

DIVISION OF THE DISTRICT.

To the Inhabitants of Southwold, and the Southern Section of the London District.
Gentlemen:

As you are at present discussing the question of a "Division of the District" it may be proper to lay before you the following Financial Statement and remarks to assist you in arriving at a correct conclusion for, or against the Division.

Before proceeding, I beg to remark that so long as there appeared a probability that, by secret influence or manoeuvre Pt. Stanley might be the District Town—its residents found no objection to the Division. But whenever you resolved that the District Town should be on the Talbot Road, a few of the denizens of Port Stanley & neighborhood got up a Petition against the Division, and now ask you to sign it, for the following, their reasons, as in that Petition.

"Firstly. Because it appears by the Auditor's report that the liabilities of the District are £2020, that the assessment for 1846 may be estimated at 3500l nett, as the outside sum, leaving about 1500l to meet all the expenses of the District till the Assessments of 1847 are collected."

"Secondly. Because it appears from the above statement of the available revenue of the District, if a new District is formed, several thousand Pounds additional Taxes will have to be levied on the inhabitants for the erection of a Gaol and Court House."

Gentlemen, they forgot to inform you that the rate of tax you now pay is within a fraction of being as high as the law allows.

Read the 49th section of the Municipal Council Act—when the abstract referred to in that section, is placed on the table of the Legislature and the Port Stanley Petition by the side of it, after hearing that abstract read, what weight will the Legislature of the Province, or a committee of the same body, attach to the reading of that Petition? Read the following and then judge.

The Total amount of assessments to be collected in the District of London last year, was £5865 Os. 7d., as may be seen in the abstract of the resources of the District, subscribed to by J. B. Askin, Esq, Clerk of the Peace, and handed over by him to J. Strathy, Esq., Clerk of the District Council, and in whose office it is at present deposited; a document not made public, as it should be, for satisfaction to the people in the District, but drawn out for information to the Government:—that total amount is composed from the following sources, viz:—

Taxes on Land	£1023 12 6
" Rateable Property	2461 19 10
" for school purposes	1454 7 8
" Gaol and Asylum	920 15 7
" From Stills	4 5 0

Total outside amount £5865 0 7

Few will dispute that the increase in property in this District is, at a low estimate, at least 2½ per cent. each year. If this is admitted, then the same rate of taxation as last year, will produce for 1846 as the outside sum £6000

to be disposed of as follows, viz:—

For Education	£1490
" 17 Collectors	165
" 17 Assessors	110
" 17 Town Clerks	68
" Surveyor	100
" Clerk of the Council	100
" Treasurer and petty charges of the Offices	442—2500

Leaving a net balance of £3500

Not to meet all the expenses of the District, but to meet the administration of justice—debentures due—debt on the gaol, public improvements, &c. Some individuals conclude that from this net balance of £3500, all the expenses of the District have to be paid—in this conclusion they are decidedly wrong; and have been confirmed in their error from the following erroneous exposition in the "Report of the Auditors of the London District," dated August 11th, 1846, viz:—

"The assessments for 1846, may be estimated at £3500 net, as the outside sum, leaving about £1500 to meet all the expenses of the District, &c. It is impossible that from the above net sum all the expenses are to be met. I have shown above that £2500, part of the real outside sum is expended previous to arriving at this net balance of £3500; and assuredly that £2500 is part of the expenses of the District to be met, just as much as it is part of the contributions from the taxes of the District.

If the southern townships are set apart as a separate District next year, I will shew that they, when a new District, will not require to contribute to any higher rate of taxation than they do at present.—A block of land for the public buildings can be had gratuitously on Talbot street; land has been offered in several places.

The walls and roof of a strong building say 40 by 80 feet, will not cost more than £2000

The inside finishing of a Court Room, with offices, and of the cells and other apartments in the Gaol, if substantial and plain, would cost not more than £2000

Shewing for the public Buildings £4000 Or, to meet the views of the extravagant calculation, say, £5000

This building could be commenced and finished by the fall of 1848, and paid for as follows, in five instalments, viz:

1st Instalment, in Dec., 1848	£1000
2nd " " 1849	1000
3rd " " 1850	1000
4th " " 1851	1000
5th " " 1852	1000

£5000

The above £5000, and interest, £600, could be paid from the following resources.

In 1848, the same increase in property of 2½ per cent. each year, and the same rate of taxation, would produce from the seven southern townships £3152

to be disposed of as follows, viz:

For Education	£740
" Seven Collectors and Assessors	135
" Seven town Clerks	28
" Clerk of the Council	75
" Surveyor	100
" Auditors	20
" Treasurer and petty charges of the offices	254—1352

Leaving a net balance of £1800

to meet the following expenses, viz:

1st Instalment on buildings	£1000
For Roads and Bridges	400—1400

Balance on hand to 1849 400

In 1849, the same rate of tax would produce 3231

£3631

Then deduct management of District and Education £1381

Second Instalment on Buildings	1000
Interest on £4000	240
Roads and Bridges	500—3120

Balance on hand to 1850 510

In 1850, the same rate of tax would produce 3312

£3822

Then deduct for management and Education £1410

3rd Instalment on Buildings	1000
Interest on £3000	180
Roads and Bridges	600—3190

Balance on hand to 1851 632

In 1851, the same rate of tax would produce 3394

£4026

Then deduct management and Education £1440

4th Instalment on buildings	1000
Interest on 2000	120
roads and Bridges	700—3260

Balance to 1852 766

In 1852 the same tax would produce 3480

£4246

Then deduct management and Education 1470

5th Instalment on buildings	60
Interest on 1000	60
Roads and Bridges	800—3330

Balance on hand to 1853 916

In 1853, the same rate of tax would produce 3570

4486

Then deduct management and Education 11500

Roads and Bridges 2000—3500

Balance in the Treasury £986

So that, with proper management, by 1853, while we would be free from debt in the New District, with a balance in the Treasury of about 1000, we would, during these six years, have spent on our Roads and Bridges 15000; and the whole amount of our contributions, viz., £20,000, would be spent in the Southern townships, while during the past six years, we have had only about 11000 for Roads and Bridges in southern Townships, in place of 15000; and during the same period our 115,000 of taxes contributed has been mostly spent in London and the north.

The census of the London District when taken in 1837, showed for the ten northern townships 11,896, and the seven southern townships 12,910; total, 24,716 inhabitants. In 1842, the census of the seventeen townships was 30,276; showing an increase in five years of 22½ per cent., or 4½ per cent. yearly.

The same increase in 1848, would shew a population for the whole of 38,500, the southern half of which would be at least 19,000.

I will now make a few remarks about the Bridges on the Thames.—wherever that magnificent and valuable river meanders through the northern section of the District, you will find numerous good bridges, commencing at Delaware (alho the river above that point, is neither as deep, as broad or as difficult to ford as below Delaware (in which township you will find two; in the townships of London and Westminster, at least half a dozen; in North Dorchester two or three; and in every township up the stream several bridges; then examine below Delaware, where the Thames is deeper broader, and more difficult to ford; where it forms the boundary of the northern from the southern townships of Southwold, Dunwich and Alboro', and you will not find a single bridge, although the inhabitants of these townships know they would be beneficial, and would secure to the Talbot road and lake shore, a share of the important traffic north of the river and enable the industrious farmers in Mosa, Ekfrid, and Caradoc, to have access, with their grain, pork, &c., at any season of the year, when the cash market was tempting, to New Glasgow, in Aldboro', or Tryconnel, on Port Talbot, in Dunwich, all on the lake shore; and the inhabitants of these townships never will get bridges across the Thames, so long as the commercial and other powerful interests in London and the north can prevent them, which they easily can continue to do if they think proper, with

their ten townships in the north, and London, against seven townships in the south.

The improved roads in the North section attract the American travel that formerly enriched the Talbot settlement, where a few years ago, every Tavern and House of Entertainment was so crowded with Travellers, that the very floors were often resorted to for beds, and the ready change ginged all along the road every morning. That lucrative travel will return to the Talbot Road when the mud holes, hills and bridges on it are improved, not under the jarring and opposing interests of the North, but under the direction of a separate District where interest will be identified with improvements. The seven southern townships have 20 Grist Mills, and three of the same townships 51 Saw Mills. Bad roads frequently prevent cus-

proprietors of the latter are often prevented from sending Lumber to their Home Market. If the roads were improved and a District Town rising up on the Talbot road, facilities would be presented for the disposal of Lumber to a much greater extent and at a better price than at present. The Lumber trade in the south section of the District, including square timber and Staves, is far greater than many are willing to admit, and it should be encouraged, it embarks a number of Schooners, and gives employment to a great number of Sailors, Teamsters, Lumbermen, and their families, all creating by such employment, An extensive home market for farm produce.

Before concluding I will enumerate the various officers of a District and shew from what source they would be paid, viz:

From our District Taxes—Collectors, Assessors, and Treasurer, by a per centage, Town Clerks, four pounds each, Surveyors, and Clerks of the Council, by a salary, Auditors, by a vote of the Council.

From the Provincial common School Fund. The District Superintendent of Schools by a Salary.

From Fees or the Provincial consolidated Fund. The Registrar, Judge of the District Court, Judge of the Surrogate Court, Sheriff, Clerk of the Peace, Clerk of the District Court, Deputy Clerk of the Crown, Commissioner of the Bankrupt Court, Inspector of Licenses, Crown Lands Agent, Coroners, and Bailiffs; and after 1847 the expense of the Administration of Justice will be paid from the above sources.

Gentlemen, the above statements are printed to assist you to judge for yourselves. Read them with attention, if they are satisfactory, allow me to recommend you to sign the Petition for the Division of the District, and if you are convinced that they are not satisfactory, then by all means go and sign the Petition got up at Port Stanley, against the Division. THINK AND JUDGE FOR YOURSELVES.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
ERIE.

Men of the Southern Townships! we crave an attentive perusal for the above statements from the pen of "ERIE," relying upon your own good sense; that there is sufficient forethought and knowledge among you, in order to set at defiance the machinations of the enemy, and thereby pray the Legislature to do you justice in the premises.—Ed. Can. Freeman.