

possessed of a freehold estate. In the opinion of your committee it is desirable that the rights of electors should be conferred on all leaseholders of houses, lands, or other real estate, who pay an annual rent of Ten Pounds and upwards.

*First Report.*

The state of the Roads during some parts of the year, and the close attention to be paid to Agricultural pursuits at other seasons, render it expedient, either that the Elections should be held in one day in each Township in the province, or, that in large and populous Counties, two or three places for holding elections should be named in a statute, the elections to commence alternately at each of these places, to continue a certain specified time at each place, and a certain number of hours to elapse between the closing the poll at one station and opening it at another. It should be provided as in Lower Canada that the Election may close at either of these stations unless a request by at least three electors shall be made to the returning officer to the contrary. The place of election in every county should be named by statute: and no poll ought to be held in a tavern nor in any place to which every elector cannot have free and convenient access.

Manner and places of holding elections.

Election by ballot precludes the elector from every chance of promoting his own personal advantage at the expense of the community. The only interest he can hope to serve by the exercise of his franchise, is the interest of the people generally. For doing this his means are to elect that candidate who is likely to render most service to the public. Your committee recommend the vote by ballot as the most important in the whole list of popular safeguards against political corruption in a representative system.

The vote by Ballot an important popular safeguard.

The vote by ballot is used in certain cases in the British House of Commons; the sixteen noblemen who represent the Scottish peerage in the British Parliament are elected by ballot; the royal society of London and many other distinguished associations have on trial found the vote by ballot the least liable to objections of any, and have adopted it; the bank of U. Canada elects its directors and regulates its discounts by secret votes; France and the United States have very generally resorted to the ballot box in their elections of members to their several legislatures; and the principal towns and counties of the United Kingdom are petitioning parliament to pass