dependence on the Executive.

The representative branch of the legislature is and must be necessarily imperfect, so long as the supreme judges and interpreters of the laws shall continue dependant on the executive for the tenure of their official stations, and the continuance of their salaries. How can dependants on the holders of executive power be expected to protect the rights of the people when invaded by that power? Will it be said, that a judicial