

at Times greatly oppressed the Commerce and impeded the Operations of Government. In this Kingdom, Sir, of 558 Members, of which this Honourable House is composed there are only 122 Knights or Representatives of the Landed Interest. I do not mean to enter on the Discussion of the Propriety of that Division, but I hope it will be allowed that the Towns ought to have such a Proportion of Representatives as to preserve the Equilibrium between the Two Interests, which is for the general benefit of both. In the Province of Quebec, Sir, we have in fact only Three Cities or Towns; and if these are to have only the Proportion of Representatives which their numbers bear to the general Population of the Province, they will have a very small Representation indeed, not above a Seventh or Eighth Part. This is a Consideration worthy of the attention of this Honourable House, and I hope they will determine on and settle the Proportion of Representatives for the Towns, Sir, if it is intended by the Bill in proposing a small number of Representatives, for the House of Assembly to through a great Degree of Weight and Influence into the Hands of Government, the Proposer will certainly be deceived by a specious and speculative Idea; for if the number of Deputies is limited to a small Scale it will only occasion the Elections to be more violently contested; and I am sure, that the Government of the Province will have a much better Chance of retaining a proper Degree of Influence in that House, when it is composed of a considerable number of Representatives, than if it is limited as proposed by the Bill.

I likewise observe that by the 25th Clause of the Bill it is enacted, that it shall be lawful for his Majesty to authorize the Governor of the Province to fix the Time and Places of holding the First, and every other Session of the Legislature. This, Sir, will be lodging a power in the hands of the Governor of the most formidable Kind. He must, to be sure, be the properest Judge of the Occasions which may require the Interference of the Legislature; and therefore it is proper and necessary that the Times of Meeting should  
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