

Grafton Historical Notes

(12) By T. R. M.

In order to understand the circumstances out of which the following minutes rose, it is necessary to recall the history of the time. The political situation in Upper Canada in 1836 was a troubled one. After the election of 1834 the Reform party had the majority in the Assembly. Mackenzie's influence with the more radical section of the party was great, many felt that he had been badly treated, and he even persuaded the Colonial Secretary that reforms were necessary. Sir Francis Bond Head, Sir John Colborne's successor as Lieut. Governor, had given evidence of his good will by taking three Reformers into his Executive Council. The Reformers accepted the position with misgivings in February 1836, Robert Baldwin making it clear to Head that Responsible Government was the sole solution of the problem. Head refused to grant such a request made official appointments from the "Compact" party, and in protest the Council resigned in March, 1836. The Assembly then took up the cudgels and Head publicly denounced the Reformers as disloyal republicans. The Assembly stopped supplies and at the latter end of May, Head dissolved the House (see Resolution No. 12).

The minutes that follow indicate Tory opinion in June 1836, and show the preparations made for the bitter election to follow. In these early days Haldimand was a predominant "loyal" township. It is not to be wondered at that men, some of whom belonged to Loyalist families, and who themselves had fought in the War of 1812 should rise to defend the connection with Great Britain, particularly when the King's representative told them it was endangered. The abuses referred to in resolutions 9 and 10 were not at all imaginary. They were swept away when Responsible Government finally went into operation thirteen years later.

Minutes of a meeting of the Haldi-

Esq., and seconded by Major McNeill: That Henry Ruttan is a fit and proper person to represent the County of Northumberland in Parliament.

Moved by Captain Hammond and seconded by Wm. Carroll, Esq.:—That Alexander MacDonnell is also a fit and proper person to represent the County of Northumberland in Parliament.

Moved and unanimously determined on by the meeting:—That the following gentlemen be appointed a Committee for carrying the objects of this meeting into effect, viz., Messrs. Hare, Barnum, Rogers, Beattie, Noble, Stewart, Crouter, Ingram, Ewing, B. Eddy, H. Eddy, Warren, Jack, Arkland, Spencer, Williams, Barret, Greeley and Ferguson.

The following resolutions were then proposed and adopted by the meeting.

Moved by Capt. MacDonald and seconded by Mr. Stewart:—That deeply impressed with a sense of the advantages we enjoy from our connection with Great Britain, and justly attributing to her fostering care the unexampled state of prosperity to which this young colony has already arrived, we depreciate the unwarrantable proceedings of those persons, who are desirous, by misrepresentation and delusion, to alienate the affections of this Province from the Parent Country.

Moved by Mr. Hare and seconded by Mr. Barnum:—That it is evident that under the specious pretext of a desire to obtain the Reform of imaginary abuses, certain persons aim at the separation of the Colony from the Parent Country, and at assimilating its laws and institutions to those adopted by "the wise statesmen" of the neighbouring Republic.

Moved by Mr. ——— and seconded by Mr. Noble:—That at a moment when the benevolent intentions of the British Government were evinced, in their willingness to enquire into and correct any abuses that might be found to exist, and where had such abuses existed as were made the

Obit

The Late Miss M. Roseneath, Jan. 18, 1836. A link in the chain of yesterday of to-day death of Mary late John Brown

When the floor containing the "Aunt Mary" Br to the grave in on Monday after was passed along a coterie of singing and watch were performed hearts, but glad that the best that had been longed for by the age of parture was reached as the inevitable

"Aunt Mary" eight-nine years old, her faculties a kind, which in crowning character with her. She to many in the journey through with equanimity and enabled to share with the own share of them, while a really appreciative

She believed who help them to help in active days known in connection of the former and of late member of the U was seldom Bible class away from her sionary Society stitute have latter society: for the enlog member in the humor and friendship is

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Minutes of a meeting of the Haldimand Constitutional Society held in Arkland's Hotel, Grafton, on the 7th day of June 1836:

George Manners, Esq., His B.M.'s Consul at Boston, having been unanimously called to the chair it was moved by Benj. Ewing, Esq., and seconded by Major McNeill.

That a Branch Constitutional Society be formed in the Township of Haldimand in connection with the Newcastle District Constitutional Society.

Moved by Captain MacDonald and seconded by Alex. Jack, Esq.:—That E. Barnum Esq., be elected chairman of the Society.

Moved by James G. Rogers, Esq., and seconded by T. T. Innis, Esq.:—That Mr. Donald McTavish be chosen Secretary to the Society.

Moved by Richard Hare, Esq., and seconded by B. Eddy, Esq.:—That James G. Rogers be elected Treasurer for the Society.

The Chairman, having in a very appropriate speech stated to the meeting the object of their being called together, viz:—That two proper persons should be nominated to represent this county in Parliament, it was moved by Thomas Stewart,

seconded by Mr. Stewart, and deeply impressed with a sense of the advantages we enjoy from our connection with Great Britain, and justly attributing to her fostering care the unexampled state of prosperity to which this young colony has already arrived, we depreciate the unwarrantable proceedings of those persons, who are desirous, by misrepresentation and delusion, to alienate the affections of this Province from the Parent Country.

Moved by Mr. Hare and seconded by Mr. Barnum:—That it is evident that under the specious pretext of a desire to obtain the Reform of imaginary abuses, certain persons aim at the separation of the Colony from the Parent Country, and at assimilating its laws and institutions to those adopted by "the wise statesmen" of the neighbouring Republic.

Moved by Mr. ——— and seconded by Mr. Noble:—That at a moment when the benevolent intentions of the British Government were evinced, in their willingness to enquire into and correct any abuses that might be found to exist, and where had such grievances existed as were made the subject of excitement, it was the duty of those self constituted Patriots to have aided in their correction and removal, they were lost sight of in the application of the united energies of those individuals to embarrass the government,—to insult the person of His Majesty's Representative,—and to obstruct every effort calculated to allay excitement—to promote industry—and to diffuse general peace and prosperity.

Moved by Mr. Carroll and seconded by Mr. Vernon:—That the present crisis particularly calls for the manifestation of the principles we possess, as faithful subjects of Great Britain, and for the strenuous application of our best energies in defence of those liberties which we claim as such— etc.

Moved by Mr. B. Eddy and seconded by Mr. Johnston:—That we highly approve of the exercise of the Royal prerogative in the dissolution of the Provincial Parliament, which proved itself hostile to the true interests of the people.

E. Barnum, Chairman,
D. McTavish, Secretary.
("Star", June, 1836)

Rev. Father McCarthy, who recently resigned from the Parish of Read, and who is the oldest priest but one in the Diocese has gone to Florida to enjoy a well-earned rest.

Mr. Elson Grant was engaged by the Colborne Board of Education as a temporary teacher in the room of Miss Esther McGlennon, who is confined to her home through illness.

with her. She to many in the journey through with equanimity and enabled rain with the own share of them, while a really appreciate

She believed who help them to help active days known in con of the forme and of late ye ber of the U was seldom Bible class away from h sionary Socie stitute have latter society: for the enlog member in t honor and friendship is

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Her home loved her Jewel that darkness. It was proud in ing grand o Brown. Her pathy will b host of friend

At the Ch Women's Ins tracted a co complication an advanced the end was loved ones ju to arrange t long departe tery. She to go.

The funer and gravesl was conduc L. W. Scott

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