

Bill No. 104, An Act to provide for the Continuation of Certain Orders and Regulations of the Governor in Council for a limited period during the National Emergency arising out of the War.

Also,—A Message informing this House that the Senate hath agreed to the amendments made by the House of Commons to Bill No. 106 (Letter H of the Senate), intituled: "An Act to incorporate Quebec North Shore and Labrador Railway Company," without any amendment.

And also,—A Message informing this House that the Senate had passed the following Bill:—

Bill No. 204, An Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the Public Service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1948.

Mr. Bertrand (Prescott), from the Standing Committee on Standing Orders, presented the Second Report of the said Committee, which is as follows:—

Under date of 5th May, your Committee has received from the House the following reference:

That the petitions presented by the electors of the parishes of Ste-Rita, St. Cyprien, St. Paul de la Croix, St. Emile d'Auclair, Notre-Dame des Sept Douleurs and St. Jean-Baptiste de l'Isle Verte, be referred to the said Committee.

Your Committee, having considered these documents, now begs leave to submit its findings and recommendations.

These documents are all written in identical form, with the exception of the name of the Parish, as follows:

Mr. President and
Messrs. Members of the House of Commons, Ottawa.

The petition of the undersigned, electors of the parish of _____ who object to this parish being taken out of the federal constituency of Temiscouata.

The date follows.

In his reports thereon, under dates of April 30 and May 1, the Clerk of Petitions stated that they "are not drawn in proper form and therefore should not be received".

The question to be decided by your Committee is whether or not, in this case, the rules of the House and the forms sanctioned by practice for the wording of public petitions have been observed.

It is provided in section (6) of Standing Order 68 that "the signatures of at least three petitioners shall be subscribed on the sheet containing the prayer of the petition" (the general allegations of the petition are concluded by what is usually called the "prayer" which is the parliamentary term by which the particular object of the petitioner is expressed); and in section (7) that "every petition so reported upon (by the Clerk of Petitions) which, according to the rules or practice of this House, can be received, shall then be deemed to be permitted to be read and received".

Authorities on Parliamentary procedure and practice, which are binding on the House under Standing Order 68, are unanimous in declaring: (1) That all petitions should commence with the superscription: "To the Honourable the House of Commons in Parliament assembled"; (2) That the conclusion should be the prayer, without which no petition is in order.