

# RE-UNION.—LOWER CANADA.

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AT a Meeting of a number of Citizens of Quebec, invited to receive the Report of a Committee appointed at a previous Meeting, to prepare Resolutions on the proposed Re-Union of Upper and Lower Canada, held at the house of E. GLACKEMEYER, Esquire, on Friday the 17th January, 1840.

JOHN WILLIAM WOOLSEY, Esquire, was called to the Chair.

ED. GLACKEMEYER, Esquire, was requested to act as Secretary.

The Honourables R. E. CARON, and JOHN NEILSON ; T. C. AYLWIN, H. S. HUOT, and E. GLACKEMEYER, Esquires, reported the following Resolutions, which were read by the Secretary :—

## “ RESOLVED,

1.—That in a Message from His Excellency the Governor General on the subject of the re-union of the Provinces, transmitted to both Houses of the Legislature of Upper Canada, on the 7th of December last, it is stated that “so far as the feelings of the inhabitants of Lower Canada can be ascertained, the measure of the re-union meets with approbation.”

2.—That we are not aware that any steps have been taken to ascertain the feelings of the inhabitants of Lower Canada, on the measure of the said re-union, unless it be a reference which is reported to have been made by the Governor General, of certain propositions to a meeting of the Special Council for the said Province, which meeting was called by Proclamation dated at Montreal, the 5th November last, to meet at that City on the 11th of the same month, and at which, from the nature and insufficiency of the notice, the distance of the residence of several of the members being nearly 300 miles from Montreal, and the difficulty of travelling at that particular season, was attended by only about half of the members of the said Council.

3.—That the said Special Council has no representative character, in so far as the inhabitants of Lower Canada are concerned, but that the members thereof are appointed by the Crown, during pleasure, and have only an existence for special purposes till the 1st of November, 1840, under the Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, 1st Victoria, chapter 9, and cannot in any way be considered as expressing the feelings or wishes of the inhabitants of this Province on the measure in question.

4.—That in the said Message, it is further stated that Her Majesty’s advisers had refrained during the last Session of the Imperial Parliament from pressing immediate legislation for the re-union of the Provinces, not from any doubt as to the principle of the measure, or its necessity, but “solely from their desire to ascertain more fully the opinions of the Legislature of Upper Canada, and to collect information from which the details might be rendered more satisfactory to the people of both Provinces.”

5.—That whatever events have marked the recent history of Lower Canada, and led to the suspension of the Constitution, as stated in the said Message, similar events have occurred in Upper Canada, and the same difficulties have existed in the Legislature of both those Provinces, at the same period. The main difference has resulted from the fact, that in Upper Canada an appeal was made by the authority of the Crown, in the year 1836, to the sense of the people of Upper Canada, on the then existing differences between the Imperial Government and the Representative Assembly; while no such opportunity was allowed to the inhabitants of Lower Canada; but the Constitution of this Province was suspended to the 1st November, 1840, in the first Session of the Imperial Parliament, held after the breaking out of a partial rebellion in the District of Montreal.

6.—That the Act of the 31st Geo. III. Chap. 31, to make further provision for the Government of the Province of Quebec, was enacted by the Parliament of Great Britain, upon Petitions submitted at various times, from the inhabitants of this Province, of different opinions and feelings, and was passed after an Agent for certain of the Petitioners was heard at the bar of the House of Commons; and it is to be inferred, that all interests in the Province were fully considered by Parliament, before deciding on the important question of establishing the Constitution of the Government of a distant dependency of the Crown.

7.—That the said Act was gladly and gratefully accepted by all the inhabitants of the said Province, who cheerfully discharged their duty to the Crown for the defence of its Government, as established in the said Province by the said Act, when it was attacked by the United States of America in the years 1812 and 1813, so as to merit the thanks of their Gracious Sovereign; and it is only within the last seven years, notwithstanding the dissensions which are inseparable from free Government, that any complaints have been made against the said Constitution or proceedings had to obtain any alteration thereof, but on the contrary, a general desire had previously and repeatedly been expressed in humble petitions to the Sovereign and Parliament to maintain the said Constitution, and transmit it unimpaired to posterity.

8.—That whatever may have been the difficulties which subsequently occurred in the Legislature, and the deplorable events in the District of Montreal, the whole body of Her Majesty's subjects in this Province ought not to be held responsible for them, or be exposed to lose that Constitution of Government which was solemnly granted to them by Act of the British Parliament, and be exposed to the manifold dangers and difficulties which have too frequently resulted from Constitutional changes.

9.—That the same spirit of justice which induced the British Parliament to re-establish by the Act 14th, Geo. III. cap. 83, commonly called the *Quebec Act*, the laws of Canada, which had prevailed in the said Province from its earliest settlement, required a division thereof, that the majority of the persons who had settled in the upper part of the Province should enjoy a system of laws with which they were acquainted, and that now that the two Provinces have grown up under the sanction of the Imperial Parliament, with different codes of laws, and are distinct in almost every thing that contributes to harmonious action in political societies endowed with Representative Assemblies, their re-union could produce nothing but renewed dissension, confusion in the laws which regulate property, oppression and violence, the utter insecurity of person and property, and the total interruption of public prosperity.

10.—That we have observed with profound grief the erroneous and injurious aspersions on the character of the inhabitants of this Province generally, contained in the "Report on the affairs in British North America, from the Earl of DURHAM, Her Majesty's High Commissioner, presented by Her Majesty's command, and ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on the 11th of February, 1839," and more particularly, those parts of the said Report which represent the inhabitants, sprung from different national origins, as animated by the unchristian spirit of irreconcilable hatred to each other, and irretrievable enmity to Her Majesty's Government, even to the extent of a traitorous co-operation with Her Majesty's enemies in any future attempts to invade this Province. Imputations so unfounded, laid before Her Majesty and the British Parliament and nation, are utterly unaccountable to loyal subjects and honorable men in this Province, and are in no ways justified by the misfortunes which have resulted from dissensions similar to those which have prevailed in almost every country, including the Home Dominions of the Crown, and most of its colonial possessions.

11.—That we are fully persuaded, that the experience of the past will serve as a beacon to warn all parties of past errors, and that the Representative Assembly of Lower Canada will study to promote harmony amongst the different branches of the Legislature and all classes of the people, make adequate provision for the support of government and the administration of justice on the principles of the British Constitution, provide for any improvements which time and circumstances may have rendered necessary to afford a fair and equitable representation to all classes of the inhabitants, and in every part of the Province; for the application of any duties which the Imperial Parliament may think proper to impose on goods entering the St. Lawrence, to facilitate the opening of a Ship Navigation from the Sea to the great Lakes, and for the improvement of the Laws of the Province and the general advancement of its prosperity.

12.—That the terms on which it has been proposed in the message before-mentioned, to effect the said re-union, whereby a section of the country of only about half the population and wealth of the proposed United Province, is to have one-half of the Representation, and thereby possess the power of taxing the great majority of the inhabitants without their consent, and applying the proceeds to a sectional portion of the Province, while a large debt contracted and spent for the improvement of Upper Canada, is to be imposed on the inhabitants of Lower Canada, afford sufficient evidence of the erroneous information and unconstitutional designs, which have presided at the formation of the said plan, and are a sure indication of the evils which must inevitably result from the sanction thereof by the Imperial Parliament.

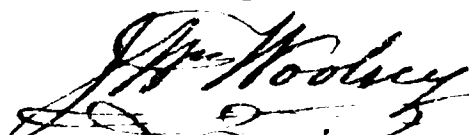
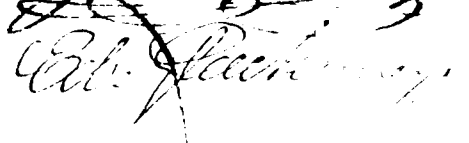
13.—That the Constitution established by the said Act, 31st Geo. III., chap. 31, be maintained, and no alteration thereof be effected without the inhabitants of this Province having had an opportunity of being heard on any Bill to be introduced into Parliament for that purpose."

And the question of concurrence being separately put on each Resolution, the same were unanimously agreed to, viz : by—

*Messrs. T. C. Aylwin, Advocate ; M. Borne, J. P. ; A. Berthelot ; J. B. E. Bacquet, Advocate ; Thomas Baillairgé ; J. N. Bosse, Advocate ; F. Buteau, J. P. ; R. E. Caron, Member of the Legislative Council ; J. Chouinard, Merchant ; James Dinning ; C. De Guise, Advocate ; Louis Fiset, Advocate ; L. Fortier ; E. Glackemeyer, Notary Public ; F. X. Garneau, Notary Public ; H. S. Huot, Advocate ; James Kelly ; Charles Kelly ; E. C. Lagueux ; C. Langevin ; Joseph Laurin, Notary Public ; Ronald McDonald ; Patrick Murphy ; Joseph Morrin, M. D. ; Louis Massue ; F. X. Méthot ; D. McCallum, Advocate ; John Neilson, J. P. ; J. J. Nesbitt ; William O'Brien ; A. A. Parant, Notary Public ; E. Parant, Advocate ; Joseph Parant, M. D. ; F. X. Paradis, J. P. ; P. Pelletier, J. P. ; Joseph Petitclerc ; Edouard Rousseau, M. D. ; David Roy, Advocate ; A. B. Sirois, Notary Public ; J. G. Tourangeau, J. P. ; V. Tétu ; J. W. Woolsey, Colonel of Militia ; Thomas Wilson, J. P. ; William Wilson ; W. H. Roy ; R. Angers, Advocate ; Louis Prevost, Notary Public ; G. Guay, Notary Public.*

RESOLVED, That the same Committee prepare Copies of Petitions to Her Majesty and to the two Houses of Parliament, founded on the said Resolutions.

That the said Petitions be submitted as speedily as possible for signature, in the different local divisions throughout the Province, and be forwarded to England, with the least possible delay.

 Chairman.  
 Secretary.

Quebec, 18th January, 1840.