

thereto, in a *Royal Gazette Extra*, and they are astonished and surprised at the discrepancy between the reply as published, and that furnished to the undersigned. Your Excellency has added to one of the paragraphs the following—"To their verdict His Excellency is ready and willing to appeal;" again in the last paragraph you have added the following—"So strong was His Excellency's wish, that the contents of his reply should be known to the Council before its delivery." Again, in another paragraph you have substituted the following—"which his advisers had informed him, they were inclined to follow." instead of, "was not however inconsistent with the policy of his advisers." Also in the 4th paragraph from the last, you have substituted the word "essential" for "convenient."

These alterations, Your Excellency must admit, are very material and important, and evidently intended to give additional force and weight to Your Excellency's paper.

The undersigned cannot too strongly express their disapprobation of such a course, and would venture the opinion that no alterations in a document so important, should have been made without the knowledge or consent of the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted.

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

Fredericton, April 14th, 1866.

*Mr. Smith's Memorandum of Conversations with His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor.*

I have read with surprise His Excellency's Memorandum in answer to the paper containing our resignations, and I regret that it becomes my duty to give a contradiction to many of the statements contained therein, and I shall proceed to give a brief but truthful resume of the different conversations I have had with him on the subject of Union since my return from the United States.

On my arrival in Fredericton, I was told by my colleagues that they had reason to suspect that His Excellency had been in communication with the opposition, and that they believed Mr. Mitchell had been sent for during my absence, and that he, Mr. Wilmot, and others opposed to the Government, had been consulting together with a view to upset the Government. At the second interview I had with His Excellency I told him what I had heard. He did not deny that he had sent for Mr. Mitchell, nor did he deny that he had been consulting with those parties, but said that Mr. Mitchell and some of the gentlemen whose names I had mentioned, had dined at Government House together. We talked about Mr. Wilmot's resignation, and he told me that he had allowed him to withdraw a paper connected with his resignation and substitute another. This, I told him, was not right; that when Mr. Wilmot gave him a paper, I thought it belonged to the Council as much as to him, and as he was acting hostile to the Government it should not have been given back. He said Mr. Wilmot was prepared to go for Union, and that he had told him that he could form a Government. I replied that I was satisfied he could not form a Government that would stand, and we discussed the probability of his being able to be returned for Saint John, and he agreed with me in the opinion that he could not be returned; and I firmly believe now, as I did at the time, that if he had thought Mr. Wilmot could have formed a Government that would have stood, he would have called upon him to do so. At one of our interviews he produced the draft of Memorandum for Council set forth in His Excellency's paper, and asked me what I thought the Council would do, if he submitted it to them. I told him, in my opinion, they would give him a distinct reply in the negative, and I told him, if he wished it, I would take it down to the Council, but that it would probably cause a break up; he did not press it, and it was not withdrawn at my urgent request.

We discussed at great length the whole subject, and I told him that I would go for a Union provided one could be obtained upon fair and equitable terms, and one that would be advantageous to my country, but that New Brunswick

was my country, and that I would oppose any Scheme of Union that would build up one portion of the Confederacy at the expense of New Brunswick, which, in my opinion, the Quebec Scheme would. We talked about what course had been adopted in reference to the subject. I told him I did not know what our friends would be willing to do, that the Quebec Scheme had been rejected by the House last Session, and I did not know whether they would be willing to reconsider the subject, but that I thought they might consent, after the Despatches were submitted, to have a Committee appointed (a majority of whom was to be our friends) to consider them, and the Committee might in their Report suggest objections to the Quebec Scheme, and propose another Conference of all the Provinces, or a Conference of the Lower Colonies, whose interests are homogeneous; but I told him I would not consent to this until I had an opportunity of seeing our friends, such of them as I could see in Westmorland, as well as some of them at Saint John on my way home. I told him that the conversation was to be considered confidential, and if my friends did not approve of it, that all that was said was to be considered as not said. We also discussed the question as to whether it had better be a Joint Committee of both Houses or separate Committees of each. He told me at one of our interviews that he thought he would go to Canada. When I saw him again, I think the next day, I asked him if he had determined to go to Canada; he replied that he had, and asked me what objections I had to the Quebec Scheme, and said that he would try and ascertain, when there, what modifications they would make. He rose and took the Journals of 1865, containing the Scheme, and I proceeded to enumerate the following as some of the objections, viz:—

1. Representation by population.
2. That each Province should have an equal number of Legislative Councillors.
3. That the Lower Provinces should be exempt from taxation for the Canals of Upper Canada, and for the purchase money and other expenditures connected with the North West Territory.
4. That the Revenues collected in the different Provinces should be for the benefit of each Province when collected, except a certain amount to be given for the support of the General Government.

He acknowledged that the propositions were reasonable, and said that he thought Canada would coincide in them all, except representation by population. I distinctly told him that if I went into political oblivion for ever, I would never recognize that principle unless it was neutralized in some way, and that I regarded the Quebec Scheme as utterly ruinous to our country. I further stated to him, that I never would consent to Union, and then trust to luck as to what kind of Union we were to get; that whether it was good or bad depended upon the terms and conditions of it, and that before I would go for it, I must know what they were to be. I also told him that I would never consent, and I was satisfied our friends would not, to an Address to Her Majesty to carry out Union without reference to the people; that the British Government had committed themselves to the Quebec Scheme, and to do this would be equivalent to the adoption of that Scheme.

I told His Excellency that I should tell my colleagues in the Government all that took place between us, and I did so most fully, and they approved of what I had said and done.

I left for Westmorland and he left for Canada. I saw several of our friends at Saint John as well as in Westmorland, and told them exactly what had passed between His Excellency and myself, as they will recollect, and they seemed to be willing that a Committee should be appointed.

The Council met at Fredericton about the third of March. His Excellency in the meantime had returned from Canada. He told me that he had seen Lord Monck and some of the Members of the Canadian Government, and he said he thought they would be willing to make concessions, but did not state distinctly how far they would go. I told him I had seen several of our friends, and they seemed willing to adopt the course suggested, namely, to appoint a Committee to consider the Despatches when they were submitted, and this was agreed upon as the course to be adopted. We had a good deal of discussion as to how the subject should be referred to in the Speech. I objected to any reference being made in the Speech which would commit us to Union