

surety was bound; and upon the delivery of the receipt or certificate of the said Chief Clerk for such sum to the Speaker, within three days after the day on which the statement of such objection was delivered to the said Speaker, the Recognizances shall be deemed unobjectionable if no other ground of objection thereto be stated within the time before mentioned for stating objections to Recognizances.

XXIV. And be it enacted, That if the Speaker have received any statement of objection to the Recognizances of any such Election Petition, and have decided that such Recognizances are objectionable, he shall forthwith report to the House that such Recognizances are objectionable; but if he shall have decided that such Recognizances are unobjectionable, or if he have not received any such statement of objection, then, as soon as the time hereinbefore allowed for stating any such objection has elapsed after the presentation of the Petition, or as soon thereafter as he has decided upon the statement of objection, he shall report to the House that the Recognizances to such Petition are unobjectionable, and every such report shall be final and conclusive to all intents and purposes; and the Chief Clerk of the said House shall make out a list of all Election Petitions on which the Speaker has reported to the House that the Recognizances are unobjectionable, in which list the Petitions shall be arranged in the order in which they are so reported upon, and a copy of such list shall be kept in the office of the said Chief Clerk, and shall be open to the inspection of all parties concerned or interested in the same.

Speaker to report his decision to the House, and it shall be final.

List to be kept by Clerk.

### 3. ADMISSION OF PARTIES TO DEFEND.

XXV. And be it enacted, That if at any time before the appointment of a Select Committee, as hereinafter provided, to try any Election Petition, the Speaker of the Commons House of Legislative Assembly shall be informed by a certificate in writing, subscribed by two of the Members of the said House, of the death of any sitting Member whose election or return is complained of in such Petition, or of the death of any Member returned upon a double return, whose election or return is complained of in such Petition, or that a Writ of Summons has been issued under the Great Seal of the Province to summon any such Member to Parliament as a Legislative Councillor of this Province, or if the said Commons House of Legislative Assembly shall have resolved that the seat of any such Member is by law become vacant, or if the House be informed by a declaration in writing, subscribed by any such Member and delivered to the Speaker within fourteen days after the day on which any such Petition was presented, whether such fourteen days or any of them shall occur during a Session of Parliament or during a prorogation thereof, that it is not the intention of such Member to defend his election or return, in every such case, notice thereof shall immediately be sent by the Speaker to the General Committee of Elections, and to the Members of the Chairmen's Panel hereinafter mentioned, and also to the Sheriff or other Returning Officer for the County, Riding, City, Town, Borough or place to which such Petition relates, and such Sheriff or other Returning Officer shall cause a true copy of such notice to be affixed in some conspicuous place in or near to the place where the nomination for such election was held; and such notice shall also be inserted by order of the Speaker, in one of the next two Government Official Gazettes of the Province, and shall as soon as may be, be communicated by him to the House.

Proceedings where the contested seat becomes vacant, or the sitting Member declines defending it, before the appointment of the select Committee.

XXVI. And be it enacted, That at any time within fourteen days after the day on which any Election Petition was presented, or within twenty-one days after the day on which any notice was inserted in the Gazette to the effect that the seat is vacant, or that the Member returned will not defend his election or return, or if either of the said periods expire during a prorogation of Parliament, or during an adjournment of the Commons House of Legislative Assembly for any period exceeding seven full days exclusive of the day of adjournment and the day of meeting according to such adjournment, and if he have not done so before, then on the first day on which the House meets after such prorogation or adjournment, provided the said House shall on

Voters may within a certain period petition for leave to defend the return, or to oppose the petition against it.