

livered to both Houses of the Provincial Legislature, be taken into consideration on Monday next.

To be printed.

Ordered, That two hundred and fifty copies of the said Speech be printed in each of the English and French languages, for the use of the Members of this House.

Petition of R. Riddell, Esq., sitting Member for Oxford.

A Petition of *Robert Riddell*, Esquire, the Sitting Member for the County of *Oxford*, was presented to the House by Mr. *Smith* of *Frontenac*, and the same was received and read, setting forth:—That on the petition of *Francis Hincks*, of the City of *Montreal*, Esquire, against the election and return of your said petitioner, it was ordered by this Honourable House, on the fifteenth January, one thousand eight hundred and forty-five, "That the Petitioners "complaining of the undue election and return of "*Robert Riddell*, Esquire, for the County of *Oxford*, "and the Sitting Member for the said County, do exchange on or before the first day of February next, "at eleven o'clock, A. M., lists of the voters objected "to, giving the several heads of objection, and distinguishing the same against the names of the voters excepted to by them respectively; such lists to "be delivered as follows, that is to say, the list on "the part of the Petitioners to be delivered to or left "at the residence of *Simon F. Robertson*, Esquire, as "agent for the Sitting Member, at *Woodstock*, and the "list on the part of the Sitting Member to be delivered "or left at the residence of Mr. *George Henry*, at "*Woodstock*, as agent for the petitioners." That no service, as required by the said order, was ever made by the said *Francis Hincks*, nor was any such list left, as thereby directed. That the Commissioners, to whom the taking of the evidence under the said Petition was referred, did proceed, notwithstanding the protestations of your said Petitioner, to take, and did take the evidence, under the said Commission, and the said *Francis Hincks* did adduce and bring proof, for the purpose of setting aside the votes of a number of persons who had voted for your Petitioner, although there had not been served on your said Petitioner, or left with or at the residence of the said agent of your said Petitioner, any such list, containing either the names of the voters objected to, or the nature of the objections to be brought against them, as required by the order of your Honourable House, nor, in fact, was any list whatsoever delivered or left. That your said Petitioner was, thereby, deprived of the advantage allowed to him by law, and could not be prepared to rebut the objections so brought and urged by the said *Francis Hincks*, against certain of the voters of your said petitioner. That your Petitioner did duly serve and leave his list of objected voters, on the said *Francis Hincks* and his agent, as required by the said order, and that the said *Francis Hincks* on the scrutiny, and before the Commissioners did confine your petitioner strictly to the adduction of evidence, regarding the votes of such voters alone as were named in the said list, and did even object to any proof being offered, when the spelling of the name in the said list differed from that contained in the Poll Book. That thereby your Petitioner was greatly inconvenienced and damnified, and could not prosecute his scrutiny with advantage, and the said *Francis Hincks* obtained a great and evident advantage over your Petitioner, by being possessed of the names of objected voters, and with the nature of the objections. That the said Commissioners have, as your Petitioner believes, returned the evidence so taken by them to the Speaker of this Honourable House, and that the same will, doubtless, be in due course laid before the Committee appointed to try the merits of the said Petition. That the said non-compliance with the order of

this Honourable House may not be apparent on the face of the the proceedings, so to be laid before the said Committee, and that thereby the said Committee may proceed to adjudge and determine on the merits of the said Petition, without your Petitioner being permitted or having it in his power to shew the irregularity, error, omission, and vice aforesaid; and great injustice may hereby be done to your Petitioner without the said Committee having it in their power to do justice to your said Petitioner. Wherefore your Petitioner prays the intervention of this Honourable House, and that he may be heard on the said Petition by his Counsel, and that it may be declared and resolved, that, for want of the proper service aforesaid, the said Commissioners ought not to have proceeded with the said scrutiny, and that the proceedings of the said Commissioners were and are illegal, and null and void, and that it may be ordered and resolved, that the said Committee should not receive the said Commission, or, that if received, they should not proceed therewith until proof satisfactory to this House should be offered to, and received by this Honourable House, that the said order of the said fifteenth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and forty-five was complied with.

Petition of R. Riddell, Esq., sitting Member for Oxford.

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

By Mr. *Christie*,—the Petition of *A. J. Wolff*, Esquire, of *Valcartier*, in the County of *Quebec*; the Petition of the Reverend *R. Short* and others, members of the Church of *England*, in the Parish of *Cape Cove*, in the District of *Gaspé*; and the Petition of *Joseph Cormier*, Esquire, and others of the *Magdalen Islands*, in the County and District of *Gaspé*.

Petitions brought up.

By Mr. *Prince*,—the Petition of *John W. Dempsey*, of the City of *Toronto*; and the Petition of *Thomas McCrae* and others, of that part of the Province formerly *Upper Canada*.

By Mr. *Williams*,—the Petition of *William Rowe* and others, of the Townships of *Clarke* and *Hope*, in the District of *Newcastle*.

By Mr. *Meyers*,—the Petition of the President and Board of Police of the Town of *Cobourg*.

By the Honourable Mr. *Aylwin*, the Petition of the *Quebec Board of Trade*.

By the Honourable Mr. *Viger*,—the Petition of *P. B. Dumoulin* and *P. E. Vezina*, Esquires, of *Three Rivers*.

Then, on motion of Mr. *Gowan*, seconded by the Honourable Mr. Solicitor General *Sherwood*,

The House adjourned until Monday next.

Lunæ, 23° die Martii.

ANNO NONO, VICTORIÆ REGINÆ, 1846.

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

Petitions brought up.

By Mr. *Woods*,—the Petition of *George W. Foot*, Esquire, and others, of the townships of *Norwich*, *Dover*, *Chatham*, and *Sombra*.

By Mr. *Colville*,—the Petition of *Isaac Law* and others.

By Mr. *Sherwood* of *Brockville*,—the Petition of the Reverend *William H. Gunning* and others, members of the United Church of *England* and *Ireland*, in the County of *Leeds*, in the Diocese of *Toronto*.

By the Honourable Mr. *Robinson*,—the Petition of *R. Henry* and others, members of the United Church of *England* and *Ireland*, in *Cobourg* and its vicinity, in the Diocese of *Toronto*; the Petition of the Municipal Council of the District of *Simcoe*, (relating to