

generated by this unconstitutional taxation, and the equally unconstitutional application of the said tax, your petitioners foresee, as arising out of the peculiar powers conferred on the company in question, the destruction of the political independence of the people who may unfortunately become subject to its control, and who will be rendered basely subservient to the said company.

That the continued dilapidations of the revenues of the province, in direct violation of the constitution, are another source of alarm to Your Majesty's Canadian subjects; that after the abandonment of the late Colonial Secretary's project to seize upon the said revenues by suspending an Act which did no more than confirm to the Commons of Lower Canada a right previously recognized, without conferring any new privileges, Your Majesty's Canadian subjects did not expect to be so soon called upon to resist similar unconstitutional encroachments and dilapidations, yet very recently the indisputable privileges of the Assembly have been again violated by the payment of the public servants, without the sanction or cognizance of the only body authorized to give such sanction.

That the people of the Old Colonies, now the United States of North America, however much they were aggrieved by attempts at unconstitutional taxation, had much less to complain of, on the score of executive usurpation, than the people of this province; the Assembly having repeatedly declared its fixed determination not to sanction that which it must ever consider a tyrannical violation of its rights, and which the people of this province regard as a virtual dissolution of the constitution, and for the consequences of which your petitioners cannot answer.

That under these circumstances, your petitioners claim for Your Majesty's Canadian subjects Your Majesty's protection against these and similar acts of pillage; that Your Majesty may, and ought at once to ascertain, in order to bring to just punishment, those who authorized so criminal an assumption of power.

That inasmuch as no session of the Provincial Parliament has intervened since the date of the aforesaid petition of the Commons of this province to Your Majesty, your petitioners abstain from alluding at any length to the insuperable differences and the ever-widening breach between the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council of this province, differences springing out of the very constitution of the latter body; nevertheless your petitioners cannot avoid reminding Your Majesty, that the aforesaid petition contained a prayer that the Legislative Council as at present constituted be abolished, and that the people of the province be empowered to elect the second branch of the Legislature in future, as the only means of producing that harmony without which internal peace and good government cannot exist.

That as an evidence that the people at large fully participate in the opinions of the majority of the House of Assembly, your petitioners take leave to refer Your Majesty to the result of the recent elections in the said province of Lower Canada, which avowedly turned upon the approval or the disapproval of the elective principle, and which result is almost unanimously in favour of the said principle.

Wherefore, your petitioners, expressing the sentiments of the majority of the inhabitants of Lower Canada, pray Your Majesty to comply with the prayer of the aforesaid petitions of the Commons of Lower Canada, dated on the 1st day of March 1834, and also with that of the present petition, by removing the abuses and grievances set forth therein, so that full justice be rendered to the House of Assembly, and to the people whom it represents.

And as by inclination, as by duty we are led to do, we shall ever pray for your Majesty's sacred person.

A. Heot.

(signed) *W. B. Lindsay,*
Clerk of Assembly.