

Union, or, if that was found impracticable, to apply the Federal Principle to Canada alone, with a Central Parliament, based on representation by population, for the whole Province, and local Legislatures for Upper and Lower Canada.

Delegates duly accredited from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward's Island met at Charlottetown in August, 1864, but before they had well begun the work with which they were charged—the Legislative Union of the Maritime Provinces—their proceedings were suddenly interrupted by the arrival of a strong Delegation from Canada, who succeeded in breaking up the conference and leading the Convention away from their official mission to the consideration of the other question—a Federal Union of all the Provinces.

The Delegates from the Maritime Provinces having abandoned the work with which they were charged by their several Legislatures, proceeded with the Canadian Deputation to Quebec, where, in October, 1864, the Resolutions known as the "Quebec Scheme," for confederating Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward's Island, were adopted.

That the policy of Confederation down to this period was Canadian, and not Imperial, is proved by the fact that the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Cardwell, acquiesced in the policy of legislatively uniting the Maritime Provinces, and approved of the hesitancy of the then Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia to permit the Delegates to proceed to Canada and discuss the larger Union.

The scheme prepared at Quebec, and concocted in secret, excited great alarm and apprehension in Nova Scotia, from the moment it was published; so much so, that old party lines were at once broken down, and the masses of the people, by a common instinct, united together to resist a measure which threatened to rob them of their revenues and self-government.

The country was aroused, public meetings were held, and when the Legislature met in February, 1865, the Provincial Government—although pledged by the Governor's speech to submit the Confederation Scheme to the Legislature—did not dare to bring the measure down, but in its stead revived the Resolution of March, 1864, for a Legislative Union of the Maritime Provinces, and so strong was the feeling in the Assembly, that the Preamble, stating that—

"Whereas, under existing circumstances, an immediate Union of the
"British North American Colonies has *become impracticable*,—and whereas
"a Legislative Union of the Maritime Provinces is desirable whether the
"larger Union be accomplished or not,"

had to be subsequently abandoned, because the House would not, even by implication, recognize the expediency of any Union between Nova Scotia and Canada.

One hundred and eighty-three Petitions, signed by over 15,000 persons, praying the Assembly not to adopt the Confederation Scheme without consulting the people at the polls, were presented to the House in the Session of 1865, and only one petition was presented in its favour.

It would appear that no effective measures were taken to carry out the foregoing Resolution, which found no favour with the then Colonial Secretary, Mr. Cardwell, either by correspondence with the Government of New Brunswick and Prince Edward's Island, or by meetings of Delegates from the Maritime Provinces.

The Legislature of Nova Scotia, which re-assembled on the twenty-second February, 1866, was opened by a speech from the Lieutenant-Governor. Not a word was said in that speech, or in the address in reply, respecting either a Union of the Maritime Provinces, or the Confederation of all the British American Colonies. Lulled into security by this marked omission in the Lieutenant-Governor's speech, and fully believing that the Confederation Scheme was abandoned by the Government, the Petitions then in course of signature were