

And the Question being put on the Amendment, the House divided:—And it passed in the Negative. On motion of the Honorable Mr. *Hincks*, seconded by Mr. *Cauchon*,

Ordered, That the further consideration of the main Question be postponed until Monday next.

Partition of
Lands, &c.
Bill

The Order of the day for the second reading of the Bill to amend and extend certain provisions of an "Act to facilitate the partition of Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments in certain cases in *Lower Canada*," being read;

The Bill was accordingly read a second time; and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Resolved, That this House will immediately resolve itself into the said Committee.

The House accordingly resolved itself into the Committee.

Mr. *Laurin* took the Chair of the Committee; and after some time spent therein,

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair;

And Mr. *Laurin* reported, That the Committee had gone through the Bill, and made amendments thereunto.

Ordered, That the Report be now received.

Mr. *Laurin* reported the Bill accordingly; and the amendments were read, and agreed to.

Ordered, That the Bill, with the amendments, be engrossed, and read the third time this day; and that the Rules of this House be suspended as to the same.

Oxford
Election.

The Order of the day for taking into further consideration the case of *John George Vansittart*, Esquire, Returning Officer at the last General Election for the County of *Oxford*, being read;

And the House being informed that Mr. *Vansittart* was at the door, he was called in; and attended at the Bar.

And the House being also informed that Mr. *George Washington Whitehead* attended at the door; he was again called in; and, at the Bar, his examination resumed, as followeth:—

By Sir *Allan N. MacNab*:—

15. Did Mr. *Brown* conduct himself in a violent manner on that occasion, and did he use insulting language to the Returning Officer?—He did not at the time of nomination.

16. Did Mr. *Brown*, or any other person on behalf of Mr. *Hincks*, object to the amendment made by Mr. *Carroll* to his qualification oath?—Mr. *Brown* objected to any alteration being made in Mr. *Carroll's* qualification oath after it had been received by the Returning Officer.

17. Were you present when the show of hands was asked for by the Returning Officer?—I was.

18. Did the Returning Officer declare the Honorable *Francis Hincks* duly elected by show of hands, or did he declare the majority to be in favor of the Honorable *Francis Hincks*?—He did not declare Mr. *Francis Hincks* duly elected, but that the show of hands was in Mr. *Hincks's* favor.

19. What reasons were assigned by the Returning Officer for fixing the polling days on Saturday and Monday?—The first reason assigned was, that the Quarter Sessions came on the Tuesday following, and that the Clerk of the Peace would serve as one of the Deputy Returning Officers, and if the Election was put over Monday it would interfere with the public business of the Court.

20. Did the Quarter Sessions meet on Tuesday; and who was then Clerk of the Peace for the said District?—The Quarter Sessions met on Tuesday, and *William Lapenotière*, Esquire, was Clerk of the Peace.

21. Was the said *Lapenotière* a Deputy Returning Officer for the said Election?—I understood from Mr. *Lapenotière* that he was.

22. Did you take the notes referred to in a former answer as an accustomed habit, or for a specific purpose?—It is the custom with me, and has been for the last thirty years, to take notes on matters connected with public affairs with which I have any connection, and I did not take these notes for any specific purpose, other than being a usual practice with me.

By the Honorable *F. Hincks*.

23. Have you been in the habit of taking any active part in all political contests in the County of *Oxford* for many years back?—I have been in the habit since 1820, of taking more or less interest in the public and political affairs of the County of *Oxford*.

24. Have you not been one of the leading supporters of what is known as the Conservative party in that County?—I have.

25. Were you at one time a candidate for the Representation of the County of *Oxford* at the last General Election, in opposition to Mr. *Hincks*?—I had a requisition presented to me, with nearly three hundred signatures, requesting me to come forward as a candidate at the last General Election for the County of *Oxford*, which I declined accepting, and did not come forward as a candidate.

26. Did you decline accepting that invitation immediately, or were you for some time a candidate?—The same day on which the requisition was presented I published an address declining to come forward as a candidate on that occasion.

27. Were you not a candidate previous to the receipt of the requisition?—I was spoken to and desired to come forward, and should have done so if Mr. *Carroll* had not been in the field.

28. Did you not withdraw in favor of Mr. *Peter Carroll*, the candidate who was declared elected by Mr. *Vansittart*, and publish an address to the constituency in his favor?—I gave all my interest to Mr. *Carroll*, and in my address to the Electors desired them to vote for Mr. *Carroll*.

29. Were you not, after publishing an address in favor of Mr. *Carroll*, selected as Deputy Returning Officer of the Township of *Burford* by Mr. *Vansittart*?—It was some time after the address was published before the Election came on, and I was appointed, by Mr. *Vansittart*, Deputy Returning Officer for the Township of *Burford*.

30. Can you state about what length of time elapsed between the publication of your address and the Election?—I cannot state the precise time between the publishing of the address and the day for holding the Election; it might have been nearly two weeks.

31. Are you acquainted with *George G. Ward*, Esquire, J. P. of *Burford*; if so, state whether you know what course that gentleman took in the contest between Mr. *Hincks* and Mr. *Riddell*?—I know Mr. *Ward* very well; he was a near neighbour of mine, and he supported Mr. *Riddell*.

32. Are you aware whether Mr. *Ward* was applied to by Mr. *Vansittart* to act as Deputy Returning Officer for *Burford* previous to your being appointed; and are you aware whether he consented to act?—I know nothing of any application from Mr. *Vansittart* to Mr. *Ward* previous to the day on which the Election commenced in the Township. I then understood from Mr. *Ward* that he had been applied to by Mr. *Vansittart* some time previous, requesting to know if he, Mr. *Ward*, had any objection to serve as Deputy Returning Officer if Mr. *Vansittart* should find it necessary to appoint him, and that he had consented to act when called upon.