

inces that we will hear the representations of each before the committee of the whole cabinet as to the points they desire to make concerning those recommendations in the Duncan report to which effect has not been given. That is the position, including the very matter to which attention has just now been directed. The hon. member is quite right in saying that this matter is of long standing. My memory is that we were given the proud privilege of serving this country some time in August, 1930, and it certainly had been a live question for some years prior to that time. We hope that through this opportunity of making representations to a committee of the cabinet the premiers of the provinces, or their counsel, or anyone acting on their behalf, will be in a position to make known to the cabinet the exact points that in their judgment still remain to be dealt with in order that the Duncan report may be fully implemented. When that is done the government will take such action as may be possible, having regard to the representations that are made.

Mr. MICHAUD: I am pleased that the Prime Minister has given a ray of hope to the people of the maritimes. Without anticipating any representations which might be made by the premiers of the provinces or their counsel, may I say this is one recommendation of the Duncan commission which has not yet been implemented, namely the matter of subsidies or increased allowances to the provinces. It has been carried for some time in the estimates pending final adjustment. So far since the opening of the session we have heard considerable about the claims and the rights of the western people to increased grants and subsidies from the Dominion government. Spokesmen from the maritimes have been very modest, due to the fact that they have faith in the justice of their claims and that they will soon be adjusted. The matter of increased grants and subsidies is one of vital importance to the maritime provinces. I do not intend this evening to go into details, but simply to mention the fact that the maritime provinces have not received any material financial assistance through this depression, in comparison with what has been granted other parts of the country.

Some of the provinces, and this particularly applies to New Brunswick, are figuring on an increased subsidy for the next year in order to balance the budget, and it is to be hoped that in some form or another this matter will soon be adjusted and that before the close of the provincial fiscal year, in November, a substantial increase will be made in lieu of

[Mr. Bennett.]

what should have been granted some years ago. These would be increased grants to make up for what these provinces have lost and have given up through joining confederation. The matter certainly will come up at some stage during the session, at which time an opportunity will be given to all maritime representatives to speak. So far, however, I am pleased to note that the matter has advanced one step and that arrangements have been made with the premiers of the provinces to have the claims laid in concrete form before the government.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): This may not be the proper place to ask the question I have in mind, but I am sure the Prime Minister will not object to answering. Is there anything in the rumour that there is a commission appointed to review the settlement with Saskatchewan?

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. member will recall that in the agreement made by the late government with the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan provision was made under which a commission was to come into being for the purpose of determining two questions. One question was whether or not Saskatchewan or Alberta were entitled to compensation, and if so in what amount, with respect to lands alienated between the date of the extinction of the Hudson bay title in 1870 and the creation of the new province in 1905. That issue, in the case of Saskatchewan, was referred to the privy council, by express provision in the agreement, which, if my memory serves me correctly, the hon. member himself signed. On reference to the Supreme Court of Canada it was decided that there was no merit in the claim thus made. On appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council the judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada was confirmed. It therefore left open one question, and one only, that question being, as provided by the agreement: what, if any, compensation the province was entitled to receive arising out of the administration and control of the resources from 1905 until 1930, when the new agreement was made. It is further provided by the agreement that for the purpose of arriving at a conclusion the commissioners could consider financial matters for the purpose of placing the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta on an equality with the other provinces of confederation.

In the case of Alberta, the statute named the commissioners. It does provide, however, that they could be changed, and the government of Alberta have indicated that they