

NOVA
SCOTIA.

two-and-a-half months after the British North America Act was, by the Queen's Proclamation, declared to be in force, when the people were thereby informed that they had been subjected, without their consent, to the absolute dominion of more populous and more powerful Colonies, and had lost their liberty.

8. *Resolved*—That there being no statute of the Provincial Legislature confirming or ratifying the British North America Act, and the same never having been consented to or authorized by the people at the polls, nor the consent of this Province in any other manner testified, the preamble of the Act reciting that this Province had expressed a desire to be confederated with Canada and New Brunswick is untrue; and when the Queen and the Imperial Legislature were led to believe that this Province had expressed such a desire, a fraud and imposition were practised upon them.

9. *Resolved*—That the truth of the preamble of the British North America Act, reciting the desire of the Nova Scotia to be confederated is essential to the constitutionality of the Statute; and if the same is false the statute is defective, because a statute cannot be rendered constitutional by falsely assuming as true the condition which is indispensable to its constitutionality.

10. *Resolved*—That from the time the scheme of Confederation was first devised in Canada until it was consummated by the Imperial Act in London, it was systematically kept from the consideration of the people of Nova Scotia at the polls; and the Executive Council and the Legislature, in defiance of petitions signed by many thousands of the electors of this Province, persistently and perseveringly prevented the same from being presented to the people.

11. *Resolved*—That at the recent election the question of Confederation exclusively occupied the attention of the people, who were then, for the first time, enabled to express their will on a subject of the most vital importance to their happiness; and the result has proved that this Province does not desire to be annexed to Canada, and that the people of Nova Scotia repudiate the enforced provisions of the British North America Act, which, for the reasons set forth in the foregoing Resolutions, they believe to be unconstitutional, and in no manner binding upon the people of Nova Scotia.

12. *Resolved*—That the Quebec Scheme, which is embodied in the British North America Act, imprudently attempted to be forced upon the people of Nova Scotia, not only without their consent, but against their will, has already created wide-spread irritation and discontent; and unless the same be withdrawn, will, we fear, be attended with the most disastrous consequences, as the loyal people of this Province are fully conscious of their rights as British subjects, set an inestimable value upon their free institutions, and will not willingly consent to the invasion of those rights, or to be subjected to the dominion of any other power than their lawful and beloved Queen.

13. *Resolved*—That the Colonies were politically allied to each other by their common relationship to the Queen and her Empire, in a more peaceable and less dangerous connexion than under any scheme of Colonial Confederation that could be devised, even on the fairest, wisest, and most judicious principles.

14. *Resolved*—That the people of Nova Scotia do not impute to Her Majesty the Queen and the Imperial Parliament any intentional injustice, as they are well aware that fraud and deception were practised upon them, by those who misrepresented the public sentiment of this country, and who, for reasons that we will not venture to assign, desired that Confederation might be forced upon this Province, without the consent and against the will of the people.

15. *Resolved*—That an humble Address be presented to the Queen embodying the substance of the foregoing Resolutions, informing Her Majesty that her loyal people of Nova Scotia do not desire to be in any manner confederated with Canada, and praying Her Majesty to revoke her Proclamation, and to cause the British North America Act to be repealed, as far as it affects the Province of Nova Scotia.

The foregoing are a true copy of the fifteen Resolutions passed unanimously by the House of Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia on the 21st day of February, A.D. 1868, which I certify.

(Signed) HENRY TWISSING,

Clerk of the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, February 25th, 1868.

To the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address of the House of Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia.

May it please your Majesty,

We, your Majesty's dutiful subjects, the representatives of the people of Nova Scotia in Provincial Parliament assembled, most respectfully approach your Majesty with assurances of our unabated loyalty and devoted attachment to your Majesty's person and Government.

We call the attention of your Majesty to the fact that His Majesty King George the Second, upwards of a century ago, granted to the people of Nova Scotia a Representative Constitution, and ordained that the Legislature should consist of a Governor, Council, and Assembly, constituted of the freeholders of the Province, and this Constitution was improved subsequently by the liberality of succeeding Sovereigns, in graciously conceding extensive powers of self-government to your Majesty's loyal subjects of Nova Scotia.

We would humbly submit to your Majesty that a Constitution thus solemnly granted, and guaranteed to the people of this Colony, could not be revoked without the consent of your Majesty and of the people of Nova Scotia, who had an undoubted right to be consulted before their Constitution could be materially altered.

We also humbly submit that a Legislature so constituted for the single purpose of making laws, statutes, and ordinances, for the peace, order, and government of the Colony, possessed no power nor authority in any manner to alter—much less to overthrow—the Constitution without the consent of

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