

President of the Executive Council; the Hon. Alexander T. Galt, M.P.P., Minister of Finance; the Hon. William McDougall, M.P.P., Provincial Secretary; the Hon. Thomas D'Arcy McGee, M.P.P., Minister of Agriculture; the Hon. Alexander Campbell, M.L.C., Commissioner of Crown Lands, and the Hon. Hector L. Langevin, M.P.P., Solicitor General of Lower Canada.

The proceedings of this conference were conducted behind closed doors. No report of its proceedings has ever appeared, and it may be taken for granted that none exists. The Canadian delegates, not having been empowered to discuss the question of a *legislative* union, which the Maritime representatives had met specially to consider, were not members of the conference. They, however, were invited by it to express their views, which they did, and unfolded the benefits which, in their judgment, were to be derived from the larger scheme with such effect that the Maritime members, attracted by a plan which promised all the advantages of union without involving the surrender of their own legislatures and executives—a prospect highly distasteful to many of them—agreed to suspend their deliberations, and adjourned to meet at Quebec in the course of the following month for the purpose of conferring with the Canadian representatives on the subject of a *federal* union of all the British North American provinces.

Immediately on their return to Quebec—at that time the seat of government,—the Canadian ministers applied themselves to the business of arranging for the reception of their guests. On September 23 a Minute of the Executive Council was passed inviting the Governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, respectively, to send delegates to represent their province at a conference to meet at Quebec on October 10 following. At the same time, the Hon. John A. Macdonald wrote to each of the provincial premiers stating that a suitable steamer had been placed by the Canadian Government at the disposal of the Maritime party to bring them up to Quebec, giving the movements of the vessel, and detailing the arrangements which had been made on board for their accommodation, all of which proved satisfactory. The *Queen Victoria* reached Quebec on the evening of Sunday, October 9, 1864, and on the following morning, at eleven o'clock, the historic gathering assembled within the walls of the Parliament House.¹

Those present were: From Canada: The Hon. Sir E. P. Taché, the Hon. John A. Macdonald, the Hon. G. E. Cartier, the Hon. George Brown, the Hon. Oliver Mowat, the Hon. Alexander T. Galt, the Hon. W. McDougall, the Hon. T. D'Arcy McGee, the Hon. Alex.

¹The Frontispiece to the present volume represents the Fathers of Confederation as assembled at Quebec in 1864. The original picture, which was painted by Mr. Robert Harris, C.M.G., in 1883-1885 and acquired by the Dominion Government, hung in the Railway Committee Room of the House of Commons until the Great Fire on February 3, 1916, when unfortunately it was destroyed. Mr. Harris had, however, in his possession a charcoal drawing made as a study for the painting; and after the fire this drawing was acquired by the Dominion Government. It now hangs in the Railway Committee Room at the Royal Victoria Museum where the Dominion Parliament is temporarily housed. From this charcoal drawing the frontispiece has been reproduced by special permission of the Department of Public Works.