

The response of the provinces

Six of the provinces, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Ontario, gave immediate approval to the proposal that the British North America Act should be amended in the sense indicated.

None of the provinces declined absolutely to approve, but in the cases of Alberta and Quebec, additional information was sought as to the government's intentions. The Premier of Quebec (Mr. Duplessis) also raised the question of concurrent action. In the case of New Brunswick, the Premier (Mr. Dysart) stated that he considered it desirable to submit the proposal to the provincial legislature, which was not then in session.

Proposed amendment submitted to provinces

On January the 20th the text of the proposed joint address of both Houses of Parliament was submitted to the provincial governments for their information. It was hoped at that time that the limited and specific character of the amendment would commend it to the remaining provinces and that, in consequence, they would give their approval to