are nearly higher than in Prince Edward Island, and the nearest of these markets is at least one thousand miles further from Sabo or Halifax, than is any portion of Prince Edward Island.

"7. *Resolved*, That until the larger Maritime Provinces and Canada shall have mutually agreed upon terms of Union, it is independent that the people of Prince Edward Island should be called upon to decide on the question.

Prince Edward Island is the smallest of the Provinces or Colonies, and no action which the Legislature may take, will, to a smaller degree, affect the Confederation. If Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia reject Confederation, we shall not be allowed to avail ourselves of the privileges which Confederation would confer upon us; on the other hand, should New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland adopt the resolutions of the Quebec Conference, the Opposition of Prince Edward Island would be of no importance, we should in the latter case be obliged to enter the Confederation. It may, therefore, be evident that, until the larger Provinces agree to Confederation, it will be inexpedient to appeal to the people of this Island upon the question. The concluding resolution proposes:—

"8. *Resolved*, That in case the Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Canada, should at any time mutually agree upon the basis of a Union, the question be then forthwith submitted to the decision of the People of this Island.

I, this afternoon, observed that the countenances of several of my colleagues in the Government, wore a more than usually pleasing expression. The occasion of this happiness was a telegram which had been received, announcing the defeat of the Hon Mr Tilley, the leader of the government of New Brunswick, and of several of his colleagues. This, my friends, regard as the death of the Confederation scheme in that Province, and they are happy. I, Sir, deeply regret the result of the recent elections in New Brunswick. I dread the consequences. My honorable friend, Mr Tilley, informs me that, although "beaten," he is not "conquered." I, Sir, would much prefer to share defeat with my gentlemen, in the great cause in the advocacy of which he has fallen, than participate in the victory which his opponents imagine they have gained. No honorable member should, in my opinion, object to the resolution just read. I hold, Mr Speaker, that, circumstanced as we are, and knowing as we do that a large number of the Electors of this Island are opposed to confederation, it would be improper in us to pledge our constituents to the scheme of Confederation. On the other hand, Sir, I contend that this House, acknowledging, that the people should be consulted, before any such proposition shall be accepted, is not justified in declaring that the people will not accept Confederation. This subject will, hereafter, receive more deliberate consideration than has heretofore been given to it, and I confidently look forward to a great change in public opinion. There are several subjects in the Report upon which I have not remarked. These will be dealt with by the gentlemen who will follow me, and at the close of the debate, I shall endeavor to reply to some of the many objections, which I believe will be urged against Confederation.

Hon J. C. POPE.—Mr Speaker, I submit that the Hon Col Secretary, in moving the House into the consideration of the subject now before you, has manifested a very great want of courtesy towards myself as a member of this House. It is a well observed rule that any member having given notice of his intention to move in any matter, shall, as a matter of course, have the privilege of introducing the subject of which he has given the notice, and of opening the debate, and it is not expected that any other member shall, as the Col Secretary has done, watch an opportunity of moving in it; but having done so, it was his duty, as a member of the Government, to have explained to the House that it was not a Government party question, and one on which the Government generally took a very different view from that entertained by himself. The conduct of the Colonial Secretary is calculated to place the Government, of which he is a member, in a false position, and looks to me as if he wished to put himself right, as a delegate, with the people of Canada. Knowing well the strong feelings entertained by all the members of that Government except two, and by the people of this Island generally against a Federal Union of the Provinces, he should, I think, have pursued a different course. He has, to say the least of it, acted most uncourteously, and I must now return the compliment by moving that the whole of the Resolutions submitted by him be struck out and the following substituted:—

"1. *Resolved*, That Prince Edward Island, being entirely dependant on its Agriculture and Fisheries, has nothing to expect for which Canada and British markets. That the much is, and ever must be the relative commercial position of this Island and Canada, the products of our soil and fisheries find in the exclusive markets of our parent country, the United States and the West Indies, the best and most profitable markets. The proposed Union, while admitting the produce and manufacture of Canada into this Island free, would by assimilation of taxes enormously increase the duty to which those of Great Britain and the United States are at present subjected, thereby compelling this Island to take a large portion of its imports from Canada, making payment therefor in money instead of procuring them from countries which would receive our produce in exchange,—an arrangement so inconsistent with the fundamental principles of commerce, must greatly curtail our commercial intercourse with the United States, and would, in the opinion of this House, materially diminish our Exports to that country, and prove most injurious to the agricultural and commercial interests of this Island.

"2. That if the relative circumstances of Canada and this Island rendered a Union practicable, the evident injustice of the terms agreed to by the Quebec Convention would prevent their being ratified by the Legislature of this Island. Without alluding to all, it is proper to notice some of the objectionable features of the Report. Without admitting the principle of Representation according to Population under all circumstances to be sound, it is, in the opinion of this House, fallacious and particularly objectionable as applied to the Confederation which Canada, taking into consideration that the number of our inhabitants is, and must continue comparatively small, owing to the fact that we have no Crown Lands, mines, minerals, or other resources sufficient to induce immigrants to settle here, and that we never can expect to become to any extent a manufacturing people, in consequence of our navigation being closed for nearly half the year, and all trade and communication with other countries stopped. Under this principle, the City of Montreal alone would, at the present time, have a representation greater than the whole Province of Prince Edward Island, and under the provisions of the Convention which regulate the mode of readjusting the relative representation of the various Provinces at each decennial census, looking at the rapid increase of the population of Upper and Lower Canada heretofore—particularly the former,—and the certainty of a still greater increase therein in the future, over that of the population of this Island, it follows as a certain and inevitable consequence, if a Federation of the Provinces were consummated upon the basis of the said Convention, that the number of our Representatives would, in the course of a comparatively short number of years, be diminished to a still smaller number than that allotted at the outset to us.

"3. That the old Imperial error in granting all the lands in large tracts to absentees, which deprives this Island of the Revenue drawn by the sister Colonies from these sources, our insular position and numerous harbors, furnishing cheap and convenient water communicants which render expensive Public Works here unnecessary, the Revenue to be drawn by the proposed Federal Government from this Island, and expended among the people of Canada and the other Colonies in constructing Railways and other Public Works, thereby creating a trade which would build up cities and enhance the value of property in various localities there—advantages to which this Island could enjoy a very small participation. Our complete isolation during five months of the year, when ice interrupts our trade and communication with the Mainland, and during which period the Island could derive no possible benefit from the Railroads and other Public Works which they or would be equally with the people of those Colonies taxed to construct; these and many other considerations, but which seem to have been entirely ignored, ought, in the opinion of this House, to have produced an offer of a financial arrangement for this Island very different in its terms from that contained in the Report of the Convention.

"4. That while this House recognises the duty of this Colony to use every means, to the extent of its limited resources, to defend its inhabitants from foreign invasion, it cannot recognize the necessity of uniting in a Confederation with Canada for the purpose of defence upon terms which,

in other respects, are, in the opinion of this House, so unfair to the people of Prince Edward Island; thus sacrificing our commercial and financial interests for the sake of securing the co-operation of Canada, in a military point of view, feeling assured that so long we remain a loyal and attached Colony of Great Britain, the powerful aid of that great country will continue, as heretofore, to be extended to us, in common with the other North American Dependencies of the British Crown.

"5. Lastly, *Resolved*, That this House disagrees to the recommendation of the Quebec Conference, and, on the part of Prince Edward Island, emphatically declines a Union which, after a serious and careful consideration, it believes would prove politically, commercially, and financially disastrous to the rights and interests of its people."

Hon Col SECRETARY.—I submit to you, Mr Speaker, for your judgment, the question whether the leader of the Government should give notice of his intention to move the House on this matter, it was not competent for one or any other member to propose other resolutions for the approval of the House. The subject comes before us as an avowedly open question, and therefore, I assert that my action evinces no want of courtesy to the leader, or any member, of the Government.

Hon Mr POPE.—The question, Mr Speaker, which forms the subject of the first of resolutions, is the most important which has ever occupied the attention of the Legislature of this Colony; and depriving of the abstract principle of the proposed Union, I regret that I must oppose the measure, for the reason that the Union, as proposed in the Quebec Conference, does not offer, in my opinion, fair terms to the people of the Island. It must be remembered, in the discussion of this question, that our insular position, the absence from our soil of minerals, and the difficulty which almost any person who contemplates making one sister Colonies during half the year, place us, in dealing with this question, in a position totally different from that of Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. These Provinces are geographically connected with Canada, and to a great extent assimilate in their resources to constitute them manufacturing countries. Here the argument that our trade would be increased by the Union with Canada, I cannot recognize as force, for we produce the same description of articles as that country can could supply us with. Our trade must naturally be with Great Britain, the United States, and the West Indies, the products and manufactures of which we require. The high tariff of Canada would raise the cost to the consumer of goods from these countries considerably more than it is at present on the Island, and firmly believing that the true principle of trade is to buy in the cheapest, and sell in the dearest, market, I should be doing violence to my own convictions, if I affirmed by my vote, any other rule. I have said, Sir, that I entertained objections to the details of the scheme. Among these objections I may mention the principle of representation by population. A very simple calculation will show that the adoption of this as a standard would enable the city of London to send to the British House of Commons no less than seventy representatives, and the city of Montreal in the Confederate Parliament would have a representation greater than that of this whole Island. Its statistics warrant the belief that in a few years the population will be so increased by the influx of the tide of immigration that the Island would lose in the halls of legislation even the small voice which she might raise at her entrance into the Union. It is not to be supposed that the increased taxation which, it is not denied, the Canadian tariff imposes, will have any other effect than that of driving from our shores those who would naturally seek in enlarged fields of action more ample returns for their labor, and greater means of meeting the liabilities imposed upon them. The military phase of the question is not worthy of much consideration, for if an invasion of Canada by the people of the United States should take place, it would involve, as a matter of course, the necessity of retaining all available strength in each of the other Provinces for the defence of their respective territories. While I admit, as cordially as any, that it is the duty of every man to contribute, as far as in him lies, to the defence of the country in which he lives, and that it is not fair to the taxpayers of Britain that they should be at the exclusive cost of our protection, I am willing to trust a reasonable portion of that duty to the Mother Country, the army and navy of which must be kept somewhere; and her experience shows that nowhere can they be maintained more cheaply as in the Colonies. I may state that while I give the delegates credit for sincerity in their proceedings, my opinion is that they went further than they were authorised or justified to go.

In accordance with a suggestion of Hon Mr WHELAN, the discussion was postponed until the papers connected with the subject should be printed.

SATURDAY, March 25.

Debate on the Union of the Colonies resumed.

Hon Col GRAY.—Mr Speaker, It might reasonably be expected, and honorable members may consider that it would be more in accordance with the elevated character of a project, which, having engrossed the minds of the statesmen of British America for many years, has at length culminated in the phase in which it now attracts the attention of the people of not only these Provinces and Great Britain, but also of our neighbors in the Great Republic who are anxiously watching our proceedings, that I should elaborate the argument in support of my own views. But, Sir, I do not at present intend to enlarge upon the leading features of this great question—a Confederation of the varied and vigorous interests involved, the benefits which would inevitably accrue to all British America were we confederated, the strong and indissoluble bond of brotherhood from Newfoundland to Vancouver. However desirous I might be, under a state of public opinion other than that which at present exists, to approach in a far more extended sense than one of mere local interest, the consideration of a measure which has for its object the consolidation of many hitherto isolated and disjointed fragments into a Confederation which will form a state as large as the entire Continent of Europe, yet, Sir, it is not my present intention to do so; neither do I intend to offer any comments upon the resolutions which my hon friend, the leader of the Government, in accordance, doubtless, with the desires of a large majority of members of this House, has now submitted for our consideration, but I shall confine myself solely to a few observations on those points which apply more particularly to the immediate condition of the people of this Island separately, as evidencing the motives and reasons which actuated me in ultimately deciding that we might have the good fortune to be admitted within, and to become an integral portion of, the proposed Confederation. Mr Speaker, we all know that our free trade with the United States is about to cease. Already has notice for the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty been given by the American authorities, and, when this shall have been finally acted upon, we must look elsewhere for markets for our produce, or submit to a taxation on it in the ports of the United States which will, be almost prohibitory; therefore, as we are peculiarly an agricultural people, the great object of our solicitude should be to look around and enquire where we may best secure ready markets, and as near to our own doors as possible; for it is obvious that if we can have easy access to markets in rich and populous cities in our midst, we will receive far better returns than if drives to us from recourse to places remote, and only to be reached after long and tedious voyaging. Sir, I believe that we may safely assume that in a very few years, when confederated, that Halifax and St. John alone will be ready to absorb all we can raise unless every acre in this Island be cultivated like a kitchen garden. Let us consider the future of these two cities, for great as their natural advantages now are, all pales before the contemplation of what they are destined ultimately to become. Let me instance the rise and progress of two places somewhat similarly situated, in the past—Singapore and Chicago. When that eminent man, Sir Stamford Raffles, first suggested the idea of founding that famous emporium for the China trade, how the enemies of progress lifted up their eyes in amazement! how they ridiculed the idea! how great the ruin which must ensue from the adoption of the policy proposed! But what was the result? Some years ago I read to write, (I quote from memory his own words), "From an insignificant fishing village, our town, in three years, has a population of ten thousand; our lands are rapidly rising in value, and we have every reason to expect, that, in a very few years, we shall have ten times our numbers." How truly the prognostics of this great man have been fulfilled, this wonderful mart of commerce, with its hundred thousands of population, bears, at this day, ample witness. Look again at Chicago. In the year 1838 it was a town of fifty inhabitants; twenty years after it had a population of eighty thousand. The tide of emigration must flow to British