Delegate Roll and Convention Opening

8

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

Council Chamber, Honolulu, May 30th, 1894.

HIS EXCELLENCY S.B.DOLE,

PRESIDENT CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

Sir:-

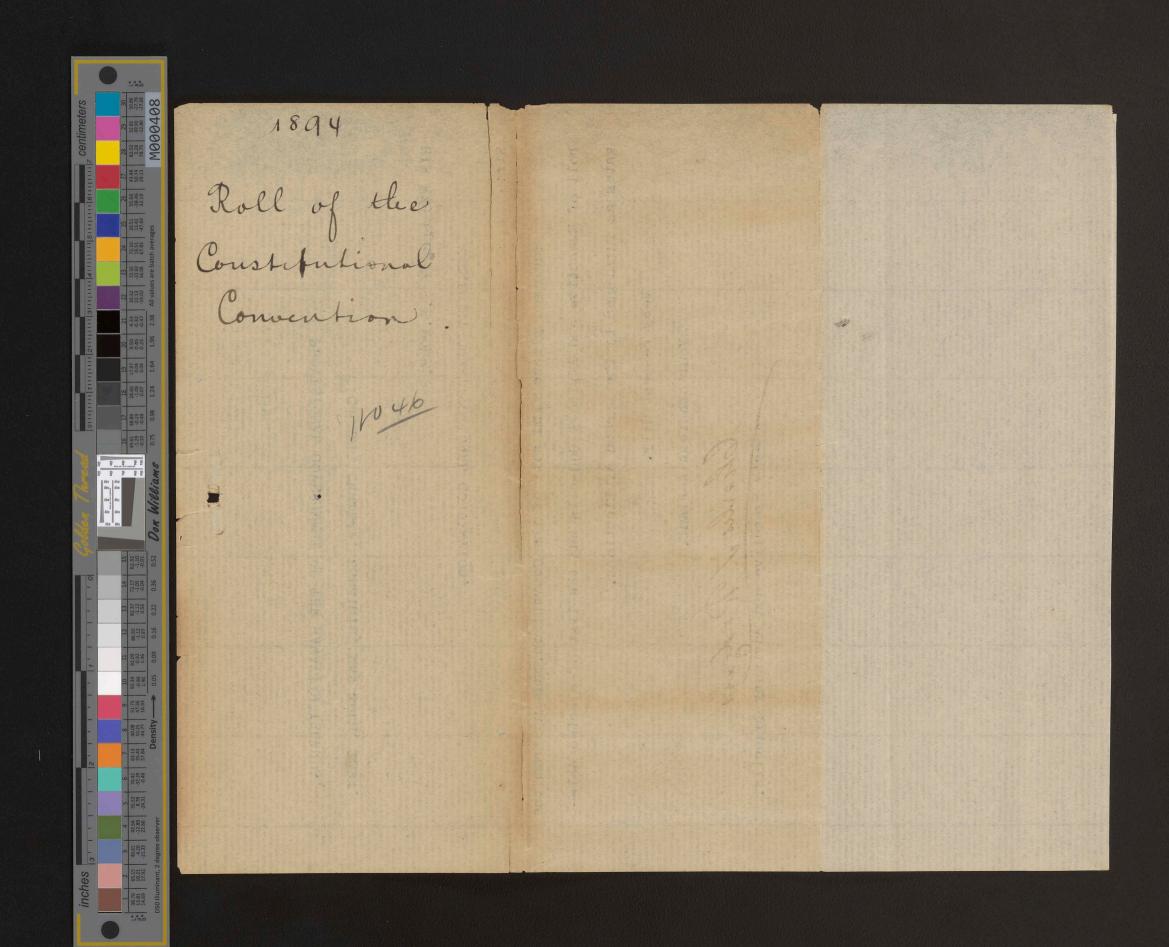
Enclosed please find roll of the Convention, made up from the roll of Executive and Advisory Councils and the list of elected delegates as furnished by the Bureau of Elections.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient serrant,

Sec'y Executive and Advisory Councils.

Charles J. Rodgers





ROLL OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

Executive Council.

S.B.Dole President.

F.M. Hatch. Minister of Foreign Affairs.

J.A. King Minister of the Interior.

S.M. Damon Minister of Finance.

W.O.Smith Attorney General.

Advisory Council.

W.C. Wilder Vice President.

H. Waterhouse. Councilor

C.Bolte.

J. Emmeluth. "

E.D. Tenney.

J.F. Morgan.

W.F.Allen.

Alex. Young. "

E.Suhr.

Cecil Brown.

D.B.Smith.

John Nott.

J.P. Mendonca.

J. Ena.

DELEGATES.

A.G.M.Robertson Oahu.

C.L.Carter

L.C.Ables "

A. Fernandes "

J.M. Vivas



A.K.Kunuiakea

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Oahu.

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Oahu. A.K.Kunuiakea Hawaii. D.H. Hitchcock Sr. F.S.Lyman D.H. Kahaulelio. J. Kauhane Wm. Horner Maui. J.W.Kalua H.P. Baldwin J.K. Iosepa W.F. Pogue A.S. Wilcox Kauai. G.N. Wilcox W.H.Rice.





A.K.Kumulakea

D. H. Hitchgook SR.

W.H.Rice,

F.S.Lyman

Opening Address by President S.B. Dole, May 30, 1894, First Day

COUNCILLORS and DELEGATES,

Members of the Constitutional Convention of 1894.

In calling the Convention to order, I ask your attention to some matters relating to the work for which you have come together.

The delay which the project of political Union between Hawaii and the United States of America has experienced has brought up the question of modifying the present provisional system in order to give the Government a permanent form and to more fully introduce the principle of representation by the people.

The subject has been carefully considered both from the standpoint of the responsibility of the Executive and Advisory Councils, and that of the rights of the people and the necessities of the case; and while such a change is imperatively demanded by an intelligent public sentiment, it also appears consonant with our situation, which is naturally favorable to the growth of free institutions.

This being conceded it became necessary to decide whether to reach the desired result by taking the present system as a basis and building upon that, or by wholly reorganizing the Government.

The latter method was adopted as giving more freedom of action and a better opportunity for establishing a system suited to national conditions.

The question of the composition of the Convention to be called for making a new constitution was a perplexing one; for while it was desired to have direct popular representation to as great an extent as might be possible, the Councils felt that they could not, consistently with the trust imposed upon them by the proclamation of January 17th. 1893, relinquish to other hands the whole responsibility in an enterprise so vital to the future welfare of the country. It was therefore

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decided to confide the work to a body made up of the Councils and elected delegates.

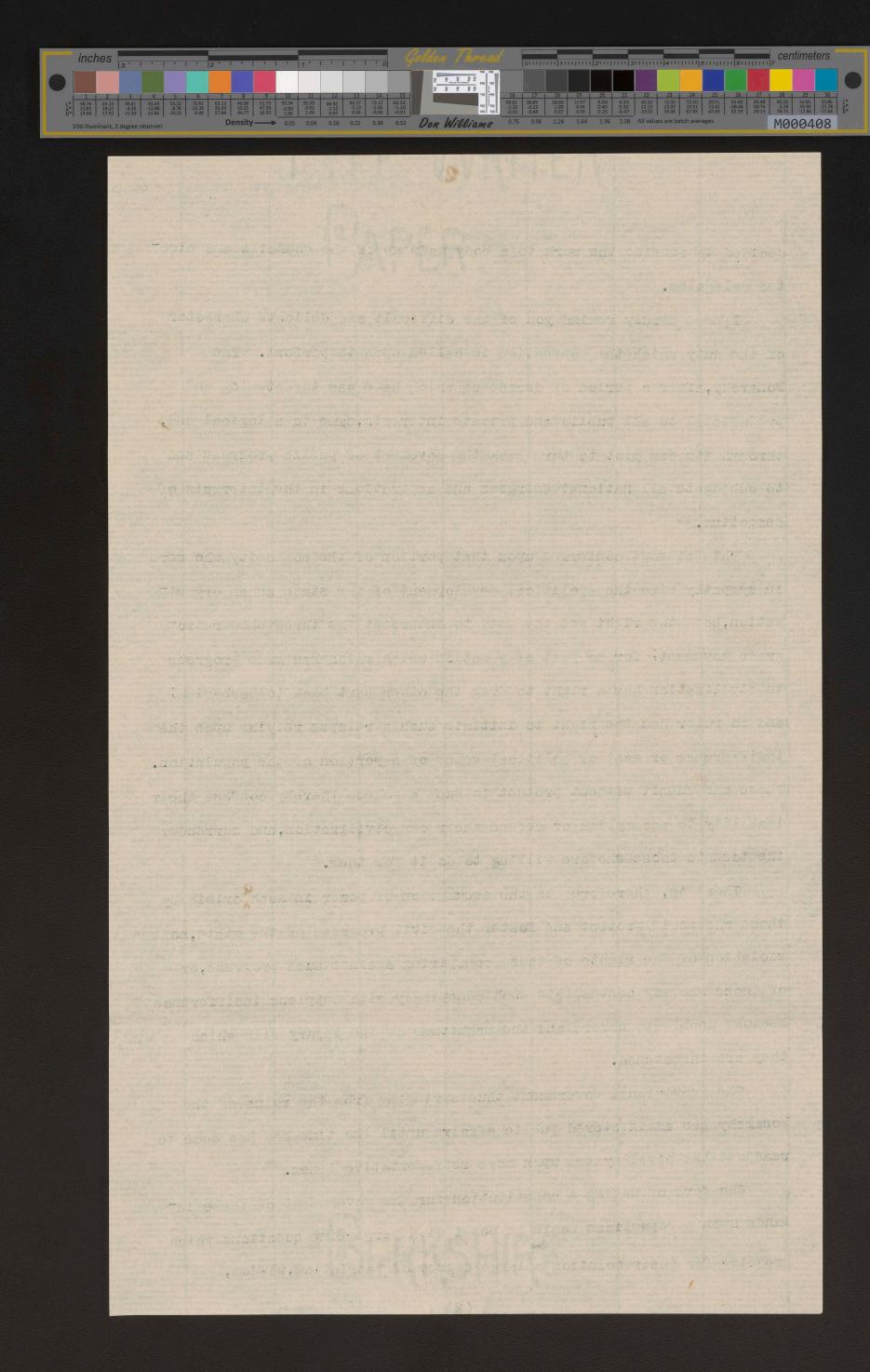
I need hardly remind you of the difficult and delicate character of the duty which the Convention is called upon to perform. The Monarchy, after a period of decadence which have was threatening and prejudicial to all public and private interests, came to a logical end, through its own plot to turn back the movement of public progress and to subjugate all national energies and aspirations in the interests of despotism.

This attempt conferred upon that portion of the community who were in sympathy with the political development of the State as an organization, both the right and the duty to intercept the threatened retrograde movement; for no part of a nation which which has made progress in civilization has a right to drag the other part back to barbarism; and no ruler has the right to initiate such a relapse relying upon the indifference or want of political sense of a portion of the population. Those who submit without protest to such a scheme thereby confess their inability to accomplish or defend their own civilization, and surrender the task to those who are willing to do it for them.

There is, therefore in the assumption of power in such crisis by those who would protect and foster the civil progress of the state, no violation of the rights of those conspiring against such progress, or of those who may contemplate such conspiracy with helpless indifference because unable to understand the magnitude of the injury with which they are threatened.

The Provisional Government thus springing from the ruins of the Monarchy has administered public affairs until the time has now come to readjust the civil system upon more representative lines.

The work of making a constitution for the government of these islands upon a republican basis is beset with perplexing questions which require for their solution a large degree of patriotism, wisdom,



industry and courage.

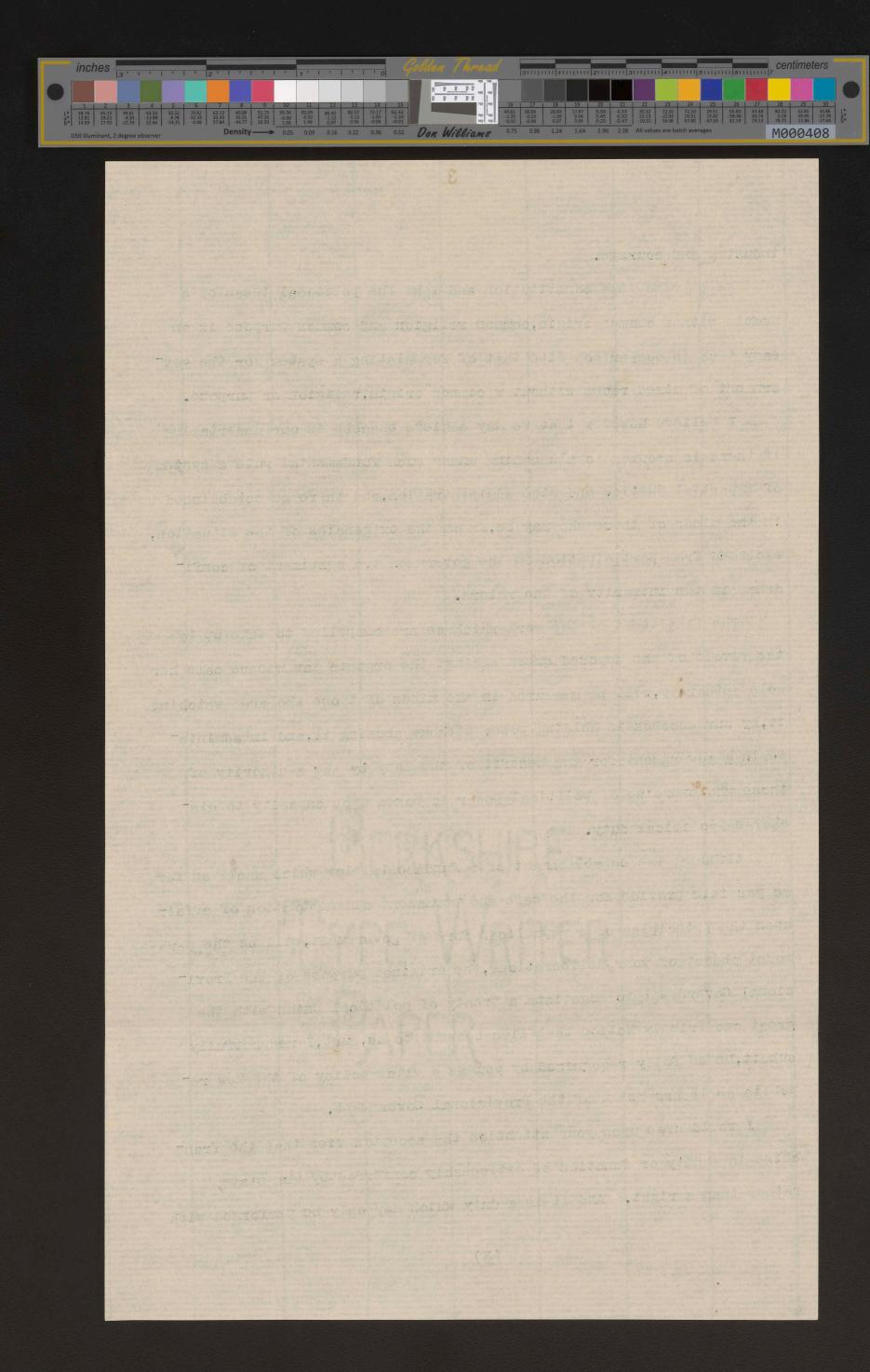
To express in a constitution and laws the political ideas of a people with a common origin, common religion and common purpose is an easy task in comparison with that of formulating a system for the government of mixed races without a common origin, religion or purpose.

I believe however that we may achieve success/in our undertaking if there is secured to all coming under such fundamental rule a system of impartial justice and wise administration, and there be established in the minds of those who may be, from the exigencies of the situation, excluded from participation in the governmendt, a sentiment of confidence in the integrity of the rulers.

The final test of the work which we are compelled to take up by the revolt of the deposed queen against the organic law whence came her sole authoraty, will be measured in the minds of those who are watching it, by our success in holding power without abusing it, and in administering government for the benefit of the many by the a uthority of those who exercise of political power is based upon capacity to discharge pholitical duty.

Although the establishment of a fundamental law which shall as far as possible provide for the safe and permanent administration of affairs upon the principles of a republican form of government, will be the paramount object of your deliberations, the original purpose of the Provisional Government to negotiate a treaty of political Union with the great and friendly Nation that lies nearest to us, must, I respectfully submit, be as fully recognized by you as a vital policy of the new republic as it has been of the Provisional Government.

I would urge upon your attention the accepted view that the franchise is a duty or function of citizenship conferred by the state, rather than a right. And it is a duty which may only be performed with



Opening Address by President S.B. Dole, May 30, 1894, First Day

advantage to the state by those who are mentally qualified for its responsible decisions, as none but the able-bodied citizen may serve his country to advantage on the battlefield. It is only as a means of approximately arriving at a reasonable standard of mental qualifications that the requirement of property qualifications is legitimate. Such a method, though imperfect and in some cases harsh to the individual, is yet in the main an effective ally to the more direct eff ort to reach the same result through educational qualifications, which in practice is more difficult of application.

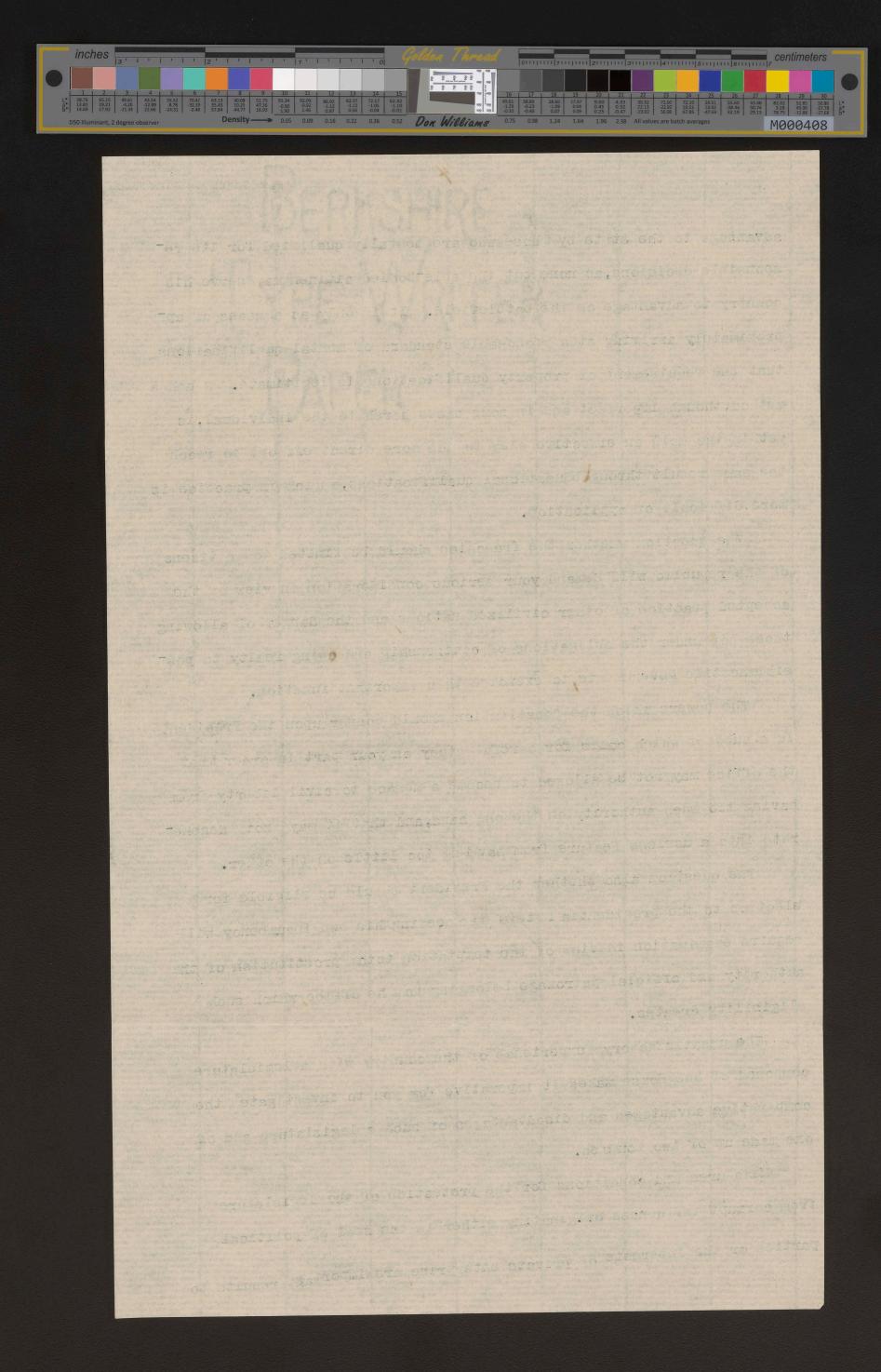
The question whether the franchise should be limited to c tizens of the republic will demand your serious consideration in view of the accepted practice of other civilized nations and the danger of allowing those not under the obligations of citizenship and ewing fealty to possible hostile governments, to exercise this important function.

The powers which the Constitution should confer upon the President is a subject which calls for careful study on your part in order that the office may not be allowed to become a menace to civil liberty from having too much authority on the one hand, and that it may not degenerate into a useless feature from having too little on the other.

The question also whether the President should be eligible for election to the presidential term succeeding his own incumbency will require examination in view of the temptation to the prostitution of the authority and official patronage belonging to the office, which such eligibility creates.

The unsatisfactory experience of the country with a legislature composed of one House makes it imperative for you to investigate the comparative advantages and disadvantages of such a legislature and of one made up of two Hou ses.

Meas ures and conditions for the protection of the legislature from corrupt influences originating either in the zeal of political parties or the interests of private enterprise are important results to



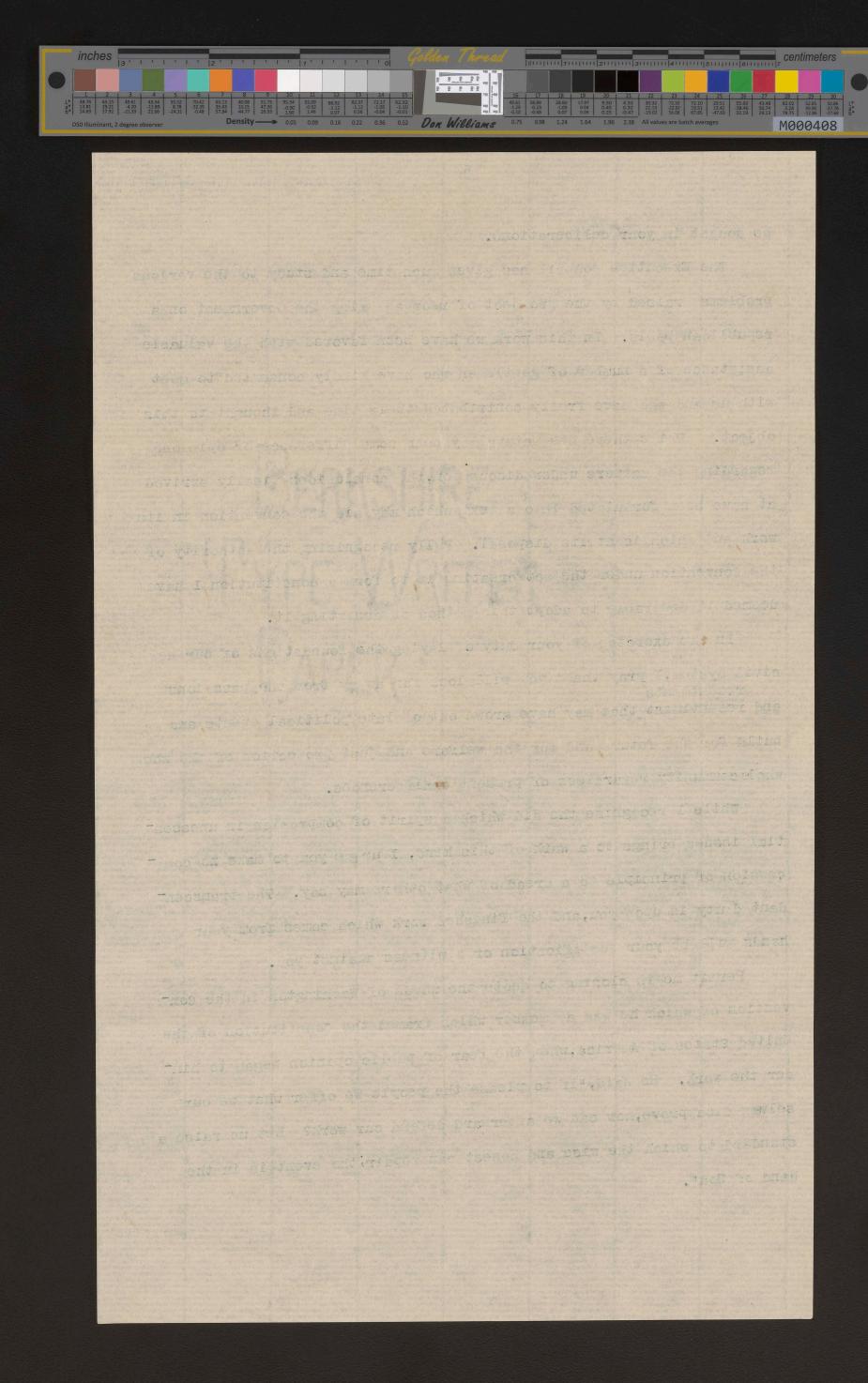
be sought in your deliberations.

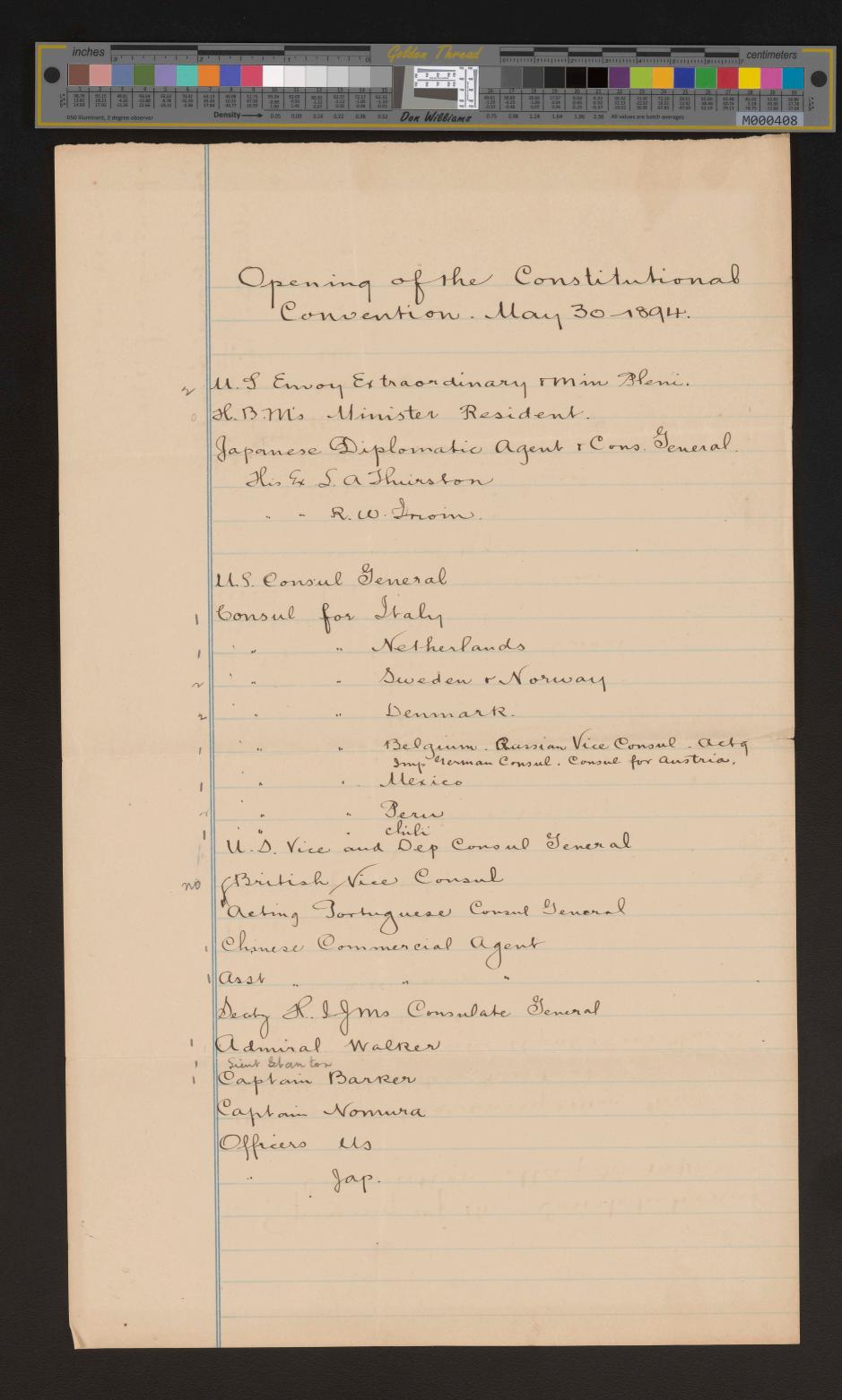
The Executive Council has given much time and study to the various problems raised by the prosject of reorganizing the Government on a republican basis. In this work we have been favored with the valuable assistance of a number of gentlemen who have kindly consented to meet with us and who have freely contributed their time and thought to this object. While there has naturally been some difference of opinions regarding the matters under discussion, the conclusions finally arrived at have been formulated into a text which may aid the Convention in its work, and which is at its disposal. Fully recognizing the authority of the Convention under the act creating it, to form a constitution, I have deemed it desirable to adopt this method of assisting it.

In the exercise of your duty of laying the foundations of our new civil system, I pray that you will look far aw ay from the passions resentments and resentment that may have grown out of late political events, and build for the future, and for the welfare and just protection of the who whole community regardless of present indifferences.

While I recognize the aid which a spirit of compromise in unessential issues brings to a work of this kind, I urge you to make no concession of principle to a dread of what others may say. The transcentant duty is upon you, and the finished work which comes from your hands will be your justification or a witness against you.

Permit me in closing to quote the words of Washington in the convention of which he was a member which framed the Constitution of the United States of America, when the fear of public opinion began to hinder the work. He said, "if to please the people we offer what we ourselwes disapprove, how can we afterward defend our work? Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair; the event is in the hand of God".







Seats at the opening of the Constitutional Convention May 30 1894