

Do you think it would be expedient to annex Walpole and Rainham to the District of Niagara?

I think not, it would be attended with much inconvenience, as respects the registry of deeds, and I do not think it would be advisable on other grounds.

If it were determined to keep the District of London undivided, selecting a situation most convenient to all the inhabitants, and in other respects most eligible—what do you think would be that situation?

In my opinion London is the best situation, besides it being nearly central, it would be on the great line of communication through the Province, and therefore more convenient for the circuits, as the Judges of Assize must pass through it, and also it would form a point of connection between the Western District and other parts of the province.

J. Matthews, Esquire, M. P. called in and examined.

What is your opinion with respect to the expediency of erecting the County of Middlesex into a separate District?

It was my opinion when I first came here that it would be well to do so; but, from all I have since heard, and the consideration I have recently given to the subject, I think it would be more desirable to retain the District undivided, and select a situation the most convenient for a District Town. In this view of the subject I think that London would be the best situation for the District Town, provided Walpole and Rainham, or rather the whole of the triangle at the eastern end of Norfolk, were annexed to the District of Niagara, and the rear boundary of the District of London were to be formed by a line produced due West from the north-east corner of Zorra to Lake Huron.

### *Thursday, December 29th, 1825.*

The Committee met.

The Attorney General in the Chair.

Charles Ingersol, Esquire, M. P. called in and examined.

In what part of the District of London do you reside, and are you a Magistrate of the District?

In Oxford, where I have resided constantly for 6 years past, I am a Magistrate in the county of Oxford.

What is your opinion of the expediency of erecting the county of Middlesex into a separate District, as prayed for by the petitioners?

I am decidedly against it. I think it would be injurious to the District generally, by increasing the public expenses of that part of the country, and impoverishing the District Treasury so as to retard public improvement.

Do you think that the District of London could, without great inconvenience to its inhabitants, be preserved entire, without a necessity, from its extent, to divide it at any time; and, if so, do any local changes appear to you advisable?

I think there will never be any necessity for dividing it if the District town is placed more in the centre of the District, and I think the reservation at the forks of the Thames, in the township of London, is the most eligible situation. I think it would tend to the convenience of the inhabitants of Rainham and Walpole to annex those townships to the District of Niagara.

Do you think it would be advisable to form a northern boundary for the District, by a line extended due west from the north-east corner of Zorra to Lake Huron?

I am of opinion that it would.

Is there any considerable village now formed at St. Thomas's, and is there in your opinion any inducement, with reference to roads, population or natural advantages of situation, to place the county town there rather than at London?

There are about fifteen or twenty houses, and I think it probable a considerable village will arise there; but there is in my opinion no reason to prefer it, as the site of a county town, to London, but decidedly the reverse. It is navigable, for certain seasons of the year, to Lake Erie, down Kettle Creek; the distance is 12 miles; I believe produce is chiefly transported from St. Thomas's to Lake Erie by the river.

Are you acquainted with the amount of the revenue of the District, and the annual expenditure and present state of the treasury?

The amount of assessment in 1825, is £998. I cannot state the exact expenditure—the treasury is at present £2600 in debt, principally for the Gaol and Court-House—I think the expenditure, including the interest, falls little short, if at all, of the whole revenue.

John Rolph, Esquire, M. P. a member of the committee, is asked whether he considers it expedient, with reference to the general interests of the District of London, that the County of Middlesex should be erected into a separate District?

If the county of Middlesex were formed into a separate District, including Bayham and Malahide, I do not think it would be fair as respects the county of Norfolk; but I believe it is the wish of nine out of ten of the inhabitants of those townships to be attached to Middlesex—I am of opinion, that if Middlesex were constituted a new District, Oxford and Norfolk (including Bayham) united, should form another District, and the District town of the latter be placed in some situation convenient for the inhabitants of both, which would be some where on the great Western Road.

Do you think it preferable to divide the District as prayed for, or to retain it undivided, placing the District town in a position more central than at present?

I think if the inferior courts could be holden in each county it would be better to keep the District entire, and select a central situation for a District town; otherwise I think it would be most convenient, for the people of the District generally, that it should be divided in the manner I have already mentioned.

What is your opinion as to annexing Walpole and Rainham to the Niagara District?

I think if the inferior courts could be holden alternately in the several counties, or if Norfolk and Oxford alone constituted a District, it would not be desirable to detach them from the London District; but if the District remains undivided, and the town is placed in the centre, and all the courts held there, I think it would be expedient to annex Walpole and Rainham to Niagara.

What do you think would be the best site for a District town, in case the District remains undivided?

If the inferior courts were held alternately in the several counties, I think the reservation for a town in the township of London is decidedly in the best situation; and indeed, at all events, if the district is to remain entire I think it the best situation. I think there is no sufficient inducement to select a situation upon the shores of the Lake. St. Thomas's is a considerable village; but I think the situation not so eligible as London.

Duncan McCall, Esquire, M. P. called in and examined.

In what part of the District of London do you reside?

In Charlotteville near Vittoria.

What is your opinion respecting the desired division of the District?

I think it would be better to leave it at present as it is; the District treasury is at present in debt, and it will take a long time to get rid of the incumbrance, if the District is divided, on account of the increase of expense.

What is your opinion as to the District remaining forever undivided?

I think the people would be best accommodated by continuing it as it is, having the District town near the centre, provided the inferior courts could be held in each county alternately.

What situation do you think the most eligible for the District town, in that case?

I think somewhere upon the western road in the township of Dorchester. London is too far west, in my opinion.

Do you think it would be desirable to annex Walpole and Rainham to Niagara, in case of the District remaining entire?