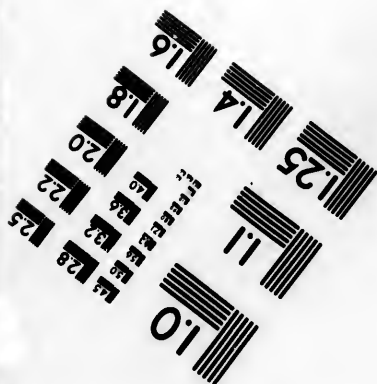
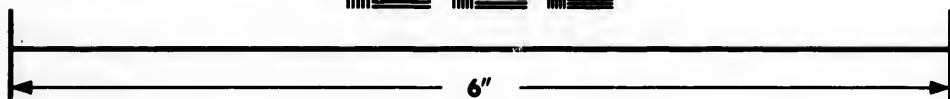
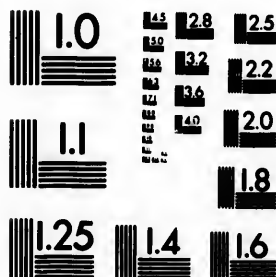


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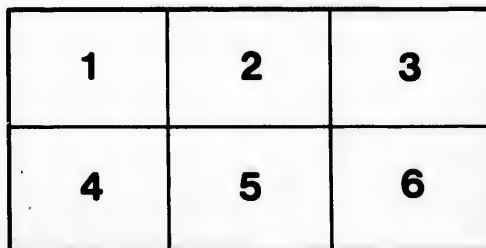
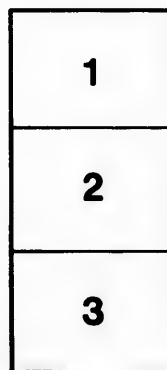
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1859
Mackenzie's
Message
Sta

To the Friends of Canadian Independence.

What are our prospects as a Colonial Dependency, for July 1859? Are they improving? Have my predictions and warnings proved true or false? Were the remedies I proposed from week to week (since 1850,) real or visionary? Do the times mend? Are we equally prosperous with our free and enterprising neighbors? Do we see our path any clearer yet toward an era of good government, and its usual results, wealth and comfort? Have our provincial elections, our union parliaments, our crafty or crazy governors, and our mock ministries—1st, Draper, Daly, Day and Killaly—next, Ogden, HINCKS, & Co.—then Sherwood, HINCKS, Ogden and Draper—after them Sullivan, Morin, HINCKS and Killaly—and again, Draper, Cayley, Morris and Daly, followed by Sherwood, John A. Macdonald, and W. B. Robiusion—then Lafontaine, Morin, and HINCKS—next, HINCKS, Morin, Drummond and John Ross—afterwards Macnab, Cauchon, Cayley, Lemieux and Chabot—and lastly, Macdonald, Cartier, Drummond and Lemieux, succeeded by Cartier & Co.; have they bettered our condition; have they not rather cheated, undermined, and deceived us?

The WEEKLY MESSAGE can't be spared just yet. It believes in party when united upon great and good principles—it despises the Canadian ins and outs, and their leaders worst of all, for their vile scrambles about office, always the badge of scycoplancy and shabbiness in a Colony like ours. It will hold on steadily for a year, and its editor has a right to ask your prompt, energetic and efficient aid in extending his influence thro' its circulation.

What's the picture like? Tens of thousands of our very best citizens and most desirable settlers are fast emigrating to other lands—either removing the means they have or driven away by want, poverty and starvation—hopeless, as they may well be, of the future of such a divided, spiritless people as we surely are. The Tories in England are out, and Palmerston and the Whigs in. What care they for us, except it be to hire us out to some needy noble or blackleg railway jobber, like a farm held on shares? In many parts of Canada, people are starving for want of food, or the means to buy food? Many persons even in Toronto have not a shilling to pay for a loaf of bread or a meal of victuals for their miserable families; beggars throng our streets; and it was only on Friday week that a very respectable inhabitant of Toronto, who had vainly tried for years to get employment of any kind, or at any price; when asked by his wife for money to buy the humblest morsel of food for his four children's dinner, as they were faint for lack of aliment, sick with hunger, perishing in the midst of official plenty, kissed his babes, borrowed a neighbor's gun, and in a fit of hopeless despair blew his brains out. We pay our legislators \$6 a day for plundering us; hosts of idle officials eat up our substance, as the locusts did in Pharaoh's time.

Whigs and Tories, alternately in power, despise our pluckless servility, while leasing us out to their needy underlings, like so many Sepoys or Coolies. Bankers and brokers squeeze the very last dollar from distress and embarrassment, thro' extortion and usury; land is unsaleable—means of payment of debt; law costs are fearfully accumulating; the licensed harpies of the profession know no limit to their extortions; one Mr. Gamble, a pampered Toronto lawyer has just broken down—the third of that family within a short time—owing, I hear, about \$80,000 to the Bank of Upper Canada, \$50,000 to the Bank of B. N. America, \$40,000 to other banks, and unable with all the "facilities," to keep upon his legs in these times. Editors, Legislators, Barristers, go to banks for "facilities," and sell their tongues, pens, and votes to those who thus enslave them. You are my bankers, and no politician ever drew money more moderately than I have done from you.

Do you no longer need the MESSAGE? Is well timed truth not to be boldly told? What have your imported turkey-cook governors and peddling parliaments ever done for you? Didn't Pedagogus Draper double Papineau's tariff of taxation? And didn't Republican Hineks double Draper's? And didn't Cayley double Hineks's, and then Hineks double Cayley's again, and Cayley play ditto once more, and, lastly, did not Annexationist Galt step in and give the taxing machinery one more terrible squeeze. And won't he get a governorship from Pam for so doing?

Instead of \$20,000 a year paid for taxes at the port of Toronto in 1836, Slippery Sponce boasts that he will draw \$820,000 out of our pockets in 1859. Instead of \$14,000, which carried the first Toronto city government thro' in 1834, Wilson & Co. will not fail to extract \$314,000 in 1859. Montreal seems almost ready for insurrection against her greedy leeches of tax-gatherers.



GOVERNOR HEAD is preparing to depart with his heavy bag of spoils, while his cabal and their foul-smelling legislature are skulking off to the colder region of Quebec. Never before had our Molasses, Teas, Coffee, and American Cottons so dear. Never before had our people less means to pay for them. The Frenchmen, after 100 years of British rule, can neither read nor write. Sir E. Head, lest they should learn their A. B. C., has imposed the heaviest tax on imported books known on this continent.

Then as to our Crops. Last year the Wheat Crop was a failure. IS THERE NO RISK OF A PARTIAL FAILURE THIS YEAR? Where are our Home Manufacturers? Where's the wealth the Usury Law Repeal was to bring us? Where's the rich and enterprising Emigrants we invited and expected? Aren't they off to the States? Where's the money wherewith to pay principal or interest on the eighty millions of dollars we are due in Europe as railway debt, public debt, loan fund debt, city, country, and all other sorts of debt? Where?

Even our postage are thrice as high as those of America—distance considered. I hear of many other failures besides Gamble's. What's to be done about them? Have you hopes from a change of Governors? Do you look with confidence to a new Legislature, to assemble far away, at Quebec? The Governor that may come next, will soon mend his beggarly fortunes out of your abject misery; and if you grumble too loud he'll pocket your phantom constitution, and hang and shoot and banish and imprison you by the thousand, just as Arthur and Colborne did. As for our Colonial Legislatures—they are usually nests of noxious birds—dunghills, reeking with perjury and iniquity—the very soom and dregs of God's creation. Place no trust in the mushrooms they nourish. It were folly.

But for the Press, and our near neighborhood to the United States, we Canadians would be oppressed and trampled on, worse even than are the miserable people of Austrian Italy.

War says the Times, London, is a horrible and revolting thing; but it has been reserved for Austria to show the world that that which the indifference of mankind allows to pass for peace may be yet more horrible and more revolting. The present war would have been impossible if that is generous and intelligent in Italy were not agreed that death on the battlefield is better than life spent in a tomb. Austria has been at war with Lombardy and Venice for the last ten years. She has not won pitched battles, for the people were effectually disarmed. But the Emperor has treated his people as enemies, and dunned and gratified and even hunted to return. If, being an Italian of the male sex, you were a subject of Francis Joseph, and too stupid to get into good as a person politically suspected, the chances are that you would be absorbed into a service you detest, in which anybody from the corporal upwards may best you with sticks, while nobody can give you promotion; you would be enrolled with foreigners—and sent to serve in Hungary. If you had opinions unfavorable to the government, and expressed them, you might avoid this fate, and be shot.

Messrs Galt, Holton, DeWitz, Rodpath, Clarkson, Ross, Molton, & Co. told you the truth in 1849. Independence is our only remedy—the power is wanted of framing our Institutions, choosing all magistrates, and entering into such alliances or confederations as may be for our permanent interest. With our debt and government, an angel would fail to secure general prosperity.

The drudgery of a periodical press I have ever hated, and 36 years' experience tells me how very hard it is to uphold, in a Colony, by voluntaryism, a free, outspoken, really useful newspaper, speaking the sentiments of an honest, untrammelled editor. "To work for nothing and find yourself" is no spur to industry. Of late I have written but little, having warned my readers not to look for regular issues. But evil times are upon us, and thro' the press only can I be of service, therefore will I take hold of the MESSAGE, and issue regularly for the next twelve months. Flowers fade if not watered. Those who think that my experience may be of service, and have little faith in our political Institutions are invited to canvass with these circulars, and thus increase my circulation.

Wasn't I RIGHT, in 1837, in advising resistance to the Allen bill? RIGHT in 1828, on the reserves question and Canada Co's land jobbers? RIGHT in opposing the Loan Fund men, tho' the reformers deserted me to a man? RIGHT in moving year by year the repeal of the union, tho' our opposition place-bunters, and Frenchified officials always voted me down? RIGHT in voting against enormous taxation? RIGHT in striving for economy? RIGHT in relating the waste of millions upon popish and protestant state priesthoods, and upon the conversion of Frenchmen's farms from leaseholds into freeholds? And when the legislature became a sink of iniquity was I not RIGHT in rolding?

Three thousand of the inhabitants of Toronto, chiefly mechanics, have left it within a month, mostly for the United States; and a like proportion to the whole population, have left Cobourg. Lord Elgin, as Colonial Secretary, will be made to feel the terrible effects of his jesuitical conduct while here: but for Canada there is a glorious future, if her people prove true to one another, and cease to confide a second time in those who may have once betrayed them.

I regret that I chose a home 40 years since in the distant dependency of a power beyond the Atlantic, instead of settling in an Independent English speaking State of the great republic, as the English, Germans, Irish and Scotch are now doing; but at my age where else on earth than among Canadians could I now feel myself at home!

Weekly Message office, Toronto, June 29, 1859.

W. L. MACKENZIE.

POSTSCRIPT.

Those who are really friendly to my views on questions of Government, will be pleased to remember, that altho' no man in Canada has suffered more and longer for the cause of freedom, or been more true and faithful to Canada's best interests, I will have to contend with the severity of the times, the enmity of the more bigoted portion of the Orangemen and Papists, the hostility of government officials, the secret slanders of place-hunting hypocrites wearing the garb of patriotism, the prejudices of that numerous, shallow, superficial class, who do not reason or reflect, the blanket sheet journals, upheld for evil purposes by authority, and sold on any credit far under their cost, and the recollections of many that the Message has at times been issued irregularly. These considerations will doubtless increase the activity of my friends in circulating this subscription list, to the success of which the harvest season is very unfavorable. I see it stated that secret meetings are being held here, at Guelph, &c., to consider relative to armed revolt. Those who attend them may find hired spies in those they least suspect. Open, manly discussion is, thus far allowed—and it will, I trust, yet prove sufficient in the just cause in which I have so long and so ardently been engaged.

In the midst of banks, brokers, government expeditors, law courts, wealthy capitalists, and a fine country, Toronto is now in great misery. I foresaw this state of things, when my name was mentioned last year as a candidate for re-election to the mayor's office, and so stated. Thousands of residents of this city are literally starving, or in a state of great poverty, altho' we have four railways, a fine harbor, and much substance in the hands of a few. It is not so at this season in Albany, Troy, Rochester, Buffalo, Brooklyn or New York. Last Monday, our excellent, humane mayor, Mr. Wilson reminded the City Council of the distress prevalent among our mechanics and laborers, and he might have added others who are ashamed to tell of their necessitation. He said that it was not merely a severity, it was absolute destitution which had to be provided for. Our prospects of alleviation had been disappointed; our citizens were now suffering more real hardship than they did even in winter. He could not bear astray in affirming that about one-half of our mechanics, laborers, clerks, accountants and copyists were wholly without employment, or the adequate means of daily subsistence; and it was just as far removed from true economy as from sound morality to hoard while starvation meets us in the face every where, and balance the lives of our people against any small addition which may be made to our debt.

It is not at a time like this, then, that my Journal should be manfully upheld, and the political diseases and its remedies carefully considered? In some countries the law compels municipalities to maintain the pauper sick and the destitute. In certain parts of Canada, the law delights in pampering the drones of society; leaving the poor to beg or starve.—M.

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