

Articles and Notices from the *Bathurst Independent Examiner & Bathurst Courier*.

Bathurst Independent Examiner [Library and Archives Canada]

Oct. 23, 1829

To The COMMONS HOUSE and
ASSEMBLY of Upper Canada,
PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT
ASSEMBLED-

*The Petitioners of the Undersigned
Inhabitants of the District of Bathurst, Most
Respectfully Sheweth:*

That your petitioners have, with a degree of patience and fortitude seldom equalled, encountered the obstacles and privations which must necessarily be surmounted in the formation of a new settlement far removed from any inhabitant, and without the advantage of passable roads and although the innumerable swamps through which they are obliged to travel, are, are, and always have been impassable for carriages of any kind, yet they have borne the fatigue, danger, and inconvenience of such a state communication with their neighbours in the hope that the Legislature would grant them relief, by the appropriation of a sum of money, for the improvement of the original roads in this section of the Province. This expectation they were induced to consider reasonable, from the circumstance that the population of the District, amounting to more than 15,000 souls, contribute largely to the general improvement of the country, as well as support of the Government - and have never, notwithstanding this important claim to consideration, received the advantage of 1 farthing of public money for the repair of

roads or bridges in their district. It was therefore, with extreme mortification and surprise that they learned of the failure of the measure of the last Session, for an expenditure of money on this paramount claim on the public funds at the disposal of Parliament.

Your petitioners, therefore, humbly solicit the early and earnest attention of your Honourable body, to the deplorable condition of the roads and bridges in this remote part of the Province, and for their improvement, grant a sum of money to render passable some of the principal highways, [viz.] leading from Perth to Bytown, Brockville and Lanark, with two branches, the one to commence at No. 1 in the 8th concession, Township of Drummond, to the Township of Ramsay and Pakenham, by Ferguson's falls; and the other to commence at No. 27 in the 8th concession, Township of Bathurst, to the Township of Dalhousie, by Bolton's Mills.

Your petitioners would also beg leave to impress upon your Honourable House the consideration of the following particulars: - It is a well known fact that the enormous expenses in the District Court, amount, in many instances, to five times the original debt, which must be oppressive and greatly detrimental to the prosperity of the country. Instead of this method of collecting small sums often ruinous to the indigent debtor, we would humbly pray your Honourable House to take the following plan into consideration:

Viz.- A Civil Bill Court, established on the same principles as in Great Britain

and Ireland, over which, an assistant Barrister presides, and in which liquidated sums to the amount of £ 20, and unliquidated sums to the amount of £ 10, can be recovered for less than 10 shillings.

This, we humbly conceive, would best suit the interest of the Province in general, and of this District in particular: We would likewise beg your Honourable House to take into consideration the expediency, nay absolute necessity of establishing Bankrupt laws and insolvent debtor's act, on whatever plan it may appear to you that the exigency of the case may require, adhering, at the same time, as nearly as possible, to the principles upon which these laws are based in Great Britain and Ireland. It must have come within the knowledge of your Honourable House, that the law which authorizes the process *Capis ad Respondendum* is greatly abused in this Province, by it His Majesty's subjects are often deprived of their liberty without sufficient cause, and costs are accumulated to gratify, in many instances, malicious dispositions; - we therefore pray your hon. House to make such amendments in this Law, as your wisdom may seem meet.

The last point which we will present venture to suggest to your hon. House, is the taxing of Bills of costs, and we pray your Hon. House to pass a law, authorising the appointment of persons, unconnected with the courts, to tax the different Bills, which measures, in our humble opinion, would have a very salutary effect throughout the country at large.

All which, with dutiful respect, is submitted to your Hon. House, and your petitioners in duty bound, will ever pray.

Oct. 30, 1829

The Upper Canada Herald, which is certainly the most moderate and honest among the opposition Journals of this Province, *though the Editor is a member of Parliament*, holds the following language regarding the resolutions passed here, at the Dist. Meeting, on the first day of the fair.

“A series of Resolutions adopted at a public meeting held in the District of Bathurst will be found among our extracts. The people of that District have taken the constitutional method of making their opinions and wants known to the Legislature, and we wish that the inhabitants of every District in the Province would follow so praise worthy an example. Upon the merits of the several subjects embraced in the Resolutions we have not at present time to comment; but a single glance convinces us that they are all worthy the serious consideration of the Legislature.”

Pursuant to one of the Resolutions passed on the first day of the Fair, the adjourned meeting of the District convened at Mrs. Cameron's Inn, on the 22^d inst. It was numerously attended. The petition which we published in our last number, echoing the sentiments of the Resolutions, was agreed to, and it was resolved that the following persons be requested to use their most strenuous exertions in explaining to their neighbours the object of the petition, and in getting Freeholders to sign their names: and when they shall have gotten as many as they think they can obtain, they are requested to forward the same to the Chairman. If any other, whose names are not mentioned, convinced of the beneficial results which the District may reap, from

activity and perseverance in getting subscriber's names, their kind exertions will be duly appreciated by the committee.

Wm. Morris, Esq. Perth.
 Mr. Charles Bailey, Dalhousie.
 Mr. A. Craig, Innkeeper, Lanark.
 Mr. E. Wilson, North Sherbrooke.
 Mr. Samuel Boulton, Bathurst Mills.
 Mr. John Richey, Ferguson's Falls.
 Mr. Robert Ball, Murphy's Falls.
 Mr. John Gemmel, Shipman's Mills.
 Mr. John Blowson, Innkeeper.
 Mr. Patrick Newlan, Beckwith.
 Mr. Andrew Hill, Richmond.
 Mr. John Adamson, Bytown.
 Mr. John Toschach, Ramsay.
 Louis Rendt, Esq. Bathurst.
 Mr. John Gray, do.
 Mr. Joshua Adams, do.

Bathurst Courier [LAC]

October 3, 1834

TO THE FREE AND INDEPENDENT
 ELECTORS OF THE COUNTY
 OF LANARK.

GENTLEMEN—When, on the increase of your representation, I first had the honour to address you, as a Candidate for your suffrages, I hazarded the opinion that the welfare of the Farmer was not sufficiently regarded by our Legislature; suggesting, at the same time, that a Man whose interests were intimately blended with your own, should be the object of your choice. In conferring upon me that dignified honour, you afforded me an opportunity of drawing the attention of the Assembly to such measures as I conceived would advance your happiness and prosperity; with this object in view, I first proposed an address to his Majesty praying for a reasonable duty on the growth and manufacture of the United

States, imported into this Province, to the immediate injury of the farmer; the rejection of which, by the last and former session of the House, is a striking illustration of the truth of my former opinion, and proves satisfactorily, that until the majority of the Assembly is composed of men immediately connected with the soil, the advancement of agriculture will be kept subservient to every other consideration.

I next introduced a bill to extend the bounty for the destruction of Wolves, which was lost in the Legislative Council—the inconvenience arising to the public in attending Courts of Justice as Jurors claimed my attention, reasonable compensation I thought should be given; I therefore brought in a bill to increase the fees of Petit Jurors, and to afford an adequate remuneration to Grand Jurors attending Quarter Sessions; This bill, I trust, will form part of Mr. Perry's Jury Bill.

The Summary Punishment Bill I

opposed in all its stages as placing too great a power in the hands of the Magistrates and subversive of that inestimable privilege, which every British Subject should enjoy, *of being tried by his equals*. I also opposed in conjunction with other Members from this District, the immense grants of money voted last Session, on the credit of the Province and applied to *questionable purposes*. I fine I court investigation of my Parliamentary conduct and votes during the two sessions that I represented this County and although my efforts have not yet been crowned with success, they have awakened the public to a just sense of their interests and there is no evil however great but the unanimous exercise of our constitutional rights will most assuredly overcome. The period is fast approaching when you will again be called upon to exercise your elective privileges. I present myself to your consideration, and should I still possess your confidence and be returned as one of your Members, I will fearlessly advocate such measures as will tend to promote the advancement of the farmer, the general welfare of the Province, and the honour and dignity of the British Empire. But no separation from England. While I subscribe myself,

GENTLEMEN,

Your humble and obedient servant.

DONALD FRASER.

Perth, September 5, 1834

TO THE FREE AND INDEPENDENT
ELECTORS OF THE COUNTY
OF LANARK

GENTLEMEN—As the period is now at hand, when you will be called upon to exercise that inestimable principle of our

Constitution, the “Elective Franchise,” and as I am desirous of obtaining the distinguished honour of sitting as your Representative in the Provincial Parliament, I again present myself to your notice. On a former occasion I solicited your support, and had every assurance of success; but the persuasion of *false friends*, and the intrigues of *real enemies*, induced me, in a moment of folly, to barter your interests and my own honour, by passively relinquishing all claim to your suffrages.

The result of the approaching Elections throughout the Province, will give a complexion to the politics of the next four years, and settle the grand question of Tory or Radical ascendancy; from it will be dated the triumph of one party and the downfall of the other;—we will live as we now are happy, contented, and free-governed by good and equitable laws; or become a jumbled mass of anarchy and confusion, subject to the whim and caprice of *mobocracy*. And, as it is expected that every aspirant to Parliamentary honours, will express his opinion on the politics of the day, and give some pledge for his rule of action, I now declare my *Political Creed!*

I am, GENTLEMEN, as every man ought to be, a REFORMER *to a certain extent*—not of imaginary grievances; but real abuses—not the mean and mercenary toy of a designing master, who would sacrifice his Country to his own interest; but a conscientious advocate of actual Improvement and necessary Reform—a strenuous opposer of the Summary Punishment act in all its bearings—a favour of appeal from the *Court of Requests*—averse to an Elective Legislative Council, Universal Suffrage, and voting by Ballot, as the leading step to Republicanism—a staunch supporter of that glorious and unparalleled

superstructure the BRITISH CONSTITUTION which has stood forth for the ages the envy and admiration of the world. If a strict observance of the Principles, and unceasing watchfulness of this District, and an untiring zeal for the welfare of the Province, in connection with the Parent State, merit aught at your hands, I claim the reward. UNSOLICITED I come forward to ask your support, and *court the most rigid enquiry of my private life*; and I will only add, in conclusion, that should you think proper to elect me as one of your Representatives, I will cast a new COLOUR upon the FACE of things.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg the honour of being,

Your humble & devoted servant.

BLACK SAM.

Perth, September 25, 1834.

elected, all I promise is, to act as I conscientiously believe for the best interests of the country; and whenever you signify your disapprobation of my conduct, to resign.

Yours respectfully,

MALCOLM CAMERON

Perth, June 9, 1836.

June 24, 1836

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE COUNTY
OF LANARK

Gentlemen,--

HAVING had the honour of being nominated by a number of partial friends, as a proper person to represent you in Parliament, I cannot refuse to comply with their solicitation to offer myself a Candidate for your suffrages. Personally known to most of you from my youth up my character principles, &c. are before you. Sensible of the heartlessness of most professions and pledges, I am determined not to make any; and as I never solicited the honour, if I am defeated it will be easily born, -if I am