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School: Marianopolis College

Committee: Canadian Confederation

Character: William Henry Pope

Topic 1: Institutional Design and Regional Diversity

William Henry Pope is present at the conference to represent the colony of Prince Edward Island (PEI)[[1]](#footnote-2). PEI is faced with a large scale land ownership issue in which large amounts of land were owned by people who live out of the colony and who have not done anything with their land[[2]](#footnote-3). This is a principle reason for which the colony was open to the idea of forming a union with other Maritime colonies to increase its political and economic influence to deal with such issues[[3]](#footnote-4). PEI has been in favour of greater autonomy, democracy and responsible representation[[4]](#footnote-5).

From 1758 to 1769 was part governed by Nova Scotia under an early form of Maritime Union[[5]](#footnote-6). However, it did not last as there were requests from a variety of people, but mainly land owners, for a separate government in PEI to better administer their own local issues[[6]](#footnote-7). Although, PEI did get a government that is representative of the population in 1773, it never was never actually democratic since the executive council was not responsible[[7]](#footnote-8). A responsible government did come in 1851, but it is unstable with a change of government happening every 1-2 years, therefore a government needs to be able to adequately solve the problems that the colony is facing[[8]](#footnote-9).

William Henry Pope believes that what is best for the situation of Prince Edward Islanders is to form a Confederation with all the other British North America colonies because it will be what is best to allow PEI to deal with the issue of land ownership, and since it is what will give the government the most resources to be able to deal with the situation[[9]](#footnote-10). Also, William Henry pope believes that in order to achieve this ideal with a population of Islanders who are skeptical because they want to protect their identity, it would be necessary to use media and behind the scenes ways of influencing people[[10]](#footnote-11).

Topic 2: Economic Policy, Regional Markets, and Colonial Expansion

PEI is performing well economically, with many export markets both with other colonies and with countries like the United States[[11]](#footnote-12). However, PEI being a small island with lots of land being unused, the Island is in great debt despite the economic success[[12]](#footnote-13). PEI is also not connected to the rest of the colonies which makes it difficult to communicated and trade[[13]](#footnote-14).

PEI has many free trade agreements such as a Treaty with the United States, however, they do not last forever and having to rely on Great-Britain to negotiate them is not ideal[[14]](#footnote-15).

William Henry Pope believes that the best for PEI is to be able to negotiate for itself with the other colonies, their own economic treaties as well as be able to get financial support from the other colonies as well as have guaranteed trade markets[[15]](#footnote-16). He also believes that PEI needs a guaranteed market in the form of other colonies who would necessarily trade with the Island if they were part of the same confederation[[16]](#footnote-17).

Topic 3: Foreign Policy and Protecting our Borders

PEI, being a small Island, does not have many issues relating to borders to deal with. Most of its foreign policy issues have to do with negotiations for trade or for ways to get help with issues relating to the colony[[17]](#footnote-18). There are also Mi’kmaq people living on the colony’s territory[[18]](#footnote-19).

PEI has had little foreign policy involvement considering the size of the colony[[19]](#footnote-20). The main foreign negotiations were related to the land issue and it was necessary to deal with foreign owners in other countries, in Britain or in other colonies[[20]](#footnote-21). That is a difficult task considering PEI’s status as a small colony with little Capital[[21]](#footnote-22).

Pope believes that PEI needs to be in a greater union, part of an independent confederation to be able to negotiate for its own good, and to have the resources and the capital to solve the issues that need to be solved with foreign actors[[22]](#footnote-23). PEI needs to also have access to an army to defend its maritime border that is financed and well managed which is something the Island would have trouble providing on its own[[23]](#footnote-24). As for the native population, Pope believes that it is beneficial to have them on the same page as the rest as the population, but that using propaganda and deceitful methods may be necessary.

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1. (Robertson, n.d.) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. (Bumsted, n.d.) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. (Hartery, 2016) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. (Tattrie, 2014) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. (Robb, 2009) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. (Robb, 2009) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. (Robb, 2009) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. (Robb, 2009) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. (Robertson, n.d.) [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. (Robertson, n.d.) [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. (Robb, 2009) [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. (Robb, 2009) [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. (Waite, Charlottetown Conference, 2010) [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. (Tattrie, 2014) [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. (Buckner, 2006) [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. (Waite, Confederation, n.d.) [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
17. (Robb, 2009) [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
18. (Robb, 2009) [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
19. (Tattrie, 2014) [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
20. (Bumsted, n.d.) [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
21. (Bumsted, n.d.) [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
22. (Waite, Confederation, n.d.) [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
23. (Tattrie, 2014) [↑](#footnote-ref-24)