REFORM POLICY.

TEXT OF THE RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE TORONTO CONVENTION.

I. GENERAL RESOLUTION.

Moved by Dr. McLaughlin, M. P. P., seconded by Mr. Kerr, Cobourg:

1. *Resolved*, That this Convention of the Reformers of Ontario recognises with pride and pleasure the fidelity to Liberal principles which has been evinced through a long series of administrative and legislative acts by the Reform Governments and Legislatures of the Province for the past eleven years, and deems it to be the bounden duty of all true Liberals to strengthen the hands of the Hon. Oliver Mowat, our worthy leader, and his colleagues, at this critical period of our history.

II. THE DISALLOWANCE QUESTION.

Moved by the Hon. D. Mills, seconded by Mr. R. E. Charlton, of Hamilton:

1. *Resolved*, That by the British North America Act the Provincial Legislatures have exclusive powers of legislation on subjects placed by that Act within their jurisdiction; that the power of disallowance by the Federal Government can be constitutionally exercised only when such legislation is beyond the jurisdiction of the Province, or antagonistic to Dominion interests; that the Rivers and Streams Act, which dealt with subjects left by the constitution to the exclusive jurisdiction of the legislature of Ontario, was in no manner illegal, unconstitutional or antagonistic to Dominion interests; that the repeated disallowance of the Act was, therefore, in the opinion of this Convention, a violation of our Provincial autonomy, an attack upon the fundamental principle of local self-government, provided by the Confederation Act, and secured mainly by the earnest, consistent and long-continued efforts of the Reform party; and that the action of our Government and Legislature in asserting and vindicating our Provincial constitutional rights, demands the approval and support of every patriotic citizen.

III. THE BOUNDARY AWARD.

Moved by Mr. A. M. Ross, M. P. P., seconded by Mr. T. Gibson, M. P. P.:

3. *Resolved*, That this Province came into Confederation with the territory which formerly belonged to Upper Canada; that the extent of that territory on the north and west was at that time undetermined, but was, in the month of August, 1878, finally determined, by the unanimous award of able arbitrators of the highest distinction, appointed on a competent reference by the respective governments of the Dominion and this Province, under an agreement to which the good faith and honor of both were pledged, that the award should be final and conclusive; that this award was accepted by the Government of this Province as in honor bound, but was repudiated by the Government of the Dominion; that such repudiation is, in the opinion of this convention, a violation of public law and national faith, and an indefensible denial on the part of the Federal authorities of the just claims and territorial rights of this Province; and that the manly and persistent assertion by the Government of Ontario of those claims and those rights, and their demand for the immediate ownership and government of the awarded territory, deserve the support and co-operation, not only of the Liberal party, but of every citizen of the Province.

IV. THE FEDERAL UNION.

Moved by Mr. Patrick Hughs, seconded by Mr. J. McMullen, M. P.:

4. *Resolved*, That this Convention earnestly desires the bonds which unite the Province of Canada shall be strengthened by the development of a feeling of affection for and pride in the Federal union which connects them; and this Convention believes that such sentiments will be best promoted by the maintenance of the Federal principles of the union; by the full recognition of the rights of each Province to control all matters which are placed under its exclusive power; and the adoption of the principles of justice and fair play in the adjustment of all questions arising between the Dominion and the Provinces.

V. THE FEDERAL UNION.

Moved by Dr Sampson, of Kent, seconded by Mr. G. S. Macdonald:

4. *Resolved*, That this Convention rejoices in the successful operation of those extensions of the franchise which have from time to time been placed in the statute book; records its opinion that a further extension should form a plank in the platform of the Reform party at the ensuing elections; and expresses its hope that the popular voices will endorse the proposal and will return a Liberal majority authorized to accomplish this reform.

VI. LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Moved by Mr. James Young, M.P.P., seconded by Mr. J. H. Coyne, St. Thomas:

6. *Resolved*, that this Convention expresses its gratification that under the auspices of the Reform Governments of Ontario our election laws have been greatly improved; valuable reforms have been effected in the laws relating to real and personal property; our municipal and school laws have been much improved; the statute law of the Province has been revised and consolidated; great and radical reforms in the procedure and practice of our courts, tending to the promotion of simplicity, economy and expedition in the administration of justice, have been successfully accomplished; prompt means have invariably been taken to establish such administration in every outlying district of the Province, contemporaneous with settlement; and justice has been administered throughout the Province with purity and uprightness.

VII. SURPLUS DISTRIBUTION AND RAILWAY AID.

Moved by Mr. Hugh O'Leary, Lindsay, seconded by Mr. Isaac Bowman, Waterloo:

7. *Resolved*, That this Convention desires to record its gratification that the Reform Governments and Legislatures triumphantly solved the difficult problems presented by the Municipal Loan Fund, and the best means of applying to profitable ends a portion of the surplus in the treasury; that the Municipal Loan Fund debts were successfully settled upon an equitable basis; that large sums out of the surplus have been returned to the people under conditions requiring their expenditure for objects of great public utility; and that a judicious system of railway aid has given to the Province two thousand two hundred miles of new railway, and in this way greatly assisted the development of our agricultural and commercial industries, and promoted the general advancement of the Province.

VII. FINANCIAL POSITION.

Moved by Mr. W. D. Balfour, M.P.P., Amherstburg, seconded by Mr. S. J. Cascaden, M. P. P.:

8. *Resolved*, That in the opinion of this Convention the management of the Provincial finances by the Liberal Governments of the Province has evidenced their fidelity to the Reform principles of progress and economy; that, whilst these Governments have not hesitated as responsible stewards of the public funds to propose such expenditures as the public good required, they have been careful and provident in their administration; and that it is a proud fact that, whilst the ordinary business of administration has been steadily carried on, the education of the people assisted, the vicious and afflicted cared for, burdens lifted off the municipalities, all our industries encouraged, and the progress of the Province in every way and on every side advanced, a large surplus still remains in the Treasury of the Province.

X. ENCOURAGEMENT OF COMMERCE AND MANUFACTURES.

Moved by Mr. C. Gildersleeve, King ston, seconded by Mr. W. J. Copp, Hamilton:

10. *Resolved*, That this Convention rejoices in all healthy expansion of the manufacturing and mercantile interests of the Province; is pleased to know that within the range of their constitutional powers, the Reform Governments of Ontario have encouraged those industries, by aiding the building of railways, by assisting to give at foreign exhibitions the fullest possible display of our manufactured products, and by providing through the Bureau of Industries a faithful record of the state of the manufacturing industries, which cannot fail to be of substantial benefit to such industries, and to the Province at large.

XI. EDUCATION.

Moved by Mr. J. M. Gibson, M. P. P., seconded by Mr. R Harcourt, M P. P.:

11. *Resolved*, That the progress and development of every part of our Public and High School system during the past eleven years, in the more thorough training, classification and examination of teachers, the more efficient inspection and classification of schools, and the complete remodelling and great advance of the work of secondary education, are matters for congratulation; that the complications and difficulties which necessarily surround such a subject are to be met, as they have been met, by vigilantly watching over the working of the system, with a view to such changes in detail as from time to time experience may show to be necessary; by a due regard to the reasonable wishes and feelings of the various sections of the community; and by the application to the utmost extent, consistent with efficiency, of the principle of local control over local affairs.

XII CROWN LANDS AND TIMBER POLICY

Moved by Mr. H. M. Deroche, M. P. P., seconded by Mr. J. Dowdall:

12. *Resolved*, That the manner in which the forest and timber interests of the Province have been guarded and managed by the Reform Administrations and Legislatures; the safeguards thrown around these interests by the provisions which require public competition as the condition of license; the caution, skill and judgment which have been displayed by the Executive in determining when sales of licenses shall take place; and the care and integrity displayed in the sale and management of our Crown Lands are subjects of just pride to the Liberal party, and of national congratulation to every inhabitant of the Province.

XIII. FREE GRANTS, COLONIZATION ROADS AND IMMIGRATION.

Moved by Mr. J. Korman, seconded by Mr. J. W. Bettes, M. P. P.:

13. *Resolved*, That, while we look with pleasure on the growth of the Canadian Northwest, we are sensible that the drain on our population and our resources towards that and other fields has of late years been considerable, but that we note with satisfaction the great development of the newer districts of our acknowledged territory during the last eleven years, under the liberal system of free grants from the Crown; and rejoice that, by a judicious expenditure on colonization roads and internal improvements, so many of our sons, together with the people of other countries, have, notwithstanding great attractions elsewhere, found homes within our borders; and that we trust the immigration policy of the Ontario Government will, in the present circumstances, continue to be one of vigorous effort to secure large additions to our agricultural population.

XIV. PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

Moved by Mr. Joseph Tait, Yorkville, seconded by Mr. Edwards:

14. *Resolved*, That this Convention views with approval and satisfaction the vigorous and successful manner in which the Reform Governments of Ontario have promptly met every public requirement for the restraint and correction of the vicious, as well as the care of the afflicted and unfortunate portions of our population, by the erection of such buildings as were needed, and by the successful maintenance and management, on the latest curative, sanitary and humane methods, of our various penal and charitable institutions.

XV. MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS.

Moved by Mr. D. D. Hay, M. P. P., North Perth, seconded by Mr. W. H. Dodd, East York:

15. *Resolved*, That the Reform party, the parent of the system of local institutions, municipal liberties, and generally of the principles of self-government, reaffirms, after our experience of more than forty years, the value of these institutions, and will in the future, as it has done in the past, guard, cherish and develop them by all means in its power.

XVI. THE LIQUOR LICENSE QUESTION.

Moved by Mr. J. M. Ferris, M. P. P., East Northumberland, seconded by Mr. J. M. McMillan, Toronto:

16 *Resolved*, That this Convention views with gratitude the great improvements which have, under Reform Governments, been made in the laws affecting temperance; protests in the strongest way against any of the retrograde changes lately advocated, such as extending the hours of selling, lessening the restrictions in the number of licenses, creating vested interests in licenses, and re-transferring to Municipal Councils the responsibility of issuing licenses; believes that the general interpretation of the constitution, acted on in all the provinces ever since Confederation, has been that the Provincial Legislatures have authority in the matter, and that such interpretation is in accordance with the spirit of the constitution; considers that it is for the best interests of the Dominion that the Local Legislatures should have such authority; depreciates any assumption of power by the Parliament of the Dominion in this regard, beyond what may be needed for passing a general law as to prohibition; declares that the Local Legislatures can best interpret and give effect to the feelings and wishes of the people in each Province as to the license system; and insists that action by the Parliament of the Dominion would be an undue interference with Provincial rights, and detrimental to the cause of order and sobriety.

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The bottom has fallen out of the Mail's charge that Toronto License Commissioners used their positions to make money, by compelling licensed holders to deal with them. A large meeting of the Toronto branch of the Ontario Temperance Benevolent Association on Wednesday night resolved "That this meeting endorses the action of Mr. Dowdall, License Commissioner, and indicates the charges that have been made against him through the public press."

There is in Atlanta, Ga., a colored physician whose practice amounts to more than $2,000 a year.

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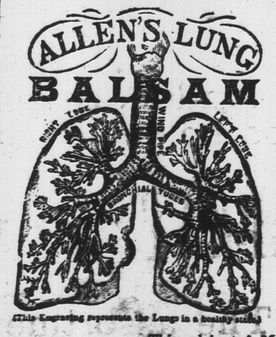

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