

Treaty Bill such as that submitted in 1891 should be entertained. He was glad that the assurance was given that our rights as a self-governing Colony were in no way to be interfered with.

Mr. Gibbs also spoke in support of the Resolutions, after which the Chairman, Mr. Goodridge, reported the Resolutions to the House. The motion that the Report be received was carried unanimously, and the names of the members present were inscribed in the Minutes.

Hon. the Premier was granted leave to introduce a Bill relating to the Municipal Affairs of the town of St. John's. The Bill was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

The House then adjourned till to-morrow (Saturday) at 3 o'clock p.m.

No. 30.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR H. H. MURRAY.

SIR,

Downing Street, April 15, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 16th ultimo,* forwarding a report of the speech of the Receiver-General of Newfoundland on presenting the Budget of the Colony for 1898-99, and of your despatch of the 26th ultimo,† enclosing a copy of Resolutions passed by the House of Assembly, which were foreshadowed in that speech, in favour of the Colonial Government opening negotiations with Her Majesty's Government on the basis of the proposals contained in Lord Knutsford's despatch of 9th February, 1891, for the appointment by Her Majesty's Government of a Commission to enquire into the condition and affairs of the Colony. It appears from the report of the debate on the introduction of the Resolutions that it is contemplated that the issue of the Commission will lead to the grant of substantial aid to Newfoundland from the Imperial Government.

2. You will be good enough to point out to your Ministers that circumstances have greatly changed since 1890 and 1891. Then application was made for a guaranteed loan for the development of Newfoundland by building a railway or otherwise, and Her Majesty's Government were prepared to issue a Royal Commission with a view to such a loan if the report of the Commission were favourable. The Colonial Government of the day deliberately refrained from inviting the Legislature to apply for the Commission, and proceeded with the railway. Now, not only the railway so built but also most of the other substantial assets of the Colony have been alienated, and there is no practical object to gain in issuing a Royal Commission such as the Receiver-General suggests.

3. An application for a Commission at the present time is, therefore, only an application for financial assistance to enable the Colony to meet the obligations it has incurred, and which the Receiver-General declares it is unable to meet without aid. Such an application cannot for a moment be entertained, and I request that you will at once inform your Ministers that it is impossible for the Imperial Government to take any responsibility, or accord any financial assistance, in the case of a self-governing Colony, which has had full control of its own finance, and is solely responsible for its mismanagement.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 31.

GOVERNOR SIR H. H. MURRAY to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received May 14, 1898.)

SIR,

Government House, St. John's, 30th April, 1898.

I HAVE this evening received from my Ministers their reply to your despatch of the 23rd ultimo.‡ They are anxious that I should send it by the mail which leaves to-morrow, and I send it accordingly; but they have taken so much time in framing their reply that I am not sure whether it will arrive in time for publication with the rest of the papers on the subject of the contract.

Minute of
Council,
30th April,
1898.

* No. 28.

† No. 29.

‡ No. 26.