

in lieu of this day, as before appointed by this House.

Leave of absence.

*Ordered*, That *William H. Boulton*, Esquire, have leave to absent himself from this House until the first Tuesday in February next.

On motion of Mr. *Gowan*, seconded by Mr. *Dugan*,

Greenville Election.

*Ordered*, That the Order of this House for taking into consideration the Petition of *R. Burrill* and others, freeholders of the county of *Greenville*, complaining of the undue election and return of *Hamilton D. Jessup*, Esquire, to represent the said county of *Greenville*, be discharged; the Petitioners having failed to enter into recognizance for the prosecution of the said Petition, within fourteen days from the presentation thereof, as required by law.

Jury Law.

*Ordered*, That the Order of the Day for the second reading of the Bill for the consolidation and amendment of the laws relative to Jurors, Juries, and Inquests in *Upper Canada*, and to provide for the indemnification of Jurors while attending the several Courts in that portion of this Province, be postponed until Tuesday, the fourteenth day of January next.

Toll Bridge Richelieu.

*Ordered*, That the Order of the Day for the second reading of the Bill to authorize *John Yule*, junior, to build a Toll Bridge over the river *Richelieu*, in the parish of *St. Joseph de Chambly*, to fix the Rates of Toll for passing thereon, and to provide regulations for the same, be postponed until Saturday, the eleventh day of January next.

The Honourable Mr. *Papineau* moved to resolve, seconded by the Honourable Mr. *Moffatt*,

French Language.

That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty, renewing the expression of the faithful attachment of this House to Her Majesty's person and Government:—

Setting forth, that sensible of the advantages we enjoy from Her Majesty's care and protection, and which this House trusts may long be continued to us under Her Majesty's parental sway, it is, at all times, the duty of this House to submit for Her Majesty's most gracious consideration such matters as may have a tendency, with any class of Her Majesty's subjects, to diminish that contentment, which this House is well assured, Her Majesty desires should exist in every portion of Her dominions.

Representing, that the French is the native language of a very large class of Her Majesty's subjects in this Province; of this class the great mass indeed speak no other language. In it the largest portion of their laws and the books on their system of jurisprudence are written; their daily intercourse with each other is conducted; it is the language in which alone they can invoke the blessings of Heaven on themselves and all that is dear to them. A language indispensable to so many of Her Majesty's faithful People, cannot, they will believe, be viewed by their Sovereign as foreign, when used by them.

Stating, that Her Majesty's Royal predecessors placed the languages spoken by the two great classes of Her Majesty's subjects in this Province, on the same footing; affording, in this respect, equal justice and equal facility to all.

Pointing out, that this principle was never departed from until the Act re-uniting these Provinces was passed; that this House do not question that the best intentions and designs influenced the minds of those who enacted the provision which declared:—

“That all writs, proclamations, instruments for summoning and calling together the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of the Province of *Canada*, and for proroguing and dissolving the same; and all writs of *Summons* and Election, and all writs and public instruments whatever relating to the said Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly, or either of them, and all returns to such writs and instruments; and all journals and entries, and written and printed proceedings, of what nature soever, of the said Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly, and of each of them respectively; and all written or printed proceedings and reports of Committees of the said Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly, respectively, shall be in the English language only.”

Stating, that in the very first Session of the Legislature, under that Act, it was indispensable to translate into French every public record and document. That the debates were not and could not, unless a portion of the Representatives of the People were silenced, be carried on without its use; that in Courts and judicial proceedings it was found equally necessary as before the Union, and for every other practical purpose, it is as much used as it ever has been.

Urging, that the only distinction which exists then, is, that the French is not permitted to be the legal language of Parliamentary records; a distinction of little value perhaps in itself,—one which cannot produce any beneficial result on the feelings or habits of the People using it; while it gives rise to a feeling among them injurious to the peace and tranquillity of the Province, namely, that this limited proscription of their language conveys, however undesignedly, an imputation of unfavourable distinction towards themselves.

Representing, that desirous that the hearts of all men in this Province may be joined in unity, in their attachment to and support of Her Majesty's person and Government, this House humbly Petition Her Majesty to endeavour to remove this cause of discontent, and to recommend to Her Imperial Parliament the repeal of that portion of the law which has given rise to it; assuring Her Majesty that such a course will be hailed, by her Majesty's loyal Canadian people, as an additional mark of Her solicitude for their welfare.

*Ordered*, That the further consideration of the said motion be postponed till Saturday, the eleventh day of January next.

*Ordered*, That five hundred copies of the said motion be printed in each of the English and French languages, for the use of the Members of this House.

On motion of Mr. *Prince*, seconded by Mr. *Chauveau*,

*Resolved*, That this House do now resolve itself into a committee of the whole House, to consider the expediency of addressing His Excellency, the Governor General, as representing the Crown in this Province, to recommend Her Majesty to afford to those persons who were transported to Her Majesty's penal Colonies for political offences committed against Her Majesty's Government in this Province, in the years 1837 and 1838, (and whom Her Majesty was afterwards graciously pleased to pardon,) the means of returning to *England* or some other of the British Isles, that they may be able to reach their respective homes from thence.

The House accordingly resolved itself into the said Committee.

Mr. *Smith*, of *Frontenac*, took the chair of the Committee, and after some time spent therein,

Mr. *Speaker* resumed the chair,

And Mr. *Smith*, of *Frontenac*, reported that the Committee had come to a resolution, which resolution was again read at the Clerk's table, and agreed to by the House, and is as followeth:—