

REPORT.

YOUR Committee, deeply sensible of the importance of the matter referred to them, have lost no time and spared no labour in investigating the causes which have hitherto retarded the Settlement of this Province, and more particularly of the Waste Lands of the Crown, and yet unconceded Seigneurial Lands.

Their attention was in the first instance directed to the ascertaining of the amount of the surplus agricultural population of this Province, for whom it was expedient and just to provide habitations.

From the declarations of several witnesses which your Committee examined, it was manifest that Lower-Canada possesses in itself an abundant population to settle these waste lands.

To determine as exactly as might be, the precise amount of this surplus population, your Committee prepared a series of Questions, (whereof a Copy is subjoined to this Report, under the letter (A.) and transmitted the same to the Curates of the different Parishes in this Province, and to some of the more distinguished Seigniors resident in the Country, with a request to communicate their answers with all convenient speed.—Sufficient time has not yet elapsed to entitle your Committee to answers to these Queries. They anticipate, however, with confidence, much valuable information from these respectable sources, and when received, will feel it their duty to lay the same before this House with the least possible delay.

Your Committee next directed their attention to the determining of the quantity, and ascertaining of the quality of the waste and ungranted Lands of the Crown, with their local advantages or disadvantages, viewed with reference to actual Settlements. The result of these inquiries was in the highest degree satisfactory, and evinces that Land advantageously situated may be provided for the entire surplus population of Lower-Canada.—The examinations upon this matter, taken before your Committee, will be found in the Appendix to this Report, under the Letter (B.)

It could not but excite surprise in the minds of your Committee, that the large surplus agricultural population of the Province, had not been long since located upon the vast tracts of ungranted Lands of the Crown—and it became a matter of anxious inquiry to