

expense much less than the original cost—materials for putting on the roof are brought to the spot—the committee of subscribers did not feel themselves authorised to contract for more extensive repairs until the magistrates had met.

Can you state what particular local advantage led to the placing the District town in Charlotteville, in the first instance?

I cannot; it was selected by the Legislature.

Do you think, from the nature of the soil and the mode of settlement, that the population is now, or is likely, within a few years, to become greater and more dense to the westward of the centre of the District, or to the eastward?

I think, at present, the greater population is in the eastern section of the District; but cannot speak positively. It is probable that in time the greater population will be in the western section. Upon the subject of the present situation of the District town, I think it is deserving consideration whether, rather than abandon the present situation and the remains of the Gaol and Court-House, it would not be advisable to have the inferior courts held alternately in the different counties, and the Court of King's Bench in a central situation.

Can you offer any other remark to the committee as to the expediency of dividing the District or retaining it as it now is, either altering site of the District town, or continuing it at Vittoria?

None.

What objection occurs to you against annexing the angle embracing Walpole and Rainham to the District of Niagara, in case of the County town being removed to the centre of the District of London?

I think it would be a convenient arrangement; they have more inducement at present to go to Niagara than in the other direction, from the nature of the land communication and their local situation; and in case of the Welland Canal being completed, it would doubtless be more convenient for them.

What is your opinion with respect to the propriety of annexing Bayham and Malahide to the County of Norfolk or Middlesex?

I think they were originally conceived to belong to Norfolk; the patents for lands in those townships describe them as being in Middlesex; the majority of the inhabitants I believe preferred being annexed to Norfolk; but since the destruction of the Gaol and Court-House, I am led to think that a majority have become of a different opinion—conveyances have been always registered in the County of Middlesex; but I believe some have been occasionally offered to the Register of Norfolk for Registry.

Looking at the Map and taking all things into consideration, do you think it would tend most to the prosperity of the District, to divide it into two Districts, or to retain it undivided, selecting a central position for the District Town?

My conviction is, that to retain it undivided, and select a central position for the District Town, would ultimately be attended with the best effects, though probably it might not meet the present wishes of the inhabitants.

Tuesday, December 27th, 1825.

The Committee met.

The Attorney General in the chair.

Francis L. Walsh, Esq. M. P. for the County of Norfolk, attended the Committee and was examined.

In what part of the District of London do you reside, and how long have you been resident there?

In Charlotteville, where I have lived since my childhood.

Have you a very particular local knowledge of the County of Middlesex?

Nothing more than having several times passed through it.

If it were thought expedient to retain the District of London undivided, and adopt a central position for the District Town, do you not think it would be desirable to annex the whole, or a part of the triangle at the east of the extremity of the County of Norfolk, to the District of Niagara?

I think it would be for the benefit of the inhabitants of Walpole and Rainham to annex them to the District of Niagara; but I would not recommend it, unless they first signified their willingness. The population is small, and they now resort principally to the District of Niagara. The land in those Townships is generally good.

Do you think on the whole, it would be better to erect Middlesex into a separate District or to retain the District undivided, taking a central position for the District Town?

I think it would be better to retain it undivided, provided the inferior courts were held in the different counties alternately—that is, twice a year in the District Town, and once a year in each of those counties in which the District Town shall not be situate.

Looking at the District altogether, what position do you think would be most eligible for a District town, combining intrinsic advantages of situation with the general convenience of the inhabitants?

I think the town should be upon the old Western road, but whether in Dorchester or London I can not say.

Can you state any particular reason why you think the District Town should not be removed from its present situation to one more central?

One reason is that the walls of the Gaol and Court-House are still standing, and they might be fitted for the general purposes of the District within a shorter period, and at less expense, than new buildings could be erected—the greater number of the magistrates reside in that section of the District—many individuals have purchased property in the neighbourhood of the present District Town at a high price, in consequence of the situation, and their interest would suffer much by the change.

Is there any thing connected with the division of the District that you would desire to state to the Committee?

Nothing particular occurs to me, except what I have stated.

Wednesday, December 28th, 1825.

The Committee met.

The Attorney General in the Chair.

Samuel Ridout, Esquire, Sonr. Clerk Surveyor General's office, called in and examined.

Will you be so good as to inform the committee what reservations for a Town or Towns, still exist in the Counties of Norfolk, Oxford and Middlesex?

In Oxford, at the upper fork of the Thames, there is a Town Plot reserved of about 2000 acres, not yet laid out. There is no other in the County of Oxford. In Middlesex there is a reservation for a Town Plot, part in London and part in Westminster. The reservation was originally much larger than at present, several lots of 100 acres having been portioned out of the tract, and some disposed of, I believe under the superintendence of Col. Talbot—there remains at present nearly 2000 acres, not yet laid out. In Dorchester there is another Town Plot reserved of about 800 acres.

Thomas Hornor, Esquire, M. P. for Oxford, called in and examined.

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

In the Township of Burford, in the County of Oxford, where I have resided sixteen years.

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

I think it would be well to leave the District as it is at present, and to place the District Town in some central position with regard to the County of Norfolk only, or in some situation most convenient, with respect to the principal Roads, somewhere I think in Wood House Gore, near the Village of Simcoe—distance about 7 miles from the present County Town—when I give this opinion, it is because I think some years hence the County of Middlesex must be set apart, and eventually the County of Oxford also; but this may not be for many years, provided the District Court and Sessions were held in the different Counties alternately.