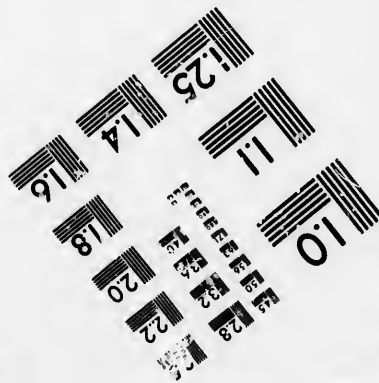
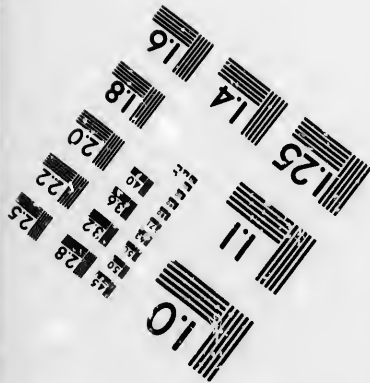
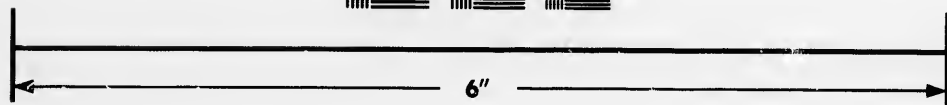
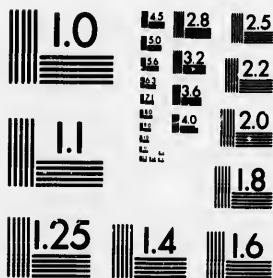
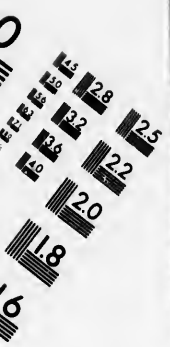


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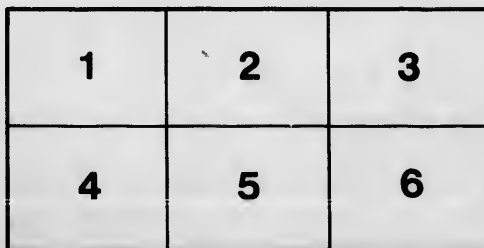
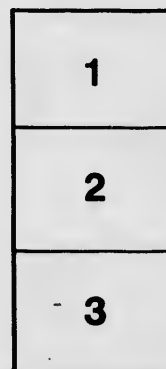
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CONVENTION OF THE REFORM PARTY

Rooms of the Reform Association

TORONTO, JUNE 13, 1867.

DEAR SIR,

We are instructed by the Executive Committee of the Reform Association of Upper Canada to inform you that A GENERAL CONVENTION of the Reform party of Upper Canada will be held in the Music Hall, TORONTO, ON THURSDAY, THE 27TH JUNE, and to invite your earnest co-operation in the movement.

The suggestion that such a gathering of Reformers as that of the great Convention of 1859 would at this moment be of vast service to the Liberal cause was pressed upon the Executive Committee from a number of quarters; and, after mature consideration, the following circular was prepared and sent to the Reform members of the existing House of Assembly, to the Reform candidates now before the people for election to the House of Commons and House of Assembly, to the Editors of Reform journals, and to the Office-bearers of all Branch Reform Associations known by us to be in active operation:—

“DEAR SIR,—On the 9th November, 1859, the greatest Political assemblage ever convened in Canada met in the City of Toronto, to consider the relations between Upper and Lower Canada and the Financial and Political evils that had resulted therefrom, and to devise constitutional changes fitted to remedy the said abuses, and secure good government for the Province. Five hundred and seventy prominent and influential men from all sections of Upper Canada took part in the proceedings of that Convention, and conclusions were arrived at which have stamped their impress indelibly on the future history of our country. The formation of the Upper Canada Reform Association was the work of that Convention; and the Branches of that Association established throughout Upper Canada, have tended in a great measure to secure those political successes at the elections that the Reform party has since achieved. Resolutions were adopted by that Convention setting forth the political evils existing in the Province and the right remedies for them; these resolutions have stood the test of fierce party criticism and invective for years, and have at last been adopted with the almost unanimous assent of the people of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and with the hearty approbation of our fellow-subjects throughout the British Empire, as the basis of the new Federal Constitution for the government of British America. To remind you how completely the suggestions of the Reform Convention of 1859 were in harmony with the Imperial Confederation Act of 1867, we re-publish the Resolutions adopted by the Convention:

1. *Resolved*,—“That the existing Legislative Union of Upper and Lower Canada has failed to realize the anticipations of its promoters, has resulted in a heavy public debt, burdensome taxation, great political abuses, and universal dissatisfaction throughout Upper Canada; and it is the matured conviction of this assembly, from the antagonisms developed through difference of origin, local interests and other causes, that the Union, in its present form, can no longer be continued with advantage to the people.

2. *Resolved*,—“That highly desirable as it would be, while the existing Union is maintained, that local legislation should not be forced on one section of the Province against the wishes of a majority of the representatives of that section—yet this Assembly is of opinion that the plan of government known as the “Double Majority” would be no permanent remedy for existing evils.

3. *Resolved*,—“That, necessary as it is that strict constitutional restraints on the power of the Legislature and Executive, in regard to the borrowing and expenditure of money and other matters, should form part of any satisfactory change of the existing Constitutional system—yet the imposition of such restraints would not alone remedy the evils under which the country now labours.

4. *Resolved*,—“That without entering on the discussion of other objections, this assembly is of opinion that the delay which must occur in obtaining the sanction of the Lower Provinces to a Federal Union of all the British North American Colonies, places that measure beyond consideration as a remedy for present evils.

5. *Resolved*,—“That in the opinion of this assembly, the best practicable remedy for the evils now encountered in the government of Canada, is to be found in the formation of two or more local Governments, to which shall be committed the control of all matters of a local or sectional character, and some joint authority charged with such matters as are necessarily common to both sections of the Province.

6. *Resolved*,—“That while the details of the changes proposed in the last resolution are necessarily subject for future arrangement, yet this assembly deems it imperative to declare that no Government would be satisfactory to the people of Upper Canada, which is not based on the principle of Representation by Population.

"The Constitution of the Association, formed at the Convention of 1859, provided *inter alia* in Article III., as follows:—

"Article 3.—The general affairs of the Association shall be managed by an executive committee, holding its first meeting in Toronto; of which committee all members of Parliament subscribing to this constitution, and all presidents of branch associations, shall be members, with such other members of the association as the committee may from time to time elect. The said committee may appoint its own officers, and adopt rules and by-laws, ten being a quorum for that purpose.

"The Executive Committee here referred to was reconstituted at a Reform meeting held in this City on the 9th April, 1867, and the following gentlemen appointed members of it:—

D. BLAIN, Esq.
E. BLAKE, Esq., Q.C.
HON. GEORGE BROWN, M.P.P.
JOHN BOYD, Esq.
W. H. BURNS, Esq.
ALEX. CAMERON, Esq.
ADAM CROOKS, Esq., Q.C.
J. D. EDGAR, Esq.
WM. HENDERSON, Esq.
THOS. HODGINS, Esq.
H. S. HOWLAND, Esq.

JAS. LESSLIE, Esq.
JOHN LEYS, Esq.
HON. D. McDONALD, M.L.C.
JOHN McDONALD, Esq., M.P.P.
KENNETH MCKENZIE, Esq., Q.C.
HON. WM. McMASTER, M.L.C.
HON. JOHN McMURRICH.
JAMES METCALFE, Esq.
A. M. SMITH, Esq., M.P.P.
S. SPREULL, Esq.

"This Executive Committee is now in active operation, and it is in consequence of resolutions formally and unanimously adopted at a meeting specially called to consider the subject that we now address you.

"The Executive Committee are of opinion that it might be a proper thing, and highly advantageous to the cause of Reform, were a great Reform Convention, such as that of 1859, to be convened in Toronto on an early day, to rejoice over the great success that has attended their past labours, and to adopt measures for securing the correction of the abuses so long deplored by the Reform party, and for the infusion of those sound Reform principles into the daily administration of public affairs—to secure which the Constitutional changes now achieved were so long and so earnestly laboured for.

"The Executive Committee are of opinion that such an assemblage, by bringing together the prominent men of the party for consultation and friendly intercourse, would inspire new vigour into the Reform cause. It would enable the new men, who have been selected to bear the banners of Reform in the several constituencies, to become personally known to each other—and it would afford an opportunity for consolidating the party, harmonizing the views of those who may have been temporarily estranged by the occurrences of late years, and enabling the whole Reform party to act heartily and unitedly for common ends at the coming general elections.

"While strongly impressed with the very great and obvious advantage to the Reform cause that must accrue from such a gathering—the Executive Committee hesitated to take the responsibility of summoning the Convention without previous communication with friends of the cause throughout the country. It was accordingly determined that a private circular should be addressed to the Upper Canada Reform members of the present House of Assembly, to the candidates of the Reform party now seeking election, to Presidents and Secretaries of Branch Reform Associations, and to Editors of newspapers sustaining the views of the Reform party;—inquiring whether in their opinion such a Convention would be advantageous to the cause, and whether the last Thursday of this month (June) would be a convenient day for its assembling.

"We have the honour to be,

"Dear Sir,

"Yours respectfully,

"S. SPREULL, } JOINT
"J. D. EDGAR, } SECRETARIES."

The response to this Circular from all sections of the Province, and from Reformers of all shades of opinion, has been in the highest degree satisfactory. The movement is almost universally hailed with enthusiasm, as calculated to unite cordially all sections of the Reform party, and add great additional strength in the coming electoral contest. Thus strengthened by popular opinion throughout the country, the Executive Committee have felt it their duty to lose not a day in summoning the Convention.

The Executive Committee have deemed it advisable to adhere as closely as possible to the basis on which the Convention of 1859 was called together. All parties holding the general political principles of the Reform party of Upper Canada, and desirous of cordially uniting with their brother Reformers in carrying those principles into the government of the New Dominion, will be eligible as Delegates to the Convention. The object is to re-unite all sections of the party, and it is hoped that no differ-

ences on incidental questions, arising from occurrences of late years, will debar any taking part in the movement.

The Convention is to consist of A DELEGATE FROM THE REFORMERS TOWN AND TOWNSHIP MUNICIPALITY IN UPPER CANADA—and all Reform of the existing House of Assembly, all Reform Candidates for the Federal and Local Legislatures the new constitution, all Office-bearers of Branch Reform Associations, and all Editors of Reform Journals, will be *ex-officio* members of the Convention. As the assembly, however, is merely for discussion and organization, and to elicit the feeling of the country at the present juncture, it would be highly inexpedient to limit the number of delegates from each municipality by any absolute rule so as to exclude prominent and well-informed members of the party. It is recommended, however, that the number of Delegates from any municipality should not exceed five—except in the case of large Towns and Cities.

The office-bearers of the Association will be in attendance at the Music Hall at 10 o'clock on the morning of the Convention, but the chair will not be taken until one o'clock, after the arrival of the noon trains from the West and East.

Arrangements have been made with the Great Western, Grand Trunk, and Northern Railway Companies, so that Members of the Convention may obtain tickets to and from Toronto for one fare.

We address this Circular to you, Sir, in the belief that you will feel heartily disposed to cooperate with the Association in making the coming gathering a great success. We ask you, on the receipt of this letter, to take steps at once for the selection of Delegates to represent your municipality in the Convention.

We are,

Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

SAMUEL SPREULL, } JOINT
J. D. EDGAR, } SECRETARIES.

