CITIZENS WARMLY WELCOME PREMIER McBRIDE

Emphatic Expression of Approval of Course Pursued by British Columbia's Representative at Inter-Provincial Conference---At Rousing Meeting at the A. O. U. W. Hall, Premier Explains His Position

A STATESMANLIKE UTTERANCE

"Now, let me say again—the general opinion of all the local prime ministers, and of the federal prime minister, was that we were entitled to special recognition. I at once (in line with what has been all along contended for by the different local administrations that have taken up this question of better terms) insisted upon anything that might be done being done through the agency of a board of arbitrators. I said that those who were most expert, who were best able to judge, had concluded that the only way that the interests of British Columbia might be conserved and justice done all parties concerned would be by proper reference of this question to a board of arbitrators—this board to consist of one arbitrator selected from the local, one from the federal and one from the Imperial governments. So that you see they would have a most representative body indeed, and certainly men in whom you should be able to place every confidence and trust; men who could come right here on the spot and study the condiitons and see for themselves what we have to cope with.

"Now, when these gentlemen were good enough to say that they believed we were entitled to special recognition, and there was absolutely no question as to the justice of our claims, what fairer proposal could be made to that conference of local and federal prime ministers than that which I made, and which embodied a reference to arbitration of our claims?"—Premier McBride, at last evening's meeting.

PREMIER McBRIDE

IN a most emphatic manner the citizens of Victoria. Friday evening, demonstrated their approvel of the course pursued by Hon. R. McBride at the conference of provincial premiers at Ottawa—a large concourse composed of all classes in the community, irrespective of party allegiance, meeting him on arrival of the Charmer from the mainland, escorting him to the A. O. U. W. hall, and applauding him to the echo as he gave an account of his stewardship.

There have been few occasions in the history of British Columbia when there has been such unanimity of feeling in respect to a great public question as was evident Friday evening. Though it was only a few days ago that the suggestion was advanced that it would be appropriate to accord the returning premier some manifestation of approval of his course at Ottawa, the response on the part of the public was as spontaneous as it was universal. Though the boat on which the premier arrived got in at an earlier hour than was generally expected, there was a thoroughly representative gathering at the wharf to meet him; and as the procession wended its way to the A. O. U. W. hall the premier was greeted with cheers from the crowds which lined the route of procession.

The hall was speedily packed to the doors by an audience which in its personnel was one of the best ever gathered at a political meeting in Victoria, and cheer upon cheer greeted the premier as he took his seat upon the platform. He spoke for a little over one hour, and during the entire time not one dissenting voice was heard as to the statements he made and his explanation of his position.

That his course at Ottawa was an honorable one, that he acted in the best interests of the province, and that he took the only consistent course open to him in refusing the pittance offered British Columbia in respect to its claim for better terms was the emphatic opinion of all present, and the meeting constituted a veritable triumph in its unmistakable contradiction of the charges of incompetency and neglect of duty preferred against the premier.

The Reception

The Charmer, bearing the premier and Hon. R. G. Tatlow, who had gone to Vancouver to meet him, arrived about 7:15, on the wharf to give him a welcome. Immediately the whistle of the steamer was heard the Fifth Regiment band left Government street for the wharf, accompanied by a large contingent of torch bearers, which greatly increased the number who were already gathered at the dock. Among those present were Hon. F. G. Fulton, L. W. Shatford, M. P. P. for Similkameen; H. B. Thomson, George Jay, Hon. E. Dewdney, D. M. Eberts, K. C., Trustees McKeown, Lewis and Riddell, A. W. Cashmore, H. Bishop, ex-Mayor Barnard, H. R. Robertson, J. L. Beckwith, W. C. Moresby, J. E. Phillips, H. Maynard J. W. Bolden and A. M. Cookson.

The majority of the passengers had left the steamer before Hon. F. G. Fulton and the officers of the Conservative Association went on board to greet their returning leader. After a short wait the commanding figure of the premier appeared coming down the gangway, and this was the signal for loud cheers, while the band struck up "The Maple Leaf Forever."

In waiting were a number of carriages which had been engaged for the occasion, the one set aside for Premier McBride being draped with the British flag. As he stepped into the carriage he was again greeted with cheers. The procession was then formed, and with the band leading, a start was made for the A. O. U. W. hall.

In the carriage with the premier were Hon. R. G. Tatlow, Hon. F. G. Fulton and D. M. Eberts, K. C.; in the second carriage were L. W. Shatford, M. P. P., J. L. Beckwith, H. Bishop and George Jay; the remainder of the conveyances being filled with other prominent Conservatives

Turning on to Government street, a brilliant sight was presented, with the electrical illuminations across the thoroughfare. At intervals along the route red fire was displayed and the throngs that lined the sidewalks greeted the returning premier with cheers.

The procession proceeded along Government street to Yates street and thence to the hall, where another ovation awaited the premier as he stepped from the carriage.

The hall was fairly well filled before the party arrived, and when Premier McBride walked up the aisle with Mr. Beckwith he was repeatedly cheered.

After a short interval, during which the hall rapidly filled up till every seat was taken, J. L. Beckwith took the chair; on his right being Premier McBride and on his left Hon. R. G. Tatlow and Hon. F. G. Fulton. Also on the platform were H. F. Bishop, H. D. Helmcken, K. C., George Jay, ex-Mayor Barnard, H. R. Robertson, J. Brown, A. M. Cookson, H. B. Thomson, A. Sproule and A. W. Cashmore.

The Chairman

Mr. Beckwith in his opening remarks said the purpose of the meeting was to present an address to their distinguished Premier, Hon. R. McBride. (Applause). It was well known that he had worthily upheld the rights of the province. There had been much said about "better terms," and it was well known that British Columbia was not treated the same as the other provinces, and they had a "good kick" coming. When they sent the premier to Ottawa it was well known that he went with a good amount of backbone, and had shown that their hopes were not misplaced. There was not a man in the conference who did not admit that British Columbia had not received her due, and in his opinion 75 per cent. of the Liberals of British Columbia would acknowledge the fact, if they had the backbone to admit it.

The fact that British Columbia was in need of better treatment was asserted by Hon. William Templeman, but he was told to sit down and has never said anything since.

If British Columbia had been represented when confederation was accomplished by Mr. McBride there would be no cause for a cry of "better terms." It was very seldom that a premier of British Columbia had gone to Ottawa under the same conditions as Premier McBride; and it was all honor to him that he had stood on his rights.

The Reception

The chairman then presented the following address:

To the Honorable Richard McBride, K.C., Premier of British Columbia:

Sir—We approach you this evening on your return from attending the inter-provincial conference at Ottawa, to bid you ceed mile failthe—a hundred thousand welcomes—and to express in some slight degree the pride and gratification we feel in having had you as our representative at that historic gathering, for, so strongly were you possessed of the courage of your convictions, so firmly convinced of the justice of your cause, that the most specious arguments and alluring promises failed to lead you from your path of duty. As Conservatives, we welcome you as our leader and chieftain; as citizens of British Columbia, we welcome you as a fellow-citizen to whom we are proud to do honor; and as Canadians, we welcome you as a native son, deservedly honored by the confidence and esteem of the people of the province of your birth. We regard your withdrawal from the conference at Ottawa as the successful opening of a campaign which must eventually result in the triumph of justice and right, and we congratulate you, sir, most heartily on your masterly grasp of the situation and your bold course of action.

The federal government has seen fit to ignore the pleadings of British Columbia for justice and fair treatment as one of the partners in the scheme of federation. Instead of giving our case that consideration which its importance should command, the administration at Ottawa referred it to a committee composed of men naturally antagonistic to endorsing any proposal which might, in the slightest degree, affect the standing of their respective provinces. This reference of our case placed you in the position of a leader of a forlorn hope, so far as securing any substantial or permanent relief for the province, but you faced the situation bravely and unflinchingly, and single-handed, under the most adverse and disheartening circumstances, upheld our rights and took a position which must convince all fair-minded men that British Columbia is no longer prepared to suffer in silence under the disabilities imposed upon her by Ottawa.

In assuring you that we regard your action in retiring from the conference as the only alternative left you in the face of the attitude assumed by a majority of its members—the only step compatible with your responsibility as the representative of British Columbia, holding the dignity and honor, the vital interests and future independence of your province paramount to all other considerations—we feel that we are expressing the sentiment of every loyal British Columbian regardless of party, and we feel convinced, when the opportunity is afforded them, the electors of the province will endorse the manly course which you pursued.

Gross misrepresentation of your conduct and your motives, by a subsidized party press, fails to obscure the fact that you were offered a most inadequate sum for the absolute surrender of the rights of your native province, which you refused with righteous indignation, and to your own lasting honor and credit.

Assuring you, sir, of our confidence in you as premier of British Columbia, a confidence strengthened and renewed by your patriotic and honorable course in this grave crisis in the history of the province, we have the honor to subscribe ourselves on behalf of the Conservatives of Victoria, your devoted friends and supporters.

The Premier

Rising to respond to the address, the premier was greeted with prolonged cheers. He said:

"Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.—It has not fallen to my lot since I have been connected with the politics of British Columbia to be the recipient on many occasions of addresses. It always seemed to be that wherever I was privileged to meet the people of the country, and especially the electorate, the addressing was done from my side. Tonight a most pleasant departure is my experience, and let me say at once, ladies and gentlemen, from the bottom of my heart I thank the Conservatives of Victoria who have so kindly paid me the compliment of giving me such a very excellent address. And I wish to express in my most hearty fashion my deep appreciation of what they have done for me. And I also wish to thank the people of Victoria, Liberals and Conservatives, boys and girls, ladies and gentlemen, for the very welcome home-coming they have given me tonight.

"When I came into the province of British Columbia not so many hours ago, at the little town of Laggan I found a delegation awaiting me from the Kootenay country, charged with delivering a message of welcome from Golden and Field, and inviting me to accept the hospitality of that section in the way of a banquet and other festivities. And then as I journeyed further along the line the same pleasurable experience was repeated at Revelstoke, Kamloops and Mission City, and then finally when I came to my own town of New Westminster another experience of a similar character was mine. And then again at the city of Vancouver my friends, and the people generally, seemed to be anxious to show me some appreciation of what I had attempted to do at Ottawa.

"Good Old Victoria"

"And now when I come to good old Victoria, the capital of British Columbia, I find here a good, kind and generous reception awaiting me. And I feel quite assured that this demonstration tonight is a very true index indeed of the feeling which prevails generally throughout the province of British Columbia today. No man is more anxious than I to see that the question of better terms is made a big and broad question, and bigger than a party question, if such a thing is possible. The line of action that I have always pursued, whether in government or opposition, and I might say have tried to endorse and have endorsed in season and out of season, would point to that conclusion.

"During the session of the conference that has just ended down at Ottawa, I invariably tried to place myself on record with the other prime ministers, as being more than anxious that the question of better terms for the province of British Columbia should be removed from what might be called the "partizan arena." If I have not been successful in that endeavor, the fault is not mine, ladies and gentlemen.

"I am not here tonight to make that problem of Better Terms an issue of party lines. But I say again that I am more than anxious that it should be grappled with in a bigger and broader fashion if such were possible at all.

Conference at Ottawa

"Now, as to this conference down at Ottawa, I believe the press of the country has had a good deal to say in regard to it. And in speaking for a moment to the address that Mr. Beckwith has been so kind to read to me, let me take up the last section which deals with the press of Victoria—the press of British Columbia which takes upon itself the responsibility of being my critic. First I will take the Victoria Times. Now, I have always considered your evening paper, the Victoria Times, to be one of my best friends. Why, since I have come into politics ten years ago, the Victoria Times has been at me, and it has been going to finish me all the time. But it appears to me that in the end I have pretty nearly won out all the time. Ladies and gentlemen, nothing has helped me more in the public work I have carried on in the province of British Columbia than the mean and unfair criticisms which have been raised against me from time to time by the Victoria Times.

"Now, I feel that I owe you an apology when I take up your time for one second in discussing the Victoria Times. But since reference was made in an indirect fashion to its publication I considered it was only due you that I should make the observation I have just made.

"With regard to the Vancouver World, the other champion of your rights, I do not know but what pretty near the same remarks would apply. All I would say for the editor is 'Poor Mr. Higgins, we are all sorry for him.' (Laughter.) And with regard to the up-country press which seems to take pretty nearly the same line of action, I cannot say very much more. There you have my old friend Mr. Dean, a disgruntled politician, and a non-successful candidate in the last election. They are all there in strong array—Men on the opposition, and I think they will be bound to stay there for a good long time to come.

"I believe all manner of charges have been levelled against me, and that those critics have been very emphatic in giving those charges publicity. Well, ladies and gentlemen, you must judge for yourselves. The time is not far distant when the present government will again come down to the people for endorsation. If we are successful, we of course will appreciate the confidence of the public, and we will continue to carry on the government of this country in that same satisfactory fashion that this province has enjoyed in the past—well pretty nearly three and a half years. In other words, if you are consigned to the tender mercies of the other side I am afraid I shall have to ask you to place no responsibility on me for what might happen. (Laughter).

Better Terms

"Now, with regard to the question of better terms, as you well know, I went to Ottawa alone. I found, however, when I reached the capital city of the Dominion that the other prime ministers of the other provinces were not alone, but that some were accompanied by one and some by two colleagues, who were expected to take some active part in our deliberations.

"Had it not been that the case of British Columbia was especially an important one, particularly to ourselves—and then, again, to some of our warm sympathizers in the eastern part of Canada—perhaps the conference would have ended in a one day's session. I found that everything was made ready there to put through the Quebec resolution, have a good time and then go home. But British Columbia was not to be forgotten in that resolution. Now, it is quite true, Mr. Chairman, that we did have to make a hard and strenuous fight there to secure recognition. I found myself in an assembly composed of six Liberal premiers and three Conservatives. The three Conservative premiers came from the province of Ontario, the province of Manitoba and the province of British Columbia—the three provinces that made the surplus in the federal treasury. I found that the other six came from New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, the two new provinces and Quebec. And I found in the course of our deliberations when anything savored of a criticism of the conduct of the federal authorities, the views of these six men seemed to pretty nearly fall in line, while the views of the other three at times were not letter for letter. It seemed to be a remarkable coincidence, but I thought afterwards that possibly the very near proximity of the federal cabinet had something to do with the situation.

The First Business

"Now, those of you who have followed the proceedings of this federal conference, will have observed that our first business was a resolution, adopted unanimously, which endorsed the Quebec conference, with this reservation—that provinces who claimed to have special claims were charged to present them now, and were given the right so to do when we were to meet again with Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues. Well, that meeting took place. The resolution was presented by Mr. Whitney and Mr. Gouin. And then the time came to present the case of British Columbia.

"You who have followed our case at all know well just what that amounted to. You all know how we have tried to emphasize, and fairly so, too, the physical conditions of British Columbia, which in themselves afford ample justification for the treatment we were asking at the hands of Canada. And I may say that I tried to bring out clearly and strongly these different points to which I have just referred, and with the very gratifying result that when I had finished my address Sir Wilfrid Laurier said without secret he was of the opinion that British Columbia was entitled to special recognition.

"But, however, the end was not yet. There was not that unanimity that the federal authorities were looking for, and we had to go back into conference again. This was on Tuesday morning, and all I need say here was that from that Tuesday until Saturday afternoon, when I withdrew from the conference, mainly the business that was undertaken was respecting the special demands of the people of the province of British Columbia on the federal treasury.

Fair Treatment Refused

"Now, ladies and gentlemen, I found it very hard indeed to get what I considered to be fair treatment for our province. My friend, Mr. Peters, of Prince Edward Island, was one of the gentlemen charged with passing judgment on the province of British Columbia, and he seemed to have very little conception of what the province of British Columbia was like. I used to tell my friend, Mr. Peters, that we could take his little province, and hide it away on one of our small districts here. For as you know Prince Edward Island is only about one hundred and sixty fifths the size of British Columbia, and I forget how much larger we are than New Brunswick and Nova Scotia put together.

"But I cannot help telling you right here and now that what struck me throughout the whole conference—and especially in connection with the province of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia—was the keenness displayed on the part of the prime ministers of those provinces to get their extras under the Quebec conference and get back home, because I found out that my good friend, Mr. Peters, was to get some $70,000; Mr. Tweedie some $200,000, Mr. Murray some $200,000, and my friend Mr. Gouin was to get some $600,000 over and above what they were to get under the terms of the federation—a very nice sum for those provinces, especially for the Maritime provinces, where we notice with some regret that there has not been that progress and prosperity which has so marked the Western part of Canada; and which has spread more or less throughout the entire Dominion.

Premier Peters Modesty

"And I found, too, that the province for which my good friend Mr. Peters was securing the additional grant of $70,000 was for a province that had today a smaller population than when it came into federation some years ago. And I also found out that this same gentleman, Mr. Peters, only a few months ago had been so fortunate as to secure an appropriation of a perpetuity of $30,000 a year, because it was claimed that some mail arrangements between the federal and colonial governments across the Straits of Northumberland had not been carried out. So you can see that my friend Mr. Peters with his little province (some 1-165th the size of British Columbia) was not coming off half badly. One hundred and five thousand dollars a year. No wonder he was very anxious to settle up the work of the conference and pack his little trunk and go away down home again.

"And I found with regard to Mr. Tweedie, he expected to go away with the comfortable sum of $200,000. I have the exact figure, but I will not labor you with those statistics this evening—and Mr. Murray the same.

"And when we came to Quebec, those who were studying the situation found that there was a keenness on the part of Mr. Gouin to get his $600,000. I might say here that had it not been for the persistence with which Mr. Gouin has followed up this question of better terms, we would not have had this conference at all. For while down in Quebec I tried to make myself familiar with the conditions generally, and I found that this gentleman has been giving Sir Wilfrid Laurier a great deal of worry, and he was very much concerned with the condition of affairs in his own province.

A "Hurry Up" Programme

"Now, all these four gentlemen to whom I have just rererred were very anxious to get away from that conference with these very handsome annual contributions to their treasury. Then when we came along to Ontario we found some indifference there on the part of the conference. At the same time, having endorsed the Quebec resolutions, we found that Mr. Whitney and his colleagues, so far as they consistently could, were anxious to make the work of the conference a success.

"Then we come to Mr. Roblin, premier of Manitoba, who is a splendid sample of a Canadian man. He was one of our strong men championing the position taken at the Quebec conference, and was anxious for better terms.

"Then when we come to the two new provinces, those provinces which have been so handsomely and generously treated by the federal government, while we found them now very eager or anxious about special terms, they were very anxious to see that their votes were on record whenever there was a division of conference. Those are Liberals — Mr. Scott and Mr. Rutherford.

"Then we come to the province of British Columbia—a province with special conditions and with the right to demand special recognition (Cries of hear, hear.) And as I say, ladies and gentlemen, I did not spare myself in trying to make our case as strong and as clear as circumstances would permit when I was given the opportunity of presenting it to the federal prime minister and his colleagues. On that occasion Mr. Lemieu, Mr. Fielding and the minister of justice, Mr. Aylesworth, were present. Now, let me say again the general opinion of all the local prime ministers, and of the federal prime minister was that we were entitled to special recognition. I, at once (in line with what has been all along contended for by the different local administrations that have taken up this question of better terms), insisted upon anything that might be done being done through the agency of a board of arbitrators. I said that those who were most expert, who were best able to judge, had concluded that the only way that the interests of British Columbia might be conserved and justice done all parties concerned would be by proper reference of this question to a board of arbitrators. This board to consist of one arbitrator selected from the local, one from the federal, and one from the imperial governments, so that you see they would have a most representative body indeed, and certainly men in whom you should be able to place every confidence and trust—men who could come right here on the spot and study the conditions and see for themselves what we have to cope with.

Now, when these gentlemen were good enough to say that they believed we were entitled to special recognition, and there was absolutely no question as to the justice of our claims, what fairer proposal could be made to that conference of local and federal prime ministers than that which I made, and which embodied a reference to arbitration of our claim?" (Cries of "None whatever" in audience).

"But how was I met there? It struck me, sir, that on every occasion I had to go on record, you might say officially, with regard to things that were transpiring in that conference, while at times Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues were entitled to take a most prominent part in our deliberations, but were able to do so in an unofficial way. Now, I insisted, as I had a perfect right to do, owing to the reservation in the original resolution, and having secured an expression of opinion from the conference that we were entitled to special recognition, I had a further right to demand that this question of better terms for the province of British Columbia should be submitted to arbitration for consideration. How was it considered? There was an expression of opinion from the prime minister of Canada that was by no means satisfactory to me. I said when the prime minister had delivered himself of his view that I believed he had said so and so, and I was very careful in following him to make no mistake in my repetition and my account of what he had delivered officially to the conference as his views. But though Sir Wilfrid nodded his head and said it was quite right, Mr. Fielding did not see eye to eye with him. And the result of that day's deliberations was that on the next day a formal minute was presented by the federal ministers embodying the view of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Now, I was under the impression that that minute would be a very short minute, because in our discussion it took a very short while. However, I found that the next day when the formal minute was read it was pretty nearly two pages. And when that formal minute is printed and distributed to the people of British Columbia, and you have had an opportunity of reading it—what will you find?

"You will find that Sir Wilfrid Laurier says: 'You will not have arbitration. I don't want you, Mr. McBride, to go back to the people of British Columbia and say you won't have arbitration—but I will put it up to the conference, and see what they think; let them shoulder the responsibility.' And that is substantially what that minute amounted to.

"Sir Wilfrid and Mr. Fielding most emphatically advised the conference that they could never, so far as their judgment would bring them, see how an arbitration could satisfactorily settle a question of that kind, and they were very kind and generous and very fulsome in giving their advice along these lines, with the result that when finally congress came to pass on this question as to whether or not our claims might be submitted to a board of arbitration for settlement, why, the majority of the conference said 'No.' These gentlemen, who were Liberals, said they could not see how this question could be satisfactorily settled by arbitration, and Mr. Whitney and Mr. Roblin voted with them.

"Well, still I held out. Still I insisted that we were entitled to such a board of arbitration, as I considered that was the proper way to investigate our case, and to learn the condition that existed in our province in all its details. And the result of this part of our convention work found itself in the form of a resolution submitted by Mr. Whitney and Mr. Peters, stating that the conference was of the opinion, and would place itself on record accordingly, that British Columbia was entitled to special recognition. (Cries of hear, hear.)

"I said, 'Gentlemen, I wish to do nothing that would obstruct the business of our meeting. I wish to do nothing that would cause the slightest feeling in this conference. I wish to do nothing that would make any man here feel that I had come from the province of British Columbia for the purpose of making this question of better terms a partizan question. And I appreciate very much what you have done in making this resolution setting forth that the conference of prime ministers believe that the people of British Columbia are entitled to special recognition.'

"Well, that resolution was just about to be accepted by the conference, when a gentleman from one of the Maritime provinces said he could not agree with it, or that it should pass unanimously unless the sum total of what that special recognition might amount to was included in the resolution.

"Now, fancy, ladies and gentlemen, they expected me, after fighting for some days to secure this official recognition, to be ready and willing to accept judgment from them offhand as to what amount would be sufficient for British Columbia's needs. Did you ever hear of such an absurdity? Then they began to suggest—first it was $50,000, then $60,000, until the sum of $100,000 was offered. I said No, No—(Interrupted by applause) I said "no $100,000 does not meet the case." Then they said "So far as we have been able to study the claims of your province, we think it should do. Now, what would you consider Mr. McBride as a fair settlement?"

Well, in answer to that I said: "To show you my anxiety to have the conference a success, and to go back to British Columbia with good substantial results, I will do my best to meet your wishes, and tomorrow I will come back, and state what I consider to be a fair basis on which a settlement should be arranged."

Well, ladies and gentlemen, I went back the next morning, and I brought with me a proposal which was arranged on which you might call a sliding scale; based on the population, and it was arranged in that way because I concluded that as soon as a country became thickly populated a great deal of our business in the way of civil government might be carried on in a less expensive fashion than it is today. And taking our population today at 240,000 people we would get $1.00 per head more than the subsidies which the other provinces were getting. Then as we grew larger and larger that amount would be decreased until finally when the province might have attained a population of—say two and a half million of people—we would be entitled in perpetuity for all time to come to an extra allowance of 25 cents per head after we had come to the population of two and a half million.

Special Claims Admitted

"Now, when the conference accepted the responsibility of saying we were entitled to special recognition, it ought to have followed that to its logical conclusion. For instance, the premises that that had led up to that conclusion were these—that our physical conditions justified that treatment; our mountains and our streams, and our vast extent of territory. (Cries of Hear, hear and loud applause). And the fact that we are away out here in the West, with the Pacific off on that side, and Uncle Sam to the north and south of us, and the great Territories of Saskatchewan and Alberta to the east of us; a tremendous province to govern—and the richest province of Canada. With mountains, whose records of late so far as mineral deposits are concerned, are showing themselves as being possibly the richest in the world; but yet at the same time a province presenting physical obstacles in the way of road construction and development generally, thus necessitating the expenditure of a great deal of money indeed to carry on the government of the country. Now, there was no more graphic way in which you could show the conference that these physical conditions were of so much moment than by pointing out the cost of road building, particularly in the mountain section of British Columbia as compared with similar work in the other provinces and they could see at a glance that there was no comparison.

Final Action of Conference

"Now, then, ladies and gentlemen, you must see what a feeling of discouragement possessed me when the final action of the conference was to offer me $100,000—for ten years only. I said: 'If you can limit the age of those mountains to ten years (Laughter and applause) there might be some reason for such an offer, but such a condition being entirely out of the question in the West I am afraid I cannot meet you. My scheme for settlement was not accepted. There was nothing but this $100,000 payment for ten years, and I was given clearly to understand that I need expect nothing further.

"I understand that press reports have it that subsequently Mr. Fielding approached me and said that he would take the responsibility of offering the sum of $30,000 in perpetuity to the province of British Columbia, and $40,000 for ten years to come. Well, I simply looked at Mr. Fielding and said I was very sorry I could not accept, but such a thing was absurd; it was out of the question. You know very well, gentlemen, that $30,000 per annum would not build a piece of trunk road in any of our mountain sections. (Hear, hear.) And as to $40,000, the thing was ridiculous in the extreme.

"All throughout the proceedings what I tried to do, ladies and gentlemen, Grit and Tory, was to impress upon the people of Eastern Canada that I had not come to Eastern Canada to beg (Loud and continued applause) for British Columbia (Cries of hear, hear); but that I had come from the capital of British Columbia to ask them for the rights of British Columbia. (Cries of hear, hear.)

"My friend, Mr. Peters—he was very anxious that he should go back with that $70,000, and no matter how his population decreased that $70,000 would be a fixture.

His Course Approved Of

"Now, ladies and gentlemen, following on the offer which Mr. Fielding made me, and which was made in a most kindly way—and I would not have given it publicity here tonight were it not that the Liberal papers have taken the matter up—I may say that I was approached by several of the members of the conference, and I was asked if I would not consent to make the business of the meeting uniform, and consent to implement Imperial legislation which would give them better terms; and asked if I would send in a letter saying that if British Columbia got that $100,000 she would be very grateful for it anyway. Well, I could not do that either, and as you will know, gentlemen, when finally it was quite patent that I should be compelled to remain and be a party to proceedings that passed judgment on us to the extent of $100,000 and no more, I felt that the only course open for me was to withdraw from the conference. (Loud applause).

Exerted Every Effort

"I do not want you to forget that the question of British Columbia's position was taken up immediately after we assembled on Monday, and the question of British Columbia's position was pretty near the sole topic of discussion from Tuesday up to the time of my withdrawal. And do not forget that at all times I did everything possible to make the proceedings harmonious, and to see that our business was done in such a fashion as would commend itself to the people of the Dominion. (Applause). We were all there representing different governments; we were men and not boys, and we were there to do serious business. And it was not until there was no other course open but for me to withdraw, when I had heard the sentence pronounced against me, that I finally decided the only honorable course for me to pursue was to cease to remain a member of the conference, and to explain my reason for taking the step that I did. If I have done anything wrong in taking that action I am ready and willing to go before the people of British Columbia, and take the responsibility for it. (Cries or hear, hear.)

"What would a Liberal prime minister have done if he had gone to Ottawa under the same conditions? I really suppose, ladies and gentlemen, there is only one answer, and that answer is simply this. He would have gotten down on his knees and taken the $100,000, and gone home. (Loud and continued applause.) Well, ladies and gentlemen, I say again to you that I had no commission from the people of British Columbia to act in that way—and when I speak of the 'people of British Columbia' I speak of all the people—regardless of political classes.

Many Kindly Greetings

"You may rest assured that nothing has pleased me so much since coming back into British Columbia as the many kindly grettings I have received from very many prominent Liberals, all the way from the Rockies to Vancouver. If I have met one, I have met perhaps a hundred, asd they have not hesitated to tell me, Mr. Chairman, that they fully and heartily endorsed the position I had taken down at Ottawa, and they would

(Continued on page twelve.)

Soc

CANON BEANLANDS, the Rev. H. St. J. P ated at a very pretty c ding on Wednesday, when Mi Adelaide Walker, eldest daug and Mrs. F. G. Walker a daughter of Lady Crease o and Mr. Ralph Walbrick Dea merland, Okanagan, B.C., w in the holy bonds of matrimon Church Cathedral. The serv fully choral, and the weddin were ably rendered by the chu ist, Mr. Pauline, as the bridal tered and left the sacred edi was still beautifully decorate Harvest Home decorations. was gowned in a pretty weddi white silk richly trimmed wit broidery and lace, with hands ton lace veil surmounted by a orange blossoms. Her bouque handsome. It was composed roses, lilies of the valley an hair ferns. She was given a mother and attended by her tw Miss Freda and Miss Joan W wore pretty gowns of white u pink and pink roses. They carri of pink and red carnations with groom was accompanied by Mi Muskett and Mr. Schofield, the part of groomsmen. Im after the church ceremony with their intimate friends r the home of the bride's mothe sumptuous wedding breakfast ed. The apartments and ta very pretty with flowers, vines. The numerous weddin too were greatly admired by present. Mr. and Mrs. Dean for their honeymoon by the train. It will be spent at Lake. They did not escape heavy rice showers and left and carriage wheels decorated proverbial shoes. They will Summerland. As a traveling bride wore a pretty invisible tume in brown shades with hat fur and trimming of crushed r flowers. The groom's presen bride was a gold bangle bra with turquoise, to the bridesm a necklace and pendant. Othe were received from friends in ver, Summerland and many oth

* * *

Mrs. (Major) Mutter has bee cans enjoying a pleasant visit of her friend, Mrs. Rivingston

* * *

Mr. A. C. Flumerfelt arrived Saturday from Winnipeg, whe spent several weeks.

* * *

Dr. Rankin of Utah has past week in the city the gue daughter, Mrs. Eldridge of For

* * *

Miss Sehl returned last week extended visit to Seattle. Wh

SURVIVORS TELL STORY OF DISA

Barkentine Skagit Struck ily and Was Wrecked W out Any Warning

SALVOR BROUGHT SHIPWRECKE

Cook Refused to Leave W Vessel Is Complete Broken Up

The steamer Salvor, of the Columbia Salvage Company, Esquimalt Friday night with c cer Langkow, the second mate other survivors of the wrecke entine Skagit, which lay dismas with the starboard side poun a hopeless wreck, which eve

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