

THE QUEBEC RESOLUTIONS



NOTE ON TRANSCRIPTIONS AND DATING

Principles and Method

The papers transcribed in Parts I and II are all government documents, printed on official parliamentary paper. This not only helps us authenticate them (via their parliamentary paper watermark), but also construct a uniform transcription system for them all. As government papers, they are somewhat standardized, sharing a basic uniformity as to format, font-type, as well as style. Moreover, all the hand-written notations and amendments follow a relatively uniform pattern – suggesting a standardized parliamentary drafting process. A uniform transcription system is therefore possible, and that is what we have opted to develop and apply in this collection.

None of these primary documents were dated by their authors. Nonetheless it is possible to assign relatively precise dates to each of the documents in Parts I and II of this volume by comparing them with Hewitt Bernard, Andrew A. Macdonald (PEI), and Edward Whelan's (PEI) respective accounts of the proceedings at the Quebec Conference. In order to assist readers to confirm this information for themselves, commentary has been added, in the form of footnotes for each document, explaining the dating for each one and drawing attention to some surprising features. And transcripts of the Bernard, Macdonald, and Whelan accounts are reproduced in the Appendix to this volume. These accounts have already been published elsewhere,ⁱ and the transcripts provided in the Appendix are identical to their respective sources in Pope (1895), Brown (1969), and Waite (1961), except the formatting is according to our conventions to facilitate referencing.

The principles listed below form a uniform system for transcribing these unique papers. A total of 6 rules of transcription were adopted to facilitate reproducing amendments, strikethrough, and insertion of new provisions.

Rule 1: All editorial reporting of amendments are reported inside brackets, italicized and superscripted.

Example: "... the General Revenue ^{*[as subsidy toward local expenditures]*} towards..."

Rule 2: For cancelled text, I have used the strikethrough.

Example: "9. ~~The Rate of Interest.~~"

Rule 3: When a word is illegible, whether a cancellation or an amendment, the following was inserted: ^{*[illegible]*}. When a symbol was used, and could not be replicated, a description was inserted in brackets: ^{*[checkmark]*}.

ⁱ Joseph Pope, *Confederation Being a Series of Hitherto Unpublished Documents Bearing on the British North America Act* (Toronto: Carswell Co. Ltd. Law Publishers, 1895), G.P. Brown, *Documents on the Confederation of British North America* (McClelland and Stewart, 1969 [2009]), and P.B. Waite (1961) "Edward Whelan Report From the Quebec Conference", in *The Canadian Historical Review* (University of Toronto Press, 1961).

Example: “Shall the ^[illegible] provided items be committed to the general government or to the local?^[checkmark]”

Rule 4: Typographical peculiarities relating to printing design were not preserved (line breaks, unusual spacing, text positioning, and so forth). Punctuation and period spellings were however retained. In a few rare cases, shorthand was expanded to facilitate meaning.

Rule 5: Where the document did not have a title, we provided one.

Rule 6: All substantive editorial commentary was reported in footnotes. There is little risk of confusion as to their authorship since all substantive commentary are indicated by the author’s initials.

C.D.