

which they state that corrupt practices have prevailed, or that they have reason to believe that such practices have extensively prevailed at an Election; but that Petition must be accompanied by a solemn declaration under the Statute in that behalf, signed by the said Electors stating that their allegations are true to the best of their knowledge and belief. They must also deposit with the Accountant of the House of Commons a sum of One Thousand Dollars. That Petition must be presented within 60 days after the publication in the *Canada Gazette* of the Return of the Election if The House is sitting, or if Parliament is not sitting, within 14 days after the next meeting of Parliament. Even in this case The House does not take cognizance itself of the allegations set forth in the Petition. It may only present an Address to the Governor General praying him to cause an enquiry to be made in such matters, and accordingly a Commission of inquiry is issued with such powers as determined by Statute.

It will therefore be seen that this Petition is irregular:

1st. Because it asks The House to sit in appeal of a judgment rendered in conformity with the provisions of the Dominion Controverted Elections Act, 1874;

2ndly. Because it is not in compliance with the requirements of 39 *Victoria*, Chapter 10, "An Act to provide for more effectual enquiry into the existence of corrupt practices at Elections of Members of the House of Commons," nor with those of 42 *Victoria*, Chapter 6, "An Act to amend an Act to provide for more effectual inquiry into the existence of corrupt practices at Elections."

In view then of the fact that the Petition is in conflict with the letter and spirit of the law which governs The House in such cases, and does in effect question the right of an Honorable Member to his seat,

I have to decide that the objection raised by the Honorable Member for Bagot is well taken, That the Petition cannot be received."

A Message was received from the Senate, agreeing to the Bill No. 37 respecting the Canadian Pacific Railway, *without amendment*.

Sir *Leonard Tilley* delivered two Messages from His Excellency the Governor General, which were read by Mr. Speaker, as follows:—

*Lorne,*

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons, Estimate of sums required for the service of the Dominion, for the year ending 30th June, 1882; and in accordance with the provisions of "The British North America Act, 1867," he recommends these Estimates to the House of Commons.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
OTTAWA, 15th February, 1881.

*Lorne,*

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons, the additional Supplementary Estimates of the amounts required for the Service of Canada, for the year expiring the 30th June, 1881; and in accordance with the provisions of "The British North America Act, 1867," he recommends these Estimates to the House of Commons.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
OTTAWA, 15th February, 1881.

On motion of Sir *Leonard Tilley*, the said Messages and Estimates were referred to the Committee of *Supply*.