

APPENDIX No. 7.

RECIPROCITY TREATY CORRESPONDENCE.

*Government House,
Halifax, N. S., 25th May, 1865.*

SIR,—

I have the honor to enclose the copy of a Memo. submitted to me this day in Council, by my Ministry.

The main object of that Memo. is to bring before me, and through me before Her Majesty's Government and the Governments of the neighbouring British Provinces, the necessity for concerting measures to secure a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty, on terms equitable to all parties concerned.

In the event of any negotiations being undertaken by Her Majesty's Government with that view, I trust it will not be thought premature in me to express a hope that it may be found possible to consult the wishes of this Province before the final ratification of any renewed treaty, such as that of 1854.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

R. G. MACDONNELL.

To the Right Honorable EDWARD CARDWELL, M. P.

(Copy of Minute of Council, dated 25th May, 1865.)

The undersigned Members of the Executive Council respectfully call the attention of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to the following extract from the Report of the Committee on Trade and Manufactures, adopted by the Assembly at the recent session of the Legislature:

“Your Committee have also had under consideration the correspondence relating to the Reciprocity Treaty and Coasting Trade, and respectfully recommend that the Executive Government should place themselves in communication with the Governments of the other Provinces interested in said Treaty, for the purpose of adopting such measures as may be deemed advisable to endeavour to obtain a continuance of a Treaty under which the people of the United States, as well as the people of these Provinces, have derived material benefits.”

Although no official intimation has been received from the Imperial Government of notice to abrogate the Reciprocity Treaty having been given by the Government of the United States, the undersigned have been made aware of that fact by the published proceedings of the British Parliament, and desire to reiterate the opinions expressed in the annexed Minute of Council, dated Halifax, April 26th, 1864.

The undersigned feel it their duty to draw your Excellency's attention to the strong feeling of dissatisfaction exhibited by many members of the Legislature of this Province when called upon to ratify the existing Treaty, because it had been

matured without an opportunity being previously afforded to make known the views of the Government upon a question in which the rights and interests of the people were so deeply involved, and trust that in any new negotiations upon the subject a similar cause of complaint may be obviated.

CHARLES TUPPER,
W. A. HENRY,
J. W. RITCHIE,
JAMES McNAB,
JAMES McDONALD,
S. L. SHANNON.

(Extract of Minutes—Council Chamber, 26th April, 1864.)

“The undersigned Members of the Executive Council having had under their consideration Lord Lyons’ Despatches of April 7th and 8th, covering a copy of the Report of the Committee on Commerce upon the Reciprocity Treaty, and a copy of the Resolutions thereon submitted to the House of Representatives at Washington, on the 1st April, instant; and also a Despatch from Her Majesty’s Governor General, enclosing two Minutes of the Honorable the Executive Council of Canada, upon the same subject, beg leave to report as follows:—

“The undersigned are of the opinion that the operation of that Treaty has been mutually beneficial to the United States and the British North American Provinces, and concur with the Government of Canada as to the advantage that would result to all the parties interested from opening negotiations, with a view to the adjustment of the Treaty and arrangement for its continuance, in time to avoid the injurious consequences likely to happen to all parties concerned from notice being given on either side for its abrogation. At the same time it is proper that the undersigned should take this opportunity to express the universal sentiment pervading this Province, that in the construction of that Treaty fair consideration was not given to the interests of Nova Scotia, whose inexhaustible fisheries of priceless value were given away, without the coasting trade or the right to register Colonial built shipping having been secured in return, to these British American Provinces—privileges which the undersigned hope will not fail to be secured in any re-arrangement of the Treaty.”

Government House, Quebec, July 15, 1865.

SIR,—

In a Despatch addressed to me by Her Majesty’s Secretary of State, No. 95, of June 17th, 1865,—a copy of which I am aware has been communicated to you,—Mr. Cardwell informs me, in reference to the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States of America, that “Sir F. Bruce had already received instructions to negotiate for a renewal of the Treaty, and to act in concert with the Government of Canada.”

I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of an approved Minute of the Executive Council of Canada, which will shew you the course intended to be adopted by this Government, in order to arrange with Sir F. Bruce the mode in which the Provincial authorities may most advantageously coöperate with him in the management of the proposed negotiations.

It is the intention of the members of this Government who have been deputed to confer with Sir F. Bruce to proceed immediately to Washington, and on their return I shall not fail to give you full and timely intimation of the arrangement agreed on, in order that the Governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland may have an opportunity of acting in concert with that of Canada, and of asserting in the negotiations the special interests which the inhabitants of these Provinces may have in relation to the subject.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,

MONCK.

Lieutenant-Governor Sir R. G. MacDONNELL, C. B., &c., &c.,
Nova Scotia.

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Executive Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General, in Council, on the 15th July, 1865.

The Committee have had before them a memorandum, dated this day, from the Honorable the Minister of Finance, submitting for the consideration of your Excellency in Council, that by the Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 17th June, 1865, it appears that the British Minister at Washington had been instructed to negotiate for a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty, and to act in concert with the Government of Canada in reference thereto.

That as it is advisable that no time should be lost in reference to this important subject, he recommends that a Committee, consisting of two members of the Provincial Government, should proceed to Washington, for the purpose of conferring with Sir Frederick Bruce, and of determining, in concert with him, on the steps it may appear most expedient to adopt.

The Committee concur in the above recommendation, and advise that the Honorable the Minister of Finance and Postmaster General be deputed to proceed to Washington on the mission referred to.

Certified.

(Signed)

WM. H. LEE,
C. E. C.

Downing Street, 8th July, 1865.

SIR,—

I have the honor to inform you that Sir F. Bruce has received instructions to place himself in communication with your Government, in order that you may furnish him with such information as he may require when the negotiation for the renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty takes place.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant.

EDWARD CARDWELL.

Lieut. Governor Sir R. G. MACDONNELL, C. B.

Downing Street, 22nd July, 1865.

MY LORD,—

I have the honor to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a correspondence which has passed between this office and the Foreign Office, arising out of a representation which has been addressed to me by the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, requesting that in the event of negotiations being opened between Her Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States, with a view to the renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty, the wishes of Nova Scotia may be consulted before the final ratification of the Treaty.

Your Lordship will see from the letter from the Foreign Office that Lord Russell considers that it would save much delay and difficulty if a Confederate Council, chosen by all the North American Colonies, and presided over by your Lordship, were nominated, for the purpose of expressing an opinion to Her Majesty's Government in the negotiation of Commercial Treaties. I have accordingly to request that your Lordship would communicate with the respective Lieutenant Governors and with the Governor of Newfoundland, with a view to this arrangement being carried into effect, and report the result to me.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

EDWARD CARDWELL.

Governor The Viscount MONCK.

Downing Street, 22nd July, 1865.

SIR,—

I have the honor to transmit to you the copy of a letter which I have received from the Foreign Office, containing a suggestion from Lord Russell for the appointment of a Confederate Council, chosen by all the North American Colonies, and presided over by the Governor General, with a view to furnishing an opinion to Her Majesty's Government in the negotiation of Commercial Treaties.

I have to inform you that in consequence of this suggestion of Lord Russell's, I have, by this day's mail, addressed the necessary instructions to the Governor General, and have to request that you will coöperate with him accordingly.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

EDWARD CARDWELL.

Lieutenant Governor Sir R. G. MACDONNELL, C. B., &c., &c., &c.

Foreign Office, July 20th, 1865.

SIR,—

In reply to your letter of the 3rd inst., I am directed by Earl Russell to request that you will state to Mr. Secretary Cardwell that negotiations have not yet been commenced for the renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty.

The interests of Nova Scotia will be duly consulted; but it would, His Lordship considers, save much embarrassment, delay, and difficulty, if the faculty of giving an opinion to Her Majesty's Government in the negotiations of Commercial Treaties were vested in a Confederate Council, chosen by all the North American Provinces, and presided over by the Governor General of Canada.

I am,

(Signed)

A. H. LUGARD.

Sir FREDERICK ROGERS, Bart., &c., &c., &c.

Government House, Quebec, August 14, 1865.

SIR,—

I have the honor to transmit to you copies of a Despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, enclosing me a letter written by direction of Lord Russell, in which his Lordship suggests, with reference to the proposed negotiation for the renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States of America, that a Council should be chosen by all the North American Provinces, and presided over by the Governor General of Canada, for the purpose of giving an opinion to Her Majesty's Government in the negotiation of Commercial Treaties.

Mr. Cardwell instructs me to communicate with the respective Lieutenant Governors, and with the Governor of Newfoundland, with a view to this arrangement being carried into effect.

I propose that the Council should be constituted by the appointment of one member of the Executive Council of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland, respectively, who should be associated with two members of the Executive Council of Canada—one to represent the Upper, and the other the Lower Province; and I would take the liberty of naming Thursday, the 14th day of September, as the day upon which the representatives of each of the Provinces should meet at Quebec, for the purpose of consulting on this important subject with the representatives of Canada and reporting their joint opinions to Her Majesty's Government.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

MONCK.

Lieutenant-Governor Sir R. G. MACDONNELL, C. B., &c., &c., &c.,

Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Confederate Council of the British North American Colonies, on the negotiation of Commercial Treaties, assembled at Quebec, in compliance with the suggestions contained in the Despatch of the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 22nd July, 1865.

FRIDAY, September 15th, 1865.

The Council met in the Executive Council Chamber.

PRESENT :

His Excellency the Governor General.
 The Honorable G. E. Cartier,
 “ George Brown,
 “ A. T. Galt,
 “ James C. Pope, and
 “ Robert D. Wilmot.

In consequence of the Representatives of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland not having arrived, no business was transacted.

SATURDAY, September 16th, 1865.

The Council met.

PRESENT :

His Excellency the Governor General,
 The Honorable G. E. Cartier,
 “ George Brown,
 “ A. T. Galt,
 “ Ambrose Shea,
 “ James C. Pope,
 “ John W. Ritchie, and
 “ Robert D. Wilmot.

W. A. Himsworth, Esq., Acting Clerk of the Executive Council, was appointed Secretary to the Council.

Read the Despatch, No. 122, dated 22nd July, 1865, from the Right Honorable H. M. Secretary of State for the Colonies, suggesting the assembling of a Confederate Council, chosen by all the British North American Colonies, and presided over by the Governor General, for the purpose of expressing an opinion to Her Majesty's Government in the negotiation of Commercial Treaties.

Read the Despatch, dated 7th August, ultimo, from His Excellency the Governor General to the Lieutenant Governors of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, and to the Governor of Newfoundland, respectively, communicating to those Governments the suggestion of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and requesting that the representatives of each of the Provinces should meet at Quebec, on Thursday, the 14th September, instant, for the purpose of consulting on the important matters referred to by Mr. Cardwell, and reporting their joint opinion to Her Majesty's Government.

Read the order of His Excellency the Governor General in Council, of 14th September, 1865, appointing the Honorable John A. MacDonald, George E. Cartier, George Brown, and A. T. Galt to represent Canada in the proposed Confederate Council.

The Governor General communicated to the Council, in explanation of the appointment of four gentlemen, instead of two, to represent Canada, that this arrangement was determined on in consequence of Messrs. MacDonald, Cartier, Brown, and Galt having constituted the Deputation from the Canadian Government which lately had conferences with Her Majesty's Government in relation to this question, and that it was considered desirable that these gentlemen should all

be enabled to take part in the discussions of the Council; but with the distinct understanding that in case of a division in the Council, only one vote each should be allowed to Upper and Lower Canada.

Read a Despatch, dated 7th September, instant, from the Administrator of the Government of Prince Edward Island, intimating that he had appointed the Honorable James Colledge Pope to represent that Colony in the proposed Confederate Council.

Read a Despatch, dated 8th September, instant, from the Administrator of the Government of New Brunswick, intimating that he had appointed the Honorable Robert Duncan Wilmot to represent that Province in the proposed Confederate Council.

Read a Despatch, dated 11th September, instant, from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, stating that he had nominated the Honorable John W. Ritchie to represent that Province in the intended Confederate Council.

Read a Despatch, dated 4th September, instant, from His Excellency the Governor of Newfoundland, intimating that he had appointed the Honorable Ambrose Shea to represent that Colony in the proposed Confederate Council.

Resolved, That the Honorable Messrs. MacDonald, Cartier, Brown, Galt, Shea, Pope, Ritchie, and Wilmot, be constituted a Committee of the Confederate Council, to report to the Council on Monday, the 18th instant.

The Council then adjourned until Monday, the 18th instant, at Eleven o'clock, A. M.

MONDAY, 18th September, 1865.

The Council met.

PRESENT :

His Excellency the Governor General,
 The Honorable Mr. Cartier,
 “ “ Brown,
 “ “ Shea,
 “ “ Pope,
 “ “ Ritchie, and
 “ “ Wilmot.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read, and approved.

The Report from the Committee appointed on the last day of meeting, was read, and in conformity with its purport, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted by the Council:—

1st. That the existing Treaty of Trade with the United States is acceptable, and that its renewal, as it now stands, would be assented to by the respective Provinces.

2nd. That in the opinion of the Council, any reasonable proposals for the modification or extension of the Treaty that may be suggested by the United States Government, ought to be entertained by the Provinces.

3rd. That in the event of a new Reciprocity Treaty being negotiated, it would be highly desirable that the Coasting Trade and the Registration of Vessels should be included in its provisions.

4th. That in the event of the abolition of the Treaty by the United States Government, it is the opinion of this Council that all the British North American Provinces should combine cordially together in all commercial matters, and adopt such a Common Commercial Policy as will best advance the interests of the whole.

5th. That in the opinion of this Council, it would be highly desirable that application be made to Her Majesty's Imperial Government, requesting that steps be taken to enable the British North American Provinces to open communications with the West India Islands, with Spain and her Colonies, and with Brazil and Mexico, for the purpose of ascertaining in what manner the traffic of the Provinces with these countries could be extended, and placed on a more advantageous footing.

6th. That in the event of negotiations for a new Treaty of Reciprocity with the United States being opened by Her Majesty's Government, but not concluded before the 17th March next, applications be made to Her Majesty's Government suggesting that an arrangement be entered into with the United States Government for such a continuation of the existing Treaty as may afford time for concluding the pending negotiations.

7th. That Her Majesty's Government be requested to authorize the Members of this Council, or a Committee to be appointed from amongst them, to proceed to Washington, in the event of negotiations being opened for the renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty, in order to confer with the British Minister there, and afford him information with respect to the interests of the British North American Provinces.

The Council then adjourned.

W. A. HIMSWORTH,
Secretary.