



Province of Nova-Scotia.

Council-Chamber, *Halifax* 20th May, 1758.

IS Excellency the Governor, together with His Majesty's Council, having had under mature Consideration the necessary and most expedient Measures for carrying into Execution those Parts of His Majesty's Commission and Instructions which relate to the Calling General Assemblies within the Province, came to the following Resolutions thereon, *Viz.*

That a House of Representatives of the Inhabitants of this Province, be the Civil Legislature thereof, in Conjunction with His Majesty's Governor or Commander in Chief for the Time being, and His Majesty's Council of the said Province: The first House to be elected and convened in the following Manner, and to be stiled the GENERAL ASSEMBLY, *Viz.*

That there shall be elected for the Province at large, until the same shall be divided into Counties, Sixteen Members: For the Township of *Halifax*, Four: For the Township of *Lunenburg*, Two.

That until the said Townships can be more particularly described, the Limits thereof shall be deemed to be as follows, *Viz.*

That the Township of *Halifax* comprehend all the Lands lying southerly of a Line extending from the westernmost Head of *Bedford Basin* across to the northeasterly Head of *St. Margaret's Bay*, with all the Islands nearest to said Lands, together with the Islands called *Cornwallis's*, *Webb's*, and *Rous's* Islands.

That the Township of *Lunenburg* comprehend all the Lands lying between *Labare River* and the easternmost Head of *Mabone Bay*, with all the Islands within said Bay, and all the Islands within *Mirliguash Bay*, and those Islands lying to the southward of the above Limits.

That when Fifty qualified Electors shall be settled at *Pisquid*, *Mnas*, *Cobequid*, or any other Townships which may hereafter be erected, each of the said Townships so settled, shall, for their Encouragement, be entitled to send Two Representatives to the *General Assembly*, and shall likewise have a Right of voting in the Election of Representatives for the Province at large.

That the House shall always consist of at least Eleven Members present, besides the Speaker, before they enter upon Business.

That no Person shall be chosen as a Member of the said House, or shall have a Right of voting in the Election of any Member of the said House, who shall be a Popish Recusant, or shall be under the Age of Twenty-one Years, or who shall not at the Time of such Election, be possessed in his own Right of a Freehold Estate within the District for which he shall be elected, or shall so vote, nor shall any Elector have more than one Vote for each Member to be chosen for the Province at large, or for any Township; and that each Freeholder present at such Election, and giving his Vote for one Member for the Province at large, shall be obliged to vote also for the other Fifteen.

That respecting Freeholds which may have been conveyed by the Sheriff, by Virtue of an Execution, the Right of voting shall remain and be in the Persons from whom the same were taken in Execution, until the Time of Redemption be elapsed.

That no non-commissioned Officer or private Soldier in actual Service shall have a Right of voting, by Virtue of any Dwelling built upon Sufferance, nor any Possession of Freehold, unless the same be registred to him.

That all the Electors shall, if so required at the Time of the Election, take the usual State-Oaths appointed by Law, and declare and subscribe the Test.

That any Voter shall, at the Request of any Candidate, be obliged to take the following Oath, which Oath, together with the State Oaths the returning Officer is hereby empowered to administer.

" I A. B. do swear, that I am a Freeholder in the Township of-----
" in the Province of Nova-Scotia, and have Freehold Lands
" or Hereditaments lying or being at-----within the said Town-

" ship, and that such Freehold Estate hath not been made or granted to
" me fraudulently on purpose to qualify me to give my Vote, and that
" I have not received or had, by myself, or any Person whatsoever,
" in Trust for me, or for my Use and Benefit, directly or indirec-
" ly, any Sum or Sums of Money, Office, Place, or Employment, Gift or
" Reward, or any Promise or Security for any Money, Office, Employ-
" ment or Gift, in order to give my Vote at this Election, and that I
" have not before been polled at this Election, and that the Place of my
" Abode is at-----

That a Precept be issued by His Excellency the Governor, to the Provost-Marshal or Sheriff of the Province, requiring him, by himself or his Deputies, to summon the Freeholders of the Province to meet within their respective Districts, at some convenient Place and Time, to be by the said Provost-Marshal, or one of his Deputies, appointed, and of which he or they shall give Twenty Days Notice, then and there to elect (agreeable to the Regulations hereby prescribed) such a Number of Representatives as shall in the said Precept be expressed, agreeable to the preceding Detail.

That the Precept for convening the first Assembly, be made returnable on the second Day of *October* next.

That the Provost-Marshal, or his Deputy, shall be the returning Officer of the Elections, to be held by him, with the Assistance of Three of the Freeholders present, to be appointed and sworn by the returning Officer for that Purpose; and in case a Scrutiny shall be demanded, the same shall be made by them; and in case of further Contest, the same to be determined by the House. The Poll for each Township to be closed at the Expiration of Forty-Eight Hours from the Time of it's being opened; and for the Province at large, the Poll after four Days from the Time of it's being opened for the Election, shall be sealed up by the returning Officer for each Township, and transmitted to the Provost-Marshal by the first Opportunity, that reasonable Notice may be given to the Persons who shall, upon Examination, appear to have been chosen by the greatest Number of the said Votes. *Provided nevertheless*, That if the Votes in the Townships of *Annapolis-Royal* and *Cumberland*, for the first Members for the Province at large, shall not be returned eight Days before the Expiration of the Time limited for returning the Precept, the Provost-Marshal shall, in such Case, proceed to declare who are the Persons elected from the other Votes in his Hands.

That the Provost-Marshal, or his Deputy, shall appoint for each Candidate such one Person as shall be nominated to him by each Candidate, to be Inspectors of the returning Officer and his Assistants.

That no Person shall be deemed duly elected, who shall not have the Votes of a Majority of the Electors present.

That the Names of all Persons voted for, together with the Names of the Voters, shall, at the Time of voting, be publicly declared and entered on a Book kept for that Purpose.

That in case of the Absence of any of the Members from the Province, for the Term of two Months, it shall and may be lawful for the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Commander in Chief (if he shall judge it necessary) to issue his Precept for the Choice of others in their Stead. That the returning Officer shall cause the foregoing Resolution to be publicly read at the Opening of each Meeting for the Elections, and to govern the said Meetings agreeable thereto.

Cha^r. Lawrence.

By His Excellency's Command, with
the Advice and Consent of His
Majesty's Council.

Jn^o. Duport, Sec: Conc:

1 Day of Nov
1758
2. Dec