

Committee to which was referred the Bill to extend the provisions of the thirteenth section of an Act of the Province of *Canada*, intituled, "An Act for the Disposal of Public Lands," and to enable persons who located lands prior to the fourth of April, 1839, to perfect their titles, to the same, and other references.

R. E. Burns  
and others.

*Resolved*, That the Petition of *Robert E. Burns* and others, members of the Legal profession, be referred to a Select Committee, composed of the Honourable Mr. Attorney General *Draper*, the Honourable Mr. *Baldwin*, Mr. *Macdonald*, of *Kingston*, Mr. *Duggan*, and Mr. *Macdonell*, of *Dundas*, to examine the contents thereof, and to report thereon with all convenient speed; with power to send for persons, papers, and records.

J. Grant and  
others.

*Resolved*, That the Petition of *James Grant* and others, of the third concession of the township of *Winchester*, in the county of *Dundas*, be referred to a Select Committee, composed of Mr. *Macdonell* of *Dundas*, Mr. *Roblin*, Mr. *Macdonell* of *Stormont*, Mr. *Hall*, and Mr. *Webster*, to examine the contents thereof, and to report thereon with all convenient speed, by Bill or otherwise; with power to send for persons, papers, and records.

A Message from the Legislative Council, by *John Fenwicks Taylor*, Esquire, one of the Masters in Chancery:—

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,  
Monday, 3rd March, 1845.

Presenting Ad-  
dresses to His  
Excellency the  
Governor  
General.

*Ordered*, That one of the Masters in Chancery do go down to the Legislative Assembly, and acquaint that House that His Excellency, the Governor General, has appointed to-morrow, at half-past three o'clock, P.M., at the Government House, in this city, to be attended with the Addresses of both Houses of Parliament on the subject of the French language, and that the Legislative Council do intend to be there at that time.

Attest.

CHARLES DE LERY,  
Clerk Asst. Legislative Council.

And then he withdrew.

On motion of the Honourable Mr. *Morin*, seconded by Mr. *Chabot*,

*Ordered*, That the time for receiving Reports of Select Committees on Private Bills, be further extended until Friday next.

Private Bills.

The Honourable Mr. *Morin*, from the Standing Committee on Private Bills, presented to the House, the thirteenth Report of the said Committee, which was again read at the Clerk's table, and is as followeth:—

Christian  
Unitarians.

Your Committee have examined the Bill to afford relief to a certain religious congregation at *Montreal*, denominated "Christian Unitarians," and have agreed to the same without amendment.

Pères Oblats.

They have also examined the Bill to incorporate "*Les Révérends Pères Oblats de l'Immaculée Conception de Marie*," in the Province of *Canada*, and have made certain amendments thereto, which they beg leave to submit for the consideration of Your Honourable House.

Quebec For-  
warding Com-  
pany.

They have further examined the Bill to incorporate certain persons under the name of the *Quebec Forwarding Company*, to which they have also made several amendments, which are submitted for the consideration of Your Honourable House.

Montreal  
Board of Trade

The Committee have also taken into consideration the Petition of the *Montreal Board of Trade*; and for the reasons which have induced the Committee to impose a

greater liability upon the shareholders in the *Quebec Forwarding Company*, than in other cases, they beg to refer to the evidence annexed.

They also examined the Bill to Incorporate a Company to construct a Railroad from the River *St. Lawrence* near *Montreal*, to the Province Line in the Township of *Stanstead*, to which they have also made several amendments, which are submitted for the consideration of Your Honourable House.

EVIDENCE.

*James Dean*, Esquire, called in and examined:—

Are you connected with the *Quebec Forwarding Company*?—I am. The Company has been two years in existence, and I am one of the Directors.

What is the object of the Company?—To transport goods from *Quebec* to the Upper Lakes, and *vice versa*.

Objections have been raised as to the sufficiency of the liabilities, if they are to be limited to the subscribed capital; would you give your views on the subject?—Unless the objection be considered in principle, I consider that there is more responsibility with that Company than with others; the subscribed capital is all paid in, and is sufficient for the present objects of the Company: their object is not to trade in any way, and the probability is, that the public will always be indebted to the Company and not the Company to the public.

What is the capital stock of the Company invested in?—I believe it consists of barges and steamboats; some of which are insured, and some not. I believe that with our present capital we are enabled to compete with any company as far as our line of business extends.

*Thomas Cringan*, Esquire, of *Montreal*, merchant, called in and examined:—

Are you connected with the *Montreal Board of Trade*?—I am Vice-President.

What are the objections, in your opinion, to the Bill to incorporate the *Quebec Forwarding Company*?—I understand that their liability is limited by the Bill to the amount of Stock paid in, and I think it objectionable that any commercial company should be incorporated without making them liable to the full extent of their means, especially a Forwarding Company. I am acquainted with one called the *Ottawa Forwarding Company*, that has sunk upwards of £30,000, stock paid in, and the stockholders will still have to pay something out of their private means; the public would have lost in this case, if the stockholders had not been responsible.

Do you consider the liabilities of a Forwarding Company towards the public, greater than those of other commercial companies?—I do, in consequence of their stock being much more perishable than other stock in trade, and there is the risk attending navigation, and many other losses that it is impossible to guard against; their vessels may run foul of other vessels, as has happened lately, between the *Queen* and *Sydenham* on Lake *St. Peter*; law-suits follow, and other circumstances which do not happen in ordinary undertakings, by which means whole cargoes may be lost, which a limited liability might prove insufficient to make good.

Do you not think that those restrictive regulations would have the effect of suppressing joint stock Companies?—I think not, generally, but there may be some cases in which a Company could hardly exist without a limited liability. In the *Montreal Tow-Boat Company*, of which I am a member, the losses have been very great during the last three years, amounting to nearly the whole investment, but there is no limit to the responsibility, and there are a great many shareholders.

*John T. Brondgeest*, Esquire, Merchant, called in and examined:—

Are you connected with the *Montreal Board of Trade*?—I was President of the Board last year. You have heard the evidence of Mr. *Cringan*, do you concur therein; and have you anything further to add? I fully concur in the testimony of Mr. *Cringan*, and would re-