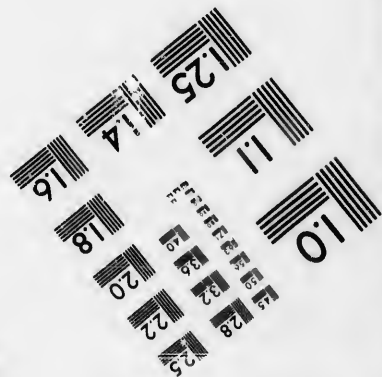
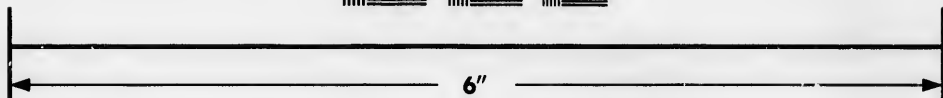
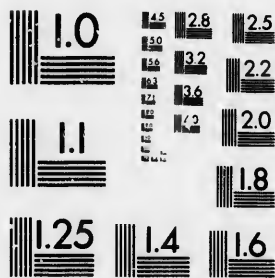


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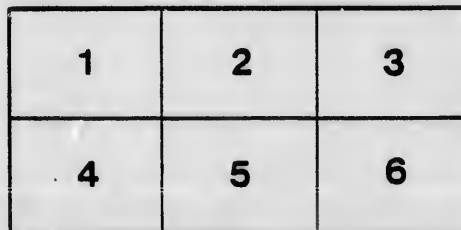
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CONSTITUTIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL.

The Annual General Meeting of this Association was held at the old Circus on Monday, the 31st December, 1838, the Hon. P. McGill, Chairman of the Executive Committee presiding, and J. Guthrie Scott, Esq., Secretary.

The Chairman having opened the meeting with a few introductory remarks, the Secretary read the following

"REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

"GENTLEMEN,—The usual period for the annual general meeting of this Association has been passed over on account of recent disturbances, but a temporary return to tranquillity at this time offers an opportunity of calling you together, which your Committee gladly seize, to report to you their proceedings during the year which is about to terminate.

It is unnecessary to lay before you an elaborate exposition of the dominant causes of a repetition of those political outbreaks, which so lamentably characterized the close of the last year, suffice it to state, that the original motives for disaffection against British connection prevailing generally among the provincial inhabitants of French origin, which madly precipitated them into the horrors of civil war of that time, have declared themselves more openly during the latter portion of the present year, and unequivocally established the fact, which has been frequently urged upon your serious attention, that prejudices originating in distinctiveness of national origin, not impetuous under oppression have given occasion to rebellions, which have swept the fairest portions of this province with misery and ruin.

The experience of recent events has abundantly confirmed the opinion recorded by this association at its last annual general meeting, that a continuance of the same national distinctiveness among the numerical majority of the provincial population will be attended by the most fatal results, and will be visibly exhibited in the desolation of Lower Canada, and the violent severance of this important and valuable colony from the British Empire.

It is gratifying to your Committee to be enabled to report that the appeal of this Association to the inhabitants of the sister colonies has been answered by satisfactory assurances, that a kindred feeling exists between them and the inhabitants of British origin in this province, that they coincide with this Association in opinion, regarding the origin and continuance of the provincial difficulties, and that they have urged upon Her Majesty's Government, the necessity of adopting prompt and vigorous measures, for destroying a nationality baneful in its character and ruinous to British interests in this Province:

The utter confusion produced by the premeditated attempts of the late House of Assembly to excite anarchy and rebellion, the insane abdication of its high and important functions, and the disturbances with which the rebellion of the last year was preceded and accompanied, all concurred in imperatively directing attention to the Legislative union of the Canadas, as the only means for establishing an efficient provincial Legislature, and for affording a remedy for the political evils of Lower Canada.

To secure the assent of Upper Canada, to a measure involving considerations of extreme importance to her political welfare became a paramount duty; communications were at once opened with influential persons in that province, and petitions to the several branches of the Legislature then in session, were prepared and transmitted without delay, earnestly pressing the necessity and expediency of the measure, as well for the relief of their brethren of British origin in this province as for securing the prosperity of both provinces, and preserving their permanent connection with the Empire at large.

The best thanks of the Association are due to Thomas McKay, Esquire, M. P. of Upper Canada, for his unremitting exertions and valuable services, in supporting the petitions to the Legislature of that province, as well as for the important information communicated by him at various times to your Committee.

In addition to these proceedings which were of a local character, the critical posture of provincial affairs presented a favourable occasion to your committee, for successfully submitting to the serious attention of the Government, the accumulated evils

which the inhabitants of British origin in this Province had so long and so patiently endured, and for deputed to England a special delegation on their behalf, with instructions chiefly to urge the immediate adoption by Her Majesty's Government of the Legislative union of the Canadas, as the only comprehensive measure commensurate with the extent of the evils operating in this Province, and capable as well of effecting their entire removal as of preventing their recurrence, petitions to the Queen's Majesty and to both branches of the Imperial Parliament, expressing the sentiments and views of the association, were approved by the general committee and transmitted to England for presentation. The Honorable George Moffatt, Esquire, then in London, and William Badgley Esquire, of Montreal, were charged with this important mission, and Robert Gillespie, Esquire, of London, was deputed to act in the place of the former gentleman in the event of his permanent absence from England.

In all these measures as well as in the nomination of the Delegates, the several branch Constitutional Associations throughout the District signified, their entire and hearty concurrence, and the Constitutional Association of Quebec, entertaining similar views upon the subject of the Union of the Canadas, nominated Andrew Stuart, Esquire, as their delegate, to urge similar measures upon the attention of the Imperial Government.

Previous to these proceedings of the Association reaching England, the passage through Parliament of the act for the suspension of the provincial Constitution, and the appointment of the Earl of Durham, as High Commissioner to enquire into the most proper means for the adjustment of the provincial difficulties, and as Governor General, with extraordinary powers of Government, Legislative and Executive, together with the delay in ascertaining the sentiments of Upper Canada upon the vital object of the Mission, and the absence of a Delegation from that Province, to support those sentiments, rendered the exertions of this delegation in reference to the union measure altogether ineffectual. Notwithstanding this unexpected result, the great importance of that measure was pressed by this delegation upon the attention of the Government and of His Excellency the Governor General, at frequent interviews and by written communications, in the hope that its adoption might be only delayed, until personal observation in the provinces might induce His Excellency to recommend its being carried into effect. Various grievances, as they appeared to affect the interests of the Province in general and of its inhabitants of British origin in particular, together with some local grievances, affecting especially the inhabitants of this City and Island, were forcibly and frequently brought by the Delegation under the notice of the Government and of His Excellency, and various documents in connection therewith, were prepared and submitted. It is scarcely necessary to add, that every information in the power of the delegation to afford, was at all times cheerfully communicated, upon the situation and prospects of Lower Canada, the composition of the provincial Legislature, and the conflicting interests, wants and wishes of the provincial population, with the specific remedies suggested for each, in order to enable His Excellency, in some degree, to estimate the evils affecting this province and the measures of relief co-extensive with those evils.

The appointment to the Bench of Justice at Quebec, of an individual who was a conspicuous member of the late House of Assembly, and an acknowledged political leader of the factious majority of the provincial population, appeared to your Committee to be fraught with so much danger, to the upright and impartial administration of justice, as to require to be brought prominently under the notice of Her Majesty with a prayer for his immediate removal from office. Resolutions to that effect were prepared and transmitted to the delegation, and by them submitted to the Government as well as other Resolutions, adopted by your Committee, having reference to omissions and delays by the proper provincial authorities, in seizing the private papers of the known leading agitators of Lower Canada, antecedent to the rebellious outbreak of the last year, whereby it was conceived that the Government may have been deprived of much important evidence, against those agitators

as well as against individuals in Upper Canada and Great Britain, with whom they were notoriously in close and constant correspondence; and further, having reference to the delay in the issue of warrants for the apprehension of persons charged with treason and sedition, whereby their escape from this province was permitted, and they were thus enabled to prosecute their treasonable designs beyond its limits. These representations were accompanied by a prayer to Her Majesty's Government, that an inquiry might be instituted into the causes of such omissions or delays, and so to clear from suspicion, such of Her servants as were innocent and to bring to punishment such of them as were guilty.

A general statement of objections to a projected federation of the British North American Colonies, which was contemplated and appeared to be received with some favor in England, was prepared by the delegates from both Associations, and laid before the Government.

The state of education in this province in reference to that portion of the provincial population deriving its origin from the Mother Country, and the extreme necessity for establishing a general system of instruction upon an efficient and permanent basis, in the elementary as well as in the higher branches of learning and science for the youth using the English language, were also brought by the Delegation under the notice of the Government, for the purpose of obtaining the fulfillment of the Royal intentions in that particular, and the employment of the means at the disposal of the Government, for carrying those beneficent intentions into effect. The lively solicitude evinced by the Right Reverend the Bishop of Exeter upon this interesting subject, and the powerful and prompt assistance offered by His Lordship, justify the claim of sincere acknowledgments of the Associations, and of the inhabitants of British origin in general throughout Lower Canada. At a later period, and subsequent to Mr. Moffatt's departure from England, Messrs. Badgley and Stuart compiled and published, at the joint expense of the two Associations, a pamphlet containing a narrative of the endowments for Education, and of the Legislative and other public acts in the Province, for its encouragement and advancement, from the cessation of the county down to that time.

The documents laid before your Committee by the Hon. G. Moffatt and W. Badgley, Esq., and which will be found among the records of the Association, amply testify the highly satisfactory manner in which their duties were discharged, and the assiduity and zeal with which the various objects of the mission were enforced and supported.

Your Committee have now reported to you as succinctly as the several matters of detail would permit, the objects of their labours during the past year: they cannot however resign the office, with which they have been honored, without briefly advertent to the peculiar circumstances of these Provinces, and recommending for your consideration, the means of relief which appear to be the best fitted for re-establishing tranquillity in this distracted Province, and advancing the general interests of the Canadas.

Your Committee in common with the loyal population of these Provinces, hailed the arrival of His Excellency, the Earl of Durham, as an epoch from which their steady and progressive improvement was to be dated: they were disposed to place entire confidence in the rectitude of his Intentions, and anticipated from his personal investigations and inquiries those legislative measures of public utility, which had been so long withheld from Lower Canada, as well as the completion of some comprehensive plan of Provincial Government. The premature termination of His Excellency's official connection with the Canadas has abruptly destroyed the expectations of your Committee, but they entertain the hope that His Excellency's presence in England, and his local knowledge respecting these Provinces acquired during his brief residence here, may contribute to the early adoption of measures, competent to secure the prosperity of these important dependencies, and to maintain their connection with the Empire.

The experience of the last two years, if preceding events had been wanting, has proved that the interests of a provincial population composed of two distinct national races, cannot be identified by

separation, and that a numerical majority of the one race cannot be assimilated with the minority of the other, by securing to the former the free exercise of the most proper means for preserving their distinct national prejudices, in opposition to the sentiments and feelings of the Empire. It may be assumed without fear of contradiction, that the occurrences of these two years, will be far from diminishing the force of national antipathies among the population of French origin, and while on the one hand, it is apparent that the existence of an independent French government in Lower Canada, would not be tolerated, it will not be denied on the other, that the Provincial Inhabitants of British origin, are too sensible of the advantages of a representative form of Government, willingly to contemplate the possibility of their privation of its benefits, for a period of any long duration. To destroy the seeds of animosity and discord, which unhappily prevail in this Province, to lose national distinctions in the multiplied improvements to flow from British energy and intelligence, to establish an efficient Legislature, capable of providing wise and judicious legislation, and of developing the resources of the Canadas, and to render this Province truly British, and thereby produce common interests and an united population, become of indispensable and immediate necessity.

Your Committee do not hesitate to reiterate their firm persuasion, that these results are only to be derived from the Legislative union of the Canadas, under such terms and conditions, and in such a manner as will secure a preponderance of British representation in the united Legislature: it is unnecessary to specify those terms and conditions at present, it will suffice to remark, that they are perfectly practicable, and should be of such a nature as to remove every apprehension and objection against the measure on the part of the inhabitants of the Sister Province.

The absolute division between loyalty and disloyalty to the British Government, and between attachment and opposition to British connection, exemplified in the conduct of the inhabitants of British and French origin during the rebellious outbreaks, leaves no room for hesitation as to the extent of the political privileges, which each race is justly entitled to claim, and distinctly exhibits the impolicy of continuing the system of Government heretofore pursued in reference to Lower Canada, which has only served to create feelings of hostility and separation between the two races that cannot be too greatly regretted, and which is as inconsistent with the happiness and tranquillity of the provincial inhabitants as it is opposed to just and wise principles of Colonial Government.

A return to the late system of provincial Government cannot be contemplated under any circumstances, unless it be accompanied by a decided British majority in the provincial legislature, on the ground, that since the Government itself has recognised the distinction of races, the British, as a whole, ought to possess such a proportion in that Legislature as would secure their rights and maintain their privileges, and as the only means independent of the legislative union of the Canadas, for

maintaining the connection of the colony with the parent state. The difficulties in effecting this object appear to be so formidable as absolutely to prevent its adoption.

The objections to the federation of the British North American Colonies, are so numerous and cogent and so plain as not to require being detailed here; it may however be remarked generally, that the adoption of this scheme of Government would neither palliate nor remove any of the political difficulties of this province, would leave them without remedy, and supersadd others of even greater magnitude, affecting as injuriously the Canadas as the other North American Colonies.

The Legislative Union of the Canadas, therefore, appears to offer the only comprehensive means for the vigorous improvement of both provinces in wealth and population, for the increase of the resources of the Mother Country by extending the outlets of British industry, and for the promotion of British settlements by the establishment of a well digested system of emigration.

From the same source may be anticipated the formation of a general system of provincial administration, which shall be uniformly and permanently secured, whatever may be the changes of Ministers at home or Governors abroad, and which will put an end to the weak and vacillating policy, which has so long and so lamentably marked the colonial system of the empire.

Your Committee have the gratification of directing your attention to the large debt of gratitude which is due by this Association to Robert Gillespie, Esquire, of London, for his unwearied devotion to the interests of these provinces, and to Messieurs Gould and Bliss, of London, for their zealous and willing exertions to promote colonial interests by every means in their power and upon every occasion on which their exertions were required or could be advantageous.

Your Committee, in conclusion, respectfully take the liberty of urging upon you the necessity, of employing every energy for the attainment of the chief and important object of their recommendations, of being at all times prepared to adopt such measures as will preserve British connection and conduce to the restoration of order and tranquillity in Lower Canada, and of impressing upon the people of Great Britain and Ireland and the commercial interests in those kingdoms especially, the great importance of these Provinces, to the welfare, prosperity and security of the mighty empire, to which we have the pride and satisfaction to belong.

PETER M'GILL,
CHAIRMAN.

Montreal, 31st December, 1823.

Resolved—On motion of Mr. Torrance, seconded by Mr. Shuter, That the Report of the Executive Committee now read, be received and adopted.

Resolved—On motion of Mr. Shuter, seconded by Mr. Kay, That the persons hereafter named be appointed the General Committee of this Association for the ensuing year, with power to fill up vacancies and add to their numbers if necessary, viz:—

HON P M'GILL
J D OIBT
J M TOBIN
NOAH SHAW
ROBT FROST
THOS MITCHELL
ALER MURPHY
WM TATE
JOHN DONELLAN
ROBT HUME
WM BADGLEY
JOH SAVAGE
JOHN TORRANCE
JOHN REDPATH
JAMES LOGAN
J THORNTON
JAMES YOUNG
JOSEPH ANDREW
THOS B WRAGO
C MITCHEBERGER
ARCHD FERGUSON
THOMAS PECK
JAMES ROY
JOHN MOLSON
J SHRIMPTON
STRATHMERE STRANG
T APPLETON
JAMES SMITH
THOS CRINGAN
DR ROBERTSON
ANDREW SHAW
WM SPIERS
WM DOW
WM WATSON
J GLENNON
JOHN MACK
STANLEY BAGG
HENRY WILSON
JAMES IRWIN
DR SMITH
SAM. GERRARD
HENRY MEYER
WM EDMONSTONE
R GILLESPIE, JR
GEO PROWSE
ANDW WHITE
W RITCHE
M OMEARA
TURTON PENN
ADAM FERIE
THOS M'GINN
GEO WEATHERITT
JAMES FRASER
C D DAY
WM LUDLUM
J C GUNDLACK
LOGAN FULLER
F FARISH
THOS M'GRATH
BENJ HOLMES
F SEYBOLD
JOSEPH NICKLESS
W F CHRISTIE
G H MEAD
J P SEXTON
ALEXIT MILLER
ARTHUR ROSS
J G SCHMIDT
ISAAC VALENTINE
JAMES SPKARS
J H MATTLAND
WM MOLSON
DR ARNOLDI, SR
DR ARNOLDI, JR
R ARMOUR, SR
J JONES (THU)
JOHN BOWER
JOSEPH SHUTER

THOMAS PHILLIPS
RICHD ROBINSON
JAMES HOLMES
ROBT WEIR, JR
LEWIS MOFFATT
DAVID TORRANCE
DR SCOTT
HENRY DYER
DR STEPHENSON
ARCHD HUME
T B ANDERSON
G JOHNSTON
W GIBBONS
J G SCOTT
GEO C DAVIES
A FURNISS
JOHN BOSTON
JOHN BLACKWOOD
BENJ HART
JOHN MAYBELL
P N ROBITER
J JONES (Amid du Peuple)
JOHN RIDDLE
N P M KURCZYNE
JOHN F. MILLS
ED MATLAND
J R BRONSDON
J H LAMBE
G MUNROE
WALTER BENNY
HON G MOFFATT
HENRY CORSE
HENRY GRIFFIN
JS BRICKMANRIDGE
JOHN B FORSYTH
JOSEPH ROSS
J G MACKENZIE
W GILGAS
WM CORMACK
JOHN ORR
M J HAYS
HEW RAMSAY
DUGALD STEWART
ALEXN YASS
W GUNN
T B ENGLISH
WM KERR
G D WATSON
GEORGE TODD
GEO BOURNE
J BENNETT
CAMPBELL SWEENEY
JAS HENDERSON
ROBT HOWARD
J S M'CORD
JOSEPH FRASER
G C FRASER
COLIN CAMPBELL
ANDREW COWAN
ERNEST IDLER
GEO PHILLIPS
GEO GARTH
ROBERT MORRIS
DAVID CHISHOLM
WM STEPHENS
J M'PHERSON
NEIL MINTOSH
WM HUTCHINSON
J S GLASFORD
JOSEPH GEROUX
J MATHEWSON
JOS MERRITT
JOHN JAMESON
NAMUM HALL
J WHITLAW
A F HARR
H L ROUTH
THOS KAY.

Mr. Fraser then took the Chair, and it was *Resolved*—That the thanks of the meeting be tendered to the Hon. P. M'Gill, Chairman of the meeting.

P. M'GILL, Chairman,
J. GUTHRIE SCOTT, Secretary.

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