

PROCLAMATION

Authorizing the Governor of Newfoundland to call a General Assembly.

WILLIAM R.
[L. S.]

*WILLIAM THE FOURTH, by the Grace of GOD,
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c., &c., &c.*

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING :

Whereas, by Our Letters-Patent under the Great Seal of Our United Kingdom aforesaid, bearing date at Westminster the second day of March, 1832, in the second year of Our reign, We have given and granted to Our trusty and well-beloved Sir THOMAS JOHN COCHRANE, Knight, Our Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Our island of Newfoundland, full power and authority to summon and call a General Assembly of the freeholders and householders within Our said island. It is therefore Our pleasure, and We hereby declare and make known to all Our loving subjects within the same, that for the purpose of the election of the members of the said Assembly, the said island shall be divided into nine districts, to be called respectively :

The district of St. John's.
The district of Conception Bay.
The district of Fogo.
The district of Bonavista.
The district of Trinity Bay.
The district of Ferryland.
The district of Placentia and St. Mary's.
The district of Burin.
The district of Fortune Bay.

And it is Our further will and pleasure, and We do hereby declare that the before-mentioned district of St. John's shall consist of and include all that part of Our said island bounded by the shore which is situate and lying between Petty Harbor and Broad Cove.

And that the before-mentioned district of Conception Bay shall consist of and include all that part of Our said island which, bounded in like manner, is situate and lying between Broad Cove and Bay Verds Head.

And that the before-mentioned district of Fogo shall consist of and include all that part of Our said island which, bounded in like manner, is situate between Cape St. John and Fogo island, including that island.

And that the before-mentioned district of Bonavista shall consist of and include all that part of Our said island which, bounded in like manner, is situate and lying between Cape Freels and Cape Bonavista.

And that the before-mentioned district of Trinity Bay shall consist of and include all that part of Our said island which, bounded in like manner, is situate and lying between Cape Bonavista and Cape Verds Head.

And that the before-mentioned district of Ferryland shall consist of and include all of that part of Our said island which, bounded in like manner, is situate and lying between Petty Harbor and Cape Race.

And that the before-mentioned district of Placentia and St. Mary's shall consist of and include all that part of Our said island which, bounded in like manner, is situate and lying between Cape Race and Rushoon.

And that the before-mentioned district of Burin shall consist of and include all that part of Our said island which, bounded in like manner, is situate and lying between Rushoon and Garnish.

And that the before-mentioned district of Fortune Bay shall consist of and include all that part of Our said island which, bounded in like manner, is situate and lying between Garnish and Bonne Bay.

And We do further signify and declare Our pleasure to be that the said district of St. John's shall be represented in the said Assembly by three members.

And that the said district of Conception Bay shall be represented in the said Assembly by four members.

And that each of the said districts of Fogo, of Bonavista, of Trinity Bay and of Ferryland, shall be represented in the said Assembly by one member.

And that the said district of Placentia and St. Mary's shall be represented in the said Assembly by two members.

And that each of the said districts of Burin and Fortune Bay shall be represented in the said Assembly by one member.

And it is Our will and pleasure that the Governor for the time being of Our said island do appoint some fit person to be the returning officer within each of the said districts.

And We do further declare Our pleasure to be that Our said Governor do issue in Our name writs for the election of the members of the several districts before mentioned, which writs shall be addressed to the several returning officers aforesaid, and shall by them be returned to the Colonial Secretary for the time being of Our said island.

And it is Our will and pleasure that every man, being of the full age of twenty-one years and upwards, and being of sound understanding, and being Our natural-born subject, or having been lawfully naturalized, and never having been convicted in due course of law of any infamous crime, and having for two years next immediately preceding the day of election occupied a dwelling-house within Our said island as owner or tenant thereof, shall be eligible to be a member of the said House of Assembly.

And it is Our further will and pleasure that every man who, for one year next immediately preceding the day of election, hath occupied a dwelling-house within Our said island as owner or tenant thereof, and who in other respects may be eligible according to the regulations aforesaid to be a member of the said House of Assembly, shall be competent and entitled to vote for the election of members of the said Assembly, in and for the district within which the dwelling-house so occupied as aforesaid may be situate.

And it is Our pleasure that the votes for the members of the said Assembly shall be taken by the said several returning officers at such one or more place or places within each of the said districts as shall for that purpose be appointed in the body of the writ addressed to the returning officer of every such district respectively, and at or within such time or times as shall for the purpose be therein limited; but inasmuch as by reason of the difficulty in internal communication within Our said island, many persons entitled to vote might be prevented from the exercise of such their franchise if in every case it were necessary to attend in person for that purpose, We do therefore declare Our pleasure to be, that in respect of any dwelling-house situate at the distance of more than fifteen miles from the nearest place of election within any of the said districts, the vote of any householder duly qualified as aforesaid may be given without his personal attendance by a written notice subscribed by such voter in the presence of two credible witnesses, and duly attested by their signatures; which notices shall be in such form as Our Governor for the time being of Our said island shall from time to time direct.

And it is Our further pleasure that if any candidate or voter at any such election shall object to any vote thus tendered, it shall be the duty of the returning officer to hear such objection and what may be alleged in support of or in answer to the same, and to examine on oath the parties by or against whom such objection may be raised, and any person or persons who may be adduced as a witness or as witnesses on either side, and upon such hearing to admit or to over-rule any such objection as may to such returning officer appear just and right.

And We further declare Our will to be that the persons in favor of whom the greater number of votes shall be given in any such district shall be publicly declared by such returning officer to be duly elected to be the representatives thereof in the said General Assembly, and shall thereupon be returned and take their seats accordingly: Provided always, that in

cases of peculiar doubt or difficulty it shall be competent to any such returning officer to make a special return setting forth the grounds of such doubt, upon which the said House of Assembly shall afterwards decide.

And it is Our will, and We do further declare that the Assembly so to be chosen as aforesaid, shall continue only during Our pleasure; and that the said Assembly shall not proceed to the despatch of any business unless six members at least shall be present at and during the whole of the deliberations of the said House thereupon.

And whereas it may be necessary, in order to the complete execution of the several purposes aforesaid, that further regulations should be made for the conduct of the said elections and the return of members to serve in the said House of Assembly, We have therefore authorized, and do hereby authorize, Our Governor for the time being of Our said island, by any proclamation or proclamations to be by him from time to time issued in Our name and in Our behalf, to make such further regulations as may be necessary for the conduct of the said elections and for the return of members to serve in the said House of Assembly, and for the due discharge of the duties of the said returning officer, and which regulations shall be of full force, virtue and effect until provision be otherwise made by law; it being, nevertheless, Our pleasure that the regulations so to be made as aforesaid be not repugnant to or inconsistent with the several provisions hereinbefore contained or any of them.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, on the twenty-sixth day of July, 1832, in the third year of Our reign.
