Character: William Henry Steeves

Committee: Canadian Confederation – Bilingual

Delegate’s Name: Rania Zaid

**Part A.**

On the first of September, the Charlottetown Conference was initially planned as a meeting of the leaders of the three Maritime Provinces. They wanted to discuss the possibility of a union among themselves, much like the union between the two Canadas. Indeed, the conference convened to formally discuss the idea of union between New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Britain encouraged a Maritime union as it would represent numerous advantages for both, the Crown and the colonies. However, another colony, the Province of Canada joined the discussion and expanded the agenda to discuss a union that would include all British North American colonies.

1. **Institutional Design and Regional Diversity**

Confederation marks the beginning of Canadian federalism. Retention of existing colonial governments and boundaries was desired by many influential people for a variety of reasons. The colony of New-Brunswick, has a strong sense of provincial identity. Therefore, federalism is a necessary compromise to keep alive and to celebrate regional diversity. Although a legislative union was strongly favoured by John A. Macdonald, the colony of New-Brunswick respectfully disagrees for the reasons listed above. Moreover, the maritime province of New-Brunswick complies with the respective responsibilities of the executive, legislative and judicial branches. The executive branch of government being responsible for delivering programs and services to the population through the framework of laws; the legislative branch enacting laws to control over government action; and the judicial branch watching over illegal activities, all of these sections are in line with the New-Brunswick worldview. French language should not be an official language of the union as only a minority speak the language; professional business should always be in English. That being said, the French speakers have equally the right to express themselves as long as the language chosen is English.

1. **Economic Policy, Regional Markets and Colonial Expansion**

New Brunswick’s House reform Leader William Steeves recognize the benefits that the Confederation could offer: greater security, a wide market of their goods, and a way to reach that market through the promised Intercolonial Railway. However, some concerns rise to the surface when talking about the relative strength of New Brunswick’s voice within a new union. The colony of New-Brunswick, firstly, supports the free exchange policy as it widens the economic market, consequently growing at a faster rate. All the maritime colonies could potentially represent an adequate economic partner to each other. That being stated, New-Brunswick would be happy to do business with Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, as they obtain the necessary competences. With other colonies, it would not be evident, but could be done if persistence is shown and effort to keep the relations healthy. Local control of economic decision making is not in lined with the values of William Henry Steeves, for he strives for an in control government. Indeed, parts of the government have more than the capabilities to manage businesses. Growing debt would be summed up into one and the burden would be carried by everyone.

1. **Foreign Policy and Protecting our borders**

The Charlottetown conference was fueled, partially by fears of United Stated domination, following its Civil War. Britain became increasingly reluctant to defend its North American colonies against US aggression. Confederation would offer the colonies strength through unity, an idea that gained steady support. British North America should be a loyal however independent union from the British Empire. That way, the protection of borders could easily be handled, with sufficient amounts of money, as the British Empire could help them. If any war is to be declared, the federal union would militarily support the empire, as they supported the protection of borders. The British Empire is best placed to deal with financial problems, as the cost of the sustainability of a British military. For another colony or territory to be admitted into the union, every already present provinces would have the right, if the majority agreed, to grant a place for the colony or territory.