

other course than to make it a political question and see how far we could press home on the hustings the righteousness of our case.

#### Mr. Borden's Promise Fulfilled.

"In the various stages of negotiation in submitting our data to Ottawa, we took care to fully advise each member of the cabinet and to supply him and each member of the House of Commons as well, with printed copies of each and every document, so that all might know precisely what was being done and the ground we stood on. No doubt this was instrumental in the first instance in stimulating the great interest subsequently taken in the better terms question by the Conservative leader, Mr. Borden, who early in the proceedings said in a telegram to Sir Hilbert Tupper, who was then taking an active part in the campaign: "Let me also say that I have given much thought to the conditions in British Columbia, which in your opinion call for special attention in considering the special financial relations between the Dominion and that province. You claim not only that these conditions are exceptional and peculiar to the situation and physical character of your province, but also that they are permanent in their nature. In my opinion they are such as to demand immediate inquiry and investigation, to the end that any injustice clearly established may be immediately relieved."

"That was Mr. Borden's attitude toward this question before it was forced into the political zone. It goes to show how he had then interested himself in it, and how he was prepared to take the very course that we urged in fairness, and of which we are now assured. Later on, when visiting the West, we have Mr. Borden, in the Opera House here in November, 1907, saying: 'I give a pledge to the people of this province in the general election of 1904. I did not make that pledge without due advisement and due consideration, because the claim of the province of British Columbia had been set forth to me by some of my Conservative friends of this province in elaborate papers and documents—not only official papers and documents, but other statistics collected at enormous

pains and enormous industry, from which I satisfied myself that there were good grounds to believe that permanent conditions exist in the province of British Columbia which call for special inquiry and special treatment. And so I pledged myself by a letter or telegram which I sent to my friend Sir Hilbert Tupper, that if the Conservative party were returned to power I would be prepared to grant and I would grant to the people of this province an inquiry upon the lines suggested; and further than that, I would be prepared—the Conservative Government would be prepared—to carry out the recommendations of the gentlemen of the commission appointed to make the inquiry.'

#### A Stupid Local Opposition.

Is there anything to which the other provinces of Canada would object to or ought to object to at all in the holding of a fair inquiry respecting an alleged permanent condition? From this the House can see and the public can see, Hon. Mr. McBride continued, despite anything that the Opposition may say in its criticism, that this Government has been quite sincere in its advocacy of better terms for British Columbia; that it has no desire to make this a party question, that it has tried constantly to keep this question on a higher plane. It seems too bad that even now, after Mr. Borden has implemented the promise that he gave when in Opposition and signified his intention of appointing a commission such as we have so long sought, to note the attitude that the Liberal press of this province, or at least a part of that press, sees fit to adopt. As an instance in point of the attitude of the political elements opposed to us we have the "Times" newspaper as recently as on Monday last, almost at the very moment that our return was presented to this House, advising the Premier of Manitoba in the matter of the Manitoba boundary, which just now happens to be a somewhat acute question with that sister province, to follow the example of McBride and 'put it up to Ottawa and then forget it.'

"I will read what the "Times" says: 'Perhaps we have no right to advise Premier Roblin of Manitoba, but if we