

government in Canada. The defeat, and subsequent resignation, of the Derby-D'Israeli Ministry in England, prevented any decisive action at that time on the part of the Imperial authorities.

THE CHARLOTTETOWN CONFERENCE.

A resolution favorable to union was passed unanimously by the Nova Scotia Parliament in April, 1861, and having been transmitted to the Colonial Office, was forwarded by the Duke of Newcastle, the then Colonial Secretary, in a despatch dated July 6th, 1862, to the Governor General, and to the Lieutenant-Governors of the several Provinces. His Grace, after stating that Her Majesty's Government was not prepared to announce any definite policy on a question which had been taken up by only one Province, expressed his own opinion in the following words:—

If a union, either partial or complete, should hereafter be proposed with the concurrence of all the Provinces to be united, I am sure that the matter would be weighed in this country both by the public, by Parliament, and by Her Majesty's Government with no other feeling than an anxiety to discern and promote any course which might be the most conducive to the prosperity, the strength, and the harmony of all the British communities in North America.

The Lieutenant-Governors of the several Provinces brought the subject before their respective Legislatures, at the commencement of their several sessions of 1864, for the purpose of appointing Delegates to confer as to the practicability of establishing a legislative union between the Maritime Provinces. The discussion, which was conducted in a calm and dignified manner, and without reference to local party issues, elicited, especially in Prince Edward Island, some considerable feeling of dissatisfaction at the proposal for a legislative union; still the Legislature of the Island, on the 18th April, passed the following resolution, which is identical with those passed by the Legislatures of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick:—

Resolved.—That His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor be authorized to appoint Delegates (not to exceed five) to confer with Delegates who may be appointed by the Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, for the purpose of discussing the expediency of a union of the three Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island under one government and legislature, the report of the said Delegates to be laid before the Legislature of this Colony, before any further action shall be taken in regard to the proposed question.

Delegates were accordingly appointed by the Governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and it was arranged that on the 1st of September they should meet at Charlottetown.

While events were thus progressing in the Maritime Provinces, Canadian statesmen were engaged in considering the feasibility of effecting such changes in their constitution as would reconcile the conflicting interests of the eastern and western sections of the Province. Party government had become well nigh impossible, and ministry after ministry had to retire from the seemingly hopeless attempt at carrying on the government, when, on the defeat of the Taché-Macdonald ministry, in June, 1864, overtures were made by the leaders of the Reform party to the Hon. John A. Macdonald with a view to the settlement of the sectional difficulties by the adoption of a federative system, applying either to Canada or to all the British North American Provinces. These overtures were cordially received, and the result was the formation of a coalition government, pledged to the introduction of the federal system.* By a fortunate coincidence, within a month of the formation of the coalition ministry in Canada, the Charlottetown Conference was arranged, and the Canadian Government hastened to ask permission to send Delegates. Their request was promptly complied with, and, in accordance with previous arrangement, on the 1st September, the Delegates met at Charlottetown.

Canada was represented by:—

The Hon. John A. Macdonald, M.P.P., Atty. Gen., U. C.	The Hon. G. E. Cartier, M.P.P., At. Gen., L.C.
“ Geo. Brown, M.P.P., Pres. of Coun.	“ Wm. McDougall, M.P.P., Prov. Sec.
“ A. T. Galt, M.P.P., Finance Min.	“ T. D'Arcy McGee, M.P.P., M. of Ag.
	“ H. L. Langevin, M.P.P., Sol. Gen., L.C.

Nova Scotia was represented by:—

The Hon. Chas. Tupper, M.P.P., Prov. Secy.	The Hon. J. McCully, M.L.C.
“ W. A. Henry, M.P.P., Atty. Gen.	“ A. G. Archibald, M.P.P.
“ R. B. Dickie, M.L.C.	

New Brunswick was represented by:—

The Hon. S. L. Tilley, M.P.P., Provin. Secy	The Hon. E. B. Chandler, M.L.C.
“ J. M. Johnston, M.P.P., Atty. Gen.	“ W. H. Steeves, M.L.C.
“ J. H. Gray, M.P.P.	

Prince Edward Island was represented by:—

The Hon. Col. Gray, M.P.P., Pres. of Council.	The Hon. G. Coles, M.P.P.
“ E. Palmer, M.L.C., Atty. General.	“ A. A. Macdonald, M.L.C.
“ W. H. Pope, M.P.P., Colonial Secy.	

Newfoundland sent no Delegates to the Charlottetown Conference.

The Canadian Delegates, not having been authorized to consider the question of a legislative union, were informally present. The proposal to unite the Maritime Provinces in a legislative union was looked upon as impracticable; but the delegates were unanimously of opinion that a union on a larger basis might be effected; and for the purpose of considering the possibility of a federal union and its necessary details, the Canadian Ministers proposed that a further Conference should be held at Quebec, subject to the consent of the Governments of the Maritime Provinces, and at such time as His Excellency the Governor General might name. This arrangement being agreed to, the Charlottetown Conference suspended its deliberations.

* The terms of the agreement on which the coalition was formed were these:—“The Government are prepared to pledge themselves to bring in a measure next session for the purpose of removing existing difficulties, by introducing the Federal principle into Canada, coupled with such provisions as will permit the Northern Provinces and the North West Territory to be incorporated with the same system of Government.”

“And the Government will seek, by sending representatives to the Lower Provinces and to England, to secure the assent of those interests which are beyond the control of our own Legislature to such a measure as will enable all British North America to be united under a General Legislature, based upon the Federal system.”