

At a Meeting held in the village of Merrickville, on Saturday, the 21<sup>st</sup> inst. pursuant to a public notice given for purposes therein mentioned.

John L. Read Esq. was called to the Chair, and Walter McCrean Esq. chosen Secretary.

On motion of Dr. D. (vote) seconded by John Ferguson, it was unanimously

Resolved, that this meeting (taking as it does a direct interest in the Rideau Canal as a Commercial, as well as a Military route) views with intense alarm, the effect the new Schedule of Tolls recently adopted, will have on its prosperity.

Moved by S. H. Merrick Esq. seconded by George O'herly Esq.

Resolved, that it is the opinion of this meeting, that should the present Schedule of Tolls not be ameliorated, or rescinded altogether, the effect will be, that not only will the immense Transit Trade of the great West be driven from this Canal altogether, but also the trade necessary for the supply of settlers bordering along the entire route of said Canal.

Moved by Mr. Shaler, seconded by Ochoa Collier Esq.

Resolved, that with all due deference to the wisdom, experience, & policy of the department

Department, under whose control this Canal is, it is nevertheless the opinion of this meeting, that no worse period could have possibly been chosen for an increase of Tolls on the Canal than the present, the Country being in a state of Commercial depression hitherto without a parallel.

Moved by G. Russell Esq. seconded by Mr. B. Parsons.

Resolved, that it is also the opinion of this meeting, that had the Ordnance Department when it contemplated an alteration in the rate of Tolls hitherto established, appointed a Commission of enquiry, of disinterested gentlemen, well acquainted with the trade, Commerce, and prospect of the Country, the present oppressive rate of Tolls would not have been adopted.

Moved by Stephen Burrill Esq. seconded by Mr. Cummings.

Resolved, that this meeting views with much alarm the destructive effect the adoption of the present Schedule of Tolls will have upon a great number of our most enterprising fellow subjects who have (on the reliance that the Tolls formerly established would remain permanent) invested their entire Capital in the erection of Wharves, Warehouses, Steamboats, & other Crafts connected with the Forwarding trade on the Canal.

Moved

Moved by S. S. French Esq. seconded by  
S. P. Thomas,

Resolved, that a Committee of eleven be  
requested to draft a Petition to His Excellency  
the Governor General, in Council, giving a  
detailed statement of the effects likely to be  
produced by the adoption of the present  
Schedule, and praying for the intervention  
of the Provincial Government in the matter,  
and the following Gentlemen compose the  
Committee, viz: John L. Read, R. R.  
Church, Walter McCre, J. Merrick,  
S. M. Merrick, D. Boate, J. H. Clifton,  
E. Collier, G. Russell, and C. H. Whitmarsh, Esqs.

Moved by C. H. Whitmarsh Esq. seconded  
by J. G. Graffe.

Resolved, that the Secretary be requested  
to forward a copy of the foregoing Resolutions  
to the Editors of the Chronicle, Statesman,  
Whig, and Merets Newspapers, Kingston,  
Recorder of Brockville, Dispatch and  
Courier of Perth, and the Gazette of Bytown,  
for publication. S. M. Merrick Esq. was  
then called to the Chair and the thanks of  
the meeting given to the Chairman and  
Secretary.

J. S. John L. Read, Chairman  
Walter McCre, Secretary

Merrickville, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> 1843

Compared  
Hedley  
Sawchuk RDS  
Hd. g. 2/2/43