

that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Cardin) will not overlook them when the report of the royal commission is being considered, along with any changes which the department itself may feel impelled to introduce.

One question which has been greatly discussed by the members from the maritime provinces is the implementing of the Duncan commission report. To my mind the government has made an honest effort to implement that report; some of its phases have been splendidly taken care of, while others remain to be further considered. With respect to the question of a twenty per cent reduction in the freight rates, I notice there is an item in the estimates amounting to \$3,395,000 to give effect to it. This is a very large item, and I was unable to ascertain just what proportion of that sum would go to each of the maritimes. The management of the national railways was not able to give me any detailed information on the matter, but it is quite certain that a very large share will go to the province of Prince Edward Island. I looked into the freight rate matter before leaving for Ottawa and I find that on a carload of potatoes shipped from the western part of the province there is a reduction of about \$12 a car. In the case of shipments to the St. John or Halifax market there is a reduction of some \$15 a car, and so on according to the mileage involved. I think these reductions will not only benefit the shippers of freight from Prince Edward Island, but that it will represent a large item on the freight coming in. Therefore these reductions, which have come about as a result of the Duncan commission's report, will be of great benefit to the people in the maritimes and will save hundreds of thousands of dollars to the people of Prince Edward Island.

With respect to the tariff, hon. gentlemen opposite have complained that the Liberal party this year have taken more in customs duties than they had done themselves in former years. Personally I feel that I could not have a better story with which to go to the people of my county. We have always advocated a tariff for revenue, otherwise a low tariff, and it works out apparently just as we have always claimed it would do. The lower your tariff the larger revenue you get, and the people of the country are given a chance to import commodities which they desire at reasonable prices, while at the same time a substantial contribution is made to the revenues of the country. Hon. gentlemen opposite, therefore, need not try to alarm the country, especially the maritimes, by making this complaint with respect to customs duties,

because our people want the tariff reduced to a point where they can import what they need at a reasonable rate, while at the same time the revenue gains to no inconsiderable extent. A high tariff will defeat this object.

The question of an increase in the subsidies to the maritimes is one of outstanding importance. The people of the maritime provinces hope that these subsidies, especially the subsidy to Prince Edward Island, will be still further augmented. I do not know what the Minister of Finance will say to the suggestion but I hope that he will give it his favourable consideration. There are many reasons why the subsidies should be increased, and those reasons have been stated here from time to time. The Duncan commission went very thoroughly into the matter, and their opinion was that sufficient account was not taken of the abrogation of the reciprocity with the United States. This regrettable event left the maritimes without a market and it took them a great many years to find a new market. I have pointed out on a previous occasion that when that agreement was abrogated, and the national policy was brought into effect, in one decade the population of Nova Scotia dropped from \$52,000 to 9,000 souls. There must have been some reason for that, and the reason is that the national policy did not suit the conditions in that part of Canada. Prior to confederation the customs and excise duties went to the provinces as their chief source of revenue. At confederation these were turned over to the Dominion government. These revenues have gone on increasing and the Dominion is getting the benefit therefrom while the subsidies to the maritimes have not increased in the same proportion. That is a very strong reason in favour of an increase. In order to supplement the case I may state that in 1868 for every dollar paid out to the provinces in subsidies the federal government only received \$4 in the form of revenue. To-day for every dollar paid out for the same purpose the federal government receive \$12 in the shape of revenue or three times as much as they derived in 1868. On that score alone we have a strong claim for a larger subsidy. Sir Andrew Rae Duncan referred to the purchasing power of the dollar, and said that even if the arrangement with the maritime provinces may have been satisfactory for the carrying on of the governments there in 1907 the drop in the purchasing power of the dollar would call for revision at the present time.

The question of the public lands should also be borne in mind. The proprietors in