

various public Offices and the different Departments and Branches of the public Service, over which this Patronage is said to extend; and by bringing the whole into one View they suggest what must be the Amount of the Authority and Influence accruing to the Executive Government from these Sources.

The Statement is substantially this: that the Number of public Offices in the Colony is too great, and that the Patronage, instead of being vested, as at present, in the Crown, and the local Representative of the Crown, should be transferred to other Hands.

In the long Enumeration of Places at the Disposal of the Executive Government in Upper Canada the Committee have not adverted to one Consideration to which I think that great Prominence might justly be assigned. It is perfectly true, as it is quite inevitable, that in Upper Canada, as in other new Countries, the Number of public Employments is and will be far larger in proportion than in older and more densely-peopled States. The general Machinery of Government must be the same in a scanty as in a large and redundant Population; corresponding Departments of the public Service, whether legislative, judicial, or administrative, must exist in both. And in a new Country, besides, there will be some Establishments for which in the settled States of Europe no Counterpart can be found; such, for example, are all which relate to the Allocation, surveying, and granting of wild Lands. Nor is it to be forgotten, that in the early Stages of such a Society many Duties devolve upon the Government which at a more advanced Period are undertaken by the better educated and wealthier Classes as an honourable Occupation of their leisure Time. Thus in the Canadas, although the mere Text of the Law would there, as in England, authorize any Man to prefer and prosecute an Indictment in His Majesty's Name, yet virtually and in substance the Prosecution of all Offences is confided to the Government or its Officers. These Causes have inevitably tended to swell the Amount of the Patronage of the Provincial Government, without supposing any peculiar Avidity on their Part for the Exercise of such Power.

With respect to the Patronage of the requisite Offices, His Majesty's Government are not solicitous to retain more in their own Hands or in those of the Governor than is necessary for the general Welfare of the People and the right Conduct of public Affairs. I confess myself, however, unable to perceive to whom the Choice amongst Candidates for public Employment could with equal Safety be confided. It requires but little Foresight or Experience to discover that such Patronage, if exercised in any Form of popular Election, or if committed to any popular Body, would be liable to be employed for Purposes far less defensible, and in a Manner less conducive to the general Good. Chosen by irresponsible Patrons, the public Officers would themselves be virtually exempt from Responsibility; and all the Discipline and Subordination which should connect together in one unbroken Chain the King and his Representative in the Province, down to the lowest Functionary to whom any Portion of the Powers of the State may be confided, would be immediately broken.

I conclude, therefore, that as in such a Country as Canada there must exist a Number of public Officers, large in proportion to the present Number and Wealth of the Inhabitants, so the Selection of them must, for the most part, be entrusted to the Head of the local Government.

I disclaim, however, on the Part of the Ministers of the Crown, every Wish to urge these general Principles beyond their just and necessary Limits. There are Cases in which I think, according to the Analogy of similar Cases in this Country, the Patronage now said to be exercised by the Lieutenant Governor might with perfect Safety and Propriety be transferred to others. On this Subject, however, it will be more convenient to state the general Principle than to attempt the specific and detailed Application of it at this Distance from the Scene of Action.

That Principle is, to maintain entire, by the Nomination and Removal of public Officers, that System of Subordination which should connect the Head of the Government with every Person through whose Instrumentality he is to exercise the various delegated Prerogatives of the Crown. What is necessary for this End must be retained; whatever Patronage is unnecessary for the Maintenance of this Principle should be frankly and at once abandoned.

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No. 1.
Lord Glenelg
to
Sir F. B. Head,
5th Dec. 1835.

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