

The following Petitions were severally brought up, and laid on the table:—

By Mr. *Bell*,—The Petition of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of *Canada*, in connection with the Church of *Scotland*.

By Mr. *Clark*,—The Petition of the Board of Grammar and Common School Trustees, of the Town of *Guelph*.

Pursuant to the Order of the Day, the following Petitions were read:—

Of *A. N. Henry* and others, of the Township of *East Whitby*, County of *Ontario*; praying for a Dissolution of the Union, and the establishment, in its place, of two or more local Governments.

Of *Henry A. McMahon* and others; praying for amendments to the Common School Laws of *Upper Canada*.

Of *Samuel Sturton*; praying that the Bill to regulate the education of Apothecaries, Chemists, and Druggists, may not become law.

Mr. *Dunbar Ross*, from the Select Committee appointed to enquire into the cause of the disasters which have befallen ships and steamers, carrying passengers from the United Kingdom, and elsewhere, to *Canada*, or to parts adjacent, under destination for *Canada*, in so far as the same may be ascertainable; and to report to the House such measures as they may deem advisable and practicable for the prevention in future of such calamities, and the punishment of persons through whose misconduct wanton loss of life may have been occasioned, presented to the House the Report of the said Committee; which was read. (*Appendix No. 14.*)

On motion of Mr. *Bell*, seconded by Mr. *Notman*,
Ordered, That so much of the 67th Rule of this House as relates to the payment of a Fee of Fifteen Pounds, be suspended in relation to the Bill further to amend the Act incorporating the *Brockville* and *Ottawa* Railway Company.

On motion of Mr. *W. F. Powell*, seconded by Mr. *Loux*,
Ordered, That so much of the 67th Rule of this House, as relates to the payment of a Fee of Fifteen pounds, be suspended in relation to the Bill to incorporate the *Ottawa* Board of Lumber Manufacturers.

On motion of Mr. *W. F. Powell*, seconded by Mr. *Loux*,
Ordered, That so much of the 67th Rule of this House, as relates to the payment of a Fee of Fifteen pounds, be suspended in relation to the Bill to incorporate the *Canada* Central Railway Company.

Mr. *Starnes*, from the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the working of the Law 22 Vic., Cap. 85, regulating the Rate of Interest, presented to the House the Report of the said Committee; which was read, as followeth:—

That the late period of the Session at which the reference was made, renders it impossible to enter upon any extensive and systematic enquiry; and even if such enquiry was made, there is no chance whatever of the conclusions to which it might lead originating any effectual Legislation at present.

The subject, however, is one which deeply affects the interests of the people of *Canada*,—it is one which lies at the very root of all trading and commercial transactions,—governs all the elements of every day business,—affects the value of all property in the country, whether personal or real, and weighs with as much force in the future as it does upon the present. It is, consequently, a subject entitled to the deep and earnest consideration of all thinking men during the Recess, and of the earnest application of Parliament at the earliest possible moment. Your Committee, therefore, hope that early next Session, the subject will be taken up in a manner commensurate with its importance, in order that such action may be taken thereupon as the good of the community may seem to require.

On motion of Mr. *Robinson*, seconded by Mr. *John Cameron*,