

Pursuant to the Order of the day, the following Petitions were read :—

Of the Municipal Council of the County of *Kent*; praying that, in the Bill to incorporate the Great Southern Railway, especial care may be taken of the interests of the Stockholders, and that the said Railway may not be burthened with any other debts or conditions, than those which legitimately arise from its construction.

Of *Alexander Smart*, on behalf of a Public Meeting of the Municipal Electors of the Township of *Clarendon*, County of *Pontiac*; praying for certain amendments to the *Lower Canada* Municipal and Road Act of 1855.

Of the Municipality of the Township of *Bristol*, County of *Pontiac*; praying aid for a Road.

Of *John Worthington* and others, of the City of *Toronto*; praying that the Bill to incorporate the Great Southern Railway Company may not become law.

Of the *South Megantic* Library Association and Mechanics' Institute; praying for aid.

The Honorable Mr. *Drummond*, from the Select Committee to which was referred the Return to an Address of the 11th May last, and the accompanying Petition of the Board of Trade of the City of *Toronto*, relative to the expenses incurred in procuring the establishment of Reciprocal Free Trade between the *United States* and this Province, presented to the House the Report of the said Committee; which was read, as followeth :—

Your Committee having carefully investigated the matter referred to them, find that pecuniary engagements to the amount of about Sixteen thousand pounds, were incurred under the sanction of the late Governor General, and his responsible advisers, with the view of securing the success of the negotiation with the *United States of America*, for the establishment of Reciprocal Free Trade between that Country and the *British North American* Provinces.

And Your Committee are therefore of opinion, that the Government of this Province is bound in honor and good faith to make immediate provision for the liquidation of these engagements.

On motion of Mr. Solicitor General *Smith*, seconded by Mr. Solicitor General *Ross*,

*Resolved*, That this House doth agree to the Report made by its Managers, on Friday last, on the subject of Private and Local Bills, that the following Rules resulting from the Conference with the Managers appointed by the Legislative Council, be adopted as Standing Rules of this House, and that so much of the 61st Rule as is inconsistent therewith, and the whole of the 62nd and 63rd Rules, be rescinded, and no longer in force :

1. That all applications for Private or Local Bills for granting to any individual or individuals any exclusive or peculiar rights or privileges whatsoever, or for doing any matter or thing which in its operation would affect the rights or property of other parties, or for making any amendment of a like nature to any former Act,—shall require the following notice to be published, viz :—

In *Upper Canada*,—A notice inserted in the Official Gazette, and in one newspaper published in the County, or Union of Counties, affected, or if there be no paper published therein, then in a newspaper in the next nearest County in which a newspaper is published.

In *Lower Canada*,—A notice inserted in the Official Gazette, in the *English* and *French* languages, and in one newspaper in the *English* and one newspaper in the *French* languages, in the District affected, or in both languages if there be but one paper; or if there be no paper published therein, then (in both languages) in the Official Gazette, and in a paper published in an adjoining District.

Such notices shall be continued in each case for a period of at least two months