

terms. As far back as 1887 the representatives of all the provinces gathered in the city of Quebec and petitioned the federal government for a modification of those terms. That was twenty years before the terms were actually changed, but during those twenty years it took a considerable amount of energy on the part of the provincial governments to educate public opinion to the necessity of modification. One or two other conferences took place between the provincial Premiers of the Dominion towards that end, and in 1906 or 1907 they at last agreed, with the exception of the representative of British Columbia, upon a basis of increase which was deemed equitable to them all. This memo. in which the agreement was embodied, was presented to the federal parliament, and in 1907 the Canadian parliament voted, as far as I can remember unanimously, a resolution to the imperial parliament asking that the payments to the provinces be revised. This resolution formed the basis of an imperial Act, which is chap. 11, 7 Edward VII. This Act of the imperial parliament gives the reason of the Act in the preamble as follows:

Whereas an address has been presented to His Majesty by the Senate . . . therefore enacted.

In virtue of this Act the various subsidies which had been up to that time voted to the provinces were changed. The schedule referred to is the resolution from the two branches of parliament and is signed by the two Speakers. I find that I had the honour of appending my signature to that address to the King. The address read as follows:

**MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN:**

We your most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Senate and Commons of Canada, in parliament assembled, humbly approach your Majesty for the purpose of representing that it is expedient to amend the scale of payments authorized under section 118 of the Acts of parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, commonly called the British North America Act, 1867, or by or under any terms or conditions upon which any other provinces were admitted to the union, to be made by Canada to the several provinces of the Dominion for the support of their governments and legislatures by providing that:

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

Then the modifications or increases are enumerated in the resolution, which concludes with the following paragraph:

We pray that your Majesty may be graciously pleased to cause a measure to be laid before the imperial parliament at its present session repealing the provisions of section 118 of the British North America Act, 1867, aforesaid and substituting therefore the scale of payments above set forth, which shall be a final and unalterable settlement of the amounts to be paid yearly to the several provinces of the Dominion for their local purposes, and for the supports of their governments and legislatures.

Such grants shall be paid half-yearly, in advance, to each province—

Rt. Hon. Sir RICHARD SCOTT—What is the additional subsidy granted them?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—There was a special enactment for Prince Edward Island. I shall cite the paragraph which concerns that province:

I find it in the Act itself. In the case of the provinces of British Columbia and Prince Edward Island:

—the amount paid on account of the grant payable per head of the population to the provinces under this Act shall not at any time be less than the amount of the corresponding grant payable at the commencement of this Act; and if it is found on any decennial census that the population of the province had decreased since the last decennial census, the amount paid on account of the grant shall not be decreased below the amount then payable, notwithstanding the decrease of population.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Was not there an amendment to that with reference to the province of British Columbia?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—There was an amendment with regard to the payment to British Columbia in subclause 2:

An additional grant of \$100,000 shall be made yearly to the province of British Columbia for a period of ten years from the commencement of this Act. It was joined to Prince Edward Island in the clause which protects it against a possible diminution of population.

This Act was introduced by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whose words I will cite:

My Lords, I have not much to say in explanation of this Bill. It deals with payments from the Dominion government of Canada to the provinces of Canada, but it is necessary to have legislation in this country because these payments come in sub-