

last year to present a petition from both branches of the Legislature to the Imperial Government asking them to use their influence with the Dominion Government to carry out the terms of Confederation. They met in London Sir Chas. Tupper, the High Commissioner, and discussed the question there. It may be, perhaps, as well to inform the House that, some time previously the Government of Prince Edward Island had sent a petition through the Governor-General to the Imperial Government, and the Imperial authorities had called upon the Dominion Government to answer that petition. It was in answer to that petition this conference took place in London, the result of which was the following despatch,

*From Earl Granville to the Marquis of Lansdowne.*

DOWNING STREET, 30th March, 1886

MY LORD,—I duly received your Lordship's despatch of the 19th November last, enclosing an approved report of a Committee of the Privy Council for Canada, forwarding, with other papers, a joint address to the Queen from the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island. This address prays that Her Majesty will require that justice be done by the Government of Canada to Her Majesty's loyal subjects of that province by the immediate "establishment and maintenance of efficient steam service for the conveyance of mails and passengers between this island and the mainland of the Dominion, both winter and summer, so as to place the island in continuous communication with the Intercolonial Railway and the railway system of the Dominion;" and further, that Her Majesty would be pleased to require that the Government of Canada should compensate the island for the loss which it is alleged has resulted to its inhabitants by reason of the non-fulfilment of the terms of Confederation in the particulars complained of in the address.

I also received your despatch of 30th January, with a further report of a Committee of the Privy Council on the subject of the delegation appointed to support the prayer of the address.

Since the receipt of these papers I have had the pleasure of receiving Mr. Sullivan, the Premier and Attorney-General, and Mr. Ferguson, the Provincial Secretary of Prince Edward Island, who had been appointed as delegates to Her Majesty's Government, and on the 24th of last month they attended here by appointment and favored me with a general statement of the circumstances under which the Legislature of Prince Edward Island had addressed the Queen. I explained to them that the Queen had no

power, either by statute or otherwise under the constitution of Canada, to give any direction in this matter, and that therefore I should not be able to advise Her Majesty (who had been pleased to receive the address very graciously) to take any action upon it, but that it would give me much satisfaction if, by the exercise of any friendly offices which I could tender, I should be able to contribute to the settlement of a question in which the Provincial Government were so much interested. I added that I had confidence in the kindly spirit in which the matter at issue would be dealt with on both sides, and this led me to hope that some acceptable arrangement might be come to.

I then gave the delegates a copy of the report of the Privy Council of Canada, dated the 7th of November last, which they had not previously received, and I informed them that after receiving and considering the observations which they might desire to make upon that report, I should be happy to see them again, and, if it should be agreeable to both parties, to invite Sir Charles Tupper to be present, on behalf of the Dominion Government, at the interview.

On the 4th instant, I received from the delegates the statement, of which a copy is enclosed, and I communicated a copy of it to Sir C. Tupper, who favored me with his comments thereon in a memorandum, of which a copy is also enclosed. After perusing these papers I invited the delegates and Sir Charles Tupper to meet me at this office on the 12th inst. The delegates urged at length the claims and contentions of the province, and laid before me the plans of a submarine line of communication which they understood to be feasible. Sir Charles Tupper then justified and explained the action of the Dominion Government, adding personally, and not speaking under instructions, that if it could be shown that the scheme of a "metallic subway" is really feasible at a moderate cost, the Dominion Government would, no doubt, be ready to give their serious consideration to such a scheme.

As I stated in the earlier part of this despatch, although Her Majesty's Government is unable to take the question out of the hands of the Dominion Government, and although I have not seen more than a *prima facie* opinion as to feasibility at a moderate cost of the proposal for its solution, I hope that it will be found to admit of a satisfactory settlement. On the other hand, the expectations of the Province in regard to the establishment of a constant and efficient communication with the mainland have not been fulfilled, but, on the other hand, the Dominion Government has shown that it has made considerable efforts to improve the communication in the face of serious physical difficulties, especially during the winter season. There seems to be reason for doubting whether any really satisfactory communication by steamship