

eight days before the day on which the said petition shall be presented to the Court; and a return of the service shall be drawn up and signed in due form upon the original of the said petition, by the Bailiff who shall have made such service; but no such petition shall be received after the term next following the election thereby contested, unless 5 such election took place within the fifteen days next preceding the first day of such term, in which case any such petition may be presented on the first day of the second term, but no later; nor shall any such petition be received unless security for costs be given by the petitioners in the presence of a Judge of the Superior Court, or of the Clerk of the 10 Circuit Court for the said County of Richelieu, or his Deputy;

5. If the Court be of opinion that the grounds set forth in the petition are sufficient in law to avoid the election, it shall order proof to be adduced, if proof be necessary, and the parties interested to be heard, on the nearest day which it shall deem expedient, and shall proceed in a 15 summary manner to hear and decide the said contestation; the evidence may be taken down in writing or given orally in whole or in part, as the Court shall order;

6. The Court may, on such contestation, confirm the election or declare the same to be null and void, or declare another person to have 20 been duly elected, and may, in either case, award costs to or against either party, which costs shall be taxed and recovered in the same manner, and by the same means, as costs are taxed and recovered in actions of the first class, with the right of appeal brought in such Circuit Court; and the Court may order its judgment to be served upon the Secretary- 25 Treasurer of the Council, at the expense of the party condemned to payment of costs, as aforesaid;

7. If any defect or irregularity in the formalities prescribed for the said election be set forth in any such petition, as a ground of contestation, the Court may admit or reject the same, according as such defect 30 or irregularity may, or may not, have materially affected the election.

17. In case it shall, at any time, happen that an election shall not be held, for any reason whatever, on the day when, in pursuance of this Act it ought to have been held, the said Town Council shall not, for that cause be deemed to be dissolved, and it shall be the duty of such 35 members of the said Council as shall then be in office, to meet again for the purpose of fixing, as early as possible, a day for the holding of such election: and in such case the notices and publications required by this Act shall be published and posted up not less than one clear day before the election; and if within fifteen days after the day on 40 which such election ought to have been held, the members of the said Council shall have neglected to appoint a day for such election, they shall be liable to a fine of twenty dollars each, and such election shall then be held by the Clerk of the Circuit Court in and for the County of Richelieu, and in his absence by the Registrar of the County of 45 Richelieu.

18. All meetings of the said Council shall be public, excepting only when the said Council shall enquire into the conduct of any members of their own body for any causes whatsoever, in which case it shall be lawful for the said Council to sit with closed doors; and the said Council 50 shall determine the mode of their proceedings.

19. The Mayor of the said town, if he is present, shall preside at the meetings of the Council, shall maintain order thereat, and shall have a right to express his opinion, but not to vote, on all questions which