

culous in the Province of Quebec ; where there are so few Landed Estates of any considerable Value, and where, by the Laws of Inheritance, these Estates, must, at every Succession, be so much sub-divided. The Laws of Primogeniture, as followed in this Kingdom, enables the Representatives of Noble Families to support the Dignity and Splendour of their Situations, and to live in that State of Independence which secures the proper Respect to their elevated Rank, as hereditary Peers of the Realm ; but, Sir, the French Laws relating to Succession and Inheritance, which, by this Bill, are intended to regulate the Landed Property of the lower Part of the Country, give to the Eldest Son, on the death of the Father, only one Half of those of his Father's Landed Estates, which are held by what is called in the French Law Noble Tenure, that is, in Fief, and Seignury immediately from the Crown. The other Half of these Estates is divided amongst the other Children ; and the Moveables as well as those Landed estates which are held by Grant and Concession from a Subject, which are called the Base Tenures, are equally divided among all the Children Male and Female. Therefore, as there are very few Gentlemen in that Country who possess Estates of the first Description, in Fief and Seignury, which produce to them a clear Annual Revenue of 500l. Sterling, this Honourable House must perceive the Impropriety of making any Honourable Posts in that Country hereditary. For these Estates, *from the mere Operation of Law*, independent of the Imprudence of the Possessors, must at every Succession be reduced to One Half ; and, in two Generations, must inevitably sink into Insignificance ; and the hereditary Councillors, from their Poverty become the Objects of Contempt to the Public. Sir, the amazing Progress of Population in that Country, points out the little probability there is of Places becoming vacant for want of Heirs. It may, therefore, be found difficult in a few Years to support the Dignity of that Council by new Creations, without increasing the Number of the Members too much.

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