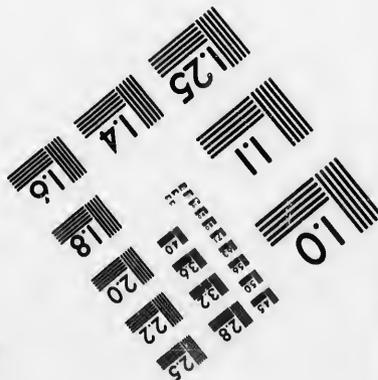
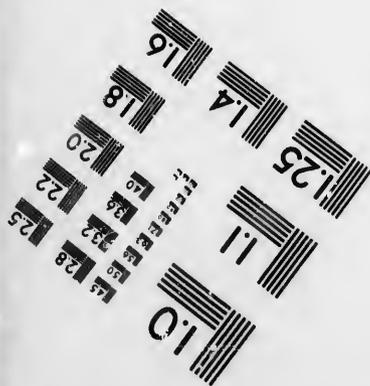
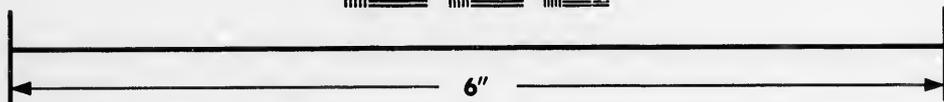
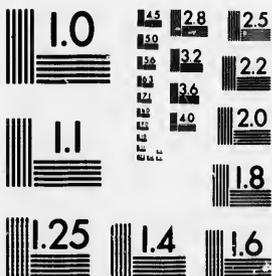


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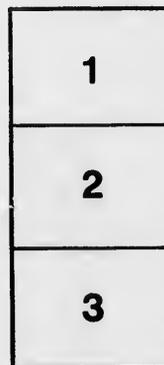
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2nd Session, 5th Parliament, 19 Victoria, 1856.

(K)

PETITION

Of George Hughes and others, of Walsley,
County of Waterloo, praying that the
price of Clergy Reserve Lands in the said
Township may not be increased.

(Mr. Foley)

*Ordered, by the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, to be
printed, 28th February, 1856.
Printed, 1st March, 1856.*

TORONTO:
PRINTED BY JOHN LOVELL,
ZION'S SQUARE.

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PETITION.

To the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, in Parliament assembled.

THE PETITION OF THE UNDERSIGNED, INHABITANTS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WELLESLEY, IN THE COUNTY OF WATERLOO,

HUMBLY SHEWETH :

That Your Petitioners (mostly practical farmers with limited means and large families), settled in the Township of Wellesley soon after it was surveyed, having understood that the land was to be sold to actual settlers only, and to be paid for in ten annual instalments; and under the impression that the price would be the same as the Crown Reserves. Buoyant with hope that their exertions would be crowned with success, and that they would soon be enabled to make their payments, both old and young worked to the utmost of their strength, and endured many privations. The price of produce until last year having been very low, and the Township at a great distance from market, nothing was left after feeding and clothing the family, and paying for their cattle, which were mostly bought on credit of the opulent and generous old settlers in the adjoining townships. Hard labor must be sustained by food, which to obtain many were obliged to work out at intervals for a supply, and in hay time and harvest to pay for what they had consumed the previous winter.

Clothing, also, which a Canadian winter requires, had to be bought, as the wolves were too numerous at first to admit of keeping sheep to manufacture clothing from their wool. Nothing but a hope of making a home for declining years, and a firm belief that the Government never broke faith with the people, enabled them to struggle through every difficulty. They made all their roads without any help whatever, and made greater improvement in the time than was ever previously made in any other township in the Province. But last spring, when the price of produce was good, and they were enabled to pay a large portion of the purchase money, by selling every kind of stock and produce they could spare, the Agent, to their great mortification, refused to take their payments and told them the price of the land was to be raised although the time allowed was not expired. If such is the case, their only prospects are another seven years of hard labor, in return for having improved the lands, and helping to develop the resources of the country, which they understood was one important thing the Government required.

Your Petitioners, therefore, humbly and earnestly request, that Your Honorable Body will be pleased to give the matter your favorable consideration, and put the land at the price it would be worth in a state of nature, before it was fertilized with the sweat that poured from their brows.

And Your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

GEORGE HUGHES,
And 328 others.

Wellesley, 9th February, 1856.

