

control of the British Columbia legislature. Events at Ottawa very recently have shown that British Columbia has, in the person of its present premier, Mr. McBride, a gentleman who will not be flattered nor threatened into submitting to the dictates of this government. I think the people of British Columbia are to be congratulated upon the fact that they have a gentleman filling that position who cannot be controlled by the present federal government. Now, I do not know whether it was because of the failure to control that gentleman in the conference at Ottawa, or whether it is because he refused to accede to the dictates of this government in regard to granting the lands in question to the Grand Trunk Pacific, that this government has determined to punish the province of British Columbia by attempting to defeat the present government of that province, that has so ably and so loyally stood by the interest of the province in those matters that have been referred to to-day.

Reference has been made to the efforts put forth by this government to obtain control of the provincial legislature, in the fact, as referred to by the member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster), that the Commissioner of the Yukon has been brought down from his high perch in that northern country to offer himself as a sacrifice upon the political altar of British Columbia. There must be some reason for that, there must be some consideration moving that gentleman to descend from his high position, with a salary, I think, of about \$12,000, to take his chances in a general election in British Columbia where, if his expectations are realized, and if the desire of this government is realized, he could not secure a position worth more than perhaps \$4,500 a year. There must be some consideration for it, and there must be a determination on the part of this government to punish the people of British Columbia by defeating or weakening the government of Mr. McBride. But the federal government apparently was not satisfied with the effort they made in that direction in bringing Mr. McInnes from the Yukon. I think they have gone still further in the wrong direction, if it is true that the government has interfered with the judiciary of that country in order to make certain if possible the defeat of the provincial government. I refer to the fact that in the present campaign going on in that province, which is to be determined on the 2nd of February next, by some influence, and I cannot imagine any other influence than that of this government, the late Judge Henderson is brought from the bench to become a candidate in opposition to the government of Mr. McBride. Let me ask again, what is the consideration offered to the late judge for descending from the position which he occupied to offer himself also as a sacrifice

Mr. PORTER.

upon the political altar of British Columbia? There must be some consideration which moved these gentlemen to do this. Why is it that this government is so determined to obtain control of that province, unless it be that they are dissatisfied, that they are chagrined, at the fact that the McBride government would not accede to their wishes in regard to granting this 13,500 acres to the pet of this government, the Grand Trunk Pacific? Why is it? The Grand Trunk Pacific cannot be considered unable to take care of itself. Certain it is that when the Grand Trunk Pacific appeared before this parliament they got from the government more than they asked. They did not ask for some of the privileges now granted to them. We remember that when the contract was before this House it was altered over and over again to give additional advantages to the Grand Trunk Pacific. I contend that after giving away what was under their control, what they might give away in regard to Dominion matters, this government has boldly stepped outside its jurisdiction, outside its rights altogether, and invaded the province of British Columbia, endeavouring not only by persuasion but by threats, to induce the province to give up its reversion of those lands, while securing no consideration for it. It seems to me that the action of this government deserves the condemnation of this House and of the country. I do hope that the people of British Columbia, when they come to give their verdict on the 2nd of February, as this is being made one of the issues in that election, according to the newspaper reports, I hope they will on that occasion teach this government the lesson of attending to their own business, a business certainly large enough and important enough to monopolize all the attention of these gentlemen. If the people of British Columbia succeed in sustaining the government of Mr. McBride, which has shown itself so anxious to protect the interests of that province, the people of the other provinces of this great Dominion will commend their efforts in that direction.

Mr. RALPH SMITH (Nanaimo). After the full explanation of this business made by the Minister of Inland Revenue, I did not consider it was necessary that anything further should be said on behalf of the government. But after the speech of the hon. member for Belleville (Mr. Porter), which is a purely political speech, based on direct references to public men, who, he says, have sacrificed honourable positions to become candidates in the provincial election, I feel it necessary that I should contribute a few words to this discussion. Reference has been made to the interest that the Dominion government is taking in the election in British Columbia. Mr. Speaker, there are seven members from British Col-