

the coming of the full copy before replying. The business was not of such importance as to require deliberation, and on the 5th of March his lordship replied from Downing Street to Lord Dufferin's telegram of the 24th of February, approving the proposal and informing the Canadian ministers that they might "rest assured that her Majesty's government are desirous to meet, as far as it may be practicable to do so, the reasonable wishes upon this subject of the Canadian ministers, and that they will be prepared to give careful consideration to any further proposals which may be made by them during the course of the negotiations;" and in passing his lordship added that, "with view to saving delay, you are at liberty to communicate unreservedly, though confidentially, with Sir Edward Thornton the views of your government, taking care, however, to transmit to me, at the earliest opportunity, copies of such correspondence."

Here it becomes apparent that part of the correspondence has possibly, from prudential reasons, been withheld even from Parliament. For the next communication is from the Earl of Dufferin to the Earl of Carnarvon. It is dated Government House, Ottawa, March 17, 1874, in which the Governor-General of Canada says: "I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a telegram dated March 14, from your lordship, in which you are pleased to signify your assent to the request of my government that a Canadian gentleman should be associated with Sir Edward Thornton in the event of her Majesty's government authorizing the British minister at Washington to enter upon a negotiation with the United States for the whole or a part of the renewal of the reciprocity treaty." His lordship then conveys to the Earl of Carnarvon the sense of Mr. Mackenzie and his colleagues in the administration of the consideration which has been shown to their representations by her Majesty's government in this matter; and informs his lordship that "it is perfectly understood by the Dominion government that her Majesty's government, in consenting to authorize the substitution of a reciprocity treaty in lieu of the money payment secured to Canada by her fishery claims in the article of the Treaty of Washington, have done so at the instance and solicitations of the Canadian government;" and further adds that "it is also understood that the Canadian commissioner will act under Imperial instructions, and that all propositions to be made to the United States government will be previously submitted to the secretary of State."

Just here, questions obtrude themselves upon us. Can you help asking why the communication of the Governor-General of Canada, conveying to the Imperial government the request of the Dominion