

*The Address—Mr. Ilsley*

ference, the Dominion government have determined to continue the increase in subsidies which they granted as a temporary measure in the year 1927. Thus we are encouraged to believe that this increase in subsidies to the maritime provinces will be a permanent feature of our fiscal system. This assistance is in accord with the recommendations of the Duncan commission, and is greatly appreciated in the maritime provinces.

Another recommendation of the Duncan commission has been put into effect: I refer to the legislation with respect to coking plants. Private companies are already beginning to take advantage in a small way of this legislation, which will have the effect of stabilizing and to some extent enlarging the market for Nova Scotia coal.

Another important fact is the appointment of a harbour commission for the city of St. John, which is already functioning energetically and successfully. Harbour commissioners have also been appointed for the city of Halifax, and it is hoped that this body will give some degree of direction and unity to the efforts of the people of that city to improve existing conditions. At the present time there are so many disputes and differences of opinion between persons occupying important positions in Halifax as to what should be done along certain lines—for example in the matter of encouraging the grain export trade—that we in other parts of Nova Scotia are inclined, perhaps, to have less respect than we otherwise should for the legitimate aspirations of the people of that great port.

The most important and far-reaching measure enacted last session as a result of the findings of the Duncan commission was, of course, that relating to maritime freight rates. This has been of very great benefit to shippers not only along the line of the Canadian National railways, but also along the line of the Canadian Pacific railway in the province of New Brunswick, and its subsidiary, the Dominion Atlantic railway, in the province of Nova Scotia. The Canadian National Railways have been very severely criticized recently by the Premier of New Brunswick in speeches which he made in the cities of Montreal and New York. In that regard I would say that there are many people in the maritime provinces who do not associate themselves with immoderate and hysterical denunciations of the Canadian National Railways. We in the maritime provinces feel that if we were to be judged by the speeches which have been made by the Premier of New Brunswick our legitimate requests would meet with scant recognition or notice. Moreover, we know, just as people in other parts of Canada know,

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that we owe a duty to the management of the national system. Our duty in the first place is to refrain from petulant abuse when we do not get everything we want. A further and a positive duty devolves upon us, and that is to lend our support in every way possible to the management of the national system in their efforts to make the system what it ought to be, namely, a self-sustaining asset of this dominion.

I have been discussing the relations of the maritime provinces to the rest of the Dominion at much greater length, perhaps, than I should. Now let me say just a few words regarding the relations of Canada to the empire. During the past year we celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of confederation. These celebrations have revealed Canada to the world as a nation—young, self-reliant, forward looking, and animated in all its parts by very genuine love of the British connection and of British institutions. This was shown by the warmth and spontaneity of our welcome to their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and Prince George, and to the Right Hon. Stanley Baldwin, Prime Minister of Great Britain, who were the guests of Canada a few months ago. At the present time we have the pleasure of welcoming here the Right Hon. Mr. Amery, Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs in the British government, who is now in Canada after having visited the dominions of Australia and New Zealand. In a day or two we shall also have the great pleasure and honour of welcoming here Mr. Cosgrave, president of the Executive Council of the Irish Free State. His visit here, it seems to me, is very fitting when we recall the fact that the constitution of the Dominion of Canada was taken as the model of the constitution of the Irish Free State. These are significant and happy events, and they remind us of the great experiment in statecraft which was initiated at the Imperial conference of 1926, and the working out of which began last year. The achievements of the Imperial conference of 1926, and of those who attended that conference, constitute one of the greatest triumphs of the genius of the British peoples for statesmanship that has ever been witnessed. The world has never seen anything like the British commonwealth of nations. In Canada it is true we have had, for sixty years and longer, two nationalities, racially separate, dwelling together in peace and unity, but the experience of other parts of the British Empire has not been nearly as favourable. We are all familiar with the history, the sad history, of Ireland. We are also familiar with the history of South Africa, where during the last