

French Republic: Revolutionary Federation of the Communes

A Poster from the Lyon Commune

Lyon Commune

September 27, 1870

The disastrous situation in which the Country finds itself; the impotence of the official powers and the indifference of the privileged classes have put the French nation on the edge of the abyss.

If the People organized in a revolutionary manner do not make haste to act, their future is lost, the Revolution is lost, all is lost. Inspired by the immensity of the danger, and considering that the People's desperate action can not be delayed for a single moment, the delegates of the Federated Committees for the Salvation of France, gathered in the Central Committee, propose the immediate adoption of the following resolutions:

Article 1. – The administrative and governmental machine of the State, having become powerless, is abolished.

The people of France return to full possession of themselves.

Article 2. – All the criminal and civil courts are suspended and replaced by the justice of the people.

Art. 3. – The payment of taxes and mortgages is suspended. Taxation is replaced by the contributions of the federated communes, levied on the wealthy classes, proportional to the needs of the salvation of France.

Art. 4. – The State, being deposed, can no longer intervene in the payment of private debts.

Art. 5. – All the existing municipal organizations are quashed and replaced in all the federated communes by some Committees for the Salvation of France, which will exercise all the powers under the direct control of the People.

Art. 6. – Each committee from each Departmental center will send two delegates to form the Revolutionary Convention for the Salvation of France.

Art. 7. – This Convention will immediately gather at the Town Hall of Lyon, as the second city of France and the closest to contribute energetically to the defense of the country.

This Convention, supported by the entire People, will save France.

To arms!!!

E.-B. SAIGNES, RIVIERE, DEVILLE, RAJON (de Tarare), François FAVRE, Louis PALIX, B. PLACET, BLANC (G.), Ch. BEAUVOIR, Albert RICHARD, J. BISCHOFF, DOUBLE, H. BOUR-

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