

with your Ministers, to prepare and submit to us a measure for the solution of the constitutional problem, the discussion of which has for some years agitated this Province. We receive from Your Excellency, with the most profound attention, the announcement.—

That a careful consideration of the general position of *British North America* induced the conviction, that the circumstances of the times afforded the opportunity, not merely for the settlement of a question of Provincial politics, but also for the simultaneous creation of a new Nationality;—

That preliminary negotiations were opened by Your Excellency with the Lieutenant Governors of the other Provinces of *British North America*, and that the result was that a meeting was held at *Quebec*, in the month of October last, composed of delegates from those Colonies, representing all shades of political party in their several communities, nominated by the Lieutenant Governors of their respective Provinces, who assembled here, with the sanction of the Crown, and at Your Excellency's invitation, to confer with the members of the Canadian Ministry on the possibility of effecting a Union of all the Provinces of *British North America*.

That this Conference, after lengthened deliberations, arrived at the conclusion that a Federal Union of these Provinces was feasible and desirable, and the result of its labors is a plan of Constitution for the proposed Union, embodied in a series of resolutions, which, with other papers relating to the subject, Your Excellency has directed to be laid before us:—

And that the general design of a Union, and the particular plan by which it is proposed to carry that intention into effect, have both received the cordial approbation of the Imperial Government.

Inasmuch as an Imperial Act of Parliament will be necessary in order to give effect to the contemplated Union of the Colonies, we are gratified to learn from Your Excellency, that you have been officially informed by the Secretary of State, that Her Majesty's Ministers will be prepared to introduce a Bill for that purpose into the Imperial Parliament, so soon as they shall have been notified that the proposal has received the sanction of the Legislatures representing the several Provinces affected by it.

Your Excellency may rest assured that in giving our attention to this subject, the importance of which, to ourselves and to our descendants, it is impossible to exaggerate, we shall bestow upon it our calm, earnest and impartial consideration.

We receive with deference the expression of Your Excellency's conviction, that with the public men of *British North America* it now rests to decide whether the vast tract of country which they inhabit shall be consolidated into a State, combining within its area all the elements of National greatness, providing for the security of its component parts, and contributing to the strength and stability of the Empire; or whether the several Provinces of which it is constituted shall remain in their present fragmentary and isolated condition, comparatively powerless for mutual aid, and incapable of undertaking their proper share of Imperial responsibility.

And we unite with Your Excellency in the fervent prayer, that in the discussion of an issue of such moment, our minds may be guided to conclusions which shall redound to the honor of our Sovereign, and to the welfare of Her subjects.

The said Address, being read a second time, was agreed to.

*Ordered*, That the said Address be engrossed.

*Ordered*, That the said Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, by the whole House.

*Ordered*, That such Members of this House as are of the Honorable the Executive Council of this Province, do wait upon His Excellency the Governor General, to know His Excellency's pleasure, when he will be attended by this House with its Address.

The Honorable Mr. Attorney General *Macdonald*, one of Her Majesty's Executive Council, rose in his place, and acquainted Mr. Speaker and the House, that His Excellency the Governor General will receive the House, with its Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the present Session, to-morrow, at half-past three o'clock in the afternoon.