

*Cyrille Gessien Esq.
with compts. Laf
v. u. g. d. d. l. o. n.*

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND

REPORT

OF THE

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

OF THE

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF LOWER CANADA,

ON THE BILL

TO MAKE A NEW DIVISION OF THE PROVINCE
INTO COUNTIES,

FOR THE PURPOSE OF A MORE

EQUAL REPRESENTATION IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(Ordered by the Assembly to be printed.)

QUEBEC :

PRINTED BY NEILSON & COWAN, 3, MOUNTAIN STREET ;

1829.

46050

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

Friday, 30th Jany. 1829.

RESOLVED, That the Bill to make a new and more convenient Division of the Province into Counties, for the purpose of effecting a more equal Representation thereof in the Assembly than heretofore, be referred to a Committee of Five Members, to report thereon with all convenient speed, with power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, That Mr. Bourdages, Mr. Borgia, Mr. Cuwillier, Mr. Neilson and Mr. Laterrière do compose the said Committee.

Attest,

(Signed) Wm. B. LINDSAY,
Depy. Clk. Ho. of Ass'y.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

COMMITTEE ROOM,

Friday, 13th Feby. 1829.

In Committee on the Bill to increase the Representation of the Province.

PRESENT: Messrs. *Bourdages, Borgia, Laterrière and Neilson.*

Mr. Bourdages called to the Chair.

Read the Order of Reference.
Read the Bill, clause by clause.

Adjourned 'till to-morrow, at Ten A. M.

Saturday

Saturday, 14th Feby. 1829.

PRESENT : Messrs. *Bourdages, Neilson, Laterrière* and *Borgia.*

Mr. Bourdages in the Chair,

The Committee proceeded to hear the following Witnesses :

Francis Armstrong. Evans, Esq. of the Township of *Shipton*, Farmer and Land Agent, called in, and examined :

Q. 1. Have you been delegated by any portion of the Inhabitants of the Townships to express their views and wishes to the Legislature ?

A. Yes.

Q. 2. By what portion of them ?

A. The persons who signed the Petitions were about 350.

Q. 3. How long have you resided in the Townships ?

A. Fourteen years.

Q. 4. Are you a native of that part of the Country ?

A. No, I am a native of Ireland.

Q. 5. How were you appointed ?

A. I was appointed by a Public Meeting of the Inhabitants, held at *Richmond*, on the *River St. Francis*, on 29th November last.

Q. 6. How was that Meeting called ?

A. By sending previous written Notices to be put up in the most public parts from *Ascot* to *Drummondville*.

Q. 7. How many people attended at that Meeting ?

A. About fifty-three ; there were persons from various Townships present.

Q. 8. Do you conceive yourself authorized by the majority of the Inhabitants within the limits you have mentioned ?

A. I do, to submit those matters agreed upon at the Meeting.

Q. 9. Was a Representation of the Townships one of them ?

A. Yes.

Q. 10. Have you seen the printed Copy of the Bill introduced into this House providing for a more equal Representation throughout the Province ?

A. Yes.

Q. 11. Have you particularly examined that part of it which includes the Townships ?

A. Yes.

Q. 12. What is your opinion of it ; do you think it gives them a fair and equitable representation ?

A. No, I do not.

Q. 13. Have you seen a printed Bill providing for the Representation of the Townships introduced in the Legislative Council ?

A. No, I have not had it ; I have an idea of it from a sketch of the plan shewn me by the Honble. *Mr. Felton*, which agrees with what I have seen in the papers on the subject.

Q. 14. What is your opinion of it? Is it fair and equitable, the representation of the other parts of the Province standing at fifty?

A. No. I think it more than the people require; they could not at present find qualified persons to attend in that proportion.

Q. 15. What kind of Representation Bill do you think would be satisfactory to the people of the Townships?

A. I think they require a convenient division of the Country for the purpose of facilitating all the Inhabitants in attending the Elections; I do not think they require any extra proportion of Representatives.

Q. 16. What do you understand by an extra proportion of Representatives?

A. No more than their population in proportion to the rest of the Province, with some view to the local situation of several of the Settlements.

Q. 17. Can you give any information of what would meet their local circumstances?

A. I speak with reference to the Bill now before the House; I think that, in this Bill, all the Townships in the Province ought to have ten Members.

Q. 18. How could you apportion them?

A. The County of St. Francis, from Wendover up to Brompton Gore, both inclusive, the population I understand to be about four thousand souls—one member.

The next from Brompton to Compton, including the settlements in Eton, Hereford, Dudswell, Clifton, and other Townships, in which there are a few Settlers, about five thousand—one Member.

The next, Stanstead, Barnston, Hatley, Bolton and Potton, about ten thousand—two Members.

The next, Stukely, Ely, Shefford, Granby, Broome and Farnham, about six thousand—one Member.

The next, Durham, Stanbridge, Sutton and Saint Armand, about nine thousand—two Members.

The next, Beauharnois, as it stands in the Bill—two Members.

The next, the Townships on the Ottawa, about four thousand—one Member.

The Townships of Rawdon, Kildare, &c., to stand as in the Bill.

The Townships on the Chaudière, according to my Estimate, amount to about one thousand four hundred souls, I think they ought, from their insulated situation, to have one Representative.

Q. 19. Do you think that if this scheme was introduced in the Bill as it now stands in other respects, it would be fair and considered as satisfactory by the majority of the Inhabitants of the Townships?

A. I do.

Q. 20. Does it suit the convenience of the present state of the Settlements?

A. It does.

Q. 21. How would you provide for any future increase of the Representation?

A. The Townships unsettled, or who have very few inhabitants not included in the above scheme, might be set off into Counties to have Representa-

representatives when they should have a population entitling them thereto, upon a Census of the Province; it might also in the progress of the settlement and population be necessary to attach part of the divisions I have mentioned to Counties formed out of parts now unsettled. I speak of this, particularly with a view to local matters, such as Circuit Courts, Register Offices and Courts of Quarter Sessions.

Q. 22. Will you look over the divisions in the Bill, one after the other, and state separately the inconveniences of those divisions, if any; having regard to the present state of the Settlements and local circumstances where the errors chiefly lie, if any.

Q. 23. Will you look over the Table of the new Counties, annexed to the Report of the Special Committee on the Representation Bill, Journal No. 26, Appendix [M,] and state any material error in the population of the divisions in which the Townships are situated?

A. I will, and give in answers.

Q. 24. What is the proportion of qualified Electors to the population in the Townships?

A. I think one-fourth or one-fifth.

Q. 25. What proportion may the qualified Electors bear to the male population about twenty-one years of age?

A. I think there are very few over twenty-one who have not a right to vote. Generally, as soon as the young men are twenty-one, they get a piece of Land of their own, and often before they are that age.

Q. 26. Then nearly all the male inhabitants above twenty-one are Freeholders?

A. Nearly.

Q. 27. Are there any number of persons holding on lease?

A. Very few; some have Clergy and Crown Reserves.

Q. 28. What may be their proportion to the Freeholders?

A. Very few.

Q. 29. How is it in Shipton?

A. I suppose that one twentieth of the population may be on leased land, there are hardly any lands so held excepting Crown and Clergy Reserves. In Durham, there may be about nine hundred souls who are on lease from the Saint Francis Indians. They give no rent for twenty-one years, and afterwards they are to give one-third of the crops.

Mr. *Stephen Barnard* of the Township of Melbourne, called in and examined:—

Q. 1. Have you resided long in that part of the country?

A. I went into the Townships about thirty years ago—I was absent about twelve years, and have latterly resided there fifteen years.

Q. 2. Have you been much in the different parts of the Townships?

A. I was in the Townships on the east side of the St. Francis—I have also been frequently in different parts on the north side up to Staustead.

Q. 3. Have the people on those parts any desire of being represented in the House of Assembly?

A. They have.

Q. 4. Do you think it general amongst the people ?

A. Yes.

Q. 5. Have they long talked of it ?

A. Yes.

Q. 6. Do you know if they expressed satisfaction or dissatisfaction with a Bill passed by the House of Assembly, for a more equal Representation of the Province at different times, but particularly in one thousand eight hundred and twenty-six, and one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven ?

A. I know that they were pleased with the idea of having Representatives.

Q. 7. Do you know what was their opinion of the Bill ?

A. No—I do not.

Q. 8. Do you know if the number of Representatives allowed by that Bill to the Townships was known there ?

A. I do not recollect.

Q. 9. Did you ever here what that proportion was ?

A. I do not recollect.

Q. 10. You cannot say whether they were satisfied or not with the Bill ?

A. No, I could not.

Q. 11. Yet during fifteen years you have resided in those parts and mixed with the people ?

A. I know there was a good deal of talk, but I do not know what the people thought of the details ; they were pleased to have Representatives.

Q. 12. Have you seen a Bill now before the House of Assembly, relating to the Representation ?

A. I do not know that I have.

Q. 13. Have you seen one from the Council ?

A. I have.

Q. 14. What do you think would be a fair division and representation of the Townships ?

A. I should think that an equal proportion with the other inhabitants of the Province would be fair.

Q. 15. As to the convenience of attending at elections in the present state of the settlements, how ought the Townships to be divided ?

A. There are many that have no inhabitants —

1st. All below Durham and the lower line of Kingsey, one County, one member, Drummondville most central place.

2dly. All below the lower line of Brompton and Stoke, one county, one member, most central place, Richmond.

3dly. The next ought to go up to Compton, inclusive, one member, most central place, Sherbrooke.

4thly. The next to Stanstead, inclusive, two members, most central place, Stanstead.

5thly. Eton, and a few Townships might form another County, one member, most central place, Eton.

Q. 16.

Q. 16. What would you think of a plan which would include—1st. from Wendover to Brompton, inclusive—2dly. from Brompton to Compton including Eton &c.—3dly. Stanstead, Barnston, Hatley, Bolton and Potton—4thly. Stukely, Ely, Shefford, Granby, Broome and Farnham?

A. I do not know; but that such a plan would do perhaps as I have named them, it would give us more Representatives than we ought to have, according to the population.

Q. 17. From your local knowledge, do you think that this division might be made convenient for voters attending elections?

A. There would not be a great inconvenience.

Q. 18. Supposing the last mentioned division, where ought the Polls to be held for the greatest convenience of all the inhabitants?

A. 1st. Drummondville and Richmond.

2d. Sherbrooke and Eton.

3d. Hatley and Stanstead.

4th. I cannot say where.

That is supposing two Polls, if only one, it ought to be as mentioned before.

Q. 18. What population do the freeholders in the Townships bear to the male population above twenty-one years old?

A. Almost every man in that country is a freeholder, possessing land.

Q. 20. What proportion do the natives of that part of the country bear to the males above twenty-one?

A. A small proportion. It is only about thirty years since the first inhabitants settled there, most of them people with young families.

Q. 21. What proportion do the Emigrants there, who are natives of Europe, bear to the whole population?

A. Not over one sixth.

Q. 22. Where are they chiefly from?

A. Most of them are from Ireland, there are several who had been in the army, settled in Drummondville and Durham, and there are not many of them above Durham—there are some Irish Emigrants in every Township.

Monday, 16th February 1829.

PRESENT:—Messrs *Laterrière, Bourdages, Neilson and Borgia.*

Mr. Bourdages in the Chair.

Charles Frederick Henry Goodhue, Esquire, trader, called in and examined:

Q. 1. Where is your present residence?

A. At Sherbrooke.

Q.

Q. 2. Have you resided long in the Townships ?

A. About twenty one years.

Q. 3. Have you resided at different parts of the Townships, and what parts ?

A. Most of them that are settled, chiefly on the east side of Lake Memphremagog—I have formerly been in the Townships on Missisquoi Bay, but not of late years.

Q. 4. In the course of your business have you had frequent opportunities of becoming acquainted with the view and feelings of the inhabitants of those Townships, generally, in relation to public matters ?

A. I have, particularly in the parts mentioned.

Q. 5. Do they seem anxious to have greater facilities for electing and sending Representatives to the Provincial Parliament ?

A. I believe it is the wish of the people generally.

Q. 6. Have you seen the Representation Bill, passed different times by the House of Assembly ?

A. I have formerly seen it.

Q. 7. What was your opinion of that Bill, and of the inhabitants of the Townships generally, as to the parts of it that affected the Townships ?

A. I do not know that I recollect it sufficiently.

Q. 8. Did you hear any opinions on the subject ?

A. Yes ; the opinion of the people generally was that it ought to have become a law. I have no doubt but that the people would have been satisfied with it at that time.

Q. 9. Have you seen a bill lately passed in the Legislative Council giving a Representation to the Townships ?

A. I have.

Q. 10. What is your opinion of that Bill ?

A. My opinion is, that it asks for more members than the population requires.

Q. 11. What do you think would be a fair Representation of the Townships ?

A. I speak of the Townships south of the St. Lawrence in the south west portion of the Province, I think from six to eight would be fair ; the inhabitants do not wish for a greater share than in proportion to their population.

Q. 12. What do you think would be a suitable division of those Townships for facilitating to all of their inhabitants as fairly as possible the choice of their Representatives ?

A. I should say the polls ought to be at Drummondville, Shipton, Sherbrooke, Eaton, Compton or Hatley, and Stanstead.

Q. 13. Do you speak as if there were to be two or more polls in each county or only one ?

A. Shipton and Drummondville might be included as the same county, and Sherbrooke and Eaton, and Hatley and Stanstead ; that would make three counties, these might be divided however into four.

Q. 14. If they were divided into four, what is the place at which there would be only one poll ?

A. I think it should be at Hatley.

Q. 15. What divisions would you propose for the Country, the waters of which fall into the Saint Francis including both sides of the river?

A. 1. From Wendover to Shipton inclusive, one member.

2. From Brompton to Ascot, one member.

2. From Eaton, including Newport, Clifton and Dudswell, one member.

4. Hatley, Compton, Barnston, Hertford and Stanstead, two members.

Q. 16. Then you think that a division as you have mentioned would be fair and satisfactory to the great body of the inhabitants in that section of the country?

A. Yes.

Q. 17. What proportion do the emigrants from Europe in that country bear to the rest of the inhabitants?

A. Not more than about one-tenth or one eighth, they are principally confined to Sherbrooke and Drummondville.

Q. 18. Of what description are they generally?

A. The principal part are Irish, the remainder are chiefly persons who have been in the army.

Q. 19. What proportion of them are proprietors?

A. Probably one half.

Q. 20. What proportion do the proprietors in the townships generally bear to the male population about twenty-one years old?

A. Nineteen-twentieths of the population not from Europe—above twenty-one are proprietors.

Q. 21. What proportion of Representatives do you think would satisfy the people in the Townships on the other side of Lake Memphramagog?

A. I think two; I have however said I am not well acquainted with that part of the country.

Charles B. Felton, Esquire, Prothonotary of the Court, and Clerk of the Peace, for the district of St. Francis, called in, and examined:

Q. 1. Have you resided in the Townships long?

A. About fourteen years.

Q. 2. Have you visited many of them?

A. Yes, I am chiefly acquainted with the parts on the St. Francis.

Q. 3. Whereabouts is the bulk of the population settled?

A. The bulk is in Stanstead.

Q. 4. What is the next place of greatest population?

A. Shipton and Melbourne, the next Compton and Ascot, the settlements are very scattered in the south-east direction, but I should suppose the next crowded population would be found in Eaton, Wesbury, Hertford and Clifton. I am not so well acquainted with the state of the population below Shipton, on the east side it is very thinly inhabited till you come to the Seigniorics, on the West the settled Townships are immediately on the North not more than three miles back, Drummondville is the most populous part.

Q. 5. What do you think would be the most convenient division of the Townships on the Waters of the St. Francis for the purpose of facilitating the Inhabitants in the choice of Representatives?

A. I should think that they ought to be divided into five Counties including both sides of the River.

1st. From Drummondville to Wickham one Member.

2d. From Melbourne to Brompton, one Member.

3d. Oxford, Ascot and Compton, one Member.

4th. Hatley, Stanstead and Barnston, one Member.

5th. Eaton, Westbury and Clifton, one member.

Q. 6. Have you seen the Representation Bill now before the House of Assembly?

A. I have read part of it.

Q. 7. Have you examined that part of it that relates to the Saint Francis Townships?

A. Yes, I have.

Q. 8. Are you acquainted with the total number of Representatives proposed to be given to the Inhabitants of the Province by that Bill?

A. Yes, I think there are eighty-five.

Q. 9. What number of them appear to you to be for the Townships on the waters of the St. Francis?

A. There appears to be nine.

Q. 10. Have you heard any observations on that Bill by the people of the Townships generally?

A. I have heard from three or four persons of the Townships, that they consider it as a judicious measure, and that it would meet their wishes—they did not expect more than three or four members.

Q. 11. What do you suppose would be the opinion of the people generally?

A. My own opinion is that it would meet their wishes excepting at the places where the polls are to be held; they ought to be more numerous.

Q. 12. Where would you place them?

A. I would place one in Stanstead, one in Eaton, one in Sherbrooke, one in Shipton and one in Drummondville.

Q. 13. Do you think that the people would be satisfied with the Bill under such an arrangement?

A. I think they would at present.

Q. 14. Do you think that there would be any number or class of persons in the Townships who would be dissatisfied with the Bill if the counties were set off, and Representatives allowed according to the scheme you have given in your evidence?

A. I know of no set of persons who would be dissatisfied or complain of such a measure.

Q. 15. What proportion do the settlers in the Townships, on the waters of the Saint Francis, who have come from Europe bear to the rest of the inhabitants?

A. I should suppose of about a ninth of the whole, they are however increasing every year.

- Q. 16. Do they increase faster than the other population?
 A. They have within the last five years.
- Q. 17. Of what description are they generally?
 A. Principally from Ireland and the north of England. The Irish are the greatest number but not as landholders.
- Q. 18. What proportion of them from Europe are Landholders?
 A. I suppose about two thirds—they generally obtain land after going to service about twelve months,
- Q. 19. Are not there some who have been in the Army?
 A. Very few, with the exception of the Drummondville Settlements.
- Q. 20. Where are the people from Europe principally located?
 A. They are mixed with the American Settlers in Hatley, Compton, Eaton, Ascot, Shipton and Melbourne, and a few in Brompton and Hertford.
- Q. 21. Are the Americans or Natives above twenty-one years of age chiefly proprietors?
 A. Yes, they are; even the sons before they are twenty-one are proprietors, having, as they call it, bought out their time from their Father, and become settlers on their own account. The emigration from the Townships in the Westward has ceased, and emigration from Vermont and New Hampshire has taken place into the Townships—about seven or eight years ago as much as twenty-three families on the banks of the St. Francis, Oxford, Ascot, Brompton and Stoke emigrated to the Ohio County.

Mr. *Silas Horton Dickerson*, of Stanstead, Printer, called in and examined:

- Q. 1. Have you resided long in the Townships on the Waters of the St. Francis?
 A. Six years.
- Q. 2. Have you had opportunities of becoming acquainted with the sentiments of the people of that country in relation to the public affairs?
 A. I have.
- Q. 3. Have you travelled through the Townships generally?
 A. Yes, throughout most of them that have inhabitants, excepting on the Ottawa.
- Q. 4. Could you enumerate the Townships on the St. Francis that have above one hundred soul?
 A. Yes; beginning with the highest number, the first is Stanstead, Barnston, Hatley, Compton, Bolton, Shipton, Eaton, Ascot, Potton, Melbourne, Grantham, Brompton, Orford, Durham, Kingsey, Wickham, Windsor, Dudswell, and Hereford; of the others there are eight who have inhabitants; but their number do not exceed from thirteen to one hundred souls.
- Q. 5. Do you suppose that the census of one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five is erroneous in regard to the Townships, and in what parts chiefly?

A.

A. In Shipton, Melbourne and Durham the numbers are too low, three or four hundred; in the other parts I think the census nearly correct.

Q. 6. Have you seen the Representation Bill now before the House of Assembly?

A. I have.

Q. 7. Do you know the nature of the former Bills passed by the House of Assembly?

A. I have not seen the former Bills, but an abstract in the Newspapers.

Q. 8. What was the opinion of the Inhabitants of the Townships respecting the Bills?

A. They thought the Representation was not proportioned to the number of inhabitants in the Townships.

Q. 9. Does it seem to you that the present Bill is proportioned to the number of Inhabitants?

A. I do not think it is.

Q. 10. Will you explain how it appears to you that it is not so?

A. The present Bill gives to the Townships seven Members, and from their population, I should think that they are entitled to eight or nine.

Q. 11. What do you suppose the population of the Townships to be, and what the rest of the Province?

A. I suppose all the Townships in the Province to amount to one-tenth of the population. The whole number of Representatives in the present Bill is eighty-eight.

Q. 12. How would you divide the Townships into Counties for giving equal facility as far as possible for all the qualified Electors to attend at the Election, beginning with the St. Francis Country next to the Seignories?

- | | | |
|--|---|--------------|
| A. 1st—Grantham and adjacent Townships
up to Wickham, and | } | One Member. |
| 2d—Shipton to Windsor, | | |
| 3d—Ascot to Compton, | } | One Member. |
| 4th—Eaton and Hereford, | | |
| 5th—Stanstead and Bedford, | | Two Members. |
| 6th—Potton to Missisquoi Bay. | | Two Members. |
| 7th—Shefford to Ely, | | One Member. |

The Townships on the West of Lake Champ-plain to Beauharnois are provided for in the Bill, and have

Two Members.

Those on the Ottawa are provided for in the Bill,

One Member.

Q. 13. Do you think that such an arrangement in the present Bill would satisfy the great body of the people in the Townships?

A. I think it would give general satisfaction.

Q. 14. Are there any description of persons resident there who you have any reason to believe would be dissatisfied?

A. I do not know of more than one.

Q.

Q. 15. What do you estimate the proportion of settlers from Europe in the Townships compared with Natives and others.

A. I should not suppose them to be more than one in twenty.

Q. 16. What parts do they chiefly occupy ?

A. Chiefly Grantham, Kingsey, Shipton and Durham.

Q. Are they a majority in those places ?

A. I think not.

Q. 18. The inhabitants of the Townships are generally proprietors of land, namely, all the males above twenty-one, and consequently qualified Electors ?

A. Yes.

Q. 19. Did not the people of the Townships express their satisfaction with the Bills increasing the Representation formerly passed by the Assembly, but lost in the Council.

A. They thought they would be beneficial and wished them to pass, although they did not think the division, place of the Polls and number of Members sufficient.

Q. 20. Where would you hold the Polls ?

A. I should think that they would be best at the Towns I have mentioned, to distinguish the counties—viz :

Grantham and Shipton,

Ascot and Eaton,

Stanstead Plain and Landing opposite Georgeville in Potton.

Q. 21. What do you think would be the most convenient place for holding the Polls ?

A. West of Bolton Mountain,

Durham Flat and Shefford,

And a place in Faraham.

Tuesday, 17th Feby. 1829.

PRESENT :—Messrs. *Bourdages, Neilson, Cuvillier and Borgia.*

Mr. Bourdages in the Chair.

Mr. F. A. Evans again called in and examined :

Q. 1. Are you prepared to give answers to the two questions (22 & 23) put to you at your former examination, and which you stated you would answer thereupon ?

A. To the first question I would answer, that in looking over the divisions of the Counties proposed in the Eastern Townships in the Bill now before the House, I think they are not divided conveniently, not taking

taking into view the present state of the settlements; for instance, the County of Saint Francis, which extends from the Seigniorship of Courval to latitude forty-five degrees, a distance in a straight line of about ninety miles, and by the roads or settlements about one hundred and thirty miles. The places of Election are fixed at Drummondville and Sherbrooke, whereas the chief settlements are about Shipton and east of Ascot; it is out of the question that most of the people would or could conveniently attend the Elections, and therefore the inhabitants would not be fairly represented, the roads also being very bad to travel. Again, if any particular regulations, such as County or Circuit Courts of Quarter Sessions or Register Offices were established, the inconvenience would be double, and in all cases, the settlements being scattered over a large tract of country, I think it would be best to divide the Townships according to the plan I have mentioned, which rather makes them circular and therefore more convenient for every purpose for which a County may be established. I would also remark that, according to the division of Counties in the Bill throughout the Province, a Member is allowed where the population fluctuates from three to seven or eight thousand souls, and two members where the population amounts to from eight to thirteen thousand; but averaging the whole population at five hundred thousand, to return ninety members, two more than in the Bill; and all the Townships fifty thousand, it would entitle the Townships to return ten members. Taking these considerations into view and what I have already stated to the Committee relative to the insulated state of various settlements in the Townships, and that they have not had hitherto a voice in the Legislature, and also the probability of their being more rapidly increased than those parts of the Province older in settlement, I conceive that the Townships ought to be divided as I have mentioned, and be enabled to return the number of members to the Assembly which I have already stated in my evidence.

Answer to the Second Question:—

I believe there is a very great error in the return of the number of inhabitants of the Townships made in the last Census, and which is easily accounted for, viz.: that the individual taking the Census through a large Territory on which the inhabitants are scattered throughout, and the settlements and settlers isolated in many cases, it would be almost impossible to be correct unless the person taking the Census knew each person, settlement and farm, so that many might be unintentionally overlooked, and therefore the numbers returned less than what they actually are. These mistakes would not be so likely to occur in the seigniorial parts of the Province, as each settlement opens generally concession after concession, and therefore the person taking the Census, following each concession, would be less likely to mistake in taking down each individual. I say this from experience, for on counting the souls in several Townships, and from other good information, I found about ten per cent. more, and in some cases from twenty to thirty per cent. more than in the census. And I believe from my own knowledge of the Townships and other information, that there is at the present time an average

average increase of from twenty-five to thirty per cent throughout the Townships, to what is mentioned in the Census, and this I attribute to the mistakes then made to enregistration, and to natural encrease.

Q. Have you any further information to give on the subject of your former evidence ?

A. I believe I did not state where the Polls ought to be held.

Q. Where ought they to be held ?

A. I think in Drummondville, Richmond, Sherbrooke, Middle Village in Eaton, Charleton in Hatley, Stangstead Plain, Frost Village in Shefford, Granby Village in Granby, Dunham and Freighlicsburg ;—for Mégantic, at Ireland or Leeds: I wish to add—there is a provision in New-Brunswick by which the Returning Officers, at the request of any Electors or Caudidates, may remove the Poll to any other settlement within the County, the Candidate paying for the expenses of polling as fixed by Law. I think such a provision would be advantageous from the scattered state of the Townships and Settlements. I deliver in a map of the Townships, shewing the division that I conceive would be the most convenient for the Inhabitants, and the places I propose for the Polls.

Mr. *Samuel Brooks*, of Ascot, Trader, called in and examined :

Q. 1. Have you resided long in the Townships ?

A. About eight years.

Q. 2. Have you visited personally different parts of them ?

A. I have.

Q. 3. Which parts.

A. The whole of the settled Townships in the south west portion of the Province.

Q. You have then had occasion to become acquainted with the wishes and wants of the Inhabitants in relation to their public affairs.

A. I have generally.

Q. 5. Have you heard them express their wishes in regard to greater facilities for electing Representatives to the Provincial Assembly ?

A. I have, frequently.

Q. 6. What opinion have they expressed on the Representation Bill heretofore passed in the Assembly, and lost in the Legislative Council ?

A. There was a bill passed in one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four, I think, which from the knowledge of the people I should conceive would have been perfectly satisfactory.

Q. 7. Are you acquainted with the provisions of the Representation Bill now before the House of Assembly ?

A. I have seen it cursorily. I believe that it gives about seven Members to the Townships.

Q. 8. Do you think it more favourable than the former Bill ?

A. I should think it is.

Q. 9. Do you conceive that the Inhabitants of the Townships would

would wish for a greater share of the Representation than in proportion to their population ?

A. No, they would not wish it, with very few exceptions.

Q. 10. What proportion do the qualified Electors in the Townships bear to the population ?

A. I should say that nine-tenths of the inhabitants above twenty-one are Landholders.

Q. 11. Do you think that nearly the same proportion prevails throughout the country parts of the Province generally ?

A. I am not sufficiently acquainted with the old settlements to give an opinion on that subject.

Q. 12. What is your opinion in regard to a fair Representation for the Townships, and a division of them for the purpose which would be the most convenient for the Freeholders to attend the Elections ?

A. From six to ten would be fair, even six satisfactory, but from their dispersed situation ten might be required for their convenience. They do not insist so much upon the number as their having Representatives of their choice, so that their wants and circumstances may be better understood.

Q. 13. When you speak of from six to ten Representatives for the Townships do you mean for all the inhabited Townships in the south-west part of the Province in Saint Regis as well as those on the Ottawa ?

A. I speak of those south of the Saint Lawrence only. I conceive the Townships' population on the south of the Saint Lawrence to be about forty thousand souls.

Q. 14. Will you have the goodness to look at the division proposed on a Map now exhibited, and mention whether you think it would be convenient for the inhabitants of the different settlements to attend at Elections, and upon the whole be satisfactory to the people in the Townships ?

A. I think it would. I should propose that the Townships of Potton and Bolton were included in Dunham County ; I think that the place of the Polls, as mentioned by Mr. Evans in his testimony now had, could not be improved in the present state of the Population.

Q. 15. Have the population of the Townships materially increased during the last ten years ?

A. It has. I should suppose that the increase in that time has been about one-third.

Q. 16. Is it increased much by Emigration ?

A. Partially so.

Q. 17. Where are the Emigrants chiefly from ?

A. The greatest number come in from the United States, at least two to one come in from there, mostly young men ; they get land cheaper and of a good quality.

Q. 18. How far do the European Emigrants extend ?

A. They are chiefly at Drummondville, and some at Sherbrooke—a number have gone into Eaton to take up new lands. The Irish are scattered all over.

Q. 19. Do the new comers from Europe thrive ?

A. They do, those that take up new lands ; they are generally persons who have hired themselves out for some time to the farmers from the United States, and acquired the necessary knowledge for clearing and managing lands in the country.



Friday, 20th Feby. 1829.

PRESENT :—Messrs. *Neilson, Bourdages, Cuwillier, Laterrière*
and *Borgia.*

Mr. Bourdages in the Chair.

Your Committee having carefully gone through the Bill referred by Your Honorable House, they find that the new Counties set off from those established in one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, which embraced the whole extent of the Province, correspond as nearly as the present circumstances of the settlement of the country will admit, with the extent of Territory which it is convenient to include in one county with a view to facilitating all the qualified Electors therein giving their votes at the Elections ; and that the number of Members allowed to each of the Counties, both those which remain unaltered in their limits and the new Counties, is, as as nearly as can be collected, conformably to the probable number of qualified Electors in each, according to the Census of one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five.

Your Committee are of opinion, that the distance of the District of Gaspé from the Seat of Government, and the difficulties of communication between the two Counties into which it is proposed to be divided in the Bill, together with the peculiar character of its interests, would authorize the allowing at present, one Member for the proposed County of Bonaventure, although the number of Electors does not as yet, by the Census, entitle them to a Member separate from the County of Gaspé.

Your Committee considering that the great bulk of the Inhabitants of the Townships in the Province situated in the south-west portion of the country (although as being included in the existing Counties in that quarter they have had a right to vote at the Elections of the Members now serving for those counties in the House,) have in a great measure been prevented from so voting on account of their distant position, and that the House has been consequently deprived of the proper constitu-

tional

tional information as to their views and interests in regard to the present Bill, have called before them and examined thereon a number of respectable residents in those Townships, whose Evidence is annexed to this Report.

Your Committee find that they generally agree in stating that the Bills heretofore passed by Your Honourable House of the nature of that now referred, had they been concurred in by the other Branches, would have been satisfactory to the great body of the Inhabitants of the Townships. In almost every instance the persons examined agree in wishing for nothing but an equal distribution of the Representation throughout the Province among the persons entitled by Law to vote at the Election of Members of the Assembly, and that as much facility as the present state of the Settlements and Roads will permit, should be offered to all of them, to attend at the Elections.

Your Committee, fully concurring in the same views, are aware that in new and growing counties such as is this Province, the Divisions made to give effect to these views must be in some degree imperfect and require periodical alterations, founded on the then existing state of things, which it has been found impossible to meet by any prospective measures. These, in such a country, might give rise to the flagrant injustice of an unequal Representation of persons equally qualified and equally interested throughout an almost entire population of Freeholders; an injustice which could secure no permanent benefit, but give rise to increasing discord, till such time as it would be destroyed by the indignant efforts of a free population.

Your Committee conceive, from the information that they have obtained, that ample justice would be done to the Townships by giving them, on the scale adopted in the present Bill for the whole of the Province, a Representation of seven Members including the Townships on the Ottawa. The Townships west of Lake Champlain to Saint Regis, being included in the proposed County of Beauharnois, to which two Members are allotted.

This change, if your Committee are rightly informed by the persons they have examined, with a suitable alteration in the place of the Poll, will leave no description of persons in the Townships with any grounds, or even any disposition, to complain that their interests have not been fully attended to in the present Bill.

Your Committee seeing the number of matters now before the Provincial Parliament, in which the Inhabitants of the Townships are peculiarly interested, and which can hardly be safely disposed of without their having Representatives in Your Honourable House, to give the necessary information under their constitutional responsibility to their
Electors,

Electors, have come to an opinion that it is expedient that the present Bill should take effect with regard to the Counties in which the Townships are situated, so that their Inhabitants may have the Representatives present in the ensuing Session.

In the view which Your Committee has taken of the important measure referred to them, Your Committee have made the following Amendments to the Bill which they have thought necessary.

The following Statement shews the Bill as it is, with the amendments proposed by the Committee :

SYNOPSIS OF THE REPRESENTATION BILL.

No.	NAMES OF COUNTIES.	No. of Memrs.	PLACES OF ELECTION.
1	Gaspé	1	Gaspé.
2	Bonaventure	1	Richmond.
3	Rimouski	1	Rimouski and Isle Verte.
4	Kamouraska	3	Kamouraska.
5	L'Islet	2	L'Islet.
6	Bellechasse	3	Saint Vallières,
7	Dorchester	2	{ At the River Etchemin, between St. Henry and Point Levi and St. Nicholas.
8	Beauce	1	{ In the upper part of St. Mary at or near the Line, between St. Mary and St. Joseph and in the Township of Leeds.
9	Megantic		
10	Lotbinière	1	Saint Croix.
11	Nicolet	2	Gentilly and Saint Grégoire.
12	Yamaska	2	Indian Village of St. Francis.
13	Saint Francis	1	Drummondville and Richmond.
14	Sherbrooke	1	Middle Village, Township of Eaton.
15	Stanstead	2	{ Stanstead Plain and Charleton Village, Township of Hatley.
16	Missikoui	1	Village of Dunham and Freighlicsburgh.

Carried forward

No.	NAMES OF COUNTIES.	No. of Mems.	PLACES OF ELECTION.
17	Shefford	1	Frost Village, Township of Shefford.
18	Richélieu.	3	Saint Ours.
19	Saint Hyacinthe	3	Saint Hyacinthe.
20	Rouville	3	St. Mary of Monnoir.
21	Verchères	2	Verchères.
22	Chambly	3	Longueuil.
23	Laprairie	3	Saint Constant.
24	L'Acadie	3	Saint Marguerite of Blairfindie.
25	Beauharnois	2	Saint Clement.
26	Vaudreuil	2	Vaudreuil and the Cedars.
27	Ottawa	1	Hull.
28	Two Mountains	3	Saint André and St. Eustache.
29	Terrebonne	3	Saint Rose and Saint Anne-des-Plaines.
30	Lachenayo	1	Saint Roch.
31	L'Assomption	2	Saint Pierre de l'Assomption.
32	Montreal	3	Saint Laurent.
33	Berthier	3	Berthier and St. Paul.
34	Saint Maurice	3	Yamachiche.
35	Champlain	2	The nearest Ferry of the River St. Lawrence on the North East side of the River Batiscar.
36	Portneuf	2	
37	Quebec	2	Charlesbourg.
38	Montmorenci	1	Saint Anne.
39	Saguenay	2	Saint Paul's Bay and Marray Bay.
40	Orleans	1	Saint Jean.
41	City of Quebec	4	As heretofore.
42	City of Montreal	4	Ditto
43	Town of 3 Rivers	2	Ditto
44	Bo. of Wm. Henry	1	Ditto

For the Amendments made to the Bill, see the Bill.

The Question being put on the above draught of Report, Mr. *Borgia* voted in the Negative.

Ordered, That the Chairman do leave the Chair and report.

The whole nevertheless humbly submitted.

LS. BOURDAGES,

Chairman,