

Hastings Election
Petition

Baldwin, as the Member for the said County of *Hastings* may not be received, but that this Honorable House will be pleased so to amend the return, or cause it to be amended, as to declare the said *Edmund Murney* the Member for the said County of *Hastings*; or otherwise, for the reasons last above set forth, hold declare, and determine the said election so holden in and for the said County of *Hastings* on the said 22d day of *March*, and the days then next ensuing as aforesaid, and all proceedings thereupon had, to have been and to be utterly null and void and of none effect, and that the seat in this House, for the said County of *Hastings*, is vacant and unfilled.

Petitioners beg leave still further to represent that the said *Robert Baldwin* should not be the Member for the said County of *Hastings*, because, contrary to Law, and contrary to the Constitution, a large number of the names recorded as having voted for the said *Robert Baldwin* are not freeholders in the said County of *Hastings*, and consequently the majority by which he the said *Robert Baldwin* was declared elected, has no existence in fact or in law, and was and is a mere colourable majority; and because a larger number of legal votes were recorded in favor of the said *Edmund Murney*, than is in favor of the said *Robert Baldwin*, and because a large number of legal and sufficient votes offered for the said *Edmund Murney* were rejected by the returning officer, illegally and without reason, for which reasons the Petitioners pray that the return in favor of the said *Robert Baldwin* as the Member for the said County of *Hastings*, may not be received, but that this Honorable House will be pleased so to amend the return, or cause it to be amended, as to declare the said *Edmund Murney* the Member for the said County of *Hastings*.

Petitioners beg leave further to represent that from evidence which will be submitted to the committee hereafter to be appointed by this Honorable House, the Petitioners firmly believe they will make it appear that the returning officer conducted himself throughout the said election with wilful and unwarrantable partiality, and was grossly biassed in favor of the said *Robert Baldwin*, and rested unfairly and partially, solely upon the opinion of the said *Robert Baldwin*, whose opinion in opposition to a request of the Magistrates, that the said bullies and shanty-men should be desarmed, was taken and accepted and acted upon by the said returning officer, who refused to accede to the request of the said Magistrates; and the Petitioners further represent, that by and through the refusal of the said returning officer to interfere and prevent the interruption which was offered by the hired bullies, ruffians and shanty-men, before mentioned, to the freeholders, in the interest of the said *Edmund Murney*, great injustice was done to the said *Edmund Murney*, and the Petitioners believe that the fact of the returning officer's canvassing for the said *Robert Baldwin*, subsequent to his appointment, will strongly corroborate the charge which they now prefer; and for these last mentioned reasons the Petitioners further pray that the said *Robert Baldwin* may not be declared the sitting Member for the County of *Hastings*; but that this House will so amend the return, or order it to be amended that *Edmund Murney* may be declared the sitting Member for the said County; or otherwise, that this Honorable House will hold, declare, and determine for the last mentioned reasons, the said election for the said County of *Hastings* and all proceedings thereupon had to have been and to be utterly null and void, and that the seat in this Honorable House for the said County of *Hastings*, is vacant and unfilled.

Ordered—That the said Petition do lie upon the table.

Speaker reports His
Excellency's Speech.

Mr Speaker then reported, that when the House did attend His Excellency the Governor General, this day, in the Legislative Council