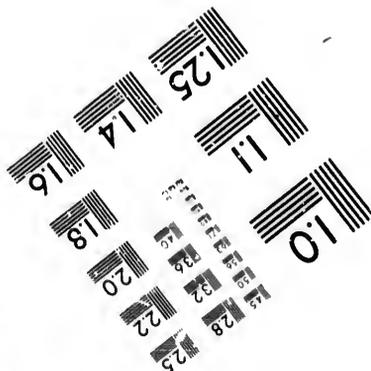
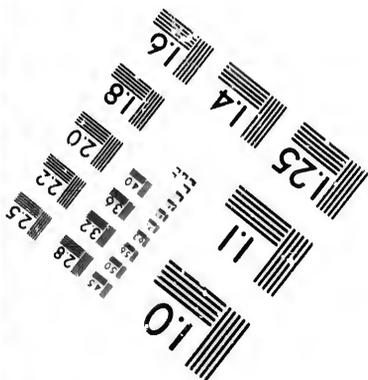
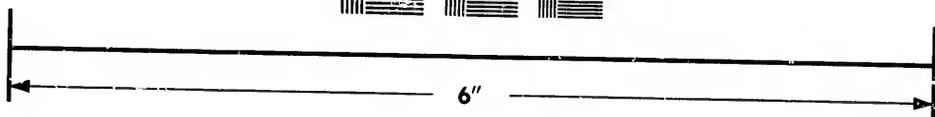
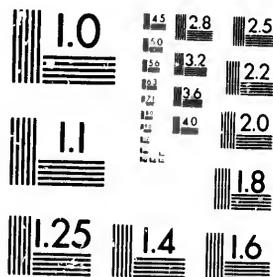


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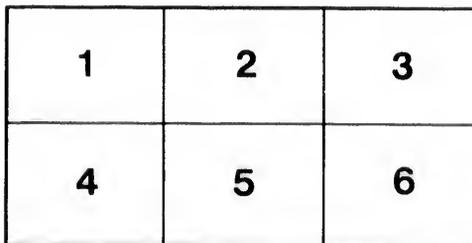
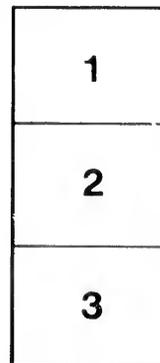
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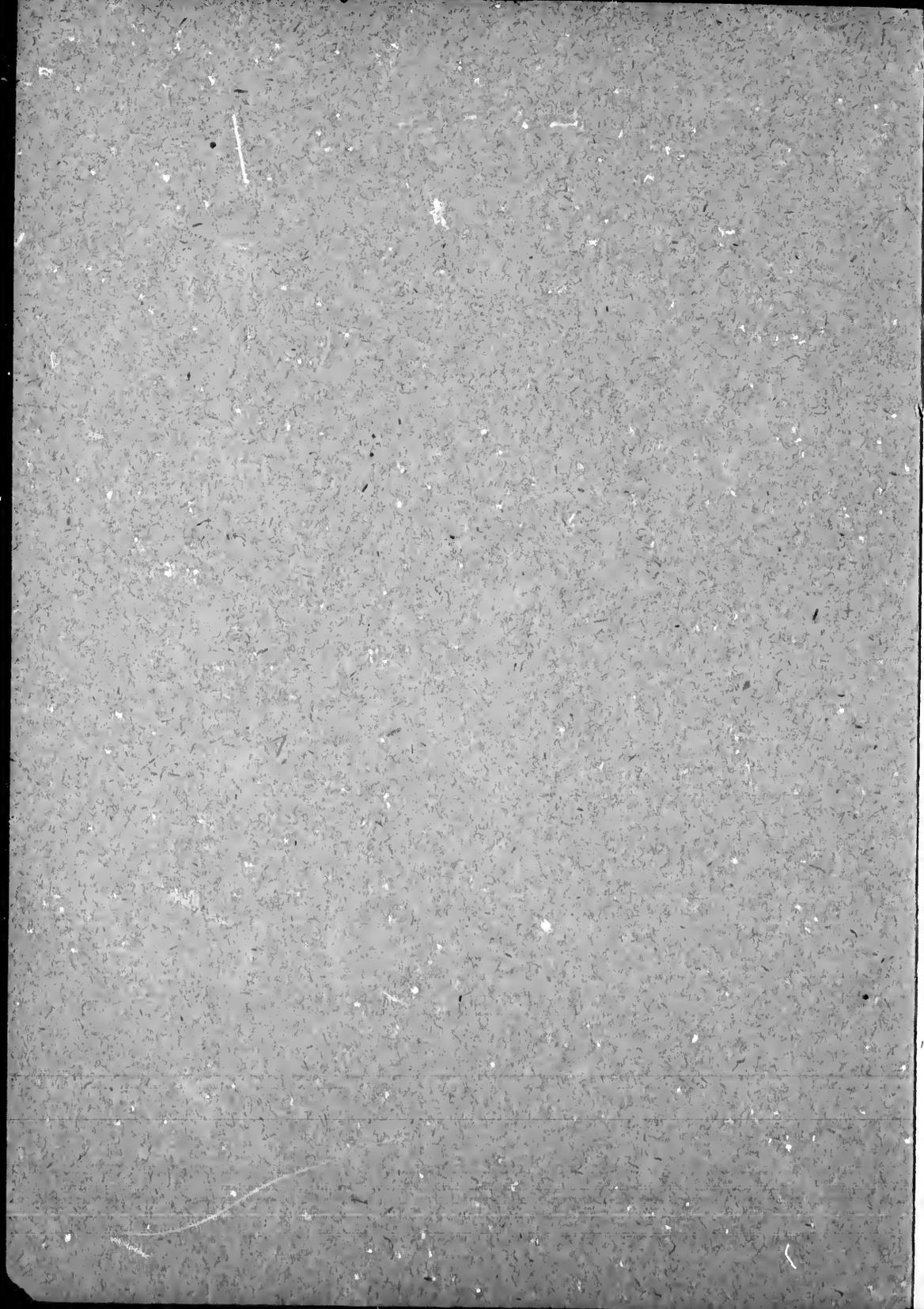
Incorporated under the Laws of Ontario, 1897.



Constitution and By-laws

REVISED, 1897





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The
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*Incorporated under the Laws of Ontario
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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

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Ex-Lieut. Governor of Ontario : elected May 11th, died June 19th, 1896.

President

DR. GEORGE STERLING RYERSON, M.L.A.,
Deputy Surgeon-General of the Canadian Militia.

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MRS. J. D. EDGAR.

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C.B., H. B. M. Minister to Portugal.
THE HONORABLE SIR CHARLES H. TUPPER, K.C.M.G., Q.C., M.P.
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MAJOR-GENERAL CHARLES W. ROBINSON, C.B.
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AN EMINENT HISTORIAN'S OPINION OF THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS.



“There were brave and honest men in America who were proud of the great and free Empire to which they belonged, who had no desire to shrink from the burden of maintaining it, . . . and who, with nothing to hope for from the Crown, were prepared to face the most brutal mob violence and the invectives of a scurrilous press, to risk their fortunes, their reputations, and even their lives, to avert civil war and ultimate separation. Most of them ended their days in poverty and exile, and as the supporters of a beaten cause, history has paid a scanty tribute to their memory: but they composed some of the best and ablest men America has ever produced, and they were contending for an ideal which was at least as worthy as that for which Washington fought. The maintenance of one free, industrial and pacific Empire, comprising the whole of the English race, may have been a dream, but it was at least a noble one.”—*Prof. Lecky, “History of the 18th Century.”*

PREFACE.

The exact origin of the name "United Empire Loyalists," applied to those persons who remained faithful to the British Crown during and after the Revolutionary War in America is involved in some obscurity. The earliest available record states that, at the suggestion of General Gage, a number of loyal persons met together in Boston, on October 28th, 1775, and formed a society called "The Loyalist Associators desiring the Unity of the Empire."

Some time after the peace, on Monday, 9th November, 1789, there met at the Council Chamber at Quebec, under the presidency of Lord Dorelleston, the Governor-General, the Privy Council for Canada. The Minutes of Council states: "His Lordship intimated to the Council that it remained a question upon the late regulation for the disposition of the waste lands of the Crown, whether the Boards constituted for that purpose were authorized to make locations to the sons of Loyalists on their coming of full age, and that it was his wish to put a mark of honor upon the families who had adhered to the unity of the Empire, and joined the Royal Standard in America before the Treaty of Separation in the year 1783.

The Council concurring with his Lordship, it is accordingly ordered:—

"That the several Land Boards take course for preserving a registry of the names of all persons falling under the description aforementioned, to the end that their posterity may be discriminated from future settlers, in the Parish Registers and Rolls of the Militia of their respective districts and other public remembrancers of the Province, as proper objects by their persevering in the fidelity and conduct so honorable to their ancestors, for distinguished benefits and privileges.

"And it is also ordered that the said Land Boards may in every case provide not only for the sons of those Loyalists as they arrive to full age, but for their daughters also of that age, or on their marriage, assigning to each a lot of two hundred acres, more or less; provided, nevertheless, that they respectively comply with the general regulations, and that it shall satisfactorily appear that there has been no

default in the due cultivation and improvement of the lands assigned to the head of the family of which they are members."

This Order-in-Council may be styled the Loyalists' charter.

The war of 1812-15 once more brought the United Empire Loyalists to the front. They and their sons were the backbone of the Upper Canadian army. It may also be said that even to-day the descendants of the old Loyalists take to the militia naturally. Lorenzo Sabine and Egerton Ryerson have written works which record the griefs, the sufferings, the noble devotion to principle and to the Empire of the Loyalists, so that when the centennial of their migration approached, many of their descendants were to be found anxious and willing to do their memory honor.

On November 23rd, 1883, a meeting was held at the Canadian Institute to consider the steps necessary to be taken to celebrate the centenary. There were present Dr. Camiff, Lieut.-Col. George T. Denison, Messrs. W. A. Foster, D. B. Read and C. Egerton Ryerson, Dr. E. W. Spragge, Dr. G. Sterling Ryerson and Rev. Dr. Withrow. The meeting resolved on the centenary celebration of 1884, which was successfully carried out at Adolphustown, June 16th to 18th; Toronto, July 3rd, and Niagara, August 14th, of that year. A suggestion for permanent organization was rejected. On October 1st, 1894, Dr. G. S. Ryerson proposed in the columns of the *Empire* to revive the Association, but for various reasons the idea was not carried into effect.

On February 28th, 1896, a meeting called by Mr. Wm. Hamilton Merritt and others, was held at the Canadian Institute. Mr. A. McLean Howard was appointed Chairman, and Mr. Merritt, Secretary *pro tem*. The following committee was appointed to draft a constitution, and report at a subsequent meeting: Mr. A. McLean Howard, Mr. W. H. Merritt, Mrs. Hicks, Miss Merritt, Mr. S. C. Biggs, Lieut.-Col. George A. Shaw, Mr. C. Egerton Ryerson and Dr. G. S. Ryerson.

At the first general meeting of the reorganized United Empire Loyalist Association, held at the same place on May 11th, 1896, the Hon. John Beverley Robinson was unanimously elected President, and Mr. William Hamilton Merritt, Secretary. A constitution and by-laws which had been drawn up by the special committee were read and approved.

Much was expected from Mr. Robinson in this position, as it was known that he was well versed in the early history of this country, and that he took a keen interest in everything connected therewith, also on account of his great ability and long experience in public life.

But it was otherwise ordered, and under circumstances of a most unusual nature, and whilst engaged in preparing to speak at a great public meeting on a grave constitutional question, he was suddenly called hence on June 19th, 1896. To him the Association lost a learned antiquarian, a patriotic Canadian and an eminent president. He was succeeded by Dr. G. Sterling Ryerson, M.L.A.

The constitution and by-laws were revised in April, 1897, by a special committee, consisting of the President, Messrs. H. H. Cook, E. A. Maclaurin, W. Roaf, C. E. Ryerson, Stephen M. Jarvis, Lieut.-Col. Shaw, and the Rev. Messrs. Ball and C. E. Thomson.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

NAME AND CHIEF SEAT.

I. The organization shall be known as the "United Empire Loyalist Association of Ontario," hereinafter referred to as the General Association, and its chief seat shall be at Toronto.

BRANCHES

II. Branches of the Association may be established at any place in the Province of Ontario, where, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, it is deemed advisable, and the President of such Branch shall be *ex officio* a Vice-President of the General Association. Members of such Branches shall be entitled to the same privileges as Associate Members of the General Association.

OBJECTS.

III. The objects of this Association shall be :

(a) To unite together, irrespective of creed or political party, the descendants of those families who, during the American Revolutionary War of 1775 to 1783, sacrificed their homes in retaining their loyalty to the British Crown, and to perpetuate this spirit of loyalty to the Empire.

(b) To preserve the history and traditions of that important epoch in Canadian history, by rescuing from oblivion the history and traditions of the loyalist families before it is too late.

(c) To collect together in a suitable place the portraits, relics and documents relating to the United Empire Loyalists which are now scattered throughout the Dominion.

(d) To publish an historical and genealogical journal, or annual transactions.

QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

IV. All persons of either sex, resident in Ontario, who can trace their lineal descent, by either the male or female line, from the United Empire Loyalists, shall be eligible for ordinary membership. The wives or husbands of ordinary members, and who are not otherwise

qualified for membership, may be elected Associate members, but are not entitled to vote. Charter members shall be those members who joined prior to and including the regular meeting in April, 1897. They shall have the letter "C" placed after their names on the Roll of Members. Members of Branches become *ipso facto* associate members of the General Association. They may become ordinary members on payment of fifty cents annually to the General Association.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

V. A form of recommendation for admission, signed by two members, shall be forwarded to the Secretary, and by him laid before the committee appointed for the purpose of investigating the qualifications of applicants for membership. If at the next or any subsequent regular meeting the report of this committee is satisfactory, the person shall be declared elected, unless a ballot is called for, and a majority shall elect. Members of branches do not require election to the General Association; the payment of the fee is sufficient. The Association shall have power at special general meeting called for that purpose, to expel any member, for cause shown, by a three-fourths majority of those present.

FEEs.

VI. The annual membership and associate membership fee shall be one dollar. A family, viz., husband, wife and children residing at home, shall pay two dollars per annum; non-resident membership fee, fifty cents, payable in advance. But any member or associate member being one year in arrears may be struck off the list of members by the Executive Committee. Any person eligible for membership may become a life-member by paying the sum of \$15.00, and shall be exempt from further payments. No member shall be entitled to vote at election of officers who is more than one year in arrears of dues. The annual fees shall be due on the second Thursday in March in each year.

OFFICERS.

VII. The office bearers shall consist of a President, five Vice-Presidents, one of whom shall be a lady, and the Presidents of Branches, who are *ex officio* Vice-Presidents, Secretary-Treasurer and Assistant Secretary; either of the latter may be a lady.

HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS AND MEMBERS.

VIII. (a) All sons and daughters of United Empire Loyalists now living shall be Honorary Vice-Presidents of the Association.

(b) Distinguished men and women, descendants of United Empire Loyalists, resident or non-resident in the Province, may be elected by a majority of those present at a meeting, as Honorary Vice-Presidents; such Vice-Presidents shall not be liable for the annual fee.

(c) Members of the Association, gentlemen or ladies, who, in the opinion of a two-thirds majority of the meeting have rendered distinguished service to the Association, may be elected honorary members. The name of such member or honorary Vice-President must be proposed and seconded at a regular meeting at least four weeks before the date of election.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

IX. Shall consist of seven members, to be elected at the annual meeting, three of whom shall form a quorum, which shall manage all such affairs of the Association as are entrusted to them. The President and Vice-Presidents (actual and *ex officio*) and Secretary-Treasurer shall be *ex officio* members of this Committee. The two members of this Executive Committee, whose names appear first (right and left) in the list, shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election at the next following meeting.

THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.

X. Shall consist of three members, two of whom shall form a quorum. All persons nominated for membership shall be favorably reported upon by them, before being elected to membership by the Association.

THE LADIES' COMMITTEE.

XI. Shall consist of twelve members, five of whom shall form a quorum. They shall arrange all matters submitted to them by the Association or by the Executive Committee, to whom they shall respectively report.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES.

XII. All officers and standing committees of the Association shall be elected at the annual meeting, or so soon thereafter as conveniently may be, if for any reason such election cannot take place at the annual meeting. And such officers and committees shall hold office until the next annual meeting, or until their successors are elected; vacancies occurring during the year to be filled by election as may be required. Special committees may be appointed at any regular or special general meeting.

Where it is not otherwise stated, the officers and members of committees shall be gentlemen.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.*

XIII. The President shall be chairman of all meetings at which he shall be present, and in his absence, one of the Vice-Presidents shall take the chair. In the absence of the Vice-Presidents, the members present shall elect a chairman for the meeting.

XIV. The Secretary-Treasurer shall hold in trust the funds of the Association, which shall be deposited in the name of the Association in a bank approved by the committee. He or she shall receive all moneys and pay all accounts that are properly certified as correct, and shall present, when required, from time to time, a statement of the accounts.

XV. The Secretary-Treasurer, or the Assistant Secretary, shall attend all meetings, shall take the minutes of the proceedings, shall be responsible for the safe custody of all papers, books and other property, and under direction of the Executive Committee shall conduct the general business of the Association.

MEETINGS.

XVI. The Annual General Meeting for the election of office-bearers, and the transaction of the business of the Association, shall be held in the City of Toronto, on the date of the regular meeting in March in each year. The regular meetings shall be held on the second Thursday in every month, except during such summer months as may be thought desirable not to meet by the members present at the regular meeting in May. Meetings shall be held at such hour and place as the Executive Committee appoints, of which due notice shall be sent to every member.

XVII. General meetings other than the regular monthly meetings may be called for the reading and discussion of papers, and for the transaction of business. The business or subject for discussion shall be specified in the special notice conveying such a meeting, which shall be sent to every member.

Such special general meetings may be called at any time by the President, or in his absence, by the Executive Committee.

XVIII. Extraordinary or urgent business may be transacted at any meeting without special notice when considered absolutely necessary by a three-fourths majority of those present.

XIX. At all general meetings, whether special or annual, fifteen members shall form a quorum.

PAPERS.

XX. Papers on subjects relating to the objects of this Association and to cognate subjects may be read by members, or by others who may be requested to do so, at any regular meeting or any special meeting called for this purpose. Papers shall not exceed twenty minutes in length, but the time for reading may be extended by vote of the members. All papers read shall become the property of the Association.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

- XXI. 1.—Reading of minutes of last meeting.
 2.—Reading of correspondence.
 3.—Passing of accounts.
 4.—Propositions for membership.
 5.—Reports of committees.
 6.—Election to membership.
 7.—Notices of motion.
 8.—General business.
 9.—Election of officers.
 10.—Reading of papers.

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

XXII. The foregoing Constitution and By-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of any meeting, but notice of motion for such amendment must be given at least four weeks previous to the discussion of the same, of which notice the Secretary shall duly inform every member.

These pages were printed at the expense of SIR RODERICK W. CAMERON, an Honorary Vice-President, to whom the Association is greatly indebted.



