

portant subject, conveying the general approval of Her Majesty's Government of the proceedings of the Conference. The question to which these papers refer is one of the deepest interest to the whole community, without exception of any party or section; and I am confident that I need not exhort you to approach the consideration of the proposal submitted by the Conference in a spirit of calm examination. Its bearing upon the immediate welfare of the population of Newfoundland will, no doubt, most concern you, but future beneficial consequences likely to flow from the arrangement, if carried into effect, will not escape your enquiry. I have been acquainted, by the Governor General of Canada, that the Canadian Parliament was summoned to meet on the 19th instant, and it is intended by his Government to propose an Address to the Queen from both branches of the Legislature, embodying the Resolutions of the Quebec Conference, and praying Her Majesty to cause a Bill to be introduced into the Imperial Parliament to enact the Union of these Colonies, on the basis of these Resolutions.

With respect to the question of the Customs' Tariff of the proposed Union, which naturally engages much consideration, it is obviously impossible for the Government of any one Province to give any pledge which would be binding upon the Government or Parliament of the Union; but I am in a position to state, that, if the decision rested with the members of the present Canadian Administration, their desire would be to arrange the charges in the Tariff so as to meet the views of all the members of the proposed Union.

His Excellency Lord Monck has expressed to me his opinion that the course of action will be in a direction that will be satisfactory to your Honorable Bodies, and that no apprehension need be entertained in Newfoundland that a system of excessive Import Duties will be introduced.

The Report shall be laid before you of the Geological Surveyor who, during the past summer, was engaged in exploring the mineral resources of the Northern Districts of the Island. The opinion of Mr. MURRAY affords reason to hope that valuable mineral products will be found to be among your possessions.

Already, in one locality not visited by him, private enterprise has commenced the working of Copper Mines which promise to be highly productive, and, apart from profits to the individuals who have engaged in this undertaking, it may reasonably be expected, if successful, to prove a rich source of advantage to the Colony, in providing a new employment for a portion of the population. Any causes which may attract capital from elsewhere to the expansion of our trade, and to increase the demand for labour, which can at present be directed to but few profitable purposes, must operate directly to improve the circumstances and augment the importance of the Colony.

It will not be out of place to notice, on this occasion, the well grounded expectation that the ensuing summer will witness the achievement of