

act of incorporation of St. Matthew's Church; to provide for the salary of the governor's private secretary; to change the name of Ratchford river; to incorporate the Baptist Foreign Missionary Board; to amend the law relating to juries; to incorporate the oak point pier company; relating to certain road monies in the county of Hants; further to amend the license law.

After some slight discussion Mr. MacDonnell agreed to strike out the third clause of the latter act.

Then the committee adjourned.

Mr. PRYOR, chairman of the militia committee, reported.

The report amongst other things recommends that effective volunteer companies which shall return 60 effectives at the end of the year, shall receive \$1 a year per man, and that Sergeant Major Brecken's pay should be increased to \$600 a year.

The report was laid on the table for future consideration.

Then the house adjourned until half-past 7 o'clock the same evening.

UNION OF THE COLONIES.

Speech of the Hon. Prov. Secretary

Dr. TUPPER then rose and addressed the house as follows; Mr Speaker I beg leave to move the following resolution:—

"Whereas under existing circumstances an immediate Union of the British American Colonies has become impracticable, and whereas a legislative Union of the Maritime Provinces is desirable whether the larger Union be accomplished or not:

"Therefore Resolved, That in the opinion of this House the negotiations for the Union of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and P. E. Island should be renewed in accordance with the resolution passed at the last Session of the Legislature."

EXPLANATORY.

In moving the resolution it will be respectful to this house and to the people of this province, that I should explain the proceedings which were taken upon the resolution which was passed at the last session of this Legislature, and the various circumstances connected with the events that occurred in the consideration of that resolution. This house passed a resolution authorizing the appointment of five delegates to confer with others to be appointed by the provinces of New Brunswick and P. E. Island, for the purpose of devising a scheme of Union for these three Maritime provinces. The government in the discharge of the duty devolving upon them by that resolution, appointed five delegates who attended a conference which was arranged at Charlottetown between the different provinces for the purpose of dealing with that question. Previous, however, to that conference being assembled the Governor General applied to the Lieutenant Governors of the three Maritime provinces for permission for a deputation of the members of the Canadian government to attend the proposed Conference for the purpose of explaining to them the views and opinions of the government of Canada, and the attitude which that Province held at that time in connection with the ques-

tion of Colonial Union. I presume that there is no member in this House who would be disposed to question the entire propriety of these gentlemen being received at that Conference of the Maritime Provinces. I presume that when called upon to engage in the consideration of a question so great as a change in the constitution of our country, that no intelligent man can be found within or without those walls who would not consider that a Conference of these Maritime Provinces would have been wanting in their duty to the country, if they hesitated for a single moment on such an occasion to avail themselves of every source of information in their power touching the question of Colonial Union in British America. When I had the honor of moving the resolution which received the unanimous concurrence of this House at its last session, I did not disguise for a single moment that whilst I looked upon a Union of the Maritime Provinces as desirable, that the government introduced that scheme to the Legislature in the absence of any grounds of hope that the larger and more important Union of British North America was at that time practicable or could be effected. I did not conceal from the house for a single instant the opinions which I conscientiously entertained, that the interests of British America would be largely promoted by a union of Canada with the Maritime Provinces; but I drew the attention of gentlemen on that occasion to the grounds I had for believing that at that time such a union was impracticable. I drew the attention of the house to the difficulties that existed, as I believed, on the part of both Upper and Lower Canada in relation to a union with the Maritime Provinces. I also referred to some of the objections which existed on the part of the Maritime Provinces in relation to a union with Canada, and proposed the resolution already referred to. Whilst advocating, as zealously as I was able, the advantages that would accrue from the larger union I proposed that of the Maritime Provinces as the only step that was available to us at that time and a step which, so far from conflicting in the slightest degree with a Union of all British North America, was actually one in that very direction. It will be also recollected that gentlemen on both sides of this house, whilst giving their concurrence and support to the resolution, did not hesitate to express the preference which they had for a union of all British North America, and even went at length into arguments to show that the advantages which were likely to come from a union of the Maritime provinces were comparatively insignificant with those which would result from the larger scheme. In these sentiments I entirely and heartily concurred, as will be in the recollection of gentlemen who refer to the speech which I made on that occasion.

THE QUEBEC CONFERENCE.

When the conference which, as I have already stated, met at Charlottetown, they received a deputation of members of the Canadian government for the purpose of giving them an opportunity of placing before us the views