

States would be rent in twain by the slavery issue. Some of the Northern States would then desire to enter into a union with Canada. The topography of the continent and the natural sequence of events marked this out as the ultimate fate of the British American provinces.

But the scheme did not pass unchallenged. An amendment was proposed incorporating the principle of colonial representation in the Imperial Parliament into the scheme of a federal union. The colonies, it was contended, were not strong enough to stand alone. An imperial federation was the only alternative to annexation. The project of imperial representation, however, did not find favor among the members, who feared that it would impose on the colonies a heavy burden of imperial expenditure.

Although the convention was strongly favorable to the principle of a colonial union, many of the delegates were of the opinion that the resolution was too pretentious and far-reaching in character. Little was known of the sentiments of the sister colonies in respect to the proposed union and, until there was some definite information before them, the delegates were not in a position to pass an intelligent opinion on, or proceed with, the plan of union. To meet this objective, a substitute motion was presented and unanimously accepted, that delegates be appointed to meet at Montreal and consult with similar representatives from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in regard to the practicability of an intercolonial union, the results of their deliberations to be referred back to the next convention of the League for final determination.

The plan of an international union, it must be confessed, commended itself to the delegates rather as an opportune and utilitarian measure than as a truly national policy. There was, at the time, a rumor to the effect that the British Government was about to propose a plan of union. The action of the provincial government in sending two of the ministers to the Maritime Provinces to negotiate a reciprocal trade agreement seemed to confirm the impression that a federal union was on the tapis. These rumors were not without influence in predisposing the delegates to anticipate the policy of their political opponents by a previous declaration in favor of union. Moreover, it was neces-