

## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

5<sup>th</sup> With regard to the establishment of the legislative power in Canada, I have already had occasion to demonstrate to the honourable chamber how essential it was to entrust it only to the largest landed proprietors in this country ; owners only of properties recognized all over the world as solid, any others being liable to ruin from a sudden fire, or a few bankruptcies. It is from them only we can hope for the attention and care necessary to foresee the evil, and to develop all the natural advantages which the country may possess, seeing that they are the most prominent and the most interested in the success of the matter : this cannot reasonably be expected from those who have no interest, or only a very slight one in the public good, and especially if their personal interests are opposed to public ones. Thus, whatever form of legislation is to be established in Canada, it would be well that His Majesty should be implored to employ as members of the legislature, only those taken from the class of the principal and larger proprietors in the matter of land, without paying any attention to the religion which they profess ; their differences of opinion in point of dogma will have no influence on this object, it will never be anything but the interest they themselves have there, which will decide them. He should also be entreated to order that no law, ordinance, or regulation of any importance be passed, except at the time fixed for the general session of the legislative corps, and that in every case, the members of the corps should be assembled in large enough numbers to insure that it will be the public good only that will decide them.

And lastly, one point which deserves attention, and which ought to be settled, is that, the French language being the general, and indeed almost the only language used in Canada, it is obvious that no stranger, who goes there, having only his own interests at heart, can serve them well, except as he is thoroughly versed in this language, and obliged to make use of it continually in all the special matters which he has in hand ; that it is completely impossible taking into account the distance between the establishments and dwellings throughout the country, ever to attempt to introduce the English language generally; for all these reasons, and others not here specified, it is indispensable that the French language should be ordered to be the only one employed in everything which deals with, and shall be settled as a public business whether in the courts of justice or in the assembly of the legislative corps &c., for it would be a cruel thing to attempt to reduce unnecessarily almost all those interested in public affairs to the condition of never being acquainted henceforth with what shall be discussed or decided throughout the country.

CHARTIER DE LOTBINIERE

both in his own name as  
well as in the name of  
the Canadians.