

REPORT
OF THE
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON THE PETITION OF DR. REES.

Mr. Robinson moved that the Petition of William Rees, late Medical Superintendent of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum at Toronto; praying that the resolution and report prepared by a Committee of the Legislative Assembly in 1851, respecting his claims for compensation for injuries sustained while in discharge of his public professional duties, may be referred to a Committee for investigation, be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of Messrs. Playfair, Cameron, Wilson, Bureau, and the mover.

*Yeas—75; Nays—27.**

COMMITTEE ROOM, Tuesday, 30th April, 1861.

The Select Committee to which was referred the Petition of Dr. William Rees, late Medical Superintendent of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum at Toronto, beg leave to report,†

That they have given due consideration to the matters referred to them in said Petition.

That the facts stated in the said Petition are already before Your Honorable House, in connection with a previous application.

That your Committee find, that many years ago Dr. Rees, actuated by humane motives, brought to the attention of the Legislature, and other authorities in Upper Canada, the position of those insane persons who, at that time, were unfortunately confined in the Gaols of the country.

That it was owing in a great degree to the exertions and representations of Dr. Rees, that the first Lunatic Asylum was established in Upper Canada.

That while in the performance of his duties as Medical Superintendent of such Asylum in Toronto, he sustained severe injuries from the attacks of two Lunatics, which (as was shewn to Your Committee in the certificates of many Medical Practitioners of the highest respectability) have permanently injured his health, and rendered him unfit for the practice of his profession.

That in the years 1846 and 1851, the case of Dr. Rees was favorably reported on by Committees of the Legislature, which reports Your Committee regret have resulted in no permanent advantage to Dr. Rees.

Your Committee are of opinion that Dr. Rees is not altogether incapacitated from active

* The vote would have been nearly unanimous but for the objection explained, viz. : That, as two reports had already been made in favor of the petitioner, the Government should have acted without further reference to Parliament.

† Being the third report of Select Committees of the Legislative Assembly in favour of granting permanent provision, as compensation for injuries occurring in the public service, together with an Appendix, consisting of documents transmitted to the Government, and connected with the early institution of Lunatic Asylums in Canada, during a period of twenty-five years, inclusive.