

a resolution of a somewhat similar nature was moved by Mr. Morine, on behalf of the Opposition in 1896, it was opposed and thrown out by the Whiteway Government and its supporters. The reason for the present unanimity will be found in the expectations held out by the Receiver-General towards the close of his Budget speech, which I forwarded with my despatch of the 16th instant.* I understand that, according to present intentions, a delegation will proceed to London in June or July next in order to confer with you on the subject of the Royal Commission and the expected loan or grant from the Imperial Government.

I have, &c.,

H. MURRAY,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 29.

House of Assembly, March 25, 1898.

Extract from Journal of the House.

The Chairman reported that the Committee had adopted the following resolutions:—

Resolved. That it is the opinion of this House that it is desirable that the Government should open negotiations with Her Majesty's Government on the basis of the proposals contained in a despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to His Excellency Sir Terence O'Brien, Governor, of the 9th February, 1891, and referred to by His Excellency the Governor in his speech at the opening of the present Session, for the appointment by Her Majesty's Government of a Commission to enquire into various subjects pertaining to the condition and affairs of the Colony, and more particularly set forth in the said despatch.

2. Resolved. That provision be made for the expenses necessary for the conduct of the negotiations referred to in the foregoing resolution.

3. Resolved. That the House requests the concurrence of the Honourable the Legislative Council in the foregoing resolutions.

The motion that the report be received and adopted was carried by a unanimous vote of the House, and on motion of the Honourable Receiver-General it was ordered that the names of all Members voting be inscribed in the Minutes.

EDWARD SHEA,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.

Enclosure 2 in No. 29.

Hon. the Premier moved the adoption of the following Resolution:—

"Resolved.—That it is the opinion of this Committee that it is desirable that the Government should open negotiations with Her Majesty's Government, on the basis of the proposals contained in a despatch from the Rt. Honble. the Secretary of State for the Colonies to His Excellency Sir Terence O'Brien, Governor, of the 9th February, 1891, and referred to by His Excellency the Governor in his Speech at the opening of the present Session, for the appointment by Her Majesty's Government of a Commission to enquire into various subjects pertaining to the condition and affairs of the Colony, and more particularly set forth in the said despatch.

"That the concurrence of the Honble. the Legislative Council in foregoing resolution be requested."

Hon. the Premier reminded the Committee that as far back as 1891 Her Majesty's Government had offered to send out a Commission to enquire into our agricultural and mining resources, the financial condition of the Colony, the French Treaty Rights and how far they had operated against us, and to report as to what remedies could be applied. The local Government of the day did not entertain this offer favorably, on account of certain conditions attached to the offer. There had since been two applications on our part for assistance from the Imperial Government, once after the fire in St. John's in 1892, and afterwards in 1894 after the suspension of our Local Banks. The present Government were of opinion that the time is now favorable for the renewal of this effort