

I shall not fail again to remind Mr. Seward that the notice cannot be given until the end of ten years, from the time at which the Treaty came into operation; and that this period will not, as I conceive, come to an end until after the expiration of Mr. Lincoln's term of office as President.

I have, &c.,

[Signed,]

LYONS.

The Earl Russell, &c., &c., &c.

[Copy.—No. 0.]

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, Quebec, 20th Feb., 1864.

MY LORD DUKE.—I have the honor to enclose, for Your Grace's information, a copy of an approved Report of a Committee of the Executive Council, on the subject of the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States.

I have, &c.,

[Signed,]

MONCK.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Executive Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General on the 19th February, 1864.

The Committee of the Executive Council deem it to be their duty to represent to Your Excellency, that the recent proceedings in the Congress of the United States, respecting the Reciprocity Treaty, have excited the deepest concern in the minds of the people of this Province.

Those proceedings have had for their avowed object the abrogation of the Treaty at the earliest moment consistent with the stipulations of the instrument itself.

Although no formal action, indicative of the strength of the party hostile to the continuance of the Treaty, has yet taken place; information, of an authentic character, as to the opinions and purposes of influential public men in the United States, has forced upon the Committee the conviction that there is imminent danger of its speedy abrogation, unless prompt and vigorous steps be taken by Her Majesty's Imperial Advisers, to avert what would be generally regarded, by the people of Canada, as a great calamity.

The Committee would specially bring under Your Excellency's notice the importance of instituting negotiations for the renewal of the Treaty, with such modifications as may be mutually assented to, before the year's notice required to terminate it, shall be given by the American Government; for they fear that the notice, if once given, would not be revoked; and they clearly foresee, that owing to the variety and, possibly, the conflicting nature of the interests involved on our own side, a new Treaty could not be concluded and the requisite legislation to give effect to it be obtained, before the year would have expired, and with it the Treaty. Under such circumstances—even with the certain prospect of an early renewal of the Treaty—considerable loss and much inconvenience would inevitably ensue.

It would be impossible to express in figures, with any approach to accuracy, the extent to which the facilities of commercial intercourse, created by the Reciprocity Treaty, have contributed to the wealth and prosperity of this Province; and it would be difficult to exaggerate the importance which the people of Canada attach to the continued enjoyment of these facilities.

Nor is the subject entirely devoid of political significance.

Under the beneficent operation of the system of self-government which the later policy of the mother country has accorded to Canada, in common with the other Colonies possessing representative institutions, combined with the advantages secured by the Reciprocity Treaty, of an unrestricted commerce with our nearest neighbors in the natural productions of the two countries, all agitation for organic changes has ceased—all dissatisfaction with the existing political relations of the Province has wholly disappeared.

Although the Committee would grossly misrepresent their countrymen if they were to affirm that their loyalty to their Sovereign would be diminished in the slightest degree by the withdrawal, through the unfriendly action of a foreign government, of mere commercial