

fisheries of the Colony would virtually cease to exist, a solitary member, to advocate their interests or to protect their rights.

The amendments made by the Council were: 1st—They put at rest the question, of whether Burin would or would not return one Roman Catholic and one Protestant, by providing, that in that district, each voter should vote for only one candidate, the effect of which would be to ensure the return of one of each denomination, or, in other words, to divide this district, and then took the third member from Placentia and St. Mary's, a Roman Catholic district, with a population of 6,473, and gave it to Bonavista, a Protestant district, with a population of 7,227, thus rendering certain the return of fifteen Protestants and fourteen Roman Catholics. 2ndly—They altered the subdivision of Conception Bay, not in a manner to affect the result of the returns for the whole Bay, but so as to give the wealthy and populous Protestant settlement of Brigus a member; and 3rdly—They added a scale of election expenses, to be defrayed by the candidates, in accordance with the terms of the despatch: and Lastly—At the desire of the members for Bonavista and Trinity, and for purely local purposes, they slightly altered the boundary between these districts.

Favourable as the bill so amended was to the Roman Catholic portion of the population, and certain as would be its operation in producing the result which the Assembly professed to desire, the Assembly nevertheless rejected them, on account, merely, of the novelty of the principle applied to the district of Burin, (as if novelty could be any just objection to that which was simply an extended practical application of that principle of natural justice, which declares that every man ought to have a voice in the making of the laws by which he is to be governed,) and while they assented to the

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