

Report of Committee on searching Journals of Legislative Council on Seat of Government.

the advantages of which they expect to share, appears to the Committee of Council almost an indisputable proposition. That *Montreal* possesses these advantages is not to be disputed, and that there are facilities afforded to a Government resident in *Montreal*, of closely and constantly ascertaining what is for the Public advantage of the whole community, and what is the true bent of Public opinion, superior to any afforded by rival Cities claiming the choice of the Government, the Committee think is equally apparent. All the advantages of common and universal interest in one locality are, in the opinion of the Committee, found in *Montreal* in a superior degree, to those existing in most Capital Cities, and therefore they feel bound, without giving much weight to local claims, or to desires naturally entertained of political preponderance in either section of the Province, to tender to your Excellency their respectful advice, to recommend to the Queen the choice of *Montreal* as Her Majesty's Canadian Capital.

The Committee further beg leave to suggest that although it is for Her Majesty to declare Her Gracious pleasure upon this subject, yet, in whatever place the Seat of Government shall be fixed, heavy expenses will attend its establishment, which have to come through the vote of the Legislature, and they have no doubt but that it would be gratifying to Her Majesty, as it would to Your Excellency and Council, to see the necessary expenditure cheerfully and cordially undertaken, and borne by the Provincial Parliament. And the Committee need not say how much it would mortify them to see any serious difference of opinion in the Legislature on such a point. The proceedings in the two last Sessions of Parliament would, the Committee apprehend, indicate such a difficulty, to an extent which would make an application to Parliament almost hopeless, were *Kingston* to be continued, or any of the places which put forward their own claims, chosen, and they are of opinion that although the Citizens of *Montreal* appear to take little interest in the Question, as they might be personally affected by its decision, and although in fact that City is so full of other resources, as to account for the indifference of its inhabitants, to the acquisition of the character of a Political Capital, yet the advantages to the Public generally appear so plain, and the general objects in view in the choice so defensible, that they have the strongest hope of a concurrence in the selection by the Legislature, and of the avoidance of the difficulties which any other would probably occasion. In favor of which soever place Her Majesty may be pleased to decide, the Committee of Council would respectfully suggest that the interest of individuals are suffering, and will continue to suffer, by any delay in the final decision. The popular mind is also kept more or less unsettled and agitated on the question, so as to affect other politics injuriously. When once the Provincial Capital is definitively chosen, bad feeling on the subject will cease, and common favorable interests will be awakened. The more quickly the intention of Her Majesty shall be carried into execution, the sooner will its beneficial objects be understood and admitted. And should Your Excellency be pleased to agree in the recommendation of the Committee, and should Her Majesty be advised to concur in the measure of fixing the Capital at *Montreal*, the Committee think that facilities for a very early removal of the Government thither can be found in that City, and the accommodation offered by its extent and position, as well as by the possession of public property there, available for the uses of the Government.

The urgent necessity for an immediate decision and for early action thereupon, is further shewn by

the approaching want of funds to pay the rents of the Public Buildings and the Government House occupied in *Kingston*. An application to Parliament for those funds would bring on the question respecting the Seat of Government in its most embarrassing shape. The buildings occupied for Public Offices and for Parliament in *Kingston*, are, moreover, totally unfit for the purpose to which they are temporarily turned. The Members of the Legislature have been put to the greatest inconvenience for the want of a tolerable building in which to hold their Sessions, and the facilities for the erection of buildings in *Montreal* and the superior cheapness of their construction at that place, give it advantages in an economical point of view, which would more than counterbalance the value of any Public Edifices that exist either in *Quebec* or *Toronto*.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order,

(Signed,) R. B. Sullivan,
Chairman.

(Certified,) E. Parent, C. E. C.

Council Chamber,
Kingston, 16th March, 1843. }

Mr. *Harrison*, as a Member of the Executive Council of *Canada*, present on the 16th instant, in a Committee of Council, when a minute was agreed upon, by which the Committee advise the transfer of the Seat of Government of *Canada* from *Kingston* to *Montreal*, feels it to be his duty to communicate to His Excellency the Governor General that he has not concurred in the minute of Council above referred to.

Anxious to avoid every possible cause of embarrassment, and feeling satisfied that all the political arguments upon every view that can be taken of the subject have been fully exhausted, Mr. *Harrison* refrains from entering into any statement of the process of reasoning by which he has been led to the conclusion at which he has arrived, and therefore contents himself with making this communication to His Excellency.

Kingston, 20th March, 1843.

Wednesday, 11th October, 1843.

It was moved, that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the Governor General, to return him the thanks of this House for His Message of yesterday, in answer to the Address of this House on the subject of the place where the Legislature is in future to assemble in this Province. Upon which debates ensued.

Ordered, That the said debate be adjourned until to-morrow.

Thursday, 12th October, 1843.

Pursuant to the Order of the Day, the House resumed the debate on the motion of yesterday that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the Governor General, to return him the thanks of this House for His Message of Tuesday last, in answer to the Address of this House, on the subject of the place where the Legislature is in future to assemble in this Province.

The question of concurrence being put thereon, the same was carried in the affirmative, and it was ordered accordingly.

Ordered, That the Honourable Mr. *Sullivan*, do wait on His Excellency the Governor General with the said Address.

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