

The Petition of *Bennett Smith* and others, of *Windsor* and vicinity, County of *Hants*, Province of *Nova Scotia*, presented on Tuesday last; praying that a subsidy may be granted for a Steamer to ply on the Basin of *Minas* between the Ports of *Saint John*, *New Brunswick*, and *Windsor*, *Nova Scotia*, calling at *Parrsborough* in the County of *Cumberland*, being read.

A Motion was made and seconded, That the said Petition be now received;

Mr. Speaker ruled: "That as the granting of the prayer of this Petition would involve the expenditure of public money, it cannot be received."

Ordered, That the Petition of the *Canada Vine Grower's Association*, presented, this day, be now received.

And the said Petition was read and received; praying for an extension of their charter.

The House resumed the adjourned Debate on the Question which was, yesterday proposed, That there be laid before this House, copies of all Reports of Engineers, memorials, papers and correspondence relating to the survey and location of the line of the *Pacific Railway* between the *Red River* and *Battleford*, and not heretofore laid before Parliament, and also all reports, memorials, papers and correspondence relating to the proposed line of said Railway between the same points but South of *Lake Manitoba*; And the Question being put:—It was resolved in the Affirmative.

The Order of the Day being read, for the second reading of the Bill to provide that persons charged with common assault shall be competent as witnesses on their own behalf;

Mr. *Dymond* moved, seconded by Mr. *Guthrie*, and the Question being put, That the Bill be now read a second time; The House divided: and it was resolved in the Affirmative.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Mr. *Dymond* moved, seconded by Mr. *Guthrie*, and the Question being put, That the said Bill be referred to a Select Committee composed of Messieurs *Guthrie*, *Macdougall* (*Elgin*), *Taschereau*, *Brooks*, *McIsaac*, *Cameron*, and the mover; The House divided: and it was resolved in the Affirmative.

Mr. *Cameron* brought up, and laid on the Table, a Petition of *Victoria Elizabeth Lyon*, of the City of *Ottawa*, County of *Carleton*, Province of *Ontario*, married woman.

Ordered, That the said Petition be now read.

And the said Petition was read and received; praying for the passing of an Act to declare her marriage with *John Lyon* to be dissolved, and that she be divorced from him.

The Order of the Day being read, for the second reading of the Bill to amend the law relating to Stamps on Promissory Notes and Bills of Exchange;

The Bill was accordingly read a second time; and committed to a Committee of the Whole House, for Monday next.

Mr. *Bunster* moved, seconded by Mr. *DeCosmos*, and the Question being proposed, That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, praying that she may be graciously pleased to recommend that a measure be submitted to the Imperial Parliament for the purpose of amending the 20th clause of Section 4 "Legislative Power" of the *British North America Act 1867*, so as to have a Session of the Parliament of Canada once in every two years instead of once in one year as at present exists, unless in cases of great public emergency, when His Excellency the Governor General, by and with the advice of His Executive, shall have the power to call such extra Sessions as may be deemed expedient in the interim, thus saving to the country one-half