

Deputy Reeves direct by the people, yet I must candidly confess that I cannot see any great benefit will be derived, or any desirable advantage obtained by sending one Reeve and two or three Deputy Reeves, as the case may be, to represent minor Municipalities in the County Council. From long observation and considerable experience, I have often been led to think that in many respects it would be far better, and much more conducive to the public good, were only the Reeves of the minor Municipalities sent to represent them in the County Council; and there would also be more likelihood of having the Municipal affairs of the Counties much better taken care of, and more efficiently and properly managed than they have been heretofore; besides saving at least one-half of the large amount of money that is now paid to Reeves and Deputy Reeves for their attendance and services in the Counties Council. If only Reeves were made eligible to take seats in the County Council, then we might reasonably expect, as a general rule, to see a much more respectable, better educated, and a more competent class of men seeking for and occupying them; for as the case now stands, it cannot be denied that Municipal reform in this matter is much wanted, and should be loudly called for, and the sooner it is accomplished so much the better will it be for the public weal, by elevating the character and adding to the honor and dignity, as well as the responsibility, of your representatives in the County Council.

I am now done with my voluntary and self-imposed task of recording and publishing the proceedings and financial transactions of the Counties Council of Northumberland and Durham, extending over a period of seven years, and which is now offered for your consideration, instruction and special benefit; and all of which is most respectfully submitted for your approval and action thereon, in such a way and manner as you may deem most proper and expedient to do in the matter.

“BE JUST AND FEAR NOT.”

I have the honor to be

Your most obedient and humble Servant,

JOHN STEELE.

COBOURG, March, 1867.