

Of the Great
Western Rail-
road Company;

Of H. LeMe-
surier

Of the Reve-
rend W. Rit-
chie and others;

Of D. Wood
and others:

Of J. Yule and
others:

Of Reverend
J. C. Léonard;

Of T. Bower-
man and
others:

Of the Hon.
W. Walker and
others, refer-
red

Report on
Petition of R.
Hobson and
others.

tition of the Great Western Railroad Company (Charter); the Petition of the Great Western Railroad Company (*Niagara and Detroit Rivers Railroad Company*); the Petition of *H. LeMesurier*, Esquire, Vice President, on behalf of the Board of Trade of *Quebec* (Railroads); and the Petition of the Reverend *William Ritchie* and others, of the County of *Essex*, and others; be referred to the Standing Committee on Railroad and Telegraph Line Bills.

Ordered, That the Petition of *David Wood* and others, of the Township of *Walpole*, be referred to the Select Committee to which was referred the Petition of *John Jones* and others, of the Township of *Walpole*.

Ordered, That the Petition of *John Yule*, Junior, Esquire, and others, of *Chambly*; the Petition of the Reverend *J. C. Léonard*, of the City of *Montreal*; the Petition of *Thomas Bowerman* and others, of the Townships of *Sophiasburgh* and *Hallowell*; the Petition of the Honorable *William Walker* and others, of the City of *Quebec*; and the Petition of *James Cuthbertson* and others, shareholders in the *Sault Sainte Marie Mining Company*, be referred to the Standing Committee on Standing Orders.

Mr. Cauchon, from the Select Committee to which was referred the Petition of *Robert Hobson* and others, District Councillors and Magistrates of the District of *Niagara*, and other references, presented to the House the Report of the said Committee; which was read, as followeth:—

Your Committee have given a careful consideration to the Petitions referred to them; the matter prayed for by the Petitioners, viz.: the removal of the site of the *Niagara District Town*, is one that for a long time past has been much desired by a large portion of the inhabitants of the District, and has frequently engaged the attention of Your Honorable House. On referring to the Journals for the Session of 1846, Your Committee find a Report made by a Committee on this subject, in the following terms:—

"Your Committee have taken into consideration the various references submitted to them, and after a careful investigation and examination of the subject, are of opinion, that the Municipal Council, representing as they do the whole body of the District of *Niagara*, and having come to an almost unanimous conclusion as to the absolute necessity of removing the present site of the District Town to a more central position, in order that the interests of the inhabitants may be placed upon a more equitable footing, not only as regards public convenience, but also the expenses necessarily attendant upon the Administration of Justice, situated as the Town now is, at an extreme point of the District.

"Your Committee further beg to state, that Petitions from the several Townships in the District, numerous signed, have been referred to Your Committee, respectfully and strongly praying Your Honorable House for the removal of the site from its present position.

"Your Committee also find, that a Report was made by a Select Committee of Your Honorable House at its last Session, recommending that the site of the District Town aforesaid might be removed to *Port Robinson*.

"From the expression of the Municipal Council, emanating as it does from a body representing the interest and the well understood wishes of the people, and now strengthened by Petitions from the several Townships to the same effect; Your Committee cannot do otherwise than strongly and respectfully recommend the prayer of the Petitioners

"to the favorable consideration of Your Honorable House, and that leave may be granted to introduce a Bill to remove the site of the present District Town to *Port Robinson*, as a convenient place; and to provide for the erection of public buildings thereon."

Again, in the Session of 1848, Your Committee find a Report from another Committee, on the 21st of March, in the following terms:—

"Your Committee, in obedience to the Order of Your Honorable House, have examined the contents of the Petition referred to them, as also the Entries in the Journals of previous Sessions upon this subject, and have unanimously agreed to adopt the recommendations of previous Committees, and again most earnestly to recommend to the favorable consideration of Your Honorable House, the passage of a Bill removing the site of the present District Town to a more central position, in accordance with the prayer of the Petition, emanating as it does, from a body representing the interests of every section of the District."

In addition to the strong terms in which the removal of the District Town is recommended in the foregoing Reports, Your Committee have now before them the Petitions presented during the present Session, and referred to them by Your Honorable House. These Petitions refer Your Honorable House to the Reports above quoted, and praying earnestly that the recommendations contained therein may be carried into effect. One of these Petitions is signed by a large number of District Councillors and Magistrates of the District, the other two Petitions by the inhabitants generally, and appended to one of them they find a certified extract from the Minutes of the *Niagara District Council* on 13th May, 1842, and a further extract from the proceedings on the 12th November of the same year; at which last meeting the following Councillors were present, viz: The Warden, and Messrs. *Dickson, Ball, McDonald, Detrick, Patterson, Rouse, Riceley, Powell, McFarland, Hobson, Clark, Kilborne, Secord, Tisdale, Cummings, Misener, Scholfeld, Brookfield, Fralick, Sheehan, Thompson, Darling, Root, Jackson, Gee, and Cooper*. A Petition was then unanimously adopted to be presented to Your Honorable House, to the following effect:—

"Your Petitioners are truly gratified that Your Honorable House has been pleased, as they are given to understand, to adopt the Report of a Special Committee of Your Honorable House, recommending that time should be allowed to Your Petitioners to name a place where they would wish the site of the District Town to be placed, thereby, in the opinion of Your Petitioners, pledging itself to carry out the just and almost unanimous wishes of Your Petitioners so soon as they fix upon such site.

"That Your Petitioners have accordingly taken the matter into their serious consideration, and have selected the Village of *Port Robinson* in the Township of *Thorold*, in the County of *Lincoln*, as the site of the new District Town; which selection they trust will meet the concurrence and approbation of Your Honorable House."

Your Committee have had before them *Walter Hamilton Dickson*, Esquire, Member for the Town of *Niagara*, and have heard the arguments urged by him against the removal; they are not, however, of opinion that the objections he has offered are of such a nature as to be of any weight compared with the evidence afforded by the above documents; and as it appears to Your Committee beyond a doubt, that the location of the District Town at an extreme corner of the District is, and has long been a grievous burthen upon the inhabitants of the District generally, Your Committee feel bound to add a strong recommendation to those already offered, and