

Under these circumstances, the undersigned would beg respectfully to tender to Your Excellency the resignation of their offices as Executive Councillors.

Respectfully submitted.

A. J. SMITH,  
GEORGE L. LATHESWAY,  
B. BOTSFORD,  
W. H. ODELL,  
JOHN W. CUDLIP,  
J. V. TROOP.

*Memorandum of Conversation between His Excellency and Mr. Smith.*

On Saturday the 7th instant, about 11 o'clock, A. M., I called at Government House and had an interview with His Excellency, and in the course of conversation, the proceedings of the Legislative Council were referred to, when I spoke in terms of disapproval of the course which they had adopted in reference to the subject of Union. Something was said about the presentation of the Address, and His Excellency's Reply thereto, where he asked me what answer I would advise, I replied that in my opinion the answer to be given should simply be that he would transmit it to Her Majesty. His Excellency said that he would think of it and see me again. He did not state that he intended to receive them that day, and I had not the most distant idea that he intended to do so. I then parted with him.

A few minutes before three o'clock of the afternoon of the same day, in my place in the House of Assembly, I received a Note from him saying that he wished to see me at once. I immediately repaired to Government House, and after a short conversation with him upon other matters, he informed me that he was going to receive the Legislative Council with their Address at three o'clock. I expressed my surprise at this, and inquired what answer he intended to make. He then handed me a paper which contained his proposed answer, accompanied with a Memorandum for the Executive Council. I expressed my disapproval of it, and complained that he had not advised with his Council before preparing it; that as they were responsible for it, they should at least be consulted before it was given. He remarked that, if they did not approve of it they could relieve themselves of responsibility. I replied, even if that were true, was it courteous and fair that the Council should be treated in that way; that what they asked from His Excellency was fair play, not as a favor, but as a matter of right? He then proposed that I should drive down to the House of Assembly and see my colleagues, and return in half an hour, and he would keep the Legislative Council (who in the meantime had arrived at Government House) waiting until I returned. I said I could not do this, that the Debate on the Vote of Want of Confidence was going on, and that they could not leave the House, and besides, they could not possibly consider so important a question in a few minutes. His Excellency then proposed to send one of the carriages that were standing at the door for them. I then stated they could not leave the House. He replied, "I suppose not." I further stated that it was unfair and ungenerous, and not such treatment as the Council had a right to expect, to be called upon in this sudden and extraordinary way in a matter so important. I expressed my condemnation of the course adopted by the Legislative Council, and urged the impro-

priety of their praying Her Majesty the Queen to cause a Law of the Imperial Parliament to be passed, giving effect to a scheme of Union which both the People and House of Assembly had rejected by overwhelming majorities, and that I never would consent to any Address which authorized the Imperial Parliament to pass an Act for Union without reference to the people. I thought His Excellency seemed disposed to yield the point and strike out the last paragraph of the answer, which I considered very objectionable. He then asked me to excuse him, and left the room to consult, as I thought at the time, and from information received since, I am confirmed in that opinion, a gentleman of the opposition and a Member of the Legislative Council, who was in the House at the time. He returned in a few minutes, and after some conversation similar to that already detailed, told me that he would deliver the answer as it was, and send me a copy in the evening. I remonstrated against such conduct, but concluded by saying that if he had resolved upon that course, it was in vain to protract the interview. I then left him.

(Signed) A. J. SMITH.

The Lieutenant Governor has received from the Members of His Executive Council a Minute, tendering the resignation of their Seats at the Council Board.

The reason assigned by them for this step is a disinclination to accept the responsibility of a Reply made by His Excellency to the Legislative Council, when requested by that Body to transmit to Her Majesty an Address, praying that a scheme for the Union of the British North American Provinces may be introduced into the Imperial Parliament.

Several causes for this disinclination are enumerated by the Council. They may, however, all be resumed in the objection, that the Legislative Council, in adopting the Address in question, overstepped the limits of action prescribed to it by constitutional principles and usage.

In this view, His Excellency cannot at all concur, and he perceives with regret the name of a Member of the Upper House, for whose character and abilities he has a sincere respect, appended to reasoning which would, in His Excellency's opinion, go far to destroy the position of that Chamber as an independent and co-ordinate branch of the Legislature.

The Papers on which the Address in question was founded, were laid before both Houses of the Legislature by Her Majesty's express command at the commencement of the present Session.

It had at that time long been known to Her Majesty's Government, that the General Election in New Brunswick in 1865, had terminated unfavourably to the cause of Union, and the communication of these papers was made to the Provincial Parliament in the avowed hope that the question might be again considered and more favourably received there.

The Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the Session, even as originally proposed, conveyed an assurance that those papers should receive a careful and respectful attention from the Legislative Council.

But the chief documents which the Members of that body thus pledged themselves to consider, were the Resolutions adopted at Quebec, the approval of that Scheme by Her Majesty, and the expression of a hope on the part of Her Majesty's