

REPORT.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

COMMITTEE ROOM,

Thursday, 3rd May, 1855.

The Committee to whom was referred the letter of the Clerk of the House with reference to the appointment of a second Clerk Assistant, and also the letter of the Clerk Assistant praying to be recommended for a Pension, have the honor to present their first Report.

Your Committee have had under their consideration, the letter of the Clerk, referred to them in the early part of the session, and the letter of the Clerk Assistant, referred to them on the 1st instant. Mr. Faribault had previously sent in his letter to the Committee, but no action could be taken upon it, until referred to them by your Honorable House.

After a due consideration of its details they have arrived at the unanimous conclusion, that, in view of the long and faithful services (extending over a period of 43 years) and advanced age of the Clerk Assistant, (65 years) that officer should be permitted to retire from the service of your Honorable House.

Mr. Faribault, in addition to the duties of his office, has devoted a considerable portion of his time to the formation of a collection of valuable works and documents, connected with the history of Canada.

Your Committee have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the zeal which he has always displayed in the service of the House, and beg leave to recommend that he be allowed a pension of £400, per annum, during the remainder of his life.

In making choice of a new Clerk Assistant, your Committee need not say that the greatest care should be taken, that the person appointed to fill that office be in every respect qualified for the performance of its duties. The qualification most essential and indeed indispensable, is a thorough knowledge of both the English and the French languages, in order to be enabled to translate *viva voce* from either.

Your Committee have only to refer to the following rule of your Honorable House, as a proof of one of the instances in which that qualification is indispensable.

“Rule 36. That no motion shall be delivered or put, unless the same be in writing and seconded. When a motion is seconded it shall be read in English and in French by the Speaker if he is a master of both languages, if not, the Speaker shall read in either of the two languages most familiar to him, and the reading in the other language shall be at the table by the Clerk or his Deputy.”

In addition to this qualification, your Committee think that the duty of the Clerk Assistant would be more efficiently performed by a person not too far advanced in years, who would be better enabled to bear the fatigues of a long session.

Your Committee have unanimously come to the conclusion to recommend for the office in question, W. B. Lindsay, Junior, Esquire, at present assistant Law Clerk and English translator to your Honorable House. Mr. Lindsay has already performed the duties of Clerk Assistant, both during the last and the present sessions, at different periods, to the satisfaction of your Honorable House, and from his possessing a thorough knowledge of both languages, they entertain no doubt that, should their recommendation be carried out, the duties of that office will be most efficiently performed.