

A Crazy Propos 1.

THE Maritime Board of Trade assembled in annual convention at Yarmouth, discussed, on Aug. 17, the following resolution:—

That in the opinion of this meeting the time has arrived for the union of the three Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and that a memorial to this effect be forwarded to each of the Governments and that they be urged to arrange for the meeting of representatives from each Government at an early date.

Prince Edward Island would go into such a union if the tunnel under Northumberland Straits was constructed. The opinion was not at all unanimous on the subject, and one delegate said it was all right for fire works. The Mayor of Yarmouth expressed the opinion that the day for maritime union was passed. At all events the resolution was adopted, as was also a resolution passed unanimously asking the Dominion Government to take steps to bring the British West India islands into Confederation. A more crazy proposition than the latter has not been made since Columbus first set foot on St. Salvador. The British West Indies are a large number of islands and islets. They are grouped into the Bahamahs, the Greater Antilles, and the Lesser Antilles, the last named being

subdivided into the Leeward and Windward Islands. The total area of the whole of the islands is estimated to be about 95,000 square miles, considerably less than the area of the district of Saskatchewan in the Northwest Territories. The largest of the British West India islands is Jamaica, being 144 miles in length and 49 in breadth, containing 4,193 square miles. In 1891 the whites numbered 14,692; colored, 122,000; blacks, 459,000 and besides these there were a number of coolies and Chinese. What a splendid population to incorporate with the white men of Canada! The total estimated population in 1902 was 770,000 and of these about 15,000 only were white. The population of the Jamaica consists for the most part of descendants of liberated Africans. And some of the Leeward Islands were only considered fit for the Crown Colonies system of government as late as 1895. Some of the islands have no white population at all. What on earth the Dominion of Canada would want to add a population of negroes and liberated slaves to the already complex problem of government which confronts the administration at Ottawa is a question which the Maritime Board of Trade will find it hard to answer.