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Minutes of a Preliminary Meeting of the Delegates, elected by the various Districts of British Columbia, convened at Yale, pursuant to the following call:—

“YALE CONVENTION.

THE Confederation League propose holding at Yale, on Monday, 14th September, 1868, a Convention of Delegates, for the purpose of accelerating the admission of this Colony into the Dominion of Canada, upon equitable and beneficial terms; and, also, to devise means to secure Representative Institutions with Responsible Government for this Colony; and to take such other steps as the Convention may deem proper to obtain redress for the numerous grievances under which this country now suffers.

The Inhabitants of the respective Districts of the Colony are invited to elect Delegates without delay to represent their views in the above Convention.

By order of the Executive Committee,
“ROBERT BEAVEN,
“Secretary.”

The following Gentlemen were present :

Messrs. Wallace, Robson, DeCosmos, Fisher, Barnard, Black, Evans, Norris, McMillan, Thompson, Featherstone, Gibbs, Babbitt, Withrow, Armstrong, Miller, Smith, Holbrook, Rose, Nelson, Havelock, Fulton, McLardy, Brouse, King.

Moved by Mr. Barnard, seconded by Mr. Robson: That Mr. Wallace take the Chair *pro tem*.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Barnard, seconded by Mr. Nelson: That Mr. Chas. Evans be Secretary *pro tem*.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. DeCosmos: That a Committee on credentials, consisting of three, be appointed; which Committee shall suggest what offices are necessary for the purposes of the Convention. Seconded by Mr. McMillan and carried.

The Chairman appointed as Committee on credentials, Messrs. Barnard, Thompson, and Babbitt.

Moved by Mr. DeCosmos, seconded by Dr. Black: That an intermission till the call of the Chairman be allowed for the Committee on credentials to report.—Carried

On the Chairman resuming his seat, the Committee on credentials presented the following Report, and asked leave to sit again:

The Committee appointed to examine credentials report the following Gentlemen qualified to sit in this Convention:

Messrs. R. Wallace, Amor DeCosmos, (Victoria); Brouse, (Lake In Hache); Henry Holbrook, John Robson, A. W. S. Black, David Withrow, (New Westminster City); Alex. Rose (Yale District); D. W. Miller, (New Westminster District); R. Smith, (Lytton District); Chas. Evans, Adam McLardy, Henry Havelock, (Yale); Jas. E. McMillan, J. G. Norris, (Victoria); M. W. Gibbs, (Salt Spring Island); E. H. Babbitt,

W. C. King, (Cariboo); J. C. Armstrong, (Quesnel Mouth); F. J. Barnard, (Williams Lake); Thos. Fulton, (Metchosin); H. Featherstone, (Lillooet); J. B. Thompson, W. Fisher, (Esquimalt); Hugh Nelson, (Burrard inlet); James Donnelley, (Harrison River).

The Committee recommend the election of the following Officers for this Convention, viz.,

A Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, Two Secretaries, a Sargeant-at-Arms, a Standing Committee on Business, to consist of five members.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

F. J. BARNARD,
Chairman.

Moved by Mr. Robson, seconded by Mr. DeCosmos : That Report of Committee on credentials be received.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. DeCosmos : That the Committee on business be seven instead of five.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Robson : That so much of the Report as related to a Vice-Chairman be rejected.—Carried.

The Report of the Committee on Business was then adopted as amended.

Moved by Mr. Barnard, seconded by Mr. Norris : That Mr. Wallace be Chairman of the Convention.—Carried

Moved by Mr. Robson, seconded by Mr. Thompson : That Messrs. Havelock and Evans act as Secretaries.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Barnard, seconded by Mr. McLardy : That Mr. Barlow be engaged to act as Sargeant-at-Arms.—Carried.

The Chairman then declared the Convention open for the transaction of Business.

The Chairman appointed Messrs. Havelock, Babbitt, DeCosmos, Robson, Thompson, McMillan, and the Chairman, as Committee on Business.

Moved by Mr. Norris, seconded by Mr. Barnard : That the Convention adjourn till 1 p.m.

ADJOURNED MEETING.

Convention met at 1 p.m.

Mr. Wallace in the Chair.

Present : Messrs. Robson, DeCosmos, Fisher, Black, Evans, Norris, McMillan, Thompson, Barnard, Featherstone, Gibbs, Babbitt, Withrow, Armstrong, Miller, Smith, Holbrook, Rose, Nelson, Havelock, Fulton, McLardy, King, Brouse.

The Committee on Business presented their Report and asked leave to sit again.

Moved by Mr. Barnard, seconded by Mr. Norris : That the Report of the Committee on Business be received.

Moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. DeCosmos: That this Convention resolve itself into Committee of the Whole, for consideration of the Report of the Committee on Business.—Carried.

The Chairman then appointed Dr. Brouse as Chairman of Committee, and left the Chair.

On the Chairman resuming the Chair, Dr. Brouse reported the following fifteen Resolutions:

WHEREAS THIS CONVENTION; composed of Delegates representing different constituencies, has—at the general popular desire and after due and ample public notice—been convened at Yale, British Columbia, this September 14th, 1868, by the call of the Confederate League, and by the authority of the people of British Columbia in the respective districts declared, to give a full, unprejudiced and united expression of their views and feelings respecting the desirability of the admission of this Colony into the Dominion of Canada, the necessity for the immediate establishment of representative institutions with Responsible Government, and generally as to the state, wants and wishes of the country;

And whereas this Convention is duly impressed with the high, responsible and patriotic duties that their Fellow-countrymen have called on them to discharge, and cherishes the most ardent and devoted loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and attachment to British Institutions;

And Whereas it is expedient to resolve and declare what in its opinion is right and proper in the premises. This Convention, therefore, in virtue of the trust reposed in it, and with an honest and patriotic desire to promote the public welfare, after due deliberation, resolves and declares as follows:

I. That all Governments should exist by the free and just consent of the governed, and that the Government that does not exist by the free and just consent of the governed is a despotism. That the Government of British Columbia does not exist by the free and just consent of the governed, and is, therefore, a Despotism. That it is unsuited to the free British subjects of this Colony. That it deprives the people of their rightful share in the Government, as no Statute or Order in Council exists which guarantees to the people the right to participate in the Government of the Colony; but in the Legislative and Executive Departments all are nominated or may be rejected, suspended or removed by the Governor of this Colony. That the ordinary consequences of such a form of government are manifest in this Colony, in the disregard of public opinion, in the neglect of public interests, in the high taxation, in the annual deficits, in the annually increased public debt, in expending large sums of public money in paying salaries disproportionate to the services rendered, and in maintaining an unnecessarily large number of officials, and in the tendency which the continuance of such political evils have to weaken the attachment of the people to the Crown and British connection. That to such an extent have the evils of misgovernment multiplied that profound, wide-spread, universal discontent prevails and is expressed at the form of Government and at the manner in which the affairs of the Colony have been and are mismanaged; and that the people of British Columbia loudly demand a REMEDY.

II. That the proper remedy for the present political condition of the Colony and the one that commends itself as preferable to all others—being in harmony with Imperial policy and the legitimate aspirations and desires of the people of this Colony—is the immediate admission of British Columbia into the Dominion of Canada on terms equitable, expedient and beneficial, simultaneous with the establishment of Representative Institutions and Responsible

Government; and that, whether admission into the Dominion of Canada shall occur or not, Representative Institutions and Responsible Government should be inaugurated forthwith in British Columbia.

III. That the terms of admission into the Dominion of Canada that would be equitable, expedient and beneficial to the Colony, in the opinion of this Convention, are chiefly expressed in the following fifteen sections:—

1. The limits of British Columbia, on and after admission, to be the same as at present.
2. The Dominion of Canada to become liable for the Public Debt of British Columbia at the time of admission.
3. The Dominion of Canada to pay annually out of her Consolidated Revenue Fund, in semi-annual advances, to British Columbia for the support of her local Government and Legislature, the sum of \$110,000, and also, an annual Grant in aid of the local Government of British Columbia, equal to Eighty Cents per head of the population of British Columbia, the minimum number of said population, including Indians, not to be estimated at less than 40,000 at any time, and the increase of population after admission to be the increase of population other than Indians, and the said increase of population to be determined by census or otherwise as may from time to time be expedient.
4. All Crown Lands, Mines, Minerals and Royalties situate in British Columbia at the time of admission, and all sums of money then due or payable, or that may afterwards accrue for such Crown Lands, Mines, Minerals and Royalties to belong to British Columbia and to be under the exclusive control of its Government and Legislature.
5. All Stocks, Cash, Bankers' Balances and Securities for money belonging to British Columbia, at the time of admission, to be the property of British Columbia.
6. All Public Works and Property of British Columbia at the time of admission, to belong to British Columbia, with the exception of such portions of the Grand Trunk road through British Columbia, or other roads then constructed, as may be used as a portion of the trans-continental road, which shall become the property of the Federal Government.
7. The Dominion of Canada to construct within three years after the admission of British Columbia, a good Overland Waggon Road, extending from Lake Superior, Ontario, to the head of navigation on the Lower Fraser river, British Columbia, and to commence the construction of the same through the Rocky Mountains within one year after admission.
8. The Imperial Government to guarantee a Loan to construct the said Overland Road, if deemed expedient.
9. If at any time after admission the Legislature of British Columbia shall pass an address to the Governor-General of Canada declaring that it is expedient to establish a Free Port on the Pacific, in order to advance the interests of British commerce in the North Pacific, the Parliament of the Dominion to make provision for the establishment of the same.
10. British Columbia to be represented in the Senate by not less than two Members, and in the Commons by not less than three Members, at any time.
11. At the first election of Representatives to the Commons and until otherwise provided by the Parliament of Canada, the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia to proclaim what shall be the qualifications and disqualifications of Representatives and Electors, the boundaries of Electoral Districts and the laws governing such elections.
12. At the time of admission, the Revenue Laws of the Dominion of Canada to extend and apply to British Columbia, and thereupon the Revenue Laws of British Columbia thereby affected to be null and void, and all Duties and Revenues derived in and from British Columbia under the Revenue Laws of

the Dominion of Canada to belong to Canada.

13. The exclusive powers of Provincial Legislatures enumerated in the ninety-second Section of "The British North America Act, 1867," and all other provisions of the said Act that extend and apply generally to the provinces of the Dominion of Canada and that may be applicable to British Columbia, except as otherwise in these terms provided, to extend and apply to British Columbia, at and from the time of admission.

14. Except as otherwise provided, all Laws in force in British Columbia at the time of admission, and all Courts of Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction, and all Legal Commissions, Powers and Authorities, and all Officers, Judicial, Administrative and Ministerial existing therein at the time of admission to continue in British Columbia as if such admission had not taken place; subject nevertheless to be repealed, abolished or altered by the Parliament of Canada or by the Legislature of British Columbia, according to the authority of the said Parliament or of the said Legislature, under "The British North America Act, 1867," and any subsequent Imperial Act.

15. Until the Parliament of Canada provides otherwise, all Officers of British Columbia, at and from the time of admission, having duties to discharge in relation to matters other than those coming within the Classes of subjects assigned by "The North America Act, 1867," to the Provinces, to be Officers of Canada.

The Convention adjourned till 10 a. m., 15th September.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Convention met at 10 a. m., on the 15th.

Moved by Mr. Babbitt, seconded by Mr. Smith: That the reading of the Minutes of yesterday be deferred.—Carried.

The Secretary presented the Report of the Committee on Business, and asked leave to sit again.

Moved by Mr. DeCosmos and seconded by Mr. Robson: That Report of Committee be received.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Barnard and seconded by Mr. Nelson: That the Convention go into Committee of the Whole to consider Report of Business Committee.—Carried.

The Chairman then appointed Dr. Brouse as Chairman of the Committee and left the Chair.

On the Chairman resuming, Dr. Brouse reported the following resolutions:—

That this Convention further resolves and declares:—

IV. That the people of British Columbia desire Representative Institutions with Responsible Government, and have the capacity to work those institutions successfully in the interest of the Colony; and that any representations that have been or that may be made to the contrary in England or elsewhere, would neither be in accordance with facts nor the views of the people of this Colony; the people being the best judges of their own affairs.

V. That the establishment of Representative Institutions, without the simultaneous inauguration of Responsible Government, would be only a partial and very imperfect remedy for the evils produced by the present form of Government; and that unless the Governor were required to govern in accordance with the advice and consent of an Executive Council holding seats in the Legislature, and commanding the confidence and support of a majority of the representatives of the people, there would never be that degree of harmony between the Executive and the representatives of the people that is essential

to the successful working of the Government and the rational contentment of the country.

VI. That, whether admitted into the Dominion or not, the Legislature should consist of a Governor and one Chamber called the Legislative Assembly; that the members of the Assembly should be elected for a period of not more than four years; that the sessions should be held annually; that members be paid their reasonable expenses for a period not exceeding forty days in each session. That the qualification for members be as follows:—Being a male British subject of full age, and possessing real or personal property, or both, of the value of \$500. That the qualification of electors be as follows:—1. A male British subject, or alien who has taken the oath of allegiance. 2. Residence in the Colony one year, and in the District in which the vote is cast, three months. 3. Possessed of real or personal property, or both, at the time of registration, to the value of \$100. 4. Registered on the electoral roll of the District. That any male alien, who can read and write or speak the English language, and who has been five years in the Colony, and is possessed of real estate to the value of \$100, and appears on the electoral roll, shall be entitled to vote.

VII. That the Executive Council, as at present constituted, does not command public confidence nor represent the country in the Government, is irresponsible, or not accountable to the people for the administration of its respective departments, and under the present constitution of the Colony is but an echo of the Governor, and generally antagonistic to the well-being of the Colony; and that the substitution therefor of an Executive Council which holds office only while it commands the confidence and support of a majority of a Representative Legislature, would be hailed with delight by the country.

VIII. That the nominative character and official elements of the Legislative Council render it unsuited to a Colony of free British subjects. That the Council may be composed of twenty-three members, or merely a quorum, as the Governor may decree. That the people have no right guaranteed to them by Statute or order in Council by which they may send representatives to participate in the deliberations of the Council as they would have were the Council a Representative Assembly, in the British sense of the term "Representative," inasmuch as the election of a member by the people does not insure him a seat in the Council. That the people have no constitutional power to pass good measures nor to stop the passage of bad measures, through the Council. That the Legislative Council violates a fundamental principle of the British Constitution by imposing taxes on the people without representation. That it disregards public opinion and neglects public interests. That it consents to the maintenance in office of more officials than the country can afford or the public service requires. That it concurs with the Executive in an extravagant Civil List, adding annually to the Public Debt. That the non-representative character of the Council, the non-existence of a Representative Assembly, combined with mal-administration, have (by the discontent produced), a tendency to alienate the affections of the people from the Crown. That the officials, the paid servants of the public, rule the people with irresponsible authority; and that it is their interest to resist reform to retain office. That the officials, who form a majority of the Council, vote as the Executive intimates whenever required, and that, consequently, the majority of the Council has no real independence, is a sham Legislature, the Governor and Executive Council being virtually the Legislature of the Colony. That the Legislative Council does not represent the people of British Columbia, and from its nominative and dependent character, can never gain popular confidence and support, and will always be productive of popular discontent. That the people have no confidence in the Council, and will never be satisfied with the constitution of the Legislature till a Representative Assembly is established.

IX. That one of the reasons why Union between Vancouver Island and British Columbia was sought was that a Supreme Court of Appeal for the whole Colony could be economically created. That the colonies were united two years ago, and yet no Appellate Court has been inaugurated. That as a consequence of the continued separate existence of the Supreme Courts of Vancouver Island and British Columbia confidence in those Courts respectively has been materially impaired. That it is the prevailing opinion that such continued separation of the Courts and non-inauguration of a Supreme Court of Appeal has been due to more consideration for the personal interests of the Judges than for the general interests of Justice throughout the Colony.

X. That by appointing Stipendiary Magistrates and Gold Commissioners to seats in the Legislative Council they are withdrawn from their respective districts for long continuous periods, leaving such districts without any competent authority to aid in the protection of life and property, and thereby virtually declaring that such officers are not required.

XI. That the salary, allowances and perquisites of the Governor (exceeding the sum of \$20,000) are unreasonable and ought to be reduced to a figure proportionate to the ability of the Colony and the services rendered. That in addition to the above salary and perquisites there is an annual interest of six per cent. on \$45,000. making the approximate cost of residence in Victoria, \$2700. That the salary of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario, Canada, with a population of 1,500,000 is only \$8000 per annum; and that there is no good reason why the salary of the Governor of this Colony should exceed \$10,000 per annum with a residence. That if the Governor's salary be reduced to that amount and the allowances, perquisites and extra assistance of \$500 be abolished, there would be an annual saving in the Governor's Department of about \$10,000.

XII. That the salary of the Colonial Secretary, \$3,880 per year, is too high and ought to be reduced to a sum not exceeding \$3000 per annum, thereby saving \$880. That one clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Department at a salary of \$1800 is sufficient to meet the requirements of the public service. That an assistant printer at \$600 per annum is unnecessary. That the total saving by these reductions, without impairing the efficiency of the public service would be \$3540.

XIII. That the Office of Lands and Works is maintained at a great annual expense, amounting in 1863, for a Chief Commissioner and three clerks, to \$8490, and in former years to a far larger sum. That the greatest ignorance prevails in the department as to the lands in Vancouver Island and on the mainland, although a Land Office has been kept open in the former place seventeen years, and in the latter for ten years. That nothing is done by the Department to assist in the sale and settlement of the public lands, except recording a few pre-emptions in Vancouver Island, and on the mainland the pre-emptions are recorded by the Magistrates. That a few parcels of Public Lands are leased for the purposes of trade, agriculture, lumbering, and mining, and the rents collected for the same: That instalments on lands sold or pre-empted are collected. That a few maps are made or extended occasionally. That the above includes the total services performed by this Department pertaining to land, and could all be transacted by one clerk. That the public works carried on by the Department are confined to repairing roads, constructing some small bridges, cutting out or keeping open a trail, or repairing or enlarging a public building, and are either performed by contract or by temporary service. That the entire public works, including map-making, could be well attended to by one competent civil engineer. That two competent surveyors or civil engineers to perform all the above services efficiently and satisfactorily, could be had for \$1500 each, and thus a saving could be made in the permanent expenditure of the Department, amounting to \$5490. That by

connecting this Department with that of the Colonial Secretary, one civil engineer would be sufficient to transact all the business. That, therefore, for purposes of economy, it is expedient to abolish the office of Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works and to reduce the permanent staff of the Department to not more than two civil engineers, under the supervision of the Colonial Secretary.

XIV. That the duties of the Treasury can be performed under efficient checks by two clerks; that, therefore, one clerk should be discharged, thereby saving \$1200 per annum.

XV. That the Auditor's Department is too expensively conducted. That two competent clerks can efficiently audit the public accounts at a salary not exceeding \$1800 and \$1500 respectively, thereby saving in this Department \$1750.

XVI. That the office of Registrar General of Titles at Victoria is almost a sinecure. That the incumbent draws a salary of \$2440 per year for a service that notoriously does not occupy him more than one hour a day; yet the Government refuses to reduce the salary; on the contrary has raised it \$485 in 1868, and persists in keeping the office separate instead of amalgamating it with some other and thereby utilizing the services of the incumbent. That reports are industriously published by the Government that the office is self-paying and ought, therefore, to be continued. But that is effected by imposing a high tariff of charges for registering documents and thereby the office is made self-paying at the expense of those who register. That by affixing a salary to this office proportionate to the labor performed, the tariff of charges for registration could be reduced four-fifths; that the labor employed in the service is not worth more than \$500 per annum. That by an alteration of local statutes (if necessary at all) so that the office may be amalgamated with that of Registrar of the Supreme Court, Victoria, the whole time of the incumbent might be employed, and at a salary of \$1800 per annum there would be saved in this Department \$700 and in the Supreme Court \$1500, making a total saving of \$2200 per annum. That the office of Registrar of Titles might be amalgamated with one of two other offices, yet retain all its efficiency and secure economy in the expenditure. That the continuance of this officer at the present salary is a glaring public wrong.

XVII. That the office of Stipendiary Magistrate for New Westminster should be abolished and that the duties should be discharged by the Registrar General of British Columbia, in addition to the duties of Post Master General.

XVIII. That the office of Harbour Master should be amalgamated with that of the Customs Department, that a saving would thereby be effected of \$1800, without any public injury.

XIX. That the salary of the Attorney General should be \$1500 with practice, and that he be allowed a clerk at \$1000 per year.

XX. That reform in the office of Sheriff is essentially necessary, as it is virtually a sinecure, without proper securities being filed by the Sheriff in case of errors or losses in Civil suits. That a division of the Shrievalty into two or more Shrievalties, the incumbents giving bonds in a suitable amount for the faithful performance of their duty, is required both for efficiency and security of the public. That the paying out of public monies as a bonus to the Sheriff under present circumstances is a wasteful and wanton expenditure.

XXI. That the office of Chief Inspector of Police is not required, and therefore ought to be abolished.

Moved by Mr. DeCosmos and seconded by Mr. McMillan: That the Report be received.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. DeCosmos and seconded by Mr. McMillan: That the Report be adopted.—Carried.

Adjourned till 11 a. m., 16th September, 1868.

Pursuant to adjournment, Convention met at 11 a. m., on the 16th September.

The Secretary then read the Minutes of 14th inst.

Moved by Mr. DeCosmos and seconded by Mr. Barnard: That the Minutes of 14th inst., as read, be adopted.—Carried.

The Secretary then read the Minutes of the 15th inst.

Moved by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. McMillan: That the Minutes of 15th inst., as read, be adopted.—Carried.

The Secretary then presented Report of Committee on Business, and asked leave to sit again.

Moved by Mr. DeCosmos and seconded by Mr. Norris: That Report of Business Committee be received.—Carried.

The Convention then adjourned till 2 p. m.

Pursuant to adjournment Convention met at 2 p. m.

Moved by Mr. Barnard and seconded by Mr. Rose: That the Convention go into Committee of the Whole to consider the Report of the Committee on Business.

The Chairman then nominated Dr. Brouse as Chairman of Committee and left the Chair.

On the Chairman resuming, Dr. Brouse reported the following Resolutions:—

XXII. That there is no public necessity for keeping five extra Constables in Cariboo at an annual expense of \$3500 per year. That in the Lillooet-Clinton District a Stipendiary Magistrate is not required, thereby saving \$2400 per annum. That at Nanaimo, a Stipendiary Magistrate is not required, and the duty of Deputy Collector of Customs there, with that of Postmaster, could be performed satisfactorily for \$1000, saving thereby \$1000. That in Lillooet, Clinton and Nanaimo, Honorary Magistrates can discharge the duties of Justice of the Peace. That the retrenchment that might be made by the Executive under these heads is equal to \$10,300 per year.

XXIII. That the Supreme Court Judges should discharge the duties of County Court Judges, holding Court periodically in the different districts of the Colony.

XXIV. That the vote of \$3000 in the Estimate, for expenses of Judge and Registrar on Circuit, on the mainland of the Colony, is exorbitant and calls for revision.

XXV. That, including the reductions suggested and others which might advantageously be adopted, a saving of about \$60,000 in the annual expenditure for Civil Establishments may be made, without impairing in the least degree the public service, or endangering in the least the securities for the preservation of life and property, or the maintenance of order throughout the Colony.

XXVI. That the people of British Columbia are willing to bear patiently the heavy financial burden imposed upon the country for the construction of public works, amounting to nearly \$150,000 annually; but they denounce the extravagant expenditure by which a deficit was created in 1866, amounting to about \$170,000; and in 1867, \$130,000. That these deficits were effected in violation of the rule laid down by the Secretary of State for the Colonies in a despatch dated April 30, 1866, viz.: That the expenditure of the year must

be reduced to such an amount as may be covered by the actual average receipts of the past two years. That the Estimates of 1868 violate this rule.

XXVII. That the system of dividing and sub-dividing the public service into departments, and placing such duties respectively in the hands of a single person, may be the proper mode to transact public business in a rich and populous country. But to a Colony such as British Columbia, where the Population is very small, the financial resources Proportionately limited, and the business to be transacted under each head but trifling, such a system is wholly unsuited, entailing too high an expenditure without increasing efficiency. That it is mainly by attempting to carry out this system and by keeping too large a staff of officials at salaries disproportionate to the circumstances of the Colony that the public expenditure is annually unnecessarily increased. That it is, therefore, to amalgamation of Offices, reduction of the Civil List, and lowering of Salaries that the people look for a reduction in the current expenditure for the support of Establishments.

XXVIII. That the total population of British Columbia, exclusive of Indians, does not exceed 10,000; and that the number of Indians does not exceed 30,000. That the Indians, living chiefly by hunting and fishing, are not individually on the average large consumers of dutiable or taxable commodities. That the highest estimate that could be placed on the Indians as consumers is that three Indians consume as much as one white or civilized person, and that, consequently, the total Indian population is only equal to 10,000 white consumers. That a more correct estimate would in all probability be that five Indians are equal to one white person, thereby making the total Indian inhabitants as consumers equal to 6000 whites. That (taking the highest estimate of the Indians as consumers) the total number of consumers of dutiable and taxable commodities is 20,000. That in 1867 the revenue without loans was \$475,250 and the average tax per head of the consumers \$23 75. That the expenditure as reported to the Council as less than the actual expenditure was in 1867, \$560,159, or \$28 to each consumer. That out of the expenditure of \$560,159 in 1867, only \$52,000 were expended in public works. That the estimated revenue of 1868 is \$576,000 or nearly \$29 to each consumer. That the estimated expenditure of 1868 is \$572,553 or \$28,60 to each consumer. That the total amount appropriated for public works out of the \$572,553 is \$55,300. That out of the latter sum there has been about \$12,000 expended in unnecessary additions to the Governor's residence and the Land Office, whilst necessary improvements to roads and bridges to advance the interests of farmers and settlement generally are deferred. That the return made to the Legislative Council in 1868 by His Excellency the Governor, comparing the Customs' Tariffs of England, United States, Canada and other colonies and countries is fallacious, if intended to show that British Columbia is not taxed higher than other countries. That the fallacy is apparent when it is observed that the average annual tax per head in Canada is only \$3 50, whilst the average tax to each consumer in British Columbia in 1867 was \$23 75, and that proposed in 1868 is \$29 to each consumer. That home productions, other than gold, in this Colony are not so advanced as in the countries enumerated in the Return, and that, consequently, there is a larger average consumption here of dutiable commodities and a correspondingly higher tax paid by each consumer. That with tariff, internal revenue dues, road tolls, &c., taxation is high and oppressive. That after paying the interest and sinking fund on the public debt, nearly all the revenue is consumed non-productively. That retrenchment is therefore demanded by the united voice of the people of British Columbia.

XXIX. That it is the duty of the Executive to institute the most thorough retrenchment in the expenditure, and cause to be amended and repealed all statutes or ordinances that interfere with economy in the public service.

XXX. That miners and capitalists during the last ten years have been sub-

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ject to the greatest inconvenience and delays in securing copper and silver bearing quartz veins, under such a tenure and with such facilities as would offer reasonable security for the investment of capital; that the non-existence of a general law on the subject and the obstacles interposed by the Government have tended to prevent the investment of capital in the country and retarded the development of its mineral resources. That the enactment of a law under which a limited extent of any copper or silver bearing quartz veins, free from Royalties, onerous laws, and taxations, may be taken up and held by any one or more persons, under reasonable conditions of working, is absolutely essential to the investment of capital in such enterprises.

XXXI. That religion, humanity and public opinion demand that due and proper consideration be paid to the Indian population, with a view to their preservation and the improvement of their moral, intellectual and material condition. That beyond making reservations of land, Government has done nothing for them. That in many instances the Indian Reserves are large and valuable tracts of agricultural land. That such lands though situated in districts where they would be cultivated by settlers, remain unimproved by the Indians, except the occasional cultivation of a small patch. That settlers are prohibited occupying them. That such Reserves are consequently neither properly utilized by the Indians nor by settlers. That it is incumbent, therefore, on the Government to establish such regulations as would utilize the Indian Reserves and appropriate the proceeds to the benefit of the Indians.

XXXII. That the people of British Columbia, recognizing the principle that it is the imperative duty of the State to provide for education, earnestly desire the immediate establishment of a national system of popular education, based upon broad non-sectarian principles, and that the non-existence of any recognized system of education applicable to the whole Colony, is discreditable to the Government.

XXXIII. That while it is apparent to any disinterested person that retrenchment in the public service could be made by which about \$60,000 of the annual expenditure could be saved without impairing the efficiency of the public service, yet the Government persists in imposing Road Tolls on merchandise passing between Yale and Cariboo, that amount to \$60,000 per annum. That the continuance of the Road Tolls and the resistance offered to retrenchment by the Executive are grave acts of misgovernment.

XXXIV. That a Reciprocal Commercial Treaty between the United States and England, by which the lumber, coal, fish and other raw productions of British Columbia and the United States may be entered duty free for home consumption in the ports of the last named countries respectively, would be a powerful stimulant to industry in this Colony. That it is, therefore, expedient to urge upon the attention of the Local and Imperial Governments the desirability of taking immediate steps to secure such a commercial privilege, whilst the Reciprocity Treaty between Canada and the United States is under consideration.

XXXV. That though there has always been a large staff of officials connected with the office of Lands and Works, and notwithstanding there are vast areas of good unoccupied agricultural and grazing lands in the Colony, the country but sparsely populated, the imports of agricultural produce and stock large, and the prices of agricultural productions highly remunerative, yet the Executive has never made any systematic and continuous effort to invite immigration, or induce people to engage in agriculture. That the apathy and indolence of the Government respecting the settlement of the public lands is therefore totally indefensible.

XXXVI. That free grants of at least 320 acres of land ought to be offered to actual settlers upon the public lands, and that the Executive should spare no effort in inviting immigration and facilitating the settlement of the country.

XXXVII. That the vote of the Legislative Council, refusing to pass an Address to Her Majesty the Queen respecting the Confederation of this Colony with Canada, is not endorsed by the country; but is opposed to the well-understood wishes of the people of British Columbia.

The Convention further resolved:—

1. That an Address be prepared and sent to Her Majesty the Queen, praying for the Reforms enumerated in these resolutions.

2. That an Address to the Governor General of Canada be prepared and transmitted, urging Confederation on the terms proposed.

3. That an Address be transmitted to His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by a copy of these resolutions, praying that the Reforms therein contained may be initiated and perfected.

4. That a Petition to the Imperial Parliament be prepared and circulated for signature throughout the Colony, and transmitted to some prominent Member of Parliament for presentation, accompanied by the resolutions of this Convention.

5. That an Executive Committee be appointed, with full authority to call conventions, communicate with the Imperial, Canadian and local Governments, to prepare and transmit the addresses and petitions above alluded to, and to take any measures they may deem expedient to secure the Reforms enumerated in the resolutions of the Convention.

The following Committee was appointed to carry out the objects of the Convention:—Messrs. De Cosmos, McMillan, Wallace and Norris of Victoria; Havelock of Yale; John Robson of New Westminster, and F. J. Barnard.

Moved by Mr. Norris and seconded by Mr. Robson: That the Report be received.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Norris and seconded by Mr. Robson: That the Report of Business Committee be adopted.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Barnard and seconded by Mr. Smith: That the following gentlemen be an Executive Committee in accordance with the 5th Resolution:

Messrs. A. DeCosmos, R. Wallace, J. E. McMillan, J. G. Norris, John Robson, H. Havelock, and F. J. Barnard.

Moved by Mr. Norris and seconded by Mr. Armstrong: That the thanks of the Convention be tendered to the steamboat owners and stage proprietor, and that the Secretary be instructed to communicate the same.—Carried.

Three cheers were then proposed and given for the Queen.

Three cheers were then proposed and given for the Dominion.

Moved by Mr. Robson and seconded by Mr. Barnard: That this Convention adjourn.—Carried.

ROBERT WALLACE, CHAIRMAN.

CHARLES EVANS,

HENRY HAVELOCK,

SECRETARIES.

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