

## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

of their Citizens. Is it on the Lands? Who does not know that the rural districts are in debt to the Towns, and have at present nothing with which to liquidate; that misery is the lot of a very large portion of their Inhabitants? What will be the result then, if a portion of their labours must be applied to the support of the State?

This representation, which is true in every point, ought to be convincing evidence that a House of Assembly for the imposition of Taxes is not only useless, but would be prejudicial to the interests of this Colony.

ART. I.  
Requested.

That the Chamber be indifferently composed of the ancient and new Subjects, &c.

Replied.

This article requires more explanation: for, from this word *indifferently*, there might be as many and even more ancient than new Subjects in the House, which would be contrary to natural right, as there are twenty Canadians to one ancient Subject. What would become of our rights if they were entrusted to Strangers to our Laws?

ART. II.  
Requested.

That the Council be composed of thirty members without salaries, &c.

Replied.

This might be satisfactory if there were enough disinterested rich men to take the part of the people, the honest poor man being unable to give his time for nothing.

ART. III.  
Requested.  
Replied.

That the Criminal Laws of England be continued here.

That the leniency of these laws would make their continuation desirable; but the demand is unnecessary, since they are in force.

ART. IV.  
Requested.

That the Laws, Usages and Customs of this Country be continued; subject nevertheless, to those changes that the Legislation may find necessary, &c.

Replied.

This article is contradictory; in that it affirms our Rights, and completely destroys them. For as a matter of fact, is it not destroying them to subject them to any alterations which the Legislation may find it necessary to make? Would they not become arbitrary? What statutes could be based on Rights as changeable as the House to which they will be submitted?

ART. V.  
Requested.

That the Commercial Laws of England be declared those of this Province, subject to the same alterations as in Article IV. &c.

Replied.

That the reply to article IV will serve for this article.

ART. VI.  
Requested.

That the Act of *Habeas Corpus* shall be in force, &c.

Replied.

That our August Sovereign having granted it to us, it is unnecessary to trouble him further concerning it.

ART. VII.  
Requested.  
Replied.

That in the Courts of Jurisdiction, Juries may be granted at the request of the Parties concerned.