

are usually higher than in Prince Edward Island, and the nearest of these harbours is at least one thousand miles further from St. John 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 imprudent that the people of Prince Edward Island should be called upon to decide on the question. *Resolved*, That Prince Edward Island is the smallest of the Provinces or Colonies, and no action which the Legislature may take will, in the smallest degree, affect the great Question of Confederation. If 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 must, 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.

1. This afternoon, observed that the countenances of several of my colleagues in the Government, wore a more than usually pensive expression. The occasion of this happiness was a telegram which had been received, announcing the defeat of the Hon Mr. Tilly, the leader of the Government of New Brunswick, and of several of his colleagues. This, my friends, regard as the defeat of the Confederation, in this Province, and they were very happy. I, Sir, deeply regret the result of the recent election in New Brunswick. I dread the consequences. My honorable friend Mr. Tilly informs me that, although "beaten," he is not "humbled." I, Sir, would much prefer to share defeat with that gentleman, 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 the wishes 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 hitherto 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 unconsciously, 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

dependent on its Agriculture and Fisheries, has nothing to export for which Canada can furnish a market. That while such is, and ever must be the relative commercial position of this Island and Canada, the products of our soil and Fisheries find in the extensive markets of our parent country, the United States and the West Indies, ready and profitable customers. The proposed Union, while admitting the produce and manufactures of Canada into this Island free, would by assimilation of taxes necessarily increase the duty to which those of Great Britain and the United States are at present subject, thereby compelling this Island to take a large portion of its imports from Canada, making payment thereon in money instead of procuring them from countries which would receive our produce in exchange, an arrangement inconsistent with the fundamental principle of commerce, and 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 profitable, 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, particularly objectionable as applied to this Island, in connection with 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 adjusting 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 absentee, which deprives this Island of the Revenue drawn by the sister Colonies from these sources, our singular position and numerous harbors, furnishing cheap and convenient water communication which render expensive Public Works here unnecessary, the Revenue to be drawn by the proposed Federal Government from the 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 in 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 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 recognizes 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,