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Elgin. And the population of the proposed County of Elgin will be greater than the population of twenty-four Counties out of the thirty Counties and four Ridings in Upper Canada.

The reasons why the proposed County of Elgin should be set apart at once for general purposes, are, that the population exceeds twenty thousand—the inhabitants have already expressed their desire to be set apart—they will cheerfully tax themselves or apply part of their present large local tax to erect the required public buildings—the Municipal Councillors that represent the Townships, not only in the proposed new County but also in the old County, have agreed on a line of division for Judicial or Electoral purposes, at a full meeting of their body, and by a unanimous vote—the inhabitants of the North and London have also, at a meeting, expressed their opinion of a similar line for the same purpose—the resources of the proposed County fully justify it—the proposed division is fair and just, leaving to the North division or Middlesex (besides the public buildings in London) the largest portion of territory—an equal amount of population and assessed taxes—the one division has the Plank or graded Road passing through it from East to West, and the other has the great Talbot Road passing through it, also from East to West; and the resources of each division are rapidly increasing.

By the division of a large County like Middlesex into two Counties at once and for general purposes, a new impulse, as in all new Counties, is given to the inhabitants of such new County—a fresh spirit of enterprise is spread over the community, tending materially to promote improvements by a more vigorous application of the resources of the country—attracting the attention of emigrants—creating wealth, prosperity, and comfort.

In the proposed new County the inhabitants are prepared to pay their full share of the liabilities of the District of London; they will leave to the old County a new Gaol erected a few years ago; and a Court House, altered and

improved—all at a cost little, if at all, short of £10,000. The Revenue Fund of the Province will not be affected, by the formation of a new County, to any great extent; and when it is considered that the administration of Justice (the chief end of all good government) requires to be extended as the population, wealth, and commerce of the country increases—and as the Consolidated Fund of the Province is not stationary, but rather increases, just in consequence of that increased population, wealth, and commerce—it is both fair, just and reasonable, that the additional portion required from the Consolidated Fund, to measure out justice to criminals, should not be a matter of too much complaint. I might allude to many of the advantages to be derived by the formation of a new County, but as they will naturally present themselves to every candid enquirer, it is not necessary to lengthen this letter by recapitulating them.

In conclusion, I beg respectfully to state, that I have visited Montreal at the request of the inhabitant, of the proposed County of Elgin, to state their view; to the Member for the County of Middlesex; and since reaching Montreal I have received a communication from William Niles, Esquire, the Warden of the London District, requesting me to present his views on the division to the Member for the County, or to any other Member of the Legislature—and which are in harmony with the views I have expressed in this letter.

I sincerely trust that you will deem it a pleasure as well as a duty to support the Bill now before the Legislature, and to assist in the formation of the new COUNTY OF ELGIN, which will so materially promote the interest as well as the general welfare of the Talbot Settlement.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient and very humble Servant,

JOHN McKAY.