

not an evidence of the disqualification of *Pierre Labelle*, Esquire, to be elected at the time of the last general election, as sitting member for the County of Laval

*In the negative.*  
Mr. Frazer, and  
Mr. Dewitt.

For the following reasons :

Because, that by virtue of the Act 12 Vict. chap. 112, the Chief Commissioner of Public Works was authorised to build a Court House in the City of Montreal, belonging to the Civil Government.

That the Chief Commissioner of Public Works stipulated with *Pierre Labelle*, Esquire, and others, by virtue of two contracts, of the respective dates of Nov. 20, 1850, and March 7, 1851, to build the said Court House, in the District of Montreal, on the Provincial land in the said City.

That, amongst other things, the Chief Commissioner of Public Works stipulated to pay, upon the Report of the architect, for work done and materials furnished in the progress of that work, in one of the said contracts 75 per cent., and 85 per cent. in the other, and that, afterwards, between the 23d May and the 7th June last, the said Chief Commissioner of Public Works verbally agreed with the Sitting member and his associates to fulfil their contracts with certain alterations in building the said Court House contingent upon the completion of the said two contracts.

That the said contracts were not completed until the month of September or October last, and that the works constructed by virtue of such contracts have not up to the time been received.

That several sums of money have been paid by the department of Public Works to the said Sitting member, during the present Session of Parliament.

That by 7 Vic., cap. 65, Sec. 1, it is enacted " That all contractors with the said Board or with any other Department of the Provincial Government for performing any work or supplying any thing required for the Public Provincial service or to be paid for out of the Public moneys of the Province during the subsistence of such contracts " are ineligible to sit or vote in the Legislative Assembly."

That by 12 Vict. cap 112, sect. 8, it is enacted " That the Court House and Gaols erected or repaired under the authority of this Act shall be deemed to be Public Provincial Works vested in Her Majesty and under the control of the Commissioner of Public Works."

Therefore, they consider, under these circumstances, and by virtue of the Acts, that the sitting member for the county of Laval, *Pierre Labelle*, Esquire, is disqualified and ineligible to sit in Parliament, and that the Petition of *André B. Papineau* Esquire, against the Election and return of said member, is well founded in fact.

The following Resolutions were then passed by a majority of the Committee as its final determination.

1. *Resolved*,—That *Pierre Labelle*, Esquire, the sitting member for the County of Laval, was eligible as a member of the Legislative Assembly of this Province, at the time of the late Election for the said County of Laval, and that he was and is duly elected and returned to represent the said County of Laval in the said Legislative Assembly.

2. *Resolved*,—That neither the Petition of the said *A. B. Papineau*, Esquire, nor the defence of the said *Pierre Labelle*, Esquire, is frivolous or vexatious.

The above Resolutions were then ordered to be reported to the House.

Attest, JOSEPH WHITEHEAD,  
Clerk to the Committee.