

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Kingston, Sept. 21.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House met again this day at three o'clock, and was occupied solely by the presentation of private petitions, and other routine business, the particulars of which are as follows:

The Hon. Mr. Ferguson presented a petition from Mr. John Gilchrist, praying compensation for damages caused by the dam at the public works, at Crooks' rapids in the River Trent.

The Hon. Mr. Bruneau—A petition from the inhabitants of Cote de Verte, in the parish of St. Therese, District of Montreal, and the neighboring places for relief and assistance respecting a road.

The Hon. A. Dionne—A petition from Gaspard Dauth, of the Parish of St. Anne Laperade, complaining of losses he has sustained in the erection of a Bridge, and praying for relief.

The Hon. Mr. De Blaquiere—A petition from certain freeholders in the County of Simcoe against separating a part of Gwillimbury, and annexing it to the County of York.

The Hon. Mr. Sherwood—A petition from Friendly Union, in the City of Montreal, praying for an Act of Incorporation. The Hon. Member said, this petition had peculiar claims on their consideration, as it was for the purpose of better regulating an institution, which had for its object the assisting and educating the distressed and destitute. The Society were desirous of purchasing property for the erection of a building, but owing to the want of a charter, could not do so.

The Hon. Mr. De Blaquiere—A petition from the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Councillors of Quebec, praying for an act of incorporation to certain persons, for supplying the city with light and water.

The Hon. Mr. Sherwood—A memorial from the Rev. Dr. Philips, of the Town of Etobicoke, in the Home District, praying remuneration, in consideration of past services as Chaplain to the Council of Upper Canada.

The Hon. Mr. Macdonald—A petition from residents of Quebec, praying for leave to erect a toll bridge across the River St. Charles, on the north side of the city, to communicate with the Beauport shore, and the parishes north of the city.

The Hon. Mr. Bruneau—A petition from certain inhabitants of Laprairie, for aid to build a college in the parish of Laprairie de Madeleine.

The Hon. Mr. Hamilton—A petition from the inhabitants of Niagara, praying for an act of incorporation.

The Hon. Mr. Hamilton—A petition from Amos West, of the Township of West Gwillimbury, in the County of Simcoe, for permission to shut up a road.

The Hon. Mr. Bruneau—A petition praying aid to a college in the County of St. Hyacinth.

USURY LAWS.

This Bill was read a second time. It proposes to allow £3 per cent. instead of

£6; but is not to extend to Banks, or other Chartered Companies.

W. B. HACON.

The Bill proposed to admit this gentleman to practice as an Attorney and Solicitor, was read a second time, and referred to a select committee, consisting of the Honbles. Messrs. Breunau, Ferguson, and De Blaquiere.

The Council then adjourned till three o'clock.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday September 22.

The House met at 3 o'clock, and proceeded in a body to the Government House to deliver an address thanking His Excellency for his recent appointments. When the members returned to the House, Mr. Morris moved that 1000 copies of the address and answer of His Excellency, be printed half in English and half in French, for the use of the members. Sir Allan McNab moved an amendment, which was to the effect that *all the correspondence, and proceedings of the house upon that subject, together with the yeas and nays, should be published, to put the country in possession of the facts connected with it.* Mr. Cameron seconded Sir Allan's motion, and thought that the publication of the whole transaction would strengthen the Government, and show its unanimity. Mr. Viger was opposed to the printing of all the correspondence, as it would be a bad precedent. Sir Allan thought that the subject had excited great interest, and as the hon. member for Beauport had introduced a motion which appeared to him and others like a vote of confidence, it was right that the country should know the yeas and nays upon the point, though he was in a great minority. Mr. Haels could see no objection to publishing the whole. Mr. Moffat spoke in favor of it. And Mr. Boswell opposed it, and thought the argument singular, that the majority ought to give up through courtesy to the minority. Capt Steele spoke in favor of printing the whole, as it would be useful to put the country in possession of the facts. The amendment was put and carried by a small majority.

Mr. Merritt moved that the petition from the Municipal Council of the Niagara District, praying for amendments in the system of assessments, that the petition from the same praying for an alteration in the site of the town, and also that a petition from the same praying for a tax on Roulette tables, and the petition with reference to School Lands, be referred to the Land committee.

Mr. Thompson moved that the petition of Walter Wilson and others, praying for an Act of Incorporation for the Town of Niagara, be referred to a committee, and Mr. Harrison said, that although he had no objection to the course, yet as Government had it in contemplation to introduce a measure to bring all Towns to the same state, that it was unnecessary. Mr. Moffat moved that the Petition of the Montreal Fire Insurance Company be referred to a committee of five, and that the bill for the inspection of pot and pearl ashes be read a second time to-morrow. Mr. Harrison laid upon the table of the house, the Treasury Acts of the year 1811. Mr. Black moved that a committee be formed to take into consideration the Bill to amend the Act regulating the desertion of seamen, and to substitute 7d. per day for 1s. 6d. when in goal. Mr. Durand moved that 200 copies of the returns of the fee fund land, raised by an act of last session, be printed for the use of the members.—Motion granted. Mr. Merritt moved for an address to His Excellency praying that a copy of the Despatch of Lord Sydenham to the Home Government, relating to the introduc-

tion of Corn free of duty, and all despatches relating to agriculture be laid on the table of the house. Mr. Harrison said that measures were now in preparation by the Government to regulate protection duties on agricultural produce—And Mr. Moffat said the despatches called for were in the library.

The first order of the day was the Bill to regulate hire by impeachment, but Mr. Moffat would not proceed with it as the Session was to be so short. The second was for the 2d reading of the bill for the qualification of Justices of the Province of Lower Canada, this gave rise to some discussion. Mr. Harrison was in favor of the principle that there should be a money qualification, but would not have it too large. Dr. Dunlop found it difficult to get men sufficiently qualified without such qualification: some were qualified with a little bona fide property, and many who had it unqualified, he thought that the same qualification that entitled them a vote for a M. P. should entitle them to be a J. P., and that if a £300 qualification be required it would deprive him of some of his efficient men. Mr. Harrison thought some qualification was desirable, but that the house was not now in a situation to deal with the matter, and that the committee ought to rise and report progress. Mr. Williams contended that there should be a uniform property qualification. Mr. Smith supported the principle of the Bill. Mr. Johnson, the bill ought to apply to both Provinces, and that there was no man worthy of being made a magistrate, who, after being a few years in this country, had not made £300, Mr. Cameron would feel disposed to extend the principle to Upper Canada—but thought the proposed qualification too much. Sir Allan McNab said that since the house had decided that a District Councillor should be worth £300, certainly a J. P. is no less important, and Mr. Cameron thought that qualification too high, and Mr. Kimber agreed with him, as that qualification prevented many townships from having District Councils at all, and disqualified men who were well qualified in every other respect. Mr. Holmes thought attempts to identify the two Provinces would fail, and Mr. Neilson thought that time only could do this, as it was impossible to abolish long established laws without it was done by force. Mr. Hamilton thought the inhabitants of Lower Canada were generally satisfied with the Bill, but it was applicable to this country, for by it seven or eight gentlemen were Justices of the Peace that could neither read nor write, and it was difficult to get them well qualified under this law. Mr. Jones introduced the bill, and it was agreed that the house rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again to-morrow, the bill relating to Winter Roads was referred to a committee of nine.

The next order of the day was the consideration of the ordinances of Lower Canada relating to the Registry Laws. Mr. Harrison thought it was necessary that some arrangement should be made with respect to this, and that it was necessary the period should be extended to the 31st March next. M. Merritt thought some definite time should be fixed for its extension. Mr. Jones thought the ordinance was neither adapted to the circumstance, or consonant with the feelings of the Lower Canadians, there being only one registry office, it put the people to great inconvenience travelling 40 or 50 miles, and Mr. Jones moved that the House concur in the resolution.—Granted.

Friday, September 23.

PETITIONS READ.

Of Gaspard Malliot, of St. Ann Laperade, praying compensation for certain losses. Referred to a committee of five.

Of McGill College, praying for aid.

Of Montreal Bible Society, praying for the introduction of the Bible duty free.

Of certain inhabitants of St. Eustache, praying for aid to rebuild their church.

Of J. W. Gordan, praying recognition of certain lands. The petition was addressed to the House of Assembly of British North America, and consequently not received.

Of Ewen Bell, Messenger late House of Assembly of U. Canada, praying increase of pension.

Of R. B. Forsyth, and others of Quebec, for incorporation to build a bridge across the River St. Charles. Also a counter petition.

Of — Bouchette, praying for a pension.

Of Wm. Wyan Baker, praying for admission to the Bar of this Province.

Of Mayor, Aldermen, and citizens of Quebec, praying for act of Incorporation for a Gas Light and water company. Also, another from certain individuals praying to be incorporated as such company.

Of R. F. Gouly, of St. Catherine's, for redress of certain grievances.

The Speaker stated that the petition was informal, and contained improper language.

Mr. Neilson said the petition was that of a man who had been ruined by acts not authorized by law. He was feeble in body and in mind, the result of the persecution which he had sustained, and he thought the House should overlook the informality. The petition desired merely that the house would act upon the report of a committee of the House of last session, and the address then adopted.

Dr. Dunlop said that it would be in the recollection of the House, that he had brought the case of Mr. Gourlay before the House at its last session. If the petition was unparliamentary, it was not to be wondered at. That individual has sustained persecutions—terrible persecutions for the space of twenty-five years; he had been ruined in his fortune, in his health, and it was not too much to say that his mind had been shattered by disease. In such a case it would be a hardship for the house to deal strictly with his petitions. It was only last year that they had taken from above his head the sentence to hang him. The Governor had the power to order the Sheriff at any moment to hang him up, as he had said before, even at the lamp post of the House. He hoped the House would look compassionately and humanely on the frailties of a man who had been so much abused.

The Address was read, and on the motion being put was received. Mr. Neilson then moved, seconded by Dr. Dunlop, that the petition with the report and address of last session, be referred to a committee of five.

Mr. Moffat moved that the petition of the inhabitants of Vaudrouil be now received, and with the accompanying estimates, he referred to the committee on the Beauharnois Canal. Carried.

Mr. Hinks handed to the Speaker a message from his Excellency, accompanying the estimates for the current year.

Mr. Harrison moved that the Speaker