

Although the resolutions permitted the receiving of depreciated paper at a discount, the committee earnestly recommended to the citizens of Lancaster city and county to receive no bank paper whatever west of Chambersburg, Pa., as the greater part of it could not be discounted at any rate in Philadelphia.

A number of citizens of Leacock township met at the house of widow Sides, in the township, on Saturday, October 31st, 1818, to take into consideration the depreciated state of bank paper. Adam Bair was appointed chairman, and John Bair secretary.⁵

A committee, composed of Mark Grove, Jr., Stalker Coates, Martin Meixell, Jr., David Nelson and Christian Sook, Sr., reported the following resolution, which was adopted unanimously:

"Resolved, That it be recommended to the citizens of Leacock township not to receive any other bank notes than those which are at par in Philadelphia (excepting those in the city of Lancaster which pay specie when demanded) after the 14th day of November next."

⁵ Lancaster Journal, Wednesday, November 4th, 1818.

The Lancaster County Society for the Encouragement of American Manufactures

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

A MEETING of citizens of the city of Lancaster convened at the court house (pursuant to public notice) on Saturday, October 2nd, 1819, at 4 P. M., to consult upon measures for the promotion of economy and domestic manufactures.¹ Walter Franklin, Esq., was appointed chairman, and John Passmore secretary. The following action was taken:

"Resolved, That a committee be appointed to prepare a petition, for signature, to be presented to Congress at its next session, for the effectual and permanent protection of every essential domestic manufacture; and to draft a constitution for the government of a society to be formed in the city and county of Lancaster, for the furtherance of the objects of this meeting; and ordered that Robert Coleman, John Passmore, Molton C. Rogers, Adam Reigart and James Humes be said committee.

"Resolved, That when this meeting adjourn, it adjourn to meet again at this place on Friday, the 15th instant, at four o'clock in the afternoon, to hear, and, if approved, to adopt the reports of the aforesaid committee, which meeting the citizens, generally, are invited to attend."

At the meeting held on Friday, October 15th, 1819, the following preamble and constitution² were adopted:

¹ Lancaster Journal, Friday, October 8th, 1819.

² Lancaster Journal, Friday, November 5th, 1819.

“The wealth of a nation is derived from the labor of the people who compose it; and as the general revenue will be great or small according to the quantity of productive industry that is set in motion, it is of the first importance that public prosperity be not suffered to languish for the want of timely support. Amongst the means of producing the most profitable results, the protection of our declining manufactures, with the steady employment of that portion of our population who by their habits and dispositions are unqualified for agriculture or commercial pursuits,—stand conspicuous.

“But manufactures, to withstand the forced competition of foreign countries, must be patronized in their infancy by the laws, or by the patriotic feelings, of the people; and perhaps no better mode is presented, to give them durability and stability, than a voluntary engagement, on the part of our citizens, to give a preference, in their expenditures, to the product of each others' labor. By such a measure they will strengthen the bonds of social compact, render their country truly independent, and, by standing in the mutual relation of producers and consumers, can apportion, with regularity hitherto impracticable, the supply to the demand, and increase them both to any reasonable extent which their comforts may require.

“With the view of hastening the adoption of a policy upon which the destinies of a great portion of our fellow citizens must hereafter depend, and in anticipation of measures which it is confidently hoped will be pursued at no distant day by the government, a number of citizens of the city and county of Lancaster have formed an association, which has adopted for its government the following constitution:

“Article 1. This association shall be called ‘The Lancaster County Society for the Encouragement of American Manufactures’; and shall consist of such persons residing therein as shall subscribe to these articles, and pay to the treasurer the sum of fifty cents.

“Article 2. The officers of the society shall be a president, two vice-presidents, a treasurer and secretary, who shall be elected annually, on the third Monday in the month of November, between the hours of four and six P. M., at the court house, or at such other place as shall be designated by the society. There shall also be elected, at the same time and place, a standing committee to consist of fifteen members, who, in conjunction with the officers above-mentioned, shall constitute ‘A Board of Manufacturers’ with power to appoint from their number committees for the purpose of correspondence, for the collection of information, and for such other objects as shall be calculated to promote the intentions of the association.

“Article 3. The stated meetings of the society shall be held three times a year, viz. On the third Monday in the months of January, August and November, at such places as shall be established by resolution. Special meetings shall also be called by the president whenever he may deem it expedient, or when requested to do so by any twelve members. Two weeks notice for the meetings shall be given in all the papers in the county whose editors shall think proper to give it publicity. Ten members shall constitute a quorum.

“Article 4. Every member of this association pledges himself to give a preference to American manufactures over the manufactures of any foreign nation, whenever they can be procured of a good quality and at a fair price.

“Article 5. The ‘Board of Manufacturers’ shall exhibit to the society, whenever called upon to do so, after reasonable notice, a statement of its proceedings, together with such other information as may be required, relative to the objects of the association.

“Article 6. No money shall be drawn from the treasury but by an order