

Petitions
brought up.

By Mr. Wetenhall,—The Petition of *Samuel Penfold* and others, of the County of *Waterloo*.

Petitions read.

Pursuant to the Order of the day, the following Petition was read:—

Of *Pierre Vezina*, Esquire, and others, Electors of the Town of *Three Rivers*; setting forth:—That on the twenty-ninth day of December last past, and on the third and fourth days of January, also last past, the Petitioners, *Pierre Vezina*, *Etienne Tapin*, *Jacques Bureau*, *John McDougall*, *Antoine Desautier*, *Olivier Lamontagne*, *George Stobbs*, *Zephirin Boudreau*, *Pierre Deveau*, and *François Routhier*, were, and are still Freeholders and Electors duly qualified by law to vote at the election of a Member to represent and serve the said Town of *Three Rivers* in the Legislative Assembly of this Province, in the present Parliament: That at the late General Election of Members to serve in the present Provincial Parliament, *James Dickson*, Esquire, was the Returning Officer duly appointed to proceed to the election of a Member to serve the said Town of *Three Rivers* in the Legislative Assembly of this Province; and that the said Returning Officer gave due notice that he would commence and hold the said election for the said Town on the twenty-ninth day of December last, at one of the clock in the afternoon, at the Market Hall of the said Town: That on the said day, and at the said place and hour, two candidates appeared for the representation of the said Town, to wit: *Antoine Polette*, Esquire, Advocate, and *Pierre Benjamin Dumoulin*, Esquire, Advocate, both of the said Town, and a Poll was required, and granted by the said Returning Officer; and that the third and fourth days of January then next, and now last past, were then and there appointed by the said Returning Officer for taking the said Poll, at the Market Hall of the said Town: That the said *Antoine Polette* was then and is still qualified by law to serve as a Member in the Legislative Assembly of this Province: That on the said third day of January last past, the said Returning Officer proceeded to hold and take the Poll, and received the votes of those who presented themselves as Electors, and adjourned to the next day: That on the fourth day of the said month of January last past, at nine of the clock in the forenoon, the said Returning Officer continued to hold and take the Poll, and to receive the votes of those who presented themselves as Electors; but that in consequence of the violence exercised by the friends and supporters of the said *Pierre Benjamin Dumoulin*, who had by force expelled and driven from the Poll Booth the friends and supporters of the said *Antoine Polette*, and taken and kept forcible possession of the said Poll Booth, the said Returning Officer could not continue and terminate the said Election, and was forced to discontinue the Poll, and close the Election, without proclaiming either of the candidates elected: That the said *Antoine Polette* polled at the said Election one hundred and seventy votes, which formed the majority of good and legal votes, as well of those taken and enregistered at the said Election, as of those of all the Electors of the said Town of *Three Rivers* duly qualified to vote: That the said *Pierre Benjamin Dumoulin*, at the time of the said Election, and particularly on the said twenty-ninth day of December, and on the said third and fourth days of January last past, held and was in possession of the several offices under the Crown in this Province, of Resident Agent for the sale of Public Lands in the County of *St. Maurice*, in the said Province, and of Agent for the sale of Timber licences in the said County, and that notice thereof had been publicly given in the said Town of *Three Rivers*: That being in possession of such offices as aforesaid, the said *Pierre Benjamin Dumoulin*, at the time of the said Election,

Petitions read.

was incapable of and disqualified from being elected or returned to be a Member of the Legislative Assembly of this Province: That the said Returning Officer well knowing the premises, granted improperly, and in error, a Poll at the said Election, and was bound to proclaim and return the said *Antoine Polette* as duly elected, being the sole candidate duly qualified; and that the said *Antoine Polette* became, and was, and is entitled to sit and vote in the Legislative Assembly of this Province, as the Member representing the said Town of *Three Rivers*: That under those circumstances, the Petitioners humbly contend that the said *Pierre Benjamin Dumoulin* could not and cannot be declared to be the Member elected to serve the said Town of *Three Rivers* in the Legislative Assembly of this Province, in the present Parliament; and praying the consideration of the House in the premises, and that it be declared that the said *Antoine Polette* was duly elected, and is entitled to sit in this present Parliament as Member representing the said Town of *Three Rivers* in the Legislative Assembly of this Province, and that the necessary orders to that effect be made both to the said Returning Officer and the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, as need may require; and that the House will further ordain and decree in the matter as to law and justice may appertain: That the Petitioners further represent to the House, that the said *Pierre Benjamin Dumoulin*, with intent to promote his Election, did open and support, or cause to be opened and supported, at his own expense, costs, and charges, during the said Election, houses of public entertainment for the accommodation of the Electors within the said Town of *Three Rivers*, and where a great number of the said Electors were in fact accommodated and entertained: That during the whole course of the said Election the said *Pierre Benjamin Dumoulin*, his friends or agents, caused to be collected and kept together at the Poll Booth a great number of persons having no right to vote at the said Election, for the purpose of overawing and intimidating Electors desirous of voting for the said *Antoine Polette*, and most effectually violated and destroyed all freedom of Election: That during the course of the said Election, to wit, the third and fourth days of January last past, the friends and supporters of the said *Pierre Benjamin Dumoulin* were guilty of the most outrageous and riotous conduct, in ill treating, assaulting, and beating, at the Poll Booth, and in its vicinity, several of the friends, supporters, and voters of the said *Antoine Polette*; by means whereof several Electors desirous of voting for the said *Antoine Polette*, were prevented from doing so: That on the said third and fourth days of January last past, at the said Election, the friends and supporters of the said *Pierre Benjamin Dumoulin* carried violence to such a degree as to illtreat, assault, and beat several Electors who were in the act of voting for the said *Antoine Polette*, and with force and violence expelled, drove, and tore away several Electors while in the act of voting for the said *Antoine Polette*, and by that means prevented several Electors from recording their votes in favor of the said *Antoine Polette*: That on the said fourth day of January last past, during the said Election, the friends, agents, and supporters of the said *Pierre Benjamin Dumoulin*, with force and violence dispersed, drove, and expelled from the said Poll Booth, all the friends, supporters, and voters of the said *Antoine Polette*, and took and kept forcible possession of the said Poll Booth for the avowed purpose of preventing Electors from voting for the said *Antoine Polette*; by means whereof several Electors were prevented from recording their votes in favor of the said *Antoine Polette*, and the said Returning Officer could not continue the said Election, but, dreading personal injury to himself, was forced to discontinue the Election and close the