

(APPENDIX H.) See Journal page 70.

RESOLVED, That this House present an humble address to His Majesty, supplicating His Majesty's most gracious recommendation to his Parliament to confer upon all persons now resident in this province, all those rights and privileges which His Majesty's natural born subjects enjoy in this colony, with such limitations only as have been heretofore imposed by the Provincial enactments: and to pass such a law for the naturalization of all foreigners who may hereafter come into the province as shall in the wisdom of Parliament be best adapted to our circumstances and situations, and that His Majesty would in the mean time, be graciously pleased to increase the emigration from the United Kingdom, which has been so happily begun.

THE COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE REPORTED.

THAT, after much discussion and an unsuccessful attempt on the part of the conferees of the Legislative Council, to induce the conferees of the House of Assembly to concur in certain proposed modifications of the first of the said bills, the conferees of that House proposed the following Resolution as the result of their unanimous opinion to be adopted by the joint committee of Conference.

Viz:—"That if there are aliens in this province no act of the Provincial Legislature can naturalize them," which resolution being, in the opinion of the conferees of the Legislative Council, decidedly at variance with the instructions they had received, and indeed incompatible with any thing which they could have proposed, it precluded all further proceedings of the joint committee of Conference.

The Legislative Council then passed the following Resolutions.

- 1st. RESOLVED, That on the ratification of the Treaty of 1783 by Great Britain and the United States of America the bond of union between the inhabitants of the two countries was forever cancelled, and the constitutional obligations on both sides were by this concurrent act, as completely dissolved as if they had never existed.
- 2d. Resolved, That since the ratification of the aforesaid Treaty, the inhabitants of Great Britain and the citizens of the United States, have been considered by all other governments, as well as their own, distinct and independent nations.
- 3d. Resolved—That the external and internal policy of Great Britain and the United States has proceeded upon the principle that the inhabitants of each country were aliens to those of the other.
- 4th. Resolved—That the province of Quebec remained faithful to His late Majesty King George 3d, and to the supremacy of the Imperial Parliament during the American revolution.
- 5th. Resolved—That the said province was made an asylum by His late Majesty King George 3d, for such His loyal subjects, who, during the American revolution, adhered to their allegiance.
- 6th. Resolved—That the most earnest and gracious instructions, were from time to time transmitted by His Majesty to His Governors General, to admit into His Province of Quebec all such persons from the United States as had manifested their loyalty during the revolutionary war.
- 7th. Resolved—That in consequence of these instructions the inhabitants of the colonies, now the United States, who had openly during the rebellion adhered to the King, or who were able to give proofs of their loyalty, were kindly invited and cordially received into the province of Quebec, and had lands and other benefits bestowed upon them.
- 8th. Resolved—That no encouragement or invitation was ever given or held out to persons living in the United States, and who had made their election by settling or swearing allegiance to those States, to come into the province of Quebec either by the Colonial or Imperial Governments.
- 9th. Resolved—That after the division of the province into Lower and Upper Canada, the same policy of encouraging and inviting loyal subjects only, from the United States continued in each, and has ever been the mode of proceeding to this day.
- 10th. Resolved—That notwithstanding the vigilance of the Provincial Government, many persons contrived to gain admission into the colony, who were by no means of the description intended by the royal instructions, and who, instead of feeling attached to British laws and government, were rather hostile or totally indifferent as to what government they lived under, provided it suited their present interests, and who deserted to the enemy during the late war.
- 11th. Resolved—That many causes combine to perplex the alien question, when applied to persons coming from the United States, which can never apply to the case of foreigners from other nations.
 - 1st. The impossibility of distinguishing persons, who were a few years ago the same people, and who still exhibit the same manners, speak the same language and have the same features.
 - 2d. The facility of procuring false proofs of former loyalty, which the colonial government had seldom reason at the time, to suspect, or means to disprove.
 - 3d. The remissness of the Land Boards employed in admitting settlers in the several districts of the province.
 - 4th. The desire of many loyalists to bring their friends, connexions and acquaintances into the province, by which they were induced privately to invite them, or to connive at their arrival. These again inviting their friends &c. a sort of stream of emigration from the United States continued to the commencement of the late war.
 - 5th. The temptation of fertility of soil, easiness of settlement, and room for enterprize, induced many adventurers to come from the United States into the province and purchase real estate, which from the great extent of the colony could be done without the knowledge of the local government.
- 12th. Resolved—That when the constitutional act of the 31st of His late Majesty King George 3d, cap. 31, came into operation, the colonial government had no means of ascertaining in many cases, who had or had not the rights and privileges of natural born subjects, without entering into a minute investigation of the claims of numerous individuals, which during a period of peace and tranquility appeared altogether inexpedient.
- 13th. Resolved—That as the hostile disposition of the United States began to manifest itself previous to the late war, the attention of the loyal inhabitants was directed to the state of emigration from the United States, and a general desire of greater strictness in admitting settlers from that country began to be entertained.
- 14th. Resolved—That the great number of persons, who had come into the Province from the United States, and who declared for the enemy after the commencement of hostilities, caused much alarm to the loyal inhabitants, and produced a general desire among His Majesty's loyal subjects, to put a stop after the war to future emigration from that quarter unless under the provisions of a naturalization law, adapted to the circumstances and situation of the province, and applicable to the citizens of the United States in common with other foreigners.
- 15th. Resolved—That while this House is anxious that His Majesty's government would continue to encourage emigration from the United Empire to this province, as in every way more beneficial, it has much satisfaction in bearing testimony to the loyal conduct of those settlers from the United States, who remained during the late war, and bravely assisted in the defence of the province, and would rejoice in their admission, without reserve, to all the rights, privileges and immunities of British subjects.
- 16th. Resolved—That this House was highly gratified with the assurances conveyed in His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor's messages of the 15th and 22d of November last, that in the opinion of His Majesty's Government it is advisable to confer by legislative enactments the civil rights and privileges of British subjects upon such citizens of the United States and other foreigners, as are in truth aliens, although they may have hitherto enjoyed without question, the rights of subjects.