

The committee are aware, that many other subjects might be recommended for the improvement of the country, but they are impressed with the conviction, that to be beneficial they must emanate from a local government that would sympathize with the wants and wishes of the people. It is only under such a government that the country can improve; it would foster the resources of the country, educate and civilize the people. No country, ancient or modern, improved without the aid of a local government; it cannot be expected that Newfoundland can form an exception to the past and present state of the world. Considerable improvement has taken place in the intelligence of the people of Newfoundland; they are every day getting more enlightened; they see that the cause which has led to their present degraded state, is the want of a local government that would watch over the interests of the country.

The committee considered it unnecessary to adduce further arguments to your Lordship, so distinguished as a statesman and legislator, to prove the advantage and necessity of a government formed on the basis of the constitution of England.

It has been said, that the people of Newfoundland are not in a situation to pay the expenses necessarily attending a local government. The committee have no hesitation in saying, that such is not the case; and have not the slightest doubt of the competency of the country, even in its present depressed state, without inconvenience, to bear all the expenses necessary for that purpose. It has been a favourite object with interested persons to throw a cloud of misrepresentation on every thing connected with the country; its resources were little known, except to those who were making them subservient to their interest.

If Newfoundland have not possessed the means of paying the expense of a civil government, it must appear extraordinary that so many persons who came there without a shilling in their pockets were able, in the course of a few years, to realize fortunes, to retire from the island, and live in splendor in other countries. The committee can now point out to your Lordship individuals residing in London, Poole, Dartmouth, Bristol, Edinburgh, Greenock, Cork and Waterford, and other parts not alone of the United Kingdom, but even in the United States of America, who made their properties in Newfoundland. If individuals could in few years realize from the labour and industry of the people sufficient to enable them to retire from the country to live independently in other countries, surely it is not too much for the committee to say, that the same people can pay the expenses of their government which would revert back on themselves with manifold advantages.

To prove the ability of the inhabitants to pay the expense of their government, the committee beg to state a few well known facts: The town of St. John's is the capital of the island, and the principal depository for the supplies and productions of the fishery; the ground on which the stores, wharfs and dwelling-houses are erected, is chiefly owned by persons residing in Great Britain, whose ancestors gained a title to it merely by occupying it for the purposes of the fishery; in consequence of the great increase of trade and population, the ground has become valuable, and the rent now charged for that situate at the waterside of Saint John's, is from 20 to 40s. per foot, on which large sums have been expended by the tenants in making the necessary erections; a sum not less than 30,000 *l.* is annually remitted from the town of Saint John's for rents; can it then be doubted that a people, who pay such large sums to absentee landlords, who do not contribute in the slightest degree to the support of the country, could pay the expenses of a civil government?

It is well known, that the mercantile houses, which accumulated all their capital in this trade, have in prosperous times, made profits of from 20 to 30,000 pounds in one year, a sum more than adequate to the support of a civil government.

The committee beg further to state to your Lordship, that the people of Newfoundland have been paying for many years duties on spirits and wine, out of which a considerable revenue has arisen; also a considerable revenue is raised from the rents of the public ship-rooms let under the authority of the Act 51 Geo. 3. c. 45. with the rents for lands in the vicinity of Saint John's, let out for the purposes of agriculture, for which from 2s. 6d. to 20s. per acre is annually obtained. Considerable additions will be made to the revenue of the country from the duties on foreign goods that may be imported under the free port Act. There are many other sources of revenue which could be resorted to without inconvenience, and which there can be little doubt would enable the country amply to pay the charges of a civil government.

Local governments have been ceded to the Canadas, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Bermuda, and some of the most inconsiderable islands in the West Indies, while Newfoundland, of equal importance to the parent state, the most ancient of her possessions in America, is deprived of its advantages.

The committee in concluding their Report, beg most respectfully and earnestly to press on your Lordship, the necessity of a government such as they recommend. Nothing else can be of much service to the country, or satisfy the just wishes of the people.

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