

had we should say, "Premier, do with your troubles at Ottawa just as Honorable Richard McBride did with his political buffoonery on the question of better terms for British Columbia; forget it! Take what Tory Ontario says is your share of the spoils and be content. What is the use of raising difficulties now that your own party is in power? Stick together and forget your differences. McBride knows when to drop a campaign issue. Learn from him."

"As a matter of fact," the First Minister continued, "The Victoria 'Times' has never yet got acquainted with me. It probably never will. And to tell the truth I am quite satisfied that the estrangement should continue. That is a good sample bray from that sanctum. If they had taken the trouble to find out they might very easily have learned that I had never abandoned my fight for better terms, and they would not have been likely to have said 'forget it, as McBride has forgotten better terms.'

Commission to Be Appointed at Once.

"Now, Mr. Speaker, we brought down a few days ago a return to this House which is in itself a distinct assurance that Mr. Borden, now that he is in power, is prepared to implement the pledge that he gave while in Opposition and appoint the commission that we have sought during all the course of this better terms agitation. Within the next few weeks we shall see the work of that commission under way. But what does the 'Times' say? I know that those who are acquainted with that paper have come to look upon the 'Times' somewhat as a joke, but perhaps I may again refer to it if merely to lighten with a little humorous touch the somewhat serious question that we have under consideration. After the papers had been presented to this House—after his confidence in my abandonment of the fight I had been carrying on so long had been so rudely shattered by reading the report of the proceedings of this Legislature, he tells his readers that 'the outcome of Mr. McBride's nine years of strenuous work has shown Mr. McBride to be an inconsequential trifler, a poseur, an unmitigated pretender, and—so far as the matters referred to in his return brought down yesterday—an unscrupulous deceiver.' (Laughter).

It is unnecessary perhaps to say more. Those who are behind this Victoria comic illustrated publication possibly understand what their patrons want. I merely mention this matter as an example of how an ex-minister of the Dominion is inclined to treat a matter of so vital interest to the people and the future of British Columbia. It is perhaps this attitude of my friend Mr. Templeman and the 'Times,' and the policy they have jointly pursued, that have had the effect of effacing the solid seven that at one time represented British Columbia in the Canadian Commons and presents in this House the spectacle of a great political party represented by a single lonely member. (Laughter and applause.)

"Mr. Borden in 1904 gave his promise, after fully acquainting himself with the merits of British Columbia's claim, that if his party were returned to power these claims would be investigated upon their merits. During his visit to this province in 1907 he repeated on the public platform and amplified that promise. And he is now loyally carrying out those pledges. When Mr. Borden and his party were returned, we in British Columbia expected with fullest confidence that this would be the case. We were satisfied that if he were elected and installed in office he would issue a commission as desired—that he would make good his word. And now, although he has as yet been only a few months in control of the affairs of Canada, he is doing so, and shortly an investigation will be under way and we shall have right and opportunity to present the case which we have so long desired to get before such a tribunal.

Nothing to Be Left Undone.

"Let me assure this House that this government will leave nothing undone in order that the case of British Columbia may be submitted as completely and as effectively as possible. In this connection we are prepared to institute exhaustive inquiries so that all statistics bearing up on this matter may be brought up to date and no circumstance overlooked that will be likely to operate to the advantage of the province in the consideration of its claim before the proposed commission. It is to be hoped