

Students in the Faculty of Divinity in the University of King's College.

Petition read.

Pursuant to the Order of the day, the following Petition was read:—

Of the College Council of the University of King's College established at *York*, now *Toronto*; praying for the passing of the Bill to amend the Charter of the University at *Toronto*, with certain alterations.

Mutual Insurance Companies (U.C.) Bill.

An engrossed Bill to amend the Act relating to Mutual Insurance Companies in *Upper Canada*, was read the third time.

*Resolved*, That the Bill do pass.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *M'Farland* do carry the Bill to the Legislative Council, and desire their concurrence.

Winter Roads (No. 2, L.C.) Bill.

An engrossed 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 District of *Gaspé*, and the District of *Three Rivers*, with the exception of that part of the County of *Drummond* within the District of *Three Rivers*, was read the third time.

*Resolved*, That the Bill do pass, and the Title be, "An Act to repeal the Ordinances relative to Winter Roads in *Lower Canada*, in so far as regards the Districts of *Quebec* and *Gaspé*, and part of the District of *Three Rivers*."

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Laurin* do carry the Bill to the Legislative Council, and desire their concurrence.

St. Roch de Quebec Congregation Bill.

Mr. *Laurin* reported from the Select Committee on the Bill to incorporate the Association called "*La Congrégation des hommes de la Paroisse de Saint Roch de Québec*," That the Committee had gone through the Bill, and directed him to report the same, without amendment.

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

Fifth Report of Committee on Contingencies.

Mr. *DeWitt*, from the Standing Committee on Contingencies, presented to the House the Fifth Report of the said Committee; which was read, as followeth:—

Your Committee have taken into consideration the reference of Your Honorable House of the 1st March last, relating to the Offices thereof, and other matters hereinafter alluded to.

The permanent establishment of officers in the employ of Your Honorable House, on fixed salaries of from £750 to £70 a year, consists of thirty-one individuals, receiving in all £6900 annually, £1600 of which are paid directly from the Treasury, pursuant to warrants, and the remainder (£5300) from the contingencies of Your Honorable House. There are, besides the above permanent officers, twenty-three extra writers at 15s. per diem, of whom no less than fourteen, in addition to those previously employed, have been taken on from the commencement of the Session, and eighteen messengers at 7s. 6d. per diem, making a daily total of £24 for extra writers and messengers. The increase in the number of extra writers or writing clerks was made, it appears, in the expectation that the increase of business, owing to the use of the two languages in the proceedings of the Legislature, would require it. But Your Committee would observe that ordinarily it is not until some weeks after the opening of the Session that there is occasion for supernumerary writers, or extra aid; and such, according to the report of the Clerk to Your Committee, has been the case at the present Session.

A list of the clerks, translators, junior clerks, extra writers, and messengers of Your Honorable House, amounting in all to seventy-two individuals, with a specification of their several salaries and allowances, is annexed for the information of Honorable Members thereof.

Your Committee recommend that in future the Clerk shall not engage nor put on pay, at the outset of a Session, any more writers than may be necessary for the time being, taking on others as the increase of business may require the assistance of the supernumeraries. Your Committee have cause to believe, from the multitude of applicants at the beginning of the present Session for employment as writers, many of them well qualified for the purpose, and who would have thought themselves well paid at 10s. per day, that an abundance of such can always be had at that rate, on the shortest notice, by the Clerk, when there is occasion for them; and the Committee accordingly recommend that no extra writers whatever, after the present Session, be employed at any greater rate than 10s. per day; and, also, that no person hereafter taken into the service of Your Honorable House as a messenger, be paid at a higher rate than five shillings per day.

Your Committee have ascertained that there are in the offices three of those whose names appear on the list of extra writers, who, although not regularly attending during office hours, nevertheless make up for it, by attending as well previous as subsequent to the same, pursuant to an arrangement with them by the Clerk: Your Committee are unwilling to disturb the arrangements he may have made with them, particularly as he reports favorably of their diligence and ability, and that without their aid the despatch of business might be retarded; but they are of opinion that the precedent is an inconvenient one, and that the agreement ought not, if it can be avoided, to be renewed at the ensuing Session.

Your Committee have had occasion to observe, in several instances, the negligent and slovenly manner in which the proceedings and evidence given before Committees are taken and recorded by some of the clerks or writers attending them, and recommend that the Clerk of Your Honorable House be careful that such as he shall hereafter employ as extra writers or writing clerks, not only write correctly their language, English or French as the case may be, but legibly, and in all respects properly.

Your Committee have ascertained, by report of the Clerk, and by personal visitation, the state of the several offices of Your Honorable House, and have to report favorably of them. Your Committee are of opinion that, owing to the use of the two languages in the proceedings of Your Honorable House, it is inexpedient, at least for the present, to make any reductions in the fixed salaries upon the establishment; on the contrary, looking to the unavoidable increase of business in the offices, resulting from the use of the two languages, Your Committee had agreed upon, and were on the point of recommending an augmentation to certain of the smaller salaries upon the establishment, but adverting to your instructions to them, which look rather to retrenchment in the contingencies of Your Honorable House, than to an augmentation thereof, they have felt themselves foreclosed from advising any permanent increase to the charges upon the establishment; and the recent catastrophe is, Your Committee regret to add, another motive for abstaining from it.

Your Committee, however, think it due to recommend that a gratuity of £25 be given to *King Barton*, a junior clerk, at £150 per annum, of Your Honorable House, in consideration of the ingenuity and order he has evinced in a set of Registers or Books kept by him, (as shewn to Your Committee,) by means of which the progress and stage of every