

in the Imperial Parliament, and submitting a code of orders and regulations such as appeared suitable to the requirements of Canada.* No immediate action was taken upon this Report, but in the same Session the practice of referring both petitions and bills to the Committee on Private Bills indiscriminately was discontinued, and petitions were from that time referred to the Committee on Standing Orders, for proof of a compliance with the Rules of the House. In 1850, a Private Bill Office was established, in pursuance of a suggestion contained in the above-mentioned Report, and a system of practice organized, which, with some few modifications subsequently in the details, is that now in use.

Private
Bill Office.

Up to the year 1861, no regulations had been made by the Legislative Council of Canada concerning private bills, except to require an official report to the Speaker of the notices given on petitions, and the payment of a fee on all such bills as originated in that House: but in the Session of 1861, a conference was held between the two Houses, which led to the adoption, by the Council, of the Private Bill Rules of the Assembly *verbatim et literatim*.† These Rules were slightly modified in succeeding Sessions. and, in

Former
practice in
L. Council.

* Assembly Journ., 1847, p. 31. (App. B.)

† L. Council Journ., 1861, pp. 98, 104.