

Montreal
Election.

recent election of Members to serve in this Parliament for the city of *Montreal*, and to the conduct of the Returning Officer at the said Election.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Montreal, 24th January, 1845.

(COPY.)

No. 308.

DOWNING STREET,
16th November, 1844.

SIR,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 162, of the 28th October, inclosing the copy of a Report from Captain *Wetherall*, Stipendiary Magistrate, detailing the proceedings which took place at the recent election of Members to represent the city of *Montreal* in the new Parliament.

You will signify to the Returning Officer, Mr. *Young*, and to Captain *Wetherall*, my approbation of the efforts so successfully made by them for the preservation of the peace of the City on that occasion.

I have, &c.

(Signed,) STANLEY.

The Right Honourable
Sir *Charles Metcalfe*, Baronet,
&c. &c. &c.

(COPY.)

No. 162.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Montreal, 28th October, 1844.

MY LORD,

I have the honour to submit for your Lordship's information, the copy of a Report from Captain *Wetherall*, Stipendiary Magistrate, detailing the proceedings that took place during the two days of polling for Members to represent the city of *Montreal* in the new Parliament.

I consider that the preservation of the peace, and of the lives and property of the inhabitants, is in no small degree to be attributed to the admirable arrangements of Mr. *Young*, the Returning Officer, and to the efficient services of Captain *Wetherall*, a most valuable public servant.

The polling proceeded throughout without interruption, notwithstanding the repeated attempts made to disturb it; and I feel that it will be as gratifying to your Lordship to learn, as it is to me to state, that no life has been sacrificed. Great credit is due to the troops employed, both officers and men, for their temperate and judicious conduct; and I am of opinion that, without their assistance, neither the peace of the City could have been maintained, nor the free exercise of their franchise secured to the voters, in consequence of the inroads made by the labourers, non-voters, who are congregated upon the Public Works in this vicinity.

I have, &c.

(Signed,) C. T. METCALFE.

The Right Honourable Lord *Stanley*,
&c. &c. &c.

(COPY.)

LACHINE POLICE OFFICE,
26th October, 1844.

SIR,

I have the honour to state, for the information of the Governor General, that a few days previous to the nomination of Candidates to represent the City of *Montreal*, I

was called on by the Returning Officer to assist him in *Montreal* making arrangements for the preservation of the Peace of Election. that City.

I felt it my duty to comply with this request, and I beg now to report the occurrences which took place under my observation, as well as the general arrangements during the two days of polling.

The polling booths were fixed in the centre of streets, running at right angles with two great thoroughfares: strong barriers were erected at the polling booths, to prevent the collision of the contending parties, there being an understanding between the Candidates, made at the suggestion of the Returning Officer, that their respective voters should approach the polling booths at the opposite ends of the street.

At each booth two Magistrates, and a strong body of Special Constables, were posted, to assist the Deputy Returning Officer in maintaining peace.

In this order all the polls were opened.

I was occupied throughout the two days in continually visiting the several polling places, and in no instance except that hereinafter mentioned, did I perceive any difficulty whatever, to the free and peaceable access of voters to the polls.

Two days previous to the polling, information reached the Returning Officer that bodies of strangers were expected from the Gore of *Chatham* and *Quebec*, to endeavour to carry the election by violence, and arrangements were made to prevent them, if possible, from entering the City.

I can confidently assert that no bodies of men came from the former place, as I had placed Police on the road, and at the landing places, to ascertain the fact. Two hundred men, however, apparently Irish labourers, arrived in *Montreal* in the Steamboat "*Charlevoix*" from *Quebec*, who were engaged, as I since have had reason to believe, to assist in the return of Mr. *Drummond*.

On the morning of the first day of polling an unusually large body of strangers, evidently Irish labourers, congregated in *St-Gill* Street, one of the largest thoroughfares, and flanking the streets leading to the polling booths in the *Queen's* Ward, one of the principal Wards in the City.

Amongst these people, I recognized a large number of labourers from the *Lachine* Canal, non-voters, and it was very evident, from their manner and local disposition, that they meditated an attack on the booth with a view of taking and keeping forcible possession of it, a plan which they had successfully practised at the last election for *Montreal*.

Shortly after the poll was opened an attack was made by these people on the voters of Mr. *Moffatt*, who had assembled near the poll at the *Queen's* Ward, in the street assigned to them; and the Deputy Returning Officer found it necessary to call in the Troops.

The riot was speedily repressed, and the Troops were retained in the vicinity of the poll, to allow free access to it, and prevent further rioting.

Polling continued throughout the day uninterruptedly.

On the close of the Poll, on the first day, an attempt was again made by the labourers to create a disturbance, by attacking the voters of the opposite party, which was again checked.

The labourers finding their object defeated, returned to the Canal, and in passing through *Griffintown*, demolished the windows of a Wesleyan Chapel, besides committing various other depredations.

During the night, it was thought necessary to place detachments of Troops in different parts of the town, to protect the property of individuals of both parties, who had taken prominent parts in the election.

On the second day, the polling commenced at the usual hour, and continued without interruption.