

a redress of Maritime grievances than any of the great men or any of the minor men who have ever come here from the Maritime provinces and had a seat in this House, had they chosen to use it. They had only to make a serious request to the government of the day, as hon. gentlemen in this House are doing to-day, for certain legislation in the interests of certain parts of this country. I say they had only to make that request, and the government would at least have hastened to examine into the situation.

But what is the position of hon. gentlemen to-day? Notwithstanding all that has been said in the press of this country about Maritime rights based on grievances arising out of their geographical position in respect of the rest of Canada; notwithstanding all that sixteen Liberal members from Nova Scotia said to their Prime Minister when they were here—and I assume that they must have said something to him about it; notwithstanding the fact that the ex-Liberal premier and a delegation of members of boards of trade from the province of Nova Scotia waited on Right Hon. Mr. Mackenzie King and his cabinet in December, 1924, and notwithstanding the fact that a delegation of all the boards of trade of Canada waited on the same gentleman and the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Macdonald) only a few weeks before this House opened—notwithstanding all these attempts, hon. gentlemen opposite to-day are unacquainted with what Maritime rights are and propose to appoint a commission to go and find out. It seems amusing to me; I cannot conceive of anything which is separated to a greater degree from common sense—and after all, common sense should be the basis of the solution of these problems. In days gone by, hon. gentlemen opposite have taunted members on this side with being Bourbons. Surely we have a right to conclude that Bourbon stupidity could not be better exemplified than in the present proposal to appoint a royal commission to inquire into this matter.

I should like to point out to the House that in December, 1924, the Hon. E. H. Armstrong, then Premier of Nova Scotia, introduced a delegation of Nova Scotians to the government at Ottawa presided over by the Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King. The delegation was composed of representatives of Nova Scotia boards of trade, and they asked for protective duties on coal and steel that would be sufficient to preserve those industries and give the workers engaged in them a square deal in the matter of employment and wages. On January 6, 1925, after the delegation had gone home, Hon. Mr. Armstrong

followed up their visit here by writing the following letter to the Prime Minister.

Province of Nova Scotia,
Office of the Premier,
Halifax, January 6, 1925.

Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, C.M.G., LL.D., M.P.,
Prime Minister,
Ottawa.

Hon. and dear Sir,

I have the honour to submit herewith, for the information of the members of your cabinet and yourself, a brief summary of the various suggestions and views submitted to you by the members of the delegation and myself on 2nd December last.

May I be permitted, on behalf of the delegation, to express our hearty appreciation of your personal courtesy and that of your respective colleagues in according to the delegation such an ample opportunity to express our views so fully.

Let me emphasize that, in case some hon. members may not have fully grasped it; he says that the Prime Minister gave them ample opportunity to present fully the views of the province of Nova Scotia.

Those who constituted the delegation represented the various cities, towns and sections, as well as the boards of trade, that are directly concerned in the coal and steel industry in Nova Scotia. Among the delegates was one of the steel workers of Sydney. You will note, therefore, that the delegation was thoroughly representative. Let me further assure you and personally impress upon you the idea that none of those who constituted the delegation were so actuated by any other desire than to lay before your government and yourself the existence of facts that in the opinion of the delegation are very disturbing and alarming, and who genuinely believe that conditions exist that not only require a remedy but can be remedied.

May I be permitted also to add my personal endorsement to the views expressed by the delegation, and to reiterate them and to urge upon you such relief as may be afforded at the earliest possible moment.

Let me again thank you and the members of your cabinet for the cordial reception which was so manifest at the time, in the earnest hope, coupled with the feeling of confidence, that the proposals submitted, of which the attached memorandum is a complete summary, will be accorded very careful, early and sympathetic consideration.

Again thanking you,

I have to Honour to be,
Yours very truly,

E. H. ARMSTRONG,
Premier.

Well, Sir, could the government put on a royal commission anybody who would know the situation in Nova Scotia better than Mr. Armstrong so far as hon. gentlemen opposite are concerned? I have some idea that they would not be quite willing, perhaps, to accept the assurances of the present premier of that province; but here is a gentleman of their own political faith, the head of the province at that time, bringing a delegation to Ottawa, and here is the reception that was given to that delegation.