

Rev. P. Pouliot  
and others.

T. Fortier,  
M. D.

Rev. C. Dion  
and others.

S. Payment  
and others.

Master and  
Wardens,  
Trinity House,  
Quebec.

Hon. James  
Crooks.

Quebec Fire-  
wood Society.

Savings Banks.

Fees of Sheriffs,  
Upper Canada.

French  
Language.

*Ordered*, That the Petition of the Reverend *P. Pouliot* and others, of the parish of *St. Pierre les Becquets*, in the county of *Nicolet*; the Petition of *Thomas Fortier*, M. D., and others, of the parish of *St. Edouard de Gentilly*, in the county of *Nicolet*; the Petition of the Reverend *C. Dion* and others, of the parish of *Béancour*, in the county of *Nicolet*; and the Petition of *Stephen Payment* and others, of the parish of *St. Grégoire*, county of *Nicolet*; be severally referred to the Committee of the whole House, on the Bill to repeal two certain Ordinances therein mentioned, relating to winter roads, in that part of the Province heretofore *Lower Canada*, in so far as regards the district of *Quebec*, the inferior district of *Gaspé*, and that part of the district of *Three Rivers*, which extends from the district of *Quebec*, to the parish of *Nicolet*, on the south side of the River *St. Lawrence*, and to the town of *Three Rivers*, inclusively, on the North side, and other references.

*Ordered*, That the Petition of the Master and Wardens of the Trinity House of *Quebec*, be referred to the Select Committee, to which was referred the Bill to amend and consolidate certain Laws, and an Ordinance now in force, relating to the powers and duties of the Corporation of the Trinity House of *Montreal*, to Pilots and Pilotage in the Port of *Montreal*, and to the *Montreal* Decayed Pilot Fund, and for other purposes, and another reference.

*Resolved*, That the Petition of the Honourable *James Crooks*, of the district of *Gore*, be referred to a Select Committee, composed of Mr. *Dunlop*, the Honourable Mr. *Baldwin*, Mr. *Petrie*, Mr. *Macdonell*, of *Dundas*, and Mr. *Leslie*, to examine the contents thereof, and to report thereon, with all convenient speed; with power to send for persons, papers, and records.

A Message from the Legislative Council, by *John Jennings Taylor*, Esquire, one of the Masters in Chancery:—

MR. SPEAKER,

The Legislative Council have passed the Bill, intitled, "An Act to incorporate the *Quebec* Charitable Firewood Society," without any amendment.

And also,

The Legislative Council have passed the Bill, intitled, "An Act to amend the Act therein mentioned, for the establishment and encouragement of Savings Banks," with several amendments, to which they desire the concurrence of the Assembly.

And then he withdrew.

Mr. *Sherwood*, of *Brockville*, from the Select Committee, to which was referred the Bill to regulate the Fees of Sheriffs and other district officers in that part of this Province called *Upper Canada*, reported that the Committee had gone through the said Bill, and had made several amendments thereto, which amendments were again read at the Clerk's table.

*Ordered*, That the said Bill and Report be committed to a Committee of the whole House on Monday next.

The Honourable Mr. *Papineau*, from the Select Committee, appointed to prepare and report the draught of an Address to Her Majesty, on the subject of the French Language, in conformity with a resolution adopted by the House on the thirty-first January, 1845, presented to the House the Address prepared by the said Committee; which Address was again read at the Clerk's table, and agreed to by the House, and is as followeth:—

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty:

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

We, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of *Canada*, in Provincial Parliament assembled, most humbly beg leave to approach Your Majesty, for the purpose of renewing the expression of our faithful attachment to Your Majesty's Person and Government, and of representing—

That, sensible of the advantages we enjoy from Your Majesty's care and protection, and which we trust may long be continued to us under Your Majesty's parental sway, it is, at all times, our duty to submit for Your Majesty's most gracious consideration, such matters as may have a tendency, with any class of Your Majesty's subjects, to diminish that contentment which we are well assured, Your Majesty desires should exist in every portion of Your dominions.

That the French is the native language of a very large class of Your Majesty's subjects in this Province; of this class the great mass indeed speak no other language;—in it the largest portion of their laws and the books on their system of jurisprudence are written; their daily intercourse with each other is conducted; it is the language in which alone they can invoke the blessings of Heaven on themselves and all that is dear to them. A language indispensable to so many of Your Majesty's faithful People, cannot, they will believe, be viewed by their Sovereign as foreign, when used by them.

That Your Majesty's Royal Predecessors placed the languages spoken by the two great classes of Your Majesty's subjects in this Province, on the same footing; affording, in this respect, equal justice and equal facility to all.

That this principle was never departed from until the Act re-uniting these Provinces was passed.

That we do not question that the best intentions and designs influenced the minds of those who enacted the provision which declared:

"That all writs, proclamations, instruments for summoning and calling together the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of the Province of *Canada*, and for proroguing and dissolving the same, and all writs of Summons and Election, and all writs and public instruments whatever relating to the said Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly, or either of them, and all returns to such writs and instruments, and all journals and entries, and written or printed proceedings of what nature soever of the said Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly, and of each of them respectively, and all written or printed proceedings and reports of Committees of the said Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly, respectively, shall be in the English language only."

But, that in the very first Session of the Legislature, under that Act, it was indispensable to translate into French every public record and document. That the debates were not and could not, unless a portion of the Representatives of the People were silenced, be carried on without its use; that in Courts and judicial proceedings it was found equally necessary as before the Union, and for every other practical purpose, it is as much used as it ever has been.

That the only distinction which exists then, is, that the French is not permitted to be the legal language of Parliamentary records; a distinction of little value perhaps in itself,—one which cannot produce any beneficial result on the feelings or habits of the People using it; while it gives rise to a feeling among them injurious to the peace and tranquillity of the Province, namely, that this limited proscription of their language conveys, however undesignedly, an imputation of unfavourable distinction towards themselves.

That desirous that the hearts of all men in this Province may be joined in unity, in their attachment to and support of Your Majesty's Person and Government, we humbly pray Your Majesty to endeavour to remove this cause of discontent, and to recommend to the Imperial Parliament the repeal of that portion of the law which has given rise to it; assuring Your Majesty that such a course will be

French  
Language.