

2 THE CANADAS :—PAPERS RESPECTING DISCUSSIONS

an Address to His Majesty on the subject of certain resolutions received from the Speaker of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada, by the late House of Assembly of this province at its last session, and humbly request that your Excellency will be pleased to transmit the same to His Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, together with a copy of the Report of the Select Committee of this House, to which was referred the letter of L. J. Papineau, Esq., Speaker of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada, to be laid at the foot of the Throne.

Commons House of Assembly,  
3 March 1837.

(signed) Arch<sup>d</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Lean, Speaker.

(No. 2.)

To The KING'S Most Excellent MAJESTY.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Upper Canada in Provincial Parliament assembled, humbly beg leave to acquaint your Majesty, that, during the last session of the Legislature, certain resolutions which had been adopted by the House of Assembly of Lower Canada were transmitted to the Assembly of this province, accompanied by a letter from the Speaker of that House, soliciting the concurrence of this House therein.

After a careful examination of those resolutions, and an investigation of the principles they involve, we have deliberately adopted the Report which we beg leave to transmit herewith; and we also feel it our bounden duty to disavow the sentiments contained in those resolutions, and to assure your Majesty, that we earnestly deprecate any departure from the principles of our Constitution, or the adoption of any course of policy calculated to weaken the ties which attach this colony to the British empire.

Commons House of Assembly,  
3 March 1837.

(signed) Arch<sup>d</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Lean, Speaker.

(No. 3.)

To the Honourable House of Assembly.

Your Committee, to whom was referred that part of the Journals of last Session containing the Letter of the Speaker of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada, with certain Resolutions of that House accompanying the same,

Beg leave to submit the following Report :

THE subject to which the attention of your Committee has been directed can be most conveniently treated under two distinct heads:

- First—The resolutions of the Honourable the House of Assembly of Lower Canada.  
Second—The letter of Mr. Speaker Papineau.

Those resolutions, it seems, were adopted by the House of Assembly of the Lower Province in February last, and apparently with the expectation and hope that similar views were taken, and a co-operation for similar purposes might be obtained, in the sister colonies of North America, but more especially in this province.

The first of these resolutions declares, "That this House, in its exertions to procure a redress of the various grievances under which the people of this province labour, and to introduce a good and responsible system of local government, have, in addition to the other weighty and substantial reasons by which it has been guided, been greatly encouraged by the hope and expectation that any amelioration in the political institutions of the colony would be followed of right by similar advantages to our brethren inhabiting the sister provinces of British North America."

The introduction of what is termed "a good and responsible system of local government," and the extension of "similar advantages" to other colonies, are the main points of this resolution. With regard to the former, your committee are at least able to form a conclusive opinion of the form of government which is to be set aside in favour of some other, which the Assembly of Lower Canada style "good and responsible;" since the Constitutional Charter of the two colonies is identical, and although the laws relating to civil rights and property differ (and that difference can be no cause of complaint for the Assembly of Lower Canada), the machinery of the local government and the general principles of its administration are the same in both provinces.

By the Treaty of Paris in 1763, Canada, with its dependencies, (then in the possession of Great Britain by conquest,) was ceded to His Majesty George the Third, who, by that treaty, guaranteed to the Canadians the liberty of the Catholic religion, and also permission to any of them who were desirous to do so, to sell their property, and emigrate at any

The resolutions adopted with the expectation of similar views in the sister provinces.

This expectation expressed in the first resolution.

It is evident to this committee what form of government was to be set aside in favour of the new one recommended.

Machinery of government the same in both provinces, although in some respects the laws differ.

Liberty of the Catholic religion guaranteed to Lower Canada by the treaty of Paris in 1763.

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