

9. I feel much gratification in being able to submit to your Grace the names of two gentlemen, of whom there seems to be but one opinion entertained by all who have expressed themselves to me regarding them.

10. Mr. John Hamilton Gray, of St. John, New Brunswick, is one, and Captain Robinson, R.N., of Campo Bello, in the Bay of Fundy, is the other; both these gentlemen are well qualified for Commissioners, they bear high characters for integrity and uprightness, they are well acquainted with all colonial subjects, and well used to deal with them; Mr. Gray has already the advantage of a personal acquaintance with Prince Edward Island, acquired during the time that he was employed as umpire between the English and American Commissioners on the Reciprocity Treaty respecting the rivers of the Island, when he gave great satisfaction.

11. Being a barrister, his legal knowledge will prove highly advantageous to the Commission.

12. In addition to these two, I would also bring under your Grace's notice Mr. Johnston, the Attorney General of Nova Scotia, a gentleman of profound legal acquirements, and who, if your Grace thought it desirable, might be substituted for Captain Robinson.

13. The third name which I would submit to your Grace is that of a gentleman in whose ability and judgment I place full reliance, based on my personal knowledge of his character. He is Mr. Thomas Robert Preston, of 26, Austin-friars, E. C.

14. Mr. Preston has had large colonial experience, gained during a residence in Canada, and while he acted as a Special Commissioner for the Southern Whale Fishery Company to the Auckland Islands. He is a thorough business man and accountant.

15. If your Grace will sanction my doing so, I shall put myself in communication with Mr. Gray and Captain Robinson, or Mr. Johnston; and should your Grace approve also of Mr. Preston being appointed a Member of the Commission, that gentleman might receive, direct from the Colonial Office, orders to hold himself in readiness to proceed, without delay, to Prince Edward Island.

16. With regard to the expenses of the Commission, it has been suggested that one-third be defrayed by the Legislature of the Island, one-third by the proprietors, and the remaining third by the Home Government.

17. To the last part of the proposed arrangement I trust your Grace will not object. Compared with the results to be gained, the expense is as nothing; and when the long-agitated questions that have disturbed the peace of the Colony shall have been settled, much difficulty and embarrassment will be saved, not only to Her Majesty's Representative here, but to the Colonial Office at home.

18. Independently of the advantages to be gained both by the Island and at home by the settlement of these questions, there is another consideration demanding grave attention.

19. In the original grants of several of the townships of this Island, a space of 500 feet high-water mark, is reserved, and free liberty extended to all Her Majesty's subjects to make use of this space for fishing purposes. By treaty, equal rights to those of British subjects, as regards fishing, are granted to the Americans, who, if they were aware of the extent to which they might, under the words of that treaty, claim these, would not be slow in taking advantage of them, and thus causing extreme inconvenience, if not incurring the certainty of serious misunderstanding.

20. The principal questions, to the solution of which the Commissioners will have to apply themselves, are, "the Land Tenures," "the Quit-rents," and "the Fishery Reserves." With regard to the two first, there is in reality but little difficulty; and an authoritative decision, at which men of sound judgment can readily arrive, will go far to set these matters at rest for ever.

21. The fishery reserves question will probably require more time and deeper inquiry; but I anticipate the most satisfactory results from the practical acquaintance which Mr. Gray has already with all the shores and numerous inlets of the Island, a knowledge which will greatly assist the Commission in arriving at an equitable and just conclusion.

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