

the Government of Canada, in the hope that that Government would initiate such legislation as would, to a large extent, remove the well-founded grievances they were complaining of. The delegates arrived in Ottawa; I believe they interviewed the Government; they returned to Manitoba without any satisfactory answer to the demands they made. A second convention was called, to meet in Winnipeg on the 5th of March, for the purpose of hearing the report of the delegates; and at that convention the following resolutions were passed:

"That whereas the interests of this Province immediately require that the privileges conferred by the British North America Act (the charter of Confederation) and enjoyed by the other Provinces—shall be granted to it;

"And that the Local Legislature of Manitoba shall be supreme in the subjects and area prescribed by the said Act, in the 92nd clause thereof for exclusive legislation by the Provinces of the Federal Union;

"And whereas the Government at Ottawa continues to withhold these privileges:

"And whereas all constitutional means have been adopted to secure those, both by the delegates of the Farmer's Union and by the Premier (Hon. Mr. Norquay), from the Dominion Government—and have failed;

"And whereas the said Government at Ottawa continues to treat this Province as if it was a purchased or conquered country and an appanage of the Eastern Provinces—using the assets of the Province not for the benefit of Manitoba, but for Dominion purposes, on the pretence of having purchased the title thereto from the Hudson Bay Company;

"And whereas the highest legal authorities, and the Canadian Commissioners, refused to acknowledge the claims of the Hudson Bay Company as valid or tenable, and that the amount so paid to the said company was paid as a matter of compromise and expediency, and could not secure more than the same company legally possessed;

"And whereas Manitoba was no consenting party to the said compromise, nor to the public lands being retained by the Dominion Government and used for the purposes of the Dominion;

"And whereas the best interests of this Province have greatly suffered, and continue to suffer, and the development and progress of the country are seriously retarded;

"Therefore, be it resolved: That this Convention hereby petition the Premier (Hon. Mr. Norquay) at once to declare, by resolution of the House of Assembly, that this Province shall no longer continue a member of the Federal Union, unless accorded equal privileges with the other partners of the Confederation—and a modification of those duties which press so heavily on the agricultural interests.

"And further, that an appeal be made to Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, and to Her Privy Council, to so amend the British North America Act as to allow of Manitoba withdrawing from Confederation, and graciously to allow of this country being a colony of Great Britain, with a separate Constitution, separate laws, and with a Government of its own;

"And this Convention further pledges itself to sustain the Premier in this course of action by any means in its power; and feels sure that the people of this Province will support them in securing that independence and freedom so dear to every British subject."

Now, Sir, that convention was a representative convention composed of men from every section of the Province of Manitoba; it was attended, not only by farmers, but by the Winnipeg Board of Trade, another representative body and composed very largely of supporters of hon. gentlemen opposite. I am told that three-fourths of the members of the Winnipeg Board of Trade are the pronounced friends of hon. gentlemen opposite. Those resolutions—at all events, most of them—had also the hearty sympathy and support of the Local Government of Manitoba. At this convention, Mr. Ashdown, who is one of the leading men of Winnipeg, a large and wealthy merchant, a pronounced Conservative and a distinguished friend of hon. gentlemen opposite, made use of the following language:

"Mr. J. H. Ashdown congratulated the chairman on the representative character of the meeting, and congratulated the Province on the able manner in which the proceedings had been conducted throughout. Every portion of the Province, he understood, was represented, and the tenor of the speeches showed plainly that politics were not mixed up with their proceedings. It was a gathering to provide for the necessities of the Province. That being the case, the Board of Trade felt it a duty to take part. Mr. Ashdown proceeded to notice why the Board of Trade felt it incumbent on them to join this movement. They did so because, equally with the members of the Union, they desired an extension of the Provincial bounds, as proposed by the Government. They desired to get control of the public lands of Manitoba. They desired to be placed on an equal footing with the other Provinces of the Confederation. There should be a re-arrangement of the provincial subsidy such as would set matters right in this respect. And there should be such a re-arrangement of the Tariff as would relieve Manitoba of some of her present burdens—such as the duty on agricultural implements and

Mr. CAMERON (Huron).

canned goods. In the case of these oppressive duties, Mr. Ashdown pointed out it was the consumer and not the merchant who was the real loser. He pointed out that the settlers in Manitoba gave into the Dominion Exchequer at least three times as much as the next best revenue producing Province of the Dominion, outside of British Columbia. On account of her ports of Quebec and Montreal, the Province of Quebec was the next largest revenue producing Province. He went on to show how every settler in Manitoba contributed at least three times as much as any settler in Quebec, and very nearly five times as much as any settler in the beloved Province of Ontario. With regard to the Canadian Pacific Railway, he looked on that as a great national work—a national necessity. We happened to be situated in the heart of the continent, and, to some extent, got the benefit of the construction of that road. But we were hardly in the calculation at all when the construction was first undertaken. The object was to bind the two ends of the Dominion together, and it was not, as the Eastern people seem to think, a work undertaken specially for our benefit. Having expressed pleasure at the constitutional course taken by the Union, he hoped that course would be successful. Should it not be so, it was open to them to go to the foot of the Throne, and there we would get our rights."

Another gentleman, also a friend of hon. gentlemen opposite, Captain Carruthers, made use of the following language:—

"Captain Carruthers said he was glad to see so large and thoroughly representative a gathering of the men who had been well styled the back-bone of the country. Their interests as farmers were indissolubly bound up with every branch of trade and commerce in the Province, and therefore anything bearing adversely on the interests of the farming community affected the whole Province. Having noticed the non-political character of the movement, Captain Carruthers sketched the vast extent and resources of this Province and the North-West Territories, which would be materially affected by this movement. He went over in detail the objects aimed at by those who had combined to form the Union—showed that the Province had not been justly dealt with—and hoped they would concentrate their energies on the main issues. An enlargement of the provincial boundaries—a re-adjustment of the subsidy—a re-modelling of the Tariff. These things were matters of prime necessity."

I have shown you what some of the speakers, the pronounced friends of hon. gentlemen opposite, said on that occasion. The President of the Board of Trade was there, and he also made a speech. His speech was in the following language, short and to the point:—

"Mr. McKenzie, President of the Board of Trade, being called on to give statistics as to the operation of the duty complained of, came forward and said: The canned goods industry is perhaps one of the least of the manufacturing industries of the eastern Provinces, and I refer to it quite as much to show how ready the Government is to listen and to assist any demand made upon it by the eastern people—quite a contrast to its treatment of the demands of Manitoba—as to show how enormous the protection afforded on canned fruits is, and how peculiarly hard it presses on this country, owing to the fact that all fruits, green or canned, have to be brought here. The duty on canned vegetables up to a year ago was 20 per cent. *ad valorem*; on canned fruits 2 cents per pound. This was not considered enough, and the manufacturers went to the Government and had the duty arranged, so that it was calculated to make other manufacturers sick with envy. There is no allowance for quality, poor paying a higher rate than good. Here is the Tariff:

Canned apples, 3c. per lb.....	58 per cent.
" gooseberries, 3c. per lb.....	60 "
" pears, 3c. per lb.....	62½ "
" strawberries, 3c. per lb.....	84 "
" peaches, 3c. per lb.....	74 to 105 "

#### CANNED VEGETABLES.

Tomatoes, 2c. per lb.....	78 per cent.
Corn, 2c. per lb.....	80 "
Peas, 2c. per lb.....	87 "

and the weight of the cans to be always included; jams, 5c. per lb., equal to 60 per cent.

"It is not, let me add, the first time the fruit business has led to trouble; but whether there was a woman in the case this time I do not know."

Here, I say, are the resolutions of the Farmers' Convention, and the speeches of some of the leading gentlemen who took part in that convention. They are the views of leading men of Manitoba, who are supporters of hon. gentlemen opposite; and I may say that, to-night, in the remarks which I propose making, I do not propose to quote extracts from the speeches of any gentlemen except those who are friends of hon. gentlemen opposite. I do so for this reason, that if they complain, hon. gentlemen opposite have good ground for believing that there is something wrong in the Administration of public affairs in the great North-West. These claims are very clearly set forth, some of which appear to me to be very reasonable; at all events, they are