

has been closed without having been read before a Quorum of the said Committee, in the presence of the witness?—I believe it was always the case.

*J. Duval*, Esquire, one of the Members of the Committee; a witness produced by Mr. Stuart, and interrogated by him, answered as follows :

Were you a Member of the Committee of Grievances last year?—Yes.

Did you regularly attend the sittings of the Committee last year?—No; I did not attend every sitting of the Committee. I attended chiefly when I was called upon to form a Quorum.

Were you present at the examination of some witnesses, and of whom?—On reference to the report of the Committee, my name will be found as being present at the sittings of the Committee which I attended.

Did you attend for the purpose of examining the witnesses, or when their examination was read to them?—I attended when the questions were put to the witnesses, and the answers received from them. I remarked particular delicacy on the part of the Members not to proceed without a Quorum. I attended particularly during the absence of Mr. Bedard, the Chairman, which lasted more than a week.

Is Mr. Labrie one of the Members of the Committee, living or dead, and are Mr. Bedard and Mr. Brooks present?—Mr. Labrie is dead; Mr. Bedard absent in Europe, and Mr. Brooks absent.

[By Mr. Lafontaine.]

Is it not within your knowledge that no evidence has been closed before the Committee, without having been read before a Quorum of the Committee, and in the presence of the witness?—To the best of my recollection, they were fully explained to the witnesses before a Quorum of the Committee.

*Louis Bourdages*, Esquire, Chairman of the Committee, examined by Mr. Stuart :

Were you a Member of the Committee of Grievances last year?—Yes.

Did you regularly attend the sittings of the Committee last year?—I do not recollect; it may be known by the minutes of the Committee at what sittings I was present:

At the times when you so assisted, was it for the purpose of hearing and examining witness, or in order to form a Quorum for reading the testimony which had been given?—By the minutes of the said Committee, it appears that I was present when the evidence was read to the witness, but I cannot recollect whether I was one of the Members who assisted at the examination.

Did the examination of witnesses often take place in the said Committee, in the absence of a Quorum?—The Committee very often permitted the Chairman and some other Members of the Committee to take down the evidence, considering the difficulty there existed of keeping up a Quorum constantly; but the Committee have always taken particular care to cause the witnesses who had given information in that way to appear before a Quorum, when the evidence was carefully read over to them, in the presence of the said Quorum, and the informant acknowledged the correctness of the interrogations, and of his answers.

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