

active part in forwarding the cause of confederation. A general election immediately followed, which resulted in the signal route of the Anti-confederates and the triumph of the friends of union. In the address in reply to the Governor's speech, the following paragraph on the subject of confederation was carried by a majority of 27 to 7:—

We know that Her Majesty's Government have expressed a strong and deliberate opinion that the union of the British North American Provinces is an object much to be desired, and that the Legislature of Canada and of Nova Scotia concur in this view, and Your Excellency may rely with confidence on our cordial co-operation to accomplish that object.

On the 30th of June, the Hon. Charles Fisher moved in the House of Assembly:—

That a humble address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to appoint Delegates to unite with Delegates from the other Provinces in arranging with the Imperial Government for the Union of British North America, upon such terms as will secure the just rights and interests of New Brunswick, accompanied with provision for the immediate construction of the Intercolonial Railway; each Province to have an equal voice in such Delegation, Upper and Lower Canada to be considered as separate Provinces.

An amendment by the leader of the late Government was voted down by 31 to 8, and the Resolution carried by the same majority. A similar Resolution was adopted in the Upper House, which had all along been favorable to confederation, and thus the question was settled so far as the Government and Legislature of New Brunswick were able to further it.

NOVA SCOTIA.

To Nova Scotia belongs the honor of having taken the initiatory steps which led to the adoption of the confederation scheme. In the session of 1831, when the late ministry, of which the Hon. Joseph Howe was a member, held the reins of Government, the following Resolution received the unanimous assent of the Legislature:—

Whereas, The subject of a Union of the North American Provinces or of the Maritime Provinces from time to time has been mooted and discussed in all the colonies.

And Whereas, While many advantages may be secured by such a union, either of all these Provinces or a portion of them, many and serious obstacles are presented which can only be overcome by mutual consultation of the leading men of the Colonies and by free communication with the Imperial Government.

Therefore Resolved, That His Excellency, the Lieutenant-Governor be respectfully requested to put himself in communication with His Grace the Colonial Secretary, and His Excellency the Governor General of the North American Colonies in order to ascertain the policy of Her Majesty's Government, and the opinions of the other Colonies, with a view to the enlightened consideration of a question involving the highest interests, and upon which the public mind in all the Provinces ought to be set at rest.

This resolution was the means of bringing about the Convention at Charlottetown, which, as has been seen, resulted in an adjournment to Quebec. After the Quebec Conference, the Government of Nova Scotia took no immediate steps for the furtherance of the confederation scheme. Deterred by the unfavorable result of the elections in New Brunswick, they did not, in the session of 1865, bring the question before the legislature at all. Early in 1866, however, the following resolution was submitted to the House of Assembly, by Hon. Dr. Tupper:—

Whereas, in the opinion of this House it is desirable that a confederation of the British North American Colonies should take place:

Resolved therefore, That His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor be authorized to appoint Delegates to arrange with the Imperial Government a scheme of union which will effectually ensure just provision for the rights and interests of this Province. Each province to have an equal voice in such Delegation, Upper and Lower Canada being for this purpose considered as separate Provinces.

An amendment to the resolution was defeated by a vote of 31 to 18, and the resolution carried by 31 to 19.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

In Newfoundland, the subject of confederation was brought before the legislature by His Excellency the Governor, in his speech at the opening of the session, January 30th, 1866, and the House in Committee of the whole on the address in reply to His Excellency, adopted the following paragraph in answer thereto 16th February, 1866, Mr. Knight in the chair:—

On the important question of confederation, in recognizing the solicitude of Her Majesty's Government for the welfare of this Colony, we concur in the view of Your Excellency that the abstract advantages of union are so obvious as to be almost necessarily acknowledged; whilst with regard to this Colony and on the details of so grave a measure it is natural that much diversity of opinion should prevail. This is a matter which shall engage our serious attention.

An amendment directly opposed to Confederation was defeated and the above carried, by a vote of 18 to 6.

On the 20th February, Mr. Speaker informed the House that when in attendance on His Excellency the Governor, he had presented the address of thanks. His Excellency made reply in reference to the confederation clause, expressing a desire that they, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, should consider the question and decide upon the terms under which Newfoundland might with advantage join in the proposed union. On the 8th March, the House of Assembly, after sitting in Committee of the whole for several days, adopted the following resolution:—

Whereas, This House has recently in reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor, on opening the present session obtained from pronouncing any decision on the proposal for a union of the Colonies, or on the details of the measure as regards this Colony, and considering the present uncertain state of public sentiment on this grave question and being unadvised of the action thereon that may be taken or contemplated by the other Provinces.

Resolved, That whilst duly regretful of the momentous character of this subject and of the promise to His Excellency to give it attention yet as no information has been received demanding its immediate reconsideration, this House does not deem it expedient to enter upon its discussion with a view to any decision thereon.

An amendment of a more unfavorable nature was defeated by a vote of 18 to 7, and the original motion carried by 17 to 7. Had the course which was shortly afterwards taken by New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, in appointing Delegates to confer with the Imperial Government, been adopted somewhat sooner, or had the meeting of the Legislature of Newfoundland taken place a few months later, so as to give the members an opportunity of knowing what was being done on the subject of confederation in the sister colonies, it is more than probable that a similar course would have been adopted in Newfoundland.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

The Legislature of Prince Edward Island repudiated the action of its Delegates at the Quebec Conference, and it does not seem that the cause of confederation is yet gaining hold on the minds of the Islanders. Hon. Col. Gray, the late Premier of Prince Edward Island,