

12 CORRESPONDENCE RESPECTING THE PROPOSED UNION

CANADA.

both in the general administration, and in the Governments of the several Provinces. A very important part of this subject is the expense which may attend the working of the Central and the Local Governments. Her Majesty's Government cannot but express the earnest hope that the arrangements which may be adopted in this respect may not be of such a nature as to increase—at least in any considerable degree—the whole expenditure, or to make any material addition to the taxation, and thereby retard the internal industry, or tend to impose new burdens on the commerce of the country.

Her Majesty's Government are anxious to lose no time in conveying to you their general approval of the proceedings of the Conference. There are, however, two provisions of great importance which seem to require revision. The first of these is the provision contained in the 44th Resolution with respect to the exercise of the Prerogative of pardon. It appears to Her Majesty's Government that this duty belongs to the representative of the Sovereign,—and could not with propriety be devolved upon the Lieutenant-Governors, who will, under the present scheme, be appointed not directly by the Crown, but by the Central Government of the United Provinces.

The second point which Her Majesty's Government desire should be reconsidered is the Constitution of the Legislative Council. They appreciate the considerations which have influenced the Conference in determining the mode in which this body, so important to the constitution of the Legislature, should be composed. But it appears to them to require further consideration whether if the Members be appointed for life, and their number be fixed, there will be any sufficient means of restoring harmony between the Legislative Council and the Popular Assembly, if it shall ever unfortunately happen that a decided difference of opinion shall arise between them.

These two points, relating to the Prerogative of the Crown and to the Constitution of the Upper Chamber, have appeared to require distinct and separate notice. Questions of minor consequence and matters of detailed arrangement may properly be reserved for a future time, when the Provisions of the Bill, intended to be submitted to the Imperial Parliament, shall come under consideration. Her Majesty's Government anticipate no serious difficulty in this part of the case,—since the Resolutions will generally be found sufficiently explicit to guide those who will be intrusted with the preparation of the Bill. It appears to them, therefore, that you should now take immediate measures in concert with the Lieutenant-Governors of the several Provinces, for submitting to their respective Legislatures this project of the Conference;—and if, as I hope, you are able to report that these Legislatures sanction and adopt the scheme, Her Majesty's Government will render you all the assistance in their power for carrying it into effect. It will probably be found to be the most convenient course, that in concert with the Lieutenant-Governors, you should select a deputation of the persons best qualified, to proceed to this country;—that they may be present during the preparation of the Bill, and give to Her Majesty's Government the benefit of their counsel upon any questions which may arise during the passage of the measure through the two Houses of Parliament.

Viscount Monck.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) EDWARD CARDWELL.

[A copy of the foregoing Despatch was sent on the 8th December to the Governors of each of the other Provinces in North America, viz., Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland.]

The Conference consisted of the following Members :

For Canada,

- The Hon. Sir E. P. Taché, M.L.C., Receiver-General and Minister of Militia.
- „ John A. McDonald, M.P.P., Attorney-General (U. Canada).
- „ G. E. Cartier, M.P.P., Attorney-General (L. Canada).
- „ George Brown, M.P.P., President of Executive Council.
- „ O. Mowatt, M.P.P., Postmaster-General.
- „ A. T. Galt, M.P.P., Minister of Finance.
- „ T. D. McGee, M.P.P., Minister of Agriculture.
- „ Wm. McDougall, M.P.P., Provincial Secretary.
- „ Alex. Campbell, M.L.C., Commissioner of Crown Lands.
- „ Q. C. Chappais, M.P.P., Commissioner of Public Works.
- „ L. H. Langevin, M.P.P., Solicitor-General (L. Canada).
- „ James Cockburn, M.P.P., Solicitor General (U. Canada).