

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable
the EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, approved by His
Excellency the Governor General in Council
on the 24 September 1866.

The Committee have had
before them a Despatch N^o 39 dated
31st August 1866 from the Rt. Hon^{ble}
the Secretary of State for the Colonies
stating that the Nova Scotia and
New Brunswick delegates have been
now for some weeks in England with
a view to the discussion of the various
questions relative to the Confederation of
the B. N. A. Provinces, and have
repeatedly inquired of him the period
by which their Canadian Colleagues
may be expected.

That he shall be glad to be
informed.

To the Honorable

The

Gc. Gc. Gc.

informed at the earliest possible date of the course which it is proposed by them to adopt.

His Lordship states that any unnecessary delay in the settlement of this question is very undesirable, and that also the prolonged detention of the delegates now in England is attended with much inconvenience to them and to the Governments of which they are Members.

That if any appearance of impending Union disturbance should render it unfit for Your Excellency to quit Your Post, or if the same causes should make the delegates feel that they cannot all of them leave the Province, it might deserve their consideration whether some of their

their number could repair at once to England to enter into the proposed discussion.

The Committee would respectfully state for the information of Lord Carnarvon that the Canadian Parliament at its first Session in 1865, after the meeting of the Quebec Conference, adopted Resolutions approving the Scheme of Union proposed by that Conference, but that the Legislature of Nova Scotia declined to approve of that Scheme, or to adopt Resolutions in favor of an Union of the Provinces until the Spring of the present year, and the Legislature of New Brunswick did not adopt such Resolutions until the latter part of the Month of July. That so soon as it appeared probable

probable that Nova Scotia and New Brunswick would assent to a Scheme of Confederation, the Canadian Parliament was summoned and Measures to provide for the local Governments which under the Quebec Scheme were required to be adopted by the existing Legislatures of the respective Provinces were submitted for its consideration.

That while these Measures were before Parliament it was proposed by the Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick that delegates from the three Provinces should assemble in England about the first of August with the view of discussing and agreeing to a Bill
for

for Confederation to be submitted to the Imperial Parliament which it was supposed would still be in Session.

That although the Canadian Government doubted that any measure based on the Resolutions of the Quebec Conference could be prepared and carried through the Imperial Parliament at so late a period of the Session they promised to advise Your Excellency to send a delegation of their number to England by the steamer of the 21st July if the progress of legislation and the state of Public business would permit.

That before the date mentioned and before the delegates for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick had sailed for England.

England, Your Excellency received information which convinced Your Excellency that it would not be possible to carry through Parliament at its then Session any Bill for the Confederation of the British North American Provinces.

That shortly afterwards and before the delegates had left for England, Your Excellency received Notice of the resignation of Mr. Cardwell and his Colleagues, and the accession of a New Government.

That in view of these circumstances Your Excellency was advised to inform the Governors of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and Your Excellency did inform them, that as it was evident that no measure

Measure for Confederation could be prepared and carried through Parliament in the Session then about to close, the Canadian Delegates would not leave Canada at the time stated.

That the prorogation of the Imperial Parliament on the twelfth of August proved that the apprehensions of the Canadian Government were well founded.

If therefore, the Delegates from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick had postponed their departure as they were requested to do, they would not have suffered the inconvenience to which Lord Carnarvon refers.

The Committee respectfully submit that it would not be
expedient

expedient for any of the leading
Members of the Canadian Government
to proceed to England while the
Province is threatened with invasion
by a formidable body of Fenian
Marauders from the United States.

The Committee believe that
by the close of navigation this
danger will be passed, or if not that
such preparations will have been
made to meet it that no apprehension
need be felt for the result.

The Committee are further
of opinion that as the next Session
of the Imperial Parliament will
not probably be held before February
1867, ample time will be afforded
for the discussion of any question
that

that may arise between the
representatives of the Provinces and
the Imperial Government of
the Delegates assemble in England
about the 20th of November.

They would therefore
respectfully recommend Your
Excellency to inform Lord
Carnarvon that the following
gentlemen have been appointed
by Your Excellency viz. the Hon.
John A. Macdonald, the Hon.
Geo. E. Cartier, the Hon. A. T.
Galt, the Hon. W^m Mc-Dougall,
the Hon. W. P. Howland and
Hon. St. L. Langevin and such
other gentlemen as may be hereafter
named

196
named to be the delegation on behalf
of Canada, and that it is their
intention to leave Canada for
England on the 7th day of November
next.

Certified
W. H. See.
Clerk.

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