

## FIRST REPORT.



### *First Report on the State of the Representation of the People of Upper Canada in the House of Assembly.*

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE.

MESSRS. LYONS, BUELL, SHAVER, HOWARD, AND  
MACKENZIE.

*To the Honorable the House of Assembly.*

The Select Committee appointed to enquire into the state of the representation of the people of this Province, in the Provincial Legislature, and to report their observations to the House thereon, with reference to the expediency of making any alteration in the Laws now in force relating thereto, have, pursuant to the order of the House, enquired accordingly; and have agreed to the following as their first report.

Your Committee have been unable to give that full consideration to this important subject which it merited, on account of the close attendance required to the business of the House, in the House. Opportunity has not been afforded to examine Witnesses, arrange evidence, and consider the Bills necessary to be reported for remedy of the many evils attending an imperfect and unequal state of the representation; they have, therefore, agreed to report such facts as they deemed worthy the consideration of the House; intending, if it should be the pleasure of the House, to resume their enquiry in the ensuing Session of the Legislature.

Your Committee are of opinion that the imperfect state of the representation in the House of Assembly is and has been the cause of much evil to the Community; and that if a remedy is not speedily applied, the people will be involved in many of these difficulties from which older and wealthier communities are in vain striving to be relieved.

An imperfect state of the representation, places the great power generally in the hands of one class of the Community—carries excessive taxation to a point beyond which it is found impossible to proceed—fosters useless and ruinous schemes and projects in which the true interests of the people are never consulted; authorises enormous grants of the public money in the shape

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*Causes which prevented the com. from reporting in full during the session.*

*Consequences of an imperfect representation of the people in representative governments.*