

Mr. Walker
resigns.

Mr. Speaker laid before the House the *Acte* of the resignation of *William Walker*, Esquire, Member for the County of *Rouville*, and acquainted the House, that, in conformity to law, he had issued his warrant to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, to make out a new Writ, for the election of a Member for the said County of *Rouville*, in the room of the said *William Walker*.

[For the *Acte* of Mr. *Walker's* resignation, see Appendix [B.]

Writ for Rou-
ville.

Mr. Yule re-
signs.

Mr. Speaker also laid before the House the *Acte* of the resignation of *John Yule*, Esquire, Member for the County of *Chambly*.

[For the *Acte* of Mr. *Yule's* resignation, see Appendix [B.]

Mr. Speaker communicated to the House the following letter, by him received from the Speaker of the Assembly of Prince Edward Island.

House of Assembly,
Prince Edward Island, March 6, 1843.

SIR,

Letter from
Speaker of As-
sembly of
Prince Edw'd
Island.

The House of Assembly of this Colony having adopted the First Report of a Special Committee on the subject of the Post Office Department generally, and particularly in reference to the increased rates of Postage, now exacted on Letters, Newspapers and other Documents transmitted by Post, between the *British North American Colonies*, I am directed by the House to forward you a Copy of their Report, and to beg that you will have the goodness to lay the same before the House of Assembly of *Canada*, in hopes that the Assembly of *Canada* will co-operate with the *Representatives* of this Province, in soliciting from Her Majesty's Imperial Government, a revision of the Laws or Regulations under which the present Postage, Rates on Letters and Newspapers are exacted throughout the *British North American Colonies*, with a view of assimilating them as far as practicable to those now in force in the United Kingdom, or of placing the internal Post communication by a uniform system, under the controul of the Local Legislatures.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

JOSEPH POPE, Speaker.

The Honorable the Speaker of the }
House of Assembly of Canada. }

[Memo.—The Report did not accompany the above letter.]

Justices oath
Bill.

Ordered, That the Honourable Mr. Attorney General *Baldwin* have leave to bring in a Bill to provide for the Administration of the oath of office to persons appointed to be Justices of the Peace in this Province.

He accordingly presented the said Bill to the House, and the same was received and read for the first time.

Speech re-
ported.

Mr. Speaker then reported that when the House did attend His Excellency the Governor General, this day in the Legislative Council Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Provincial Parliament; of which Mr. Speaker said he had, to prevent mistakes, obtained a copy, which he read to the House, and is as followeth:

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and
Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

Speech at open-
ing of Session.

I am happy to meet you assembled for the discharge of the high functions entrusted to you. Various considerations of importance have prevented my calling you together at an earlier period.

Since your last Session, the birth of a Princess has diffused joy throughout the British Empire, and we have reason to be deeply grateful for the continued protection vouchsafed by Almighty Providence to our gracious Queen, whose life and health are blessings to Her subjects.

In the same interval, an afflicting event has occurred in Canada, by the demise of your late Governor, my immediate predecessor, whose heart was devoted to the public welfare. Universal regret has done honor to his memory throughout the Province; and I cannot abstain from noticing that his desolate widow and family, and his mortal remains, in passing through the neighbouring territories of the United States, to their place of embarkation at New York, were received with marked and affecting tokens of friendly respect, which indicated both the esteem in which he was held in a country in which he had been personally well known, and also a generous sympathy worthy of the great nation by which it was evinced.

The Act of the Imperial Legislature which facilitates the introduction of Canadian Wheat, and of Flour prepared in Canada, into the Ports of the United Kingdom, will, I trust, prove to be a valuable boon to this Province; and is a further proof of Her Majesty's unremitted care for the prosperity of this portion of Her Dominions. A copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Secretary of State, on this subject, will be laid before you.

Measures will be submitted to you for the improvement of the system of Judicature in Lower Canada; of the Municipal Institutions, the laws relating to Education and the Jury system of both Divisions of the United Province, and of the Assessment Laws in Upper Canada, as well as on other important subjects; all of which will, I am sure, engage your earnest attention.

I have recently made a tour through the Province, such as the exigency of public business would permit, in order that I might become, in some degree, acquainted with local circumstances requiring attention.

I have had great satisfaction in seeing a fine country, evidently advancing in improvement; and have every where been received with manifestations of loyalty to our Gracious Sovereign, and with personal kindness to myself.

It has been highly satisfactory to me to witness the great works in progress, which, owing to the Loan raised in England under the guarantee of the Imperial Government, the Province has been enabled to undertake or prosecute. They are calculated, I hope, to extend the commerce, and develop the resources of this vast country, and increase the public revenue, and general and individual wealth.

In those parts where works of this description are in progress, I found contentment prevailing at the prospect which they present. In other parts there is a cry for improved Roads, for the conveyance of produce to appropriate Markets, a claim which is worthy of consideration; for on such communications the prosperity of the country must in a great measure depend. No where was this anxiety more strongly expressed than in the Eastern Townships of Lower Canada, where the community, almost entirely Agricultural, in consequence of the heavy duties imposed on their produce in the United States, have lost the market to which they had formerly recourse, while the exemption from duty in our country of the similar produce of our neighbours, enables them, by greater facilities of convey-