

and one of the Delegates to the Quebec Conference, resigned his position in the cabinet on account of the opposition to confederation, of which he is a warm advocate.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Just about the time of the final struggle in Nova Scotia, the Legislature and people of British Columbia were taking steps to secure their admission into the sisterhood of Colonies forming the new Dominion. On the 18th of March, the Legislative Council of that Province unanimously adopted a Resolution expressive of their desire that British Columbia should be admitted into the Canadian Confederation. And on the 19th March, at a large public meeting in Victoria, Vancouver's Island, resolutions were adopted urging that steps should be immediately taken for the furtherance of the wishes of the Colony in that direction. These Resolutions have been forwarded to the Colonial Office, and it is stated on the authority of His Grace the Duke of Buckingham, the Colonial Secretary, that so soon as the Parliament of the Dominion meets at Ottawa, in all probability one of its first acts will be the introduction of a measure for the extension of the Dominion to the shores of the Pacific by the admission of British Columbia.

#### THE DELEGATES IN ENGLAND.

During the summer of 1866, the Colonies who had pronounced in favor of confederation made arrangements for the meeting of a Conference of Delegates from the several Provinces, to settle the details and determine the precise terms of the Act giving effect to the Union of the Provinces of Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, which should be submitted for adoption by the Imperial Parliament. The several Governments duly appointed Delegates.

Upper Canada was represented by:—

Hon. John A. Macdonald, Attorney General.  
" Wm. McDougall, Provincial Secretary.

Hon. W. P. Howland, Finance Minister.

Lower Canada was represented by:—

Hon. G. E. Cartier, Attorney General.  
" A. T. Galt.

Hon. H. L. Langevin, Postmaster General.

New Brunswick was represented by:—

Hon. S. L. Tilley, Provincial Secretary.  
" C. Fisher, Attorney General.  
" P. Mitchell, President of the Council.

Hon. R. D. Wilmot.  
" J. M. Johnston.

Nova Scotia was represented by:—

Hon. C. Tupper, Provincial Secretary.  
" W. A. Henry, Attorney General.  
" J. W. Ritchie, Solicitor General.

Hon. A. G. Archibald.  
" J. McCully.

These gentlemen met, according to the appointment, in London early in December, 1866, and immediately proceeded to business. The Hon. John A. Macdonald was elected chairman by the unanimous voice of the Conference, and for several weeks they were engaged late and early in their arduous task of framing a nation's constitution. Lord Carnarvon afterwards bore testimony to the statesmanlike qualities which were displayed in the settlement of sectional difficulties, the unravelling of knotty points, the mutual forbearance and the zeal and assiduity displayed during the prolonged sittings of the Conference. Several of its members have since received the blue ribbon of the Bath, and its chairman is now Sir John A. Macdonald, K. C. B.

#### PASSAGE OF THE BILL.

The Imperial Parliament met on the 5th of February in the present year. On the 7th the Bill for the Confederation of the Provinces was introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Carnarvon, the then Colonial Secretary, and was received with approbation by all parties. On the 19th it was read a second time, was passed through Committee of the whole on the 22nd, and on the 26th February was read a third time. It was at once brought down to the House of Commons, and on the 28th February was moved to a second reading. After a long and interesting debate, during which no men of any prominence, with the exception of Mr. Bright, opposed the measure, the motion was agreed to without a division. It passed through Committee of the whole on the 4th of March, and was read a third time and finally passed the House of Commons on the 8th of March. On the 28th of that month it received the Royal assent and became one of the laws of the empire. The name chosen for the united Provinces was "The Dominion of Canada," Upper Canada to be henceforth called Ontario and Lower Canada Quebec.

From Nova Scotia alone came any serious opposition to the confederation scheme after the appointment of Delegates to the London Conference. Hon Messrs. Howe and Annand went to London on behalf of the opponents of the union, who made a final effort to throw obstacles in the way of its success. On the meeting of the Nova Scotia Legislature on the 16th of March when an amendment to the address in reply to the Governor's speech breathing a spirit hostile to confederation, was moved, after an animated debate, it was defeated by a vote of 39 to 16.

#### THE PROCLAMATION.

The work of legislation being finally completed, Her Majesty was graciously pleased to issue her Proclamation, on the 22nd of May, declaring that the Dominion of Canada should commence its existence on the 1st of July, 1867, and appointing the members of the Senate.

In thus briefly tracing the history of Confederation from the time that, as a tiny seedling it was fostered in the minds of men of far-seeing and statesmanlike views, until now, when it has grown into a wide-spreading tree beneath whose shelter rest the hopes of what promises to be a mighty nation, it has been our object to shew that it is not the hastily conceived and ill-digested scheme which its enemies would fain represent it, but that it is one of gradual growth, towards which for years our destiny has been drawing us, as in itself peculiarly adapted to the necessities and the genius of our people.