

[Assented to 21st March, 1889.]

Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislature of Quebec, enacts as follows:—

1. The following article is added after article 576 of the Revised Statutes of the Province of Quebec.

"576a. The trial of every election petition shall be commenced within six months from the time when such petition has been presented, and shall, saving the adjournments ordered by the judge or the court, be proceeded with *de die in diem*, until the trial is over; but, if at any time, the court or judge deems the respondent's presence at the trial necessary, such trial shall not be commenced during a session of the Legislature; and, in the computation of any delay allowed for any step or proceeding in respect of such trial, or for the commencement of such trial as aforesaid, the time occupied by any such session of the Legislature shall not be reckoned.

2. If, at the end of three months after the presentation of such petition, the day for the trial has not been fixed, any elector may, on application, be substituted to the petitioner upon such terms as the court or a judge shall deem just."

3. This Act shall come into force on the day of its sanction; but shall not affect contestations of elections now pending.

#### SALARIES OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES.

To the Editor of the LEGAL NEWS:

SIR,—Might I ask the favor of a slight space in your columns, to insert a brief outline of a bill presented to the Legislative Assembly for the purpose of amending the law relating to the seizure of the salaries of public employees. The bill was considerably amended, from its original shape, at the suggestion of the Committee on Legislation, and was then signed by nine of its members, namely: Hon. M. M. Gagnon, Lynch, Blanchet, Flynn and Pelletier, and Messrs. David, Gladu, Hall, Nantel and Picard. The motion to go into committee of the whole was opposed, but carried on a division of 31 to 24, as follows:

Yeas—Baldwin, Bazinet, Bernatchez,

Blanchet, Cardin, DeGrosbois, Desjardins, Dumais, Duhamel, Flynn, Gagnon, Gladu, Laliberté, Lapointe, Lareau, LeBlanc, Lynch, Martin (Bonaventure), McIntosh, Morin, Nantel, Owens, Picard, Poupore, Robertson, Rochon, Shehyn, Spencer, Sylvestre, Trudel and Turcotte—31.

Nays.—Bisson, Bourbonnais, Cameron, Casgrain, Champagne, Dechêne (L'Islet), Duplessis, Faucher de Saint Maurice, Forest, Goyette, Lafontaine, Lemieux, Legris, Lussier, McShane, Murphy, Pelletier, Pilon, Rhodes, Rinfret, Rocheleau, Taillon, Tessier, Tourigny—24.

Mr. Lareau was appointed chairman of the committee, which only sat *pro forma*, as it was on the stroke of six o'clock.

On the order of the day being called at the evening sitting, the attention of the House was directed to the fact, pointed out since the last sitting by an honorable member who, by the way, is an LL. D., and Professor of Law at Laval University, that *under the bill, as it then stood, no action at law could be brought against an employee for any cause whatsoever*; and, as it was then too late in the session to bring in a new measure on the subject, the House was asked to go into committee and rise without reporting progress, which was accordingly done, and the bill was left to expire.

The last amendments suggested to the author of it by Mr. Lareau, and which were to have been made in committee, would have left the bill as I now send it to you, asking you to kindly insert it for the information of the public, to whom its contents are unknown, as the bill was not reprinted in its amended shape. It may also prove interesting to the members of the legal profession, who were equally divided on it, *nine to nine*, and who are invited to examine its merits or demerits. As far back as 1880, the Hon. Chief Justice Meredith, in rendering judgment on a case before him, reported on page 350 of the Quebec Law Reports, Vol. VI, stated that amendments to the law would probably be required to *obviate the ruinous costs*, by leaving the division of the seizable portion of salary to the head of departments. Yet no attempt was ever made to remedy this state of things for fourteen years, when a bill was