

MR. HOWE'S REPORT.

Halifax, February 10, 1863.

MY LORD,

Having, in conformity with the resolution adopted by the Delegates from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the members of the Canadian Government, assembled at Quebec in September, been instructed by His Honor the Administrator to proceed to England to discharge the duties of the mission contemplated by that resolution, it becomes my duty to report:—

That, having communicated with the leader of the Government of New Brunswick, and ascertained that it was his intention to leave by the boat of the 17th October, I took my passage in the Europa, and we went on together, reaching London about the end of the month.

The Delegates from Canada, who it was assumed would come over direct from the St. Lawrence, were not expected for a week after; and we thought it only respectful to wait their arrival, before communicating with the public departments. The next mail from Canada brought me a note from the Honorable Mr. Sicotte, dated at Quebec 24th October, informing me that the Delegates had taken their passages, but had been unexpectedly delayed by some difficulty arising out of the militia question, on the morning of their expected departure, but that they would come on in the next boat, and hoped to join us during the following week.

Under these circumstances, I thought it proper to write to the Duke of Newcastle on the 8th November, informing His Grace that Mr. Tilley and myself were in London—that the Canadian Delegates had been unexpectedly delayed, and leaving it for His Grace to determine whether or not we should wait upon him before their arrival.

We were honored by an interview on the 13th November, and discussed, informally, the resolutions adopted by the Conference at Quebec, and the objects of our mission generally. His Grace appeared, as he had done in 1861, to enter heartily into the views and policy of the Colonial Governments in respect to the Intercolonial Road—thought the questions, to be adjusted, were of so much delicacy and importance, that a Delegation could not have been avoided, if there was to be legislation this winter; and pledged to us his cordial co-operation and aid, a pledge which was amply redeemed.

On the 17th November, the Honorable L. V. Sicotte, Attorney General of Canada East, and the Honorable W. P. Howland, Finance Minister, arrived. They paid their respects to the Colonial Secretary on the following day, and the Delegates, after mutual consultation, then commenced the business of their mission in due form.

Though the Colonial Secretary was suffering from severe illness, the Delegates were honored with several interviews, and explained to His Grace the reasons upon which all the resolutions adopted at Quebec were founded, and discussed with him all the questions which came within the purview of his own department; and I am happy to be able to report, that we ultimately obtained His Grace's cheerful acquiescence in all that had been done, and his suggestions as to the best mode of adjusting those questions which naturally came under the control of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury.

As His Grace's presence in town was no longer necessary, it was arranged that Mr. Howland and Mr. Tilley, the Finance Ministers of their respective Provinces, should discuss those questions with Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Anderson of the Treasury; and that Sir Frederic Rogers, Under Secretary of