

Gordau

75

Fredericton

May 22. 1865

Private

Gov^r Hon. Arthur Gordau
to Mr. Leif Cardwell
The Federation Scheme
has been completely rejected
Fredericton

March 13. 1865.

73

My dear Mr Cardwell

Neither I nor any one else here expected
so complete a rejection of the Federation Scheme
as that which it has met with in this province.
That the plan was unpopular I knew, and
that a numerical majority unfavourable to
it would be returned to the House of Assembly
I thought likely; but that the leading members
of the Gov^t would lose their elections, and the
measure itself be defeated, neither I, nor my
ministers, nor their opponents, ever imagined.
Tilley's defeat at St John virtually settled the
matter, for the "unpledged" who had till then

73

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74

been quite ready to be "convinced" by the Govt, at once went over to the winning side, when they saw that a change of ministry was inevitable.

Though the feeling of the Province is decidedly opposed to the scheme, it might I think have been carried, but for

1st the fact that my present Govt has held office for a very long time, and that many of its members are personally very unpopular.

2nd the knowledge that the scheme was certain to fail in Nova Scotia

3^d the rooted distrust which has been engendered by repeated acts of bad faith on the part of the Canadian Govt.

I deeply regret that the scheme for the Legislative Union of the Maritime ~

Provinces was abandoned. It might by this time have been effected, and would in my opinion have paved the way successfully for any larger subsequent measure. It would putting it on the lowest ground have been a great assistance in any future negotiations to have the consent of only one legislature to obtain, instead of that of three separate ones. I fear, however, this plan will not be revived by my new Government. I shall do my best to induce them to consider it.

Personally the failure of the scheme is a matter of great disappointment to me. It destroys all chance of a speedy natural termination of my Govt by the abolition of my office; and it brings into power as the leader of the new Govt the only one man in the province who chooses to consider me his personal

enemy - a fact all cognizance of which
I invariably ignore, but which will not
tend to render our official relations more
agreeable or easy.

I fear too that my new Govt will be
anti defensive, but, if they are, they will
speedily be upset, for the people at large
are fully bent on increased efficiency
in the militia force and are prepared to
pay for it, not perhaps as much as you
will think they ought but far more than
they have yet done.

Ever sincerely yours

Arthur H Gordon

Freder

Mr Cardwell

I received your letter of the 29th ult
and am sorry why he should not admit
able time I have forwarded to
the letters contained. In about
leave New Brunswick and it
least as long to get through
land and Nova Scotia,
to accomplish before commencing
le, for the reasons which I
intend to give publicity to
private letter, written in
the mention of Hongkong. I
to Siam were coupled with
to the government of Ho
your offer, if made, w
e, be accepted. You have
the Queen for the appoin
ved Her Majesty's approval