

Upper Canada much close conflict in the debates. An appeal to the country was proposed in the Assembly of Upper Canada at that time, and rejected by a large majority. The same proposal was made in the late debates on confederation in Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, but in all of them was thrown out by a large majority.

Again, it has been objected that the union was not made subject to legislative ratification by the several Legislatures. But no such course has been followed in the numerous modifications of Colonial constitutions, and in the separations and unions of colonies, which have been effected by Imperial legislation.

It does so happen, however, that after the present measure had been introduced into the Imperial Parliament, and its terms made public, it was cordially approved of by both Houses of the Legislature in Nova Scotia in their Addresses to the Governor at the opening of the session in 1867. And the same took place in New Brunswick, where the session opened after the Imperial measure had become law. Copies of the passages to which I refer are annexed.

The Provincial Governments and Legislatures in the present case, after the terms had been substantially settled, with the knowledge and approval of all, looked to the Imperial Parliament to accomplish their union. This has been done exactly in the manner requested; the neighbouring Province of New Brunswick has entered into the union, in reliance on having with it the sister Province of Nova Scotia, and vast obligations, political and commercial, have been already contracted on the faith of a measure so long discussed and so solemnly adopted.

I should do injustice to the character which Nova Scotia has always conspicuously borne of a faithful member of the general British community, if I did not add as a consideration sure to have weight with it, that the measure is believed by Her Majesty's Government to be not merely conducive to the strength and welfare of the Provinces, but also important to the interests of the whole Empire.

I have already said, that any practical regard which may be due to the special position and interests of the Province will, Her Majesty's Government are confident, be cheerfully given by the Parliament of the Dominion; but after the foregoing explanations, I trust that the Assembly and the people of Nova Scotia will not be surprised that the Queen's Government feel that they would not be warranted in advising the reversal of a great measure of State, attended by so many extensive consequences already in operation, and adopted with the previous sanction of every one of the Legislatures concerned, and with the subsequent approval of the Legislatures of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

I have, &c.

(Signed) BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

The Right Hon. Viscount Monck,  
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 4.

Enc. in No. 4.

COPIES OF ADDRESSES and RESOLUTIONS prior to the introduction of the Imperial Act for the UNION of the PROVINCES.

CANADA.

Address of the Legislative Council to the Queen, adopted 20th February 1865, and the same Address adopted by the Assembly on the 13th of March 1865.

Parliamentary  
Paper, Fe-  
bruary 8, 1867,  
page 10.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Council of Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, humbly approach Your Majesty, for the purpose of praying that Your Majesty may be graciously pleased to cause a measure to be submitted to the Imperial Parliament for the purpose of uniting the Colonies of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward Island in one Government, with provisions based on the following Resolutions, which were adopted at a Conference of Delegates from the said Colonies held at the City of Quebec, on the 10th of October 1864.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Address of the Legislative Council to the Queen.

Ibid, page 105.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

We, Your Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Council of New Brunswick, in Provincial Parliament assembled, humbly approach Your Majesty with the conviction that a union of all Your Majesty's British North American Colonies, based on the Resolutions adopted at the Conference of Delegates from these several Colonies, held at Quebec on the 10th day of October 1864, is an object highly to be desired, essential to their future prosperity and influence, and calculated alike to strengthen and perpetuate the ties which bind them to Your Gracious Majesty's Throne and Government, and humbly pray that Your Majesty may be pleased to cause a measure to be submitted to