

Petitions referred:

John R. Gemmill.

examine the contents thereof, and to report thereon, with all convenient speed, by Bill or otherwise; with power to send for persons, papers, and records.

*Resolved*, That the Petition of *John R. Gemmill*, of the Town of *Lanark*, in the District of *Bathurst*, be referred to a Select Committee, composed of Mr. *Cameron*, Mr. *Webster*, Mr. *Stewart* of *Bytown*, Mr. *Macdonell* of *Stormont*, and the Honourable Mr. *Morin*, to examine the contents thereof, and to report thereon, with all convenient speed; with power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Thos. B. Reid, et al.

*Ordered*, That the Petition of the Reverend *Thomas B. Reid* and others, members of the United Church of *England* and *Ireland*, in the Parish of *Port Burwell*, in the Diocese of *Toronto*; and the Petition of the Reverend *Francis William Sandys* and others, members of the United Church of *England* and *Ireland*, in *Howard* and other Townships, in the Diocese of *Toronto*, be referred to the Select Committee to which was referred the Petition of the Church Society of the Diocese of *Toronto*, and other references.

F. W. Sandys.

Mayor, &c., of Quebec.

*Resolved*, That the Petition of the Mayor and Councillors of the City of *Quebec*, be referred to a Select Committee, composed of Mr. *Chabot*, the Honourable Mr. *Aylwin*, the Honourable Mr. *Daly*, the Honourable Mr. *Morin*, and Mr. *Laurin*, to examine the contents thereof, and to report thereon with all convenient speed; with power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Wm. Rogerson, et al.

*Resolved*, That the Petition of *William Rogerson* and others, Manufacturers of Lumber, of the Province of *Canada*, be referred to a Select Committee, composed of Mr. *Stewart* of *Bytown*, the Honourable Mr. *Moffatt*, the Honourable Mr. *Aylwin*, Mr. *Cameron*, 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.

Oxford Election.

Mr. *Chauveau*, Chairman of the Select Committee appointed to try the merits of the Petition of the Honourable *Francis Hincks*, of the City of *Montreal*, complaining of the undue Election and Return of *Robert Riddell*, Esquire, Sitting Member for the County of *Oxford*, reported that the Committee met this day at nine o'clock, A. M., but were unable to proceed to business, in consequence of the absence of Mr. *Bertrand*, a member of the Committee.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Bertrand*, Member for the County of *Rimouski*, do attend in his place in this House, to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. *Dickson*, seconded by Mr. *Roblin*,

Middlesex Election.

*Ordered*, That the Order of this House of yesterday, "That *William H. Horton*, of the Town of *London*, Esquire; *George S. Tiffany*, of the Town of *Hamilton*, Esquire; and *Thomas D. Warren*, of the Village of *St. Thomas*, Esquire, Commissioners appointed to take evidence in the matter of the Contested Election for the County of *Middlesex*, having been guilty of neglect, in not returning the Commission issued by the Order of the House, be summoned to appear at the Bar of this House; and that they bear the expense of the Summons," be now read.

The said Order was read accordingly.

Middlesex Election.

*Ordered*, That *George S. Tiffany*, Esquire, one of the said Commissioners, be now called to appear at the Bar of this House, to be examined on the subject matter of the Contested Election for the County of *Middlesex*.

The said *George S. Tiffany*, Esquire, was accordingly called, and appeared at the Bar of the House, and was examined by the Honourable Mr. Solicitor General *Sherwood*, as follows:—

G. S. Tiffany, Esquire.

*Question 1.* Are you one of the Commissioners appointed by this House to take the Evidence on the trial of the Contested Election for the County of *Middlesex*?

*Answer.* I am.

*Question 2.* Why has not a Return been made by the Commissioners of their proceedings upon the said Commission.

*Answer.* I appear at the Bar of this Honourable House, in obedience to an Order of this Honourable House, in the matter of the Contested Election for the County of *Middlesex*, calling upon the Commissioners to account for their neglect in not returning the Commission issued by Order of this Honourable House. I beg to state, for the information of this Honourable House, that the Commissioners finished taking evidence early in the month of July last, and adjourned over to the 16th day of October last, in order then to make the Return of the Commission.

I was unable to give my attendance on that day, in consequence of severe illness which confined me to my bed, and therefore I had, some days previously, requested Mr. *Notman* to inform the other Commissioners of my inability to attend on the day to which we had adjourned; from this time, until the month of February, I had no communication with either of the other Commissioners, excepting with reference to the entry on the record of our proceedings, of a minute made by me explanatory of the causes of our adjournment from the month of March to that of June, 1845, and also containing my opinion as to an alleged Protest said to have been made by one of the contending parties.

On the second day of February last, being at *London*, I saw Mr. *Horton*, the Chairman of the Commission, who informed me, to my surprise, that he had again adjourned to some day in March last. I then stated to him that unless the Commission should be returned, by the first day of the meeting of Parliament, that I feared it would be considered a contempt of this Honourable House. I also urged him to make the Return as soon as possible; since that time I have had no communication from either of the Commissioners, but I have heard it rumoured in this City that they had again adjourned to some day in the present month.

I also beg leave to state, that my place of residence is about eighty miles distant from that of the other Commissioners, and the places for holding the sittings of the Commission, which rendered frequent personal intercourse with them inconvenient. My opinion was, and is, that the Chairman has the direction of the movements of the Commissioners, and that the duty of returning the Commission more particularly devolves upon him. I was also of the opinion that, having been unavoidably absent upon the sixteenth day of October last, my signature and seal to the return was unnecessary; still had I been requested to assist in making the return at any subsequent time, I would most cheerfully have done so.

I beg to assure this Honourable House, that I have endeavoured, on all occasions, faithfully to discharge my duties as a Commissioner in this