

For Confederation.	Against it.	Doubtful.
9	28	4

2. In addition to the defeat of other Members of the Government, as previously reported by me, the Attorney General has, since the date of my last Despatch, lost his seat for the County of Northumberland. The Members of my Executive Council will, in consequence of these defeats, probably resign their offices to day, or, at all events, in the course of the present week.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ARTHUR H. GORDON.

P. S.—Since writing the above Despatch, the Members of my Executive Council have tendered their resignation.

A. H. G.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Lieutenant Governor

Downing Street, 12th April, 1865.

SIR.—I have received by this Mail your two Despatches of the 27th March. The first informs me that the elections for the Legislative Assembly have terminated, and that nine Members have been elected favourable to the scheme of Confederation, twenty eight unfavourable, and four doubtful, and that the Members of your Executive Council have resigned their offices.

It thus appears that the scheme adopted by the Conference at Quebec, and approved by Her Majesty's Government on the ground, among others, that it was eminently calculated to render easier and more effectual the provisions for the defence of the several Provinces, is likely to be rejected in New Brunswick.

Your next Despatch replies to the observations of Colonel Pipon upon the best mode of training the New Brunswick Militia,—which I had received from the Secretary of State for War, and forwarded to you,—by admitting the plan proposed by Colonel Pipon to be “in itself preferable in many respects to that recommended by the New Brunswick Militia Commission.”

You proceed to remark, that those who are unacquainted with New Brunswick do not appreciate the significance of the fact, that the population of the Province is, in number, that of an English manufacturing town, and you give in detail the reasons why the adoption of the scheme most desirable for the training of its inhabitants is, as you observe, impracticable.

You will doubtless take care to bring this opinion under the consideration of your new advisers, and will point out to them the intimate connection which you perceive to subsist between the numbers of the population and the measures proper to be taken for the defence of the Province.

It will be the duty of Her Majesty's Government to review in all its bearings the question of Confederation after the several Provinces shall have had the opportunity of expressing their sentiments upon it through their respective Legislatures. In the meantime it will only be right for New Brunswick to bear in mind that, if the views which you have now expressed are to be regarded as sound, New Brunswick as a separate Province appears to be able to make no adequate provision for its own defence, and to rest in a very great degree upon the defence which may be provided for it by this Country. It will, consequently, be likely to appear to your advisers reasonable and wise that, in examining the question of the proposed Union, they should attach great weight to the views and wishes of this Country, and to the reasons on which these views and wishes have been based.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

EDWARD CARDWELL.

The Lieutenant Governor to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Fredericton, July 3, 1865.

SIR.—I have the honor to enclose ten copies of the Militia Law passed at the late Session of the Provincial Legislature.

2. Although confessedly imperfect and susceptible of much improvement, this Law is a very decided step in advance of that which it replaces.

3. The principal changes which it effects, in addition to many improvements in detail, are the substitution of a payment to the different Volunteer Corps proportionate to their strength, instead of an equal sum to every recognized Company of Volunteers alike, whether numerous or feeble, and the provisions which ensure the really effective training of a certain portion of the Militia for 28 days in each year.

4. The alternative practically before the Legislature was whether they would call out a large body of men for a very short time, or a smaller body for a more lengthened period. I think they chose wisely in determining on the latter course, as it will certainly enable more to be effected with the limited grant at my disposal for Militia purposes than any other plan, though, had that grant been larger, I am not prepared to say that a measure having a larger field of operation would not have proved more beneficial in its operation. As it is, however, the machinery necessitated for carrying out any comprehensive plan would of itself have swallowed up the whole of the \$30,000 voted.

5. Small as this sum is, it must be borne in mind that it is three times as much as was voted last year, and ten times the amount of the sum annually voted down to 1862.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ARTHUR H. GORDON.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Lieutenant Governor.

Downing Street, 24th June, 1865.

SIR.—I have the honor to transmit to you the copy of a correspondence between Viscount Monck and myself on the affairs of British North America, which have lately formed the subject of conference between Her Majesty's Government and a Deputation from the Canadian Government.

This correspondence having been presented to both Houses of the Imperial Parliament, by command of Her Majesty, I have to direct you to communicate it also to the Legislature of New Brunswick at its next meeting.

You will at the same time express the strong and deliberate opinion of Her Majesty's Government, that it is an object much to be desired that all the British North American Colonies should agree to unite in one government. In the territorial extent of Canada, and in the maritime and commercial enterprise of the Lower Provinces, Her Majesty's Government see the elements of power, which only require to be combined in order to secure for the Province which shall possess them all, a place among the most considerable communities of the world. In the spirit of loyalty to the British Crown, of attachment to British connection, and of love for British institutions, by which all the Provinces are animated alike, Her Majesty's Government recognize the Bond by which all may be combined under one government. Such an Union seems to Her Majesty's Government to recommend itself to the Provinces on many grounds of moral and material advantage, as giving a well-founded prospect of improved administration and increased prosperity. But there is one consideration which Her Majesty's Government feel it more especially their duty to press upon the Legislature of New Brunswick. Looking to the determination which this country has ever exhibited to regard the defence of the Colonies as a matter of Imperial concern, the Colonies must recognize a right, and even acknowledge an obligation, incumbent on the Home Government, to urge with earnestness and just authority the measures which they consider to be most expedient on the part of the Colonies, with a view to their own defence. Nor can it be doubtful that the Provinces of British North America are incapable, when separate and divided from each other, of making those just and sufficient preparations for national defence which would be easily undertaken by a Province uniting in itself all the population and all the resources of the whole.

I am aware that this project so novel, as well as so important, has not been at once accepted in New Brunswick with that cordiality which has marked its acceptance by the Legislature of Canada; but Her Majesty's Government trust that after a full and careful examination of the subject in all its bearings, the Maritime Provinces will perceive the great advantages which, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, the proposed Union is calculated to confer upon them all.

I have, &c.

EDWARD CARDWELL.

Lieut. Governor Hon. Arthur H. Gordon.

[Enclosures.]

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Hon. Executive Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General on the 24th of March, 1865.

The Committee respectfully recommend that four members of Your Excellency's Council do proceed to England to confer with Her Majesty's Government—

1. Upon the proposed confederation of the British North American Provinces and the means whereby it can be most speedily effected.

2. Upon the arrangement necessary for the defence of Canada in the event of war arising with the United States, and the extent to which the same should be shared between Great Britain and Canada.

3. Upon steps to be taken with reference to the Reciprocity Treaty and the rights conferred by it upon the United States.

4. Upon the arrangements necessary for the settlement of the North West Territory and the Hudson's Bay Company's claims.

5. And generally upon the existing critical state of affairs, by which Canada is most seriously affected.

The Committee further recommended that the following Members of Council be named to form a Delegation, viz:—Messrs. Macdonald, Cartier, Brown, and Galt.

Certified.

W. H. LEE. C. E. C.

Copy of a Despatch from the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M. P., to Governor General Viscount Monck.

(No. 95)

Downing Street, June 27, 1865.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to inform Your Lordship that several conferences have been held between the four Canadian Ministers who were deputed, under the Minute of your Executive Council of March 24, to proceed to England to confer with Her Majesty's Government on the part of Canada, and the Duke of Somerset, the Earl de Grey, Mr. Gladstone, and myself, on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

On the first subject referred to in the Minute, that of the confederation of the British North American Provinces, we repeat on