

No. 299, 17th November, 1848—*Halifax and Quebec Railroad*—Transmitting Report of Commissioners, and desiring to be informed of the views of the Provincial Legislature.

Military, 15th September, and 22nd December, 1848—Respecting the necessity of exempting from Duty, articles imported for the Military service.

No. 174, 24th February, 1848—Respecting the *Montreal and Lachine* and the *St. Lawrence and Industry* Railway Acts.

No. 202, 20th April, 1848—Enclosing Order of the Queen in Council confirming seven reserved Railway Bills of 1847, and pointing out amendments required.

No. 206, 29th April, 1848—Reporting the confirmation of certain Acts, and suggesting amendments to the Acts for incorporating the *Montreal and Echo Lake* Mining Companies.

No. 231, 15th June, 1848—Suggesting amendments to the Act incorporating the *Western Telegraph* Company.

Appendix (N.) For the Despatches accompanying the said Message, see Appendix (N).

Ordered, That the said Message, with the accompanying Despatches, be printed for the use of the Members of this House.

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. *Edmund Deedes*, a witness on the part of Mr. *Vansittart*, attended at the door; he was called in; and, at the Bar, examined, as followeth:—

By Colonel Prince.

61. You are, I believe, *Edmund Deedes*, Esquire, of *Woodstock*, in the County of *Oxford*, in *Upper Canada*; were you present at the nomination of the *Oxford* Election on the 28th December, 1847?—I am. I was present at the *Oxford* Election at that time.

62. Were you on or near the hustings when Mr. *Hincks'* qualification was demanded?—I was on the hustings.

63. Were you near the Returning Officer on that occasion; if so, at what distance were you from him?—I was standing next to him.

64. Are you acquainted with Mr. *George Brown*, of *Toronto*, and was he present on that occasion?—I am acquainted with him, and he was present on that occasion.

65. At what distance was he from the Returning Officer?—As near as I can remember, about three yards.

66. Did Mr. *Brown* appear there as the representative of the Honorable *Francis Hincks*?—He said so.

67. Did you remain on the hustings during the proceedings of that day, and were you in a position to hear what was said by, or addressed to, the Returning Officer?—I did remain on the hustings during the whole proceedings of the day, and was in a position to hear what was said by, or addressed to, the Returning Officer.

68. By whom was the qualification of the Honorable *Francis Hincks* submitted to the Returning Officer?—By Mr. *George Brown*.

69. Did the Returning Officer on receiving the said qualification, or at any time subsequently, hold a conversation with Mr. *Brown* in relation to the said qualification?—He did.

70. Did the Returning Officer on that occasion, in

answer to an observation of Mr. *Brown's*, make use of the following words: "At any rate I have decided it in your favor. I shall hold Mr. *Hincks'* qualification to be good for the present occasion," and add, "that he would leave the other parties to have a decision elsewhere," or words to that effect?—No, he did not make such an answer.

71. Had Mr. *Vansittart* made use of such expressions as those referred to in the last Question, would you have heard him; and do you believe it possible he could have used such language on that occasion without your hearing it?—If he had made use of such expressions as those referred to in the last Question, I should have heard him; and, being so close to him, I do not believe it possible he could have used such language without my hearing it.

72. Did Mr. *Brown* conduct himself in a violent manner on that occasion, and did he use insulting language to the Returning Officer?—Mr. *Brown* was occasionally rather violent in his manner, but I do not remember that he used insulting language to the Returning Officer on the hustings on the day of nomination.

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

74. Did the Returning Officer declare the Honorable *Francis Hincks* duly elected by show of hands, or did he declare the majority in favor of the Honorable *Francis Hincks*?—The Returning Officer declared the majority in favor of the Honorable *Francis Hincks*, but did not declare him duly elected.

75. Were you present when the Election was declared on the 5th January, 1848; and were you in a position to hear any of the proceedings of that day?—I was present on that occasion, and was close by the hustings, where I could hear most of the proceedings of that day.

76. Did Mr. *George Brown* address the persons there assembled after the Election was declared?—He did.

77. Did Mr. *Brown* then and there state, that Mr. *Vansittart* had told him he acted under the advice of the Honorable *John Hillyard Cameron*?—Mr. *Brown* did state, then and there, that Mr. *Vansittart* had told him that he had acted under the advice of the Honorable *John Hillyard Cameron*.

78. Was it not in reply to that statement, that Mr. *Vansittart* said, "that is not true"?—It was in reply to that statement that Mr. *Vansittart* said, "that is not true."

79. Did Mr. *Brown*, in commenting on this subject, state that he had heard that Mr. *Vansittart* acted under the advice of the Honorable *John Hillyard Cameron*?—No, he did not make the statement that he had heard that Mr. *Vansittart* acted under the advice of the Honorable *John Hillyard Cameron*, but he said that he, Mr. *Vansittart*, had told him that he had acted under the advice of the Honorable *John Hillyard Cameron*.

80. Did Mr. *Brown*, on the occasion referred to, make use of insulting and intemperate language in relation to the Returning Officer?—He did make use on that occasion, of insulting and intemperate language in relation to the Returning Officer.

81. Did the Returning Officer threaten to commit him if he persisted in the use of such expressions?—He did.

By the Honorable Mr. *Hincks*.

82. Were you, or are you still, President of the Constitutional Association of the District of *Brock*?—I was President of the Constitutional Association of the District of *Brock*, but am not at present.

83. Were you Chairman of a Public Dinner given to Mr. *Vansittart* after his return from *Montreal* last spring?—I was.