

THE BULLFROG.

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NOTICE.

Our readers will perceive that we have added eight columns to the *Bullfrog*. It is our wish to ventilate public opinion upon all matter bearing upon the public weal, without in any way curtailing our editorial matter, or encroaching upon the space necessarily reserved for advertisements. Should the support hitherto accorded us be continued, our readers may count upon a further enlargement of the *Bullfrog*.

THE CONFERENCE.—OUR FUTURE GOVERNORS.

Although by no means satisfied that the proposed Federation is favorably regarded by the people of this Province, it is interesting to note some of the conclusions arrived at by the members of the Quebec conference. It has been resolved that the Governors of the several Provinces shall be appointed and paid by the central Confederate Government. This decision would seem, at first sight, not unreasonable, but the whole theory of Federation is so anomalous and contradictory, that we cannot accept any one of the issues it involves upon the mere fiat of the recent Conference. It is imperative that the action of local Governors should be under the control of the United Legislature rather than that of local Legislatures, but we see difficulties innumerable in their mode of appointment as agreed upon at Quebec. It is by no means likely that England would oppose the scheme on the score of patronage; for, since the British Parliament ceased to provide for the expenses of our civil governments, home patronage has been narrowed to an extent which leaves it valueless as a means of influencing home politics. We are uninformed as to whether Governors are to be appointed for a term of years, or whether, like other high officials, they will be subject to removal upon a change of ministry at Ottawa. We are of opinion that their term of office should be definitely fixed, and independent of a transfer of political power in the United Parliament. Were the proposed Union to be Legislative, we should advocate the contrary system, and wish the office purely political. But so long as each province has its own internal Government, the office cannot, with any shew of wisdom, be made purely political, inasmuch as the duties of the Governor will remain precisely as at present. And such being the case, it is of the utmost importance that our future Governors should exercise the strictest impartiality regarding local party politics,—that they should be mediators rather than partisans,—the advocates of general advancement, rather than the promoters of sectional interests. In placing the nomination of Lieutenant Governors in the hands of the proposed central Confederate Government, the Quebec Conference has followed out the policy hitherto pursued by the Home authorities. It is indeed by no means likely that the British Parliament would formally assent to any other arrangement. The only real control which England has, since the introduction of Responsible Government, exercised over the B. N. American Colonies, has lain in the right of the Crown to appoint Governors for the several Provinces. Should

the provisions of the newly devised scheme ever come into operation, the Crown will in reality exercise a control over B. N. America as great as heretofore. Such small patronage as may be lost by transferring the appointments of local Governors from the Home to the Confederate Government, will be amply compensated for by the importance which may hereafter attach to the appointment of a Viceroy for B. N. America. We are not, as stated last week, sanguine enough to suppose that any very exalted English personage will accept the Viceroyalty of B. N. America upon the terms which Federation—a name redolent of secession and difficulties—implies; but we have little doubt that, as a mere matter of policy, the position of our contemplated Viceroy will be such as to warrant its acceptance by one whom it may be wise for the Home authorities to conciliate.

It has been hinted pretty generally by the Colonial press, that one of Royal blood might be induced to become our ruler. This idea cannot for a moment be entertained, so long as our Union is merely Federal. Were the Provinces of B. N. America linked together by a Legislative Union, the supposition might possibly be entertained, but it is mere folly to dream of such an event, as brought about by a mere commercial compact which may at any moment be rendered null and void by the action of any one of the contracting parties. But, be this as it may, the proposed Confederate Government will undertake no light task in the appointment of Provincial Governors. It will be imperative with the Confederate Government, to follow up in this matter the broad principles hitherto laid down by successive British Governments. And these principles are so clear as to admit of no misinterpretation. However much successive British ministries have differed regarding Colonial policy in the abstract, there has never been two opinions among English politicians regarding the duties of Colonial Governors, in Colonies possessing Responsible Governments. Their duties may be briefly summed up in the single word—impartiality. The instructions of the late DUKE OF NEWCASTLE, no less than of the present MR. CARDWELL, are literally the same as those enunciated long since by EARL GREY, who thus defines the main duties of the Lieutenant Governor of a Province such as this:—"I believe that the advantage to the Colonies of having persons entirely unconnected with local parties cannot be over-rated. * * * In a Colony like CANADA, where representative institutions have attained their full development, and the Governor is aided in his administrative duties by Ministers who are required to possess the confidence of the Legislature, exceedingly little interference on the part of the Government at home seems to be required. * * * Practically, I believe that the influence which can be exercised through a judicious Governor is very considerable, and may be of great service to the Colonies. In the strife of parties which prevails in all free Governments, the existence of an impartial authority serves to check the too great violence with which political contests are sometimes carried on, and the experience and position of a Minister of the Crown in this country enable him frequently to offer useful advice to the Colonial Legislatures. * * * It is in Colonies having popular forms of