DOYLE

can I ride at him myself, for
ak in body, though dangerous
There, we will go upon our
ce there is neither profit nor
be gained, nor any hope of
nent."
d, having unstrung his bow,
ounted his horse during this
tion, and the two rode swiftly
little squat Chapel of the
and over the brow of the hill.
e summit they looked back
ured archer lay upon the
with several comrades gather-
knot around him. Others ran
up the hill, but were already
d. The leader sat motionless
horse, and as he saw them
k he raised his hand and
his curses at them. An in-
ter the curve of the ground
them from view. So, amid
hate, Nigel bade adieu to the
his youth.
ow the comrades were jour-
pon that old, old road which
oss the south of England and
r turns towards London, for
reason that the place was a
nlet when first the road was
m Winchester, the Saxon cap-
Canterbury, the holy city of
that ancient highway, and
Canterbury to the narrow
here, on a clear day, the far-
re can be seen. Along this
far back as history can trace
ls of the west have been car-
passed the pack-horses which
goods which Gaul sent in ex-
Older than the Christian
d older than the Romans, is
road. North and south are
ds and the marshes, so that
the high dry turf of the chalk
d a clear track be found. The
Way, it still is called; but
ims were the last who ever
for it was already of imme-
e before the death of Thomas
gave a new reason why folk
ourney to the scene of his

the hill of Weston Wood the
could see the long white
ch dipped and curved and
r the green downland, its
narked even in the hollows by
of the old yew-trees which
t. Neither Nigel nor Aylward
dered far from their own
and now they rode with light
nd eager eyes, taking note of
varied pictures of nature and
which passed before them. To
was a hilly country, a land
heaths and woods, broken
there into open spaces round
minal farmhouse of a franklin.
st Down, Dunley Hill, and
Common swelled and sank,
rging into the other. But on
after passing the village of
d the old church of Gomshall,
e south country lay like a
heir feet. There was the high
the Weald, one unbroken for-
k-trees stretching away to the
owns, which rose olive-green
he deep blue sky. Under this
phy of trees strange folk
d, evil deeds were done. In
ses were wild tribes, little
from their heathen ancestors,
red round the altar of Thor,
was it for the peaceful trav-
he could tread the high open
the chalk land with no need to
into so dangerous a tract.
ft slay, tangled forest and
all barred his progress.
art from the rolling country
left and the great forest-
ain upon the right, there was
on the road itself to engage
tion of the wayfarers. It was
with people. As far as their
ld carry they could see the
ts scattered thickly upon the
te band, sometimes single,
e several breast, sometimes in
rowds, where a drove of pil-
d together for mutual pro-
or a nobleman showed his
by the number of retainers
ed at his heels. At that time
roads were very crowded.
were many wandering people
nd. Of all sorts and kinds,
sed in an unbroken stream
e eyes of Nigel and of Ayl-
ke only in the fact that one
were powdered from their
their shoes with the gray dust
halk.
were monks journeying from
to another, Benedictines with
ck gowns looped up to show
ite skirts, Carthusians in
d pied Cistercians. Friars
the three wandering orders—
ites in black, Carmelites in
d Franciscans in gray. There
ove lost between the cloisters-
s and the free friars, each
on the other as a rival who
ere and there on the oblations of the
so they passed on the high
at passes dog, with eyes ask-
angry faces.
besides the men of the church
re the men of trade, the mer-
dusty broadcloth and Flan-
riding at the head of his line
-horses. He carried Cornish
t-country wool, or Sussex
he traded eastward, or if his
uld be turned westward then
with him the velvets of Genoa,
of Venice, the wine of
or the armor of Italy and
Pilgrims were everywhere,
ple for the most part, plodding
along with trailing feet and
eads, thick staves in their
nd bundles over their shoul-
ere and there on a gaily ca-
d palfrey, or in the greater
f a horse-litter, some West-
lady might be seen making
way to the shrine of Saint

s all these a constant stream
e vagabonds drifted along the
instrels who wandered from
air, a foul and pestilent crew;
and acrobats, quack doctors
h-drawers, students and beg-
e workmen in search of bet-
s, and escaped bondsmen who
elcome any wages at all. Such
throng which set the old road
in a haze of white dust from
ter to the narrow sea.
all the wayfarers those which
d Nigel most were the sol-
everal times they passed little
archers or men-at-arms, vet-
om France, who had received
charge and were now making
y to their southland homes.
re half drunk all of them, for
farers treated them to beer at
ient inns and ale-stakes which
e road, so that they cheered
lustily as they passed. They
ude pleasantries at Aylward,
hed in his saddle and shouted
ion at them until they were
earing.

(To be Continued.)

BETTER TERMS QUESTION PRONOUNCED ON BY HOUSE

(Continued From Page One.)

of British Columbia has been based, and upon which successive delegations have urged action upon the part of the federal authorities.

The prominent features that are to be noted in connection with the case first submitted by Mr. Dunsmuir refer to the very excessive contributions made by this province per capita as compared with the contributions per capita of other provinces; the heavy cost to the local administration in the carrying out of our local public works; the administration of justice, and the management of school affairs throughout the province, and then the fact that the physical conditions which have to be met in the province of British Columbia render it more expensive to undertake the responsibility of local government in this country than what must naturally be expected from any of the other provinces.

Now, if you follow it on, and come to the next delegation undertaken by Col. Prior and the then attorney general, our present speaker, you will find that when in conference with the federal authorities on that occasion, pretty nearly the same ground was taken as had been covered by the Dunsmuir delegation. They urged it upon Sir Wilfrid Laurier that because of these physical conditions, and of the tremendous cost of civil government, and because too that the statistics went to show that the contributions of this country to the Dominion government were greatly in excess of those from the other provinces, that Ottawa could not deny the fact that the province of British Columbia was entitled to better—or perhaps as has been suggested before—better and fairer terms.

"Now, sir, the suggestion was never raised for a moment until lately, that in connection with the solution of this problem it would be necessary for Ottawa to call in the other provinces. I have carefully gone over the documents that have seen the light of day with regard to this question, and I do not find in any place in its early history the slightest suggestion made that if Ottawa proposed to consider the situation at all, she could only do so when all the other provinces would be called in council together, along with British Columbia.

"When the province of British Columbia was taken into confederation, Mr. Speaker, if you consult the Hansard of Canada in which the speeches delivered there by different men of note are reported, you will find that there is absolutely no suggestion made that before any compact might be consummated that would make this province part and parcel of this Dominion of Canada the other provinces of the Dominion, which were then confederated, must be consulted. Why, sir, the contract that finally made British Columbia a part of the Dominion was negotiated and eventually concluded by emissaries from the province of British Columbia acting with the representatives of the federal authorities. We know, sir, as a matter of history that when I found Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the land '60's that if British Columbia could be brought in line with the other provinces it would be a great thing for the Empire, as well as the Dominion itself.

"I think it was when Governor Musgrave came to British Columbia he was instructed by the then colonial secretary to leave nothing undone that British Columbia might be brought into line, and might become one of the provinces of the Dominion. And we know, sir, as has been said so many times here and elsewhere, that at that stage in the history of this country, because of the exhaustion of the placer mines at Cariboo, and the dull times that followed there was a great stringency in the money market of this province. Business was stagnant, the people were despondent, and there was no delay at all on the part of those responsible here to try and meet, so far as they could, the demands of the Imperial authorities to attempt something that would bring British Columbia into confederation.

"Well, sir, step by step, we find the policy of the home government assuming some substantial form here. The matter was taken up in the colonial legislature, a very long debate ensued, and finally by a very large vote it was decided that British Columbia should negotiate with Ottawa, and should enter into confederation with the other provinces. Then in order to consummate the deal, and to close the contract, a delegation was sent from Ottawa, when the terms of union were finally agreed on, and eventually endorsed by order in council from the Imperial government. Well, Mr. Speaker, we all know, that some few years after we had become one of the provinces of the Dominion there was tremendous dissatisfaction in this country because of the neglect of the federal authorities to stand by the compact that had been entered into. We know that as a result of this neglect the province of British Columbia felt justified in sending a delegate to the Imperial authorities, and we know that the gentleman selected, Mr. Justice Walkem, was successful in his mission to the old country to the extent at any rate of attracting the attention of the colonial office, and bringing influence sufficient to bear from that quarter to make Ottawa pay that regard to the position of this province that later on compelled her to build up and promote the interests of this part of the country.

"Well, sir, the Canadian Pacific railway was undertaken then, and presently completed. Side by side with this event there was tremendous development all over the country. Parts of the country that never seemed to promise any particular encouragement for settlement or development, and that never seemed to be considered for one moment of consequence, or that there were natural resources worth while developing—these were opened up, and the treasury of the country was called upon to do its part in the civil government of the province. And sir, to such an extent has this development gone on in the past ten years, that as a matter of fact at this time, unless we propose asking the people of this country to pay taxes far in excess of what is fair and right, I cannot see for the life of me how we may be expected to give all the benefits of our civil government to those other sections of the province that the present settled portion is at present enjoying. And as we all know, unless we may be so fortunate as to receive from Ottawa some substantial assistance in the development of this very critical condition of affairs in British Columbia it must be expected that the province will have to surmount a good many obstacles indeed before she can give all of these privileges to the whole province that she is in duty bound to do.

"Well, Mr. Speaker, seven years ago, or pretty nearly seven years ago, when the Dunsmuir delegation returned from Ottawa, there appeared to be some feeling of encouragement that the province might expect action on the part of Ottawa. I find that the delegation was well received, that the different data submitted was most carefully considered, and the impression of the delegates when they left the capital of Canada was that their case had been entertained, and that they might expect some consideration. Time goes on, and nothing is done.

"The second delegation proceeded to Ottawa, and as I have already said, it covered pretty well the same ground, and made out the same case, was given a very hearty reception and left for British Columbia with the expectation that something tangible would come from their efforts, but eventually though nothing was done.

"Two years ago, my colleague, the minister of finance, Captain Tatlow, and I, made a trip to Ottawa, and, by arrangement with Sir Wilfrid Laurier, took up the question of the British Columbia history. During that conference something was said which lead to the belief, on my part at any rate, that nothing might be expected in so far as British Columbia was concerned to come from these different delegations, or from these different representations to Ottawa, until a general conference of provincial prime ministers might be held.

"You will observe, Mr. Speaker, that the case for British Columbia all the way through was limited to the question of extra, or special treatment of this province, that there was no suggestion on our part of asking Ottawa while she was considering the case for British Columbia, that the position of the other provinces should be considered as well.

"After leaving Ottawa two years ago with my colleague the finance minister, when as I say the impression came over me that we need not expect anything at all until the general conference of all the provincial prime ministers might be held, we lost no time in trying to emphasize, wherever and whenever we might be able to do so, the urgency of the case of British Columbia, and, sir, you may be sure that when in the month of December last I received an intimation from Sir Wilfrid that a conference of prime ministers would be held in Ottawa no time was lost in assuring the federal authorities that British Columbia would have a representative on hand.

"If you will glance at the invitation from Sir Wilfrid, you will note, sir, that the statement is made there that the conference is to be held for the purpose of discussing the financial subsidies to the provinces. And of course it would naturally follow that the business of that conference would be confined to the discussion of those subsidies. However, I might say that incidentally during the different sessions that we had other matters were brought up and considered by the members of the conference, as well as by the federal authorities, of more or less importance to the Dominion at large, and in the end steps were taken to have certain things done of which you have been already notified. For instance, the question of the cancellation or at least the question of the repeal of the law imposing a duty on commercial travelers seemed to be considered by the gentlemen present at Ottawa as something of an urgent nature and it was there decided that the different provinces where such laws were to be found in force were to lose no time in repealing them.

"Then there was a suggestion made by Sir Wilfrid Laurier to the effect that something might be done by the different provinces arranging with Ottawa to the end that the sole control over the fisheries of Canada might be vested in the federal authorities, and that the different provinces might surrender any right they possessed under the law to deal with the fisheries under their respective jurisdictions. It was found at once, sir, that this question would lead to many complex situations, and in the end the problem was abandoned.

"I can safely say that the Ottawa conference dealt with the question of the different financial subsidies. And in connection with that question I can just as safely say that fully seven-eighths of the time of the conference, if not more, was taken up with the discussion of the case of British Columbia.

"When we met on Monday, Oct. 8, there appeared to me to be a considerable anxiety on the part of some of my brother prime ministers to have the Quebec resolution adopted and almost railroaded through, and if that were the work of our meeting would be called off. I can recall, sir, how readily some of my brother prime ministers fell in line with suggestions that would have easily brought the work of that conference to an end within a few days of its meeting. However, there was no Hansard taken of that meeting, or of the debates, and the difficulties and discussions that might lead up to the statement which I have just given were never taken down, or reported. But I am quite satisfied in my own mind that had they been so treated no one could have hesitated to come to the conclusion that with the adoption of the Quebec resolution as suggested by several of the eastern prime ministers, the work of the conference could easily have been concluded in two days. Well, I found at once that British Columbia as a province could never accept such a proposition for a moment, because if you consult this resolution you will find that they make a general provision for Canada with no special reservation for British Columbia.

"Now, we had already, through the Hon. Col. Prior and yourself, Mr. Speaker, previously given our eastern friends to understand that above and beyond the provision sought to be extended to the different provinces by the Quebec resolution, we in British Columbia expected to receive from Ottawa still better treatment,—still more generous treatment.

"Well, sir, if you will look at the first resolution adopted by the conference at Ottawa, you will find there is a reservation contained in the concluding sentence in favor of the provinces that might have some extra or special claim to submit to the provinces generally. I would refer you to the resolution passed on Wdnesday, Oct. 10 (reading) 'Therefore it is unanimously resolved, that the subject matter of the resolutions adopted by the conference of the representatives of the several provinces held at Quebec in December, 1902, and which were shortly thereafter presented to the government of the Dominion, and which were ratified by the legislatures of the then existing provinces except that of British Columbia, be now pressed upon the government of the Dominion for immediate and favorable action, under reserve of the right of any province to now submit to such government memoranda in writing concerning any claims which it may have to larger sums than those set out in the said resolutions, or to additional consideration or recognition.'

"I might state, that after two days' debate, I finally persuaded the conference to amend the resolution originally submitted so as to permit the province of British Columbia and any other province that might have a special claim, to have the right to submit it to the federal authority. Well when it came to the time that these provinces should present their claims, there were only two who entered their further claim, namely the province of Ontario, and the province of British Columbia.

"Now, with regard to the province of Ontario, if you will glance over Mr. Whitney's memorandum, you will find that the case as made out by him in no way, shape or form, is framed along the lines of that of British Columbia.

"When it came to British Columbia, I did not hesitate to go over the ground that had already been so well covered by the Dunsmuir and Prior delegations, nor did I hesitate to direct the attention of the prime minister of Canada, as well as the other delegates to that conference and those who were present of the federal cabinet to the excellent evidence that had already been placed before them by the province of British Columbia in support of her contention. This debate, or discussion I should more properly say, took up the most part of three days. At times we were privileged with the presence of Sir Wilfrid. At other times we had to proceed with our business in his absence. He had already outlined to the conference that Ottawa did not wish to have anything to say in our deliberations until we had unanimously agreed on certain conclusions, and then she was only too pleased to come in and state her position with regard to it. And that being the case, Mr. Speaker, whenever these questions assumed the form of a debate or a discussion, or a division in our conference, Sir Wilfrid and his colleagues withdrew, and left us to deliberate among ourselves. Of course, that was more or less a disappointment because the invitation to come to Ottawa intimated that we were going there for the purpose of discussing these provincial subsidies, and one would naturally conclude at once, in connection with this discussion, we would at all times have the benefit of the presence of the federal as well as of the local ministers; and it was only when we were unanimous and proposed acting together that they would come and discuss matters. That was a serious discouragement. Well, sir, I would say that for about three days the case of British Columbia occupied all the time of the conference. At times there was a disposition on the part of some of the other local prime ministers to ignore the province altogether. They thought we were unreasonable. They said, here; you have made a bargain in 1871; you concluded a contract with Ottawa; you shall be made to stick to it? If it is proposed that there are to be alterations in that contract, those alterations should, so far as it is possible to make them, apply to all the provinces of the confederation. And I can recall times there when it was suggested that the province of British Columbia insofar as its claim was concerned, was to be ignored pretty nearly altogether. However, after debating the matter some three days, as I say, we were fortunate in having the conference go on record. They admitted, because of our permanent physical conditions, we were entitled to extra treatment, or better terms, and if you will look at the resolution which was passed on the 12th of October, moved by Mr. Murray, you will find there the following words: 'That in view of the large area, geographical position, and very exceptional physical features of the province of British Columbia, it is the opinion of this conference that the said province should receive a reasonable additional allowance for the purposes of civil government, in excess of the provisions made in the Quebec resolutions of 1902, and that such additional allowance should be to the extent of $100,000 annually for a period of ten years.'

"Just prior to that you will note that a motion was carried to the effect that in the opinion of the conference it 'is inadvisable that the claim, in the way of subsidies, of any province be referred to arbitration?' Now I might say, sir, leading up to this motion, there was a very animated discussion with regard to the province of British Columbia. And I had already been so fortunate as to secure from nearly every member of the convention an opinion favorable to our special claim. But I went a step further and said, 'If you propose favoring us we wish to have the measure of that favor settled by a board of arbitration or a commission of inquiry? I found that all of my fellow members there were against it—that every prime minister present was opposed to such a course, and the ground seemed to be taken at that time that if British Columbia was given a commission of inquiry, or a board of arbitration, and if because of such a course being taken, she was enabled to secure some extra favor that the other provinces thought they also had a right to enjoy, why, the grave fault would be laid at the doors of these other members of the conference of neglecting to ask for commissions of inquiry as British Columbia was now doing. I pointed out that there never was a suggestion from these other provinces that they had the same condition to contend with that we in British Columbia had.

"However that may be, Mr. Speaker, the records are there to speak for themselves and show conclusively that insofar as that conference was concerned it was decided that whether or no we should have our case settled by a competent tribunal such as I have indicated, we were turned down by unanimous vote. You will note I at once protested against that vote, and I asked that my protest be recorded on the minutes, and I wrote it out in this way: 'I protest that the question of British Columbia's claim upon the Dominion government for reference should not be considered by this conference; that it is a question between the government of British Columbia and the Dominion government. I might say in discussing the question with the other prime ministers, I always careful to take this ground, that my presence there should in no way prejudice the right of the province, and the contention always advanced by my predecessors, that a contract of confederation was made between the province and the federal authorities, and any alterations in that contract should come from the original contracting parties, and for that reason I felt that nothing should be omitted in emphasing this, and I had the protest recorded on the minutes of the conference. Then Mr. Whitney made his former motion which I have quoted to begin with quite a very prolonged debate again arose. On the following day, after certain attempt had been made by other members of the conference to induce me to accept the resolution arranging that Mr. Premier Scott, of Saskatchewan and Mr. Rutherford, of Alberta, proposed coming into the convention and asking for similar treatment to that which it was pointed to give British Columbia in the resolution I have just outlined. And if you will look into the proceedings you will find that on Saturday the 13th of October, it was moved by Mr. Whitney, and seconded by Hon. Mr. Rutherford that the following words be added to the Hon. Mr. Whitney's motion respecting exceptional treatment to British Columbia: 'Having regard to the exceptional conditions of settlement existing in the provinces of Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan, each of the said provinces should be granted, for a period of ten years, an allowance of $250,000 per annum in excess of the subsidies provided by the Quebec resolutions of 1902 as amended.'

"I found at this point that despite any arguments that might be advanced in convention, the province of British Columbia was in the minority; that the delegates had made up their minds that we must accept the resolution submitted on the proposition of Mr. Whitney, a resolution which had been discussed for fully four or five days. And I found, sir, that if I proposed to continue as a member of that convention I would be compelled to assist a majority vote in connection with a resolution that simply meant a judgment against this province. I might say that on Saturday morning it was intimated by the chairman that a conclusion would rise—in fact the members of the convention had become already very restless, and had proposed going home, and, considering the fact that this resolution was being forced on the province, and considering the further fact that the convention had closed its ears to the entreaties of the province of British Columbia, I was in duty bound to emphasize as much as I possibly could, the fact that we had not been treated fairly; and considered it best to withdraw from the convention.

"Let me say at once I carefully explained the position I took all the way through, and that which I proposed to take in withdrawing from the conference, and I never spared myself in admitting to the convention that British Columbia wanted to act just as harmoniously in connection with these proceedings as it was possible for this province to do. I told them that I did not want to say for one moment that British Columbia would do anything unconstitutional; and that British Columbia did not propose to make this a political question. I said 'here are records that have been made up from data collected at Ottawa and submitted by governments made up of Liberals and Conservatives you have met me in this conference and you have accepted the truthfulness of these statements; you have told me that you believed that by reason of our permanent physical conditions we are entitled to better terms. And now since you have gone so far, all I ask on behalf of the province of British Columbia, is that you come to a reasonable conclusion, and that the only way in which we may expect to have a proper and reasonable solution of this problem will be through the agency of a commission of inquiry or a board of arbitration.'

"And I further said to the convention: 'If there is any point on which you wish to be informed, if there is any additional data you want other than what you have already before you, I am here and am willing to meet you and do everything possible to supply the demand.' But sir, I say at once they had made up their minds to have British Columbia accept this resolution of Mr. Whitney's and if she did not propose to take it she must leave the conference with nothing further. There was no further use then as I have said so often, in staying any longer at the conference—in fact had I known before I went to the city of Ottawa that this was what might be expected from that body, I never would have gone, because, as I say sir, that convention did not treat with us reasonably and did not treat with us fairly.

"Now I would like to point out that in withdrawing from the convention I wrote a letter to Mr. Gouin, the chairman, and that letter is incorporated in my report, and, briefly, it repeats the principal points already taken by the different delegations and by myself when we were in conference. It is found in page 11 of the return, and if you peruse it you will note that here and there I emphasized different points of interest, and elaborated on some of them that had already been advanced. The reply is to this effect: 'I am instructed by the interprovincial conference to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, setting forth the position assumed by you towards it, and in answer to state that the resolution to which you refer, and which was adopted on the day on which you addressed your letter to me, reads thus: 'That in view of the large area, geographical position and very exceptional physical features of the province of British Columbia, it is the opinion of this conference that the said province should receive a reasonable additional allowance for the purposes of civil government in excess of the provisions made in the Quebec resolution of 1902, and that such additional allowance should be to the extent of $100,000 anually for ten years. This resolution shows distinctly that the conference recognized the claim of British Columbia for exceptional treatment. I am specially directed to add that it was passed after all the data presented by you had been fully considered.'

"That, I think, Mr. Speaker, shows conclusively that insofar as it would be possible for the province of British Columbia to submit data to the conference, nothing was left undone on my part to meet the demands of that body. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I went further and suggested that if any adjournments were necessary, or if any steps outside of the ordinary routine business and every-day programme of the meeting had to be taken, British Columbia would do her part to implement the character of such work. But, as you will see, they were quite satisfied to look through this data as submitted by this province and come to the conclusion that Mr. Whitney had arrived at when he submitted this resolution.

"Now, I find that there has been on the part of some of the people of British Columbia an inclination to criticize the stand taken by me when I withdrew from the conference. I believe the point has been made by several of my critics that it was a great mistake on the part of this country when I, as first minister, withdrew from that assembly. I remember since reading some of the papers which are prone to criticism, and one would judge from the statements made therein that my withdrawal from the conference was a very undignified proceeding. Let me say at once, before taking the step to which I refer, I was careful to explain to the chairman and to the other gentlemen present the reasons why I proposed to do so, and that anything which was done in this connection was done in a very dignified way and in a way that could not have induced any of the criticism to which I have just referred.

"Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words generally on this question. I have never sought, as leader of the Conservative party in British Columbia, to make it a political issue, and the records that may be produced will bear me out in my statement. I say I have never done anything that will make this a party or a partizan question, nor do I, in the sense of provincial politics, in a broad sense, and made it an issue between the Liberals and the Conservatives of British Columbia. When I was in Ottawa and found that the treatment that was coming to me from the convention meant that British Columbia was not receiving fair play, I did not rise in my place in that conference and threaten the gentlemen there assembled that unless British Columbia were given proper and decent treatment she would secede from confederation. Not for one moment did I do anything of that kind, but I insisted as far as I could upon the rights of the province being recognized at Ottawa, and I said that at all times this country felt quite safe if she followed up the rights that she had secured in a constitutional way, in the end she would be given proper treatment. I remember on one occasion I was more or less taken to task by Hon. Mr. Fielding for the remark that I had made; but I very quickly met any criticism from that gentleman by presenting the minutes of the Quebec conference, which contained a resolution moved by the premier minister of Nova Scotia, in which he stated that unless she got everything she asked for, she would secede from confederation. If you turn up the Quebec resolutions of 1887 you will find that in that convention a very prominent part indeed was played by Mr. Fielding. And you will find substantially the position taken by him was this: He had certain claims to urge upon Ottawa through the agency of that convention, and he threatened that unless those claims were met that Nova Scotia would secede. He was going to smash up confederation, and all kinds of dire results would come from the refusal to meet the demands of that province.

"I say, Mr. Speaker, I never at any time during the proceedings at Ottawa, or before that assembly, suggested that this country meant to do anything outside of what was constitutional and what was legitimate. But what is the position we are in at the present time? We have lately come through a general election, an election, sir, which has shown beyond doubt that the government of the day still enjoys the confidence of the people of this country. Through no efforts of mine the question of Better Terms for British Columbia was made a very considerable issue in this contest. And think that the province at large has very successfully shown that the people endorse the stand that the government of the day has taken on this question. And now, since the federal authorities propose asking the Imperial government to provide certain amendments to the B. N. A. Act, which must include the resolutions submitted by Mr. Whitney, it is up to this legislature to take a stand by the government of the day as representing the people of this country and enter a strong protest against any such course being pursued. Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the closing days of the convention intimated that before any of the subsidies to be provided by the Quebec resolutions might be given to the different provinces Imperial legislation must be necessary. He gave us very distinctly to understand that if the convention were harmonious and unanimous there would be no difficulty at all in securing acquiescence on the part of the Imperial authorities. But, he suggested at the same time that if there was not that unanimity among the provinces that he looked for, it would be more or less difficult to secure Imperial legislation. Now, sir, insofar as the province of British Columbia is concerned, you will observe that we endeavored so far as we possibly could, from first to last, to make this proceeding as unanimous as possible. In order to secure the passage of the first resolution by a unanimous vote of the delegates present, you will find that the province of British Columbia consented to that resolution, with that reservation that we put in our special claim, and from day to day following, as any business arose, the province of British Columbia was careful to show her good feeling towards her sister provinces, and we never failed to act in harmony. As I say, in connection with the commercial travelers tax, when there was a general disposition on the part of all the provinces to have that legislation repealed we did not hesitate to say "We will meet you; we are one of the sister provinces, and we are willing to act with you whenever we can harmoniously do so." So all the way through, as far as it was possible, we did not show any disposition to break up the conference or do anything that was out of line, but on the contrary spared no effort in promoting unanimity.

"Now, I say, Mr. Speaker, this afternoon we are face to face with this position: Sir Wilfrid has intimated in the Federal house that he is about to go to the Mother Country and while there he proposes to submit to the consideration of the Imperial authorities certain amendments to the B. N. A. Act certain provisions or conditions to the terms of treatment toward British Columbia as outlined in Mr. Whitney's resolution, and if he shows that the province of British Columbia refused at Ottawa this treatment—that the people of British Columbia have since refused, and which treatment I ask this legislature to refuse. I have spared no effort, Mr. Speaker, in trying to keep this question out of the political arena.

"Why, Mr. Speaker, the conference had not been ended twenty-four hours when some of the British Columbia Liberal papers were loud in denunciation of the course that I had taken in that house. They had not the decency to wait until I had come back to British Columbia and told the people of what had occurred there. But no, before I had secured my ticket to return to British Columbia, reports had been sent down by some of the reporters at Ottawa which filled columns and columns of their papers, criticizing the course which I had taken. That certainly did not indicate, Mr. Speaker, that there was any disposition on the part of the Liberals of British Columbia to treat this matter fairly. But on the contrary it indicates that the Liberal press of this country, regardless entirely of the situation of the province, was ready and willing to fall in line with what would appear to have been the policy of Ottawa. I returned home, sir, and I found as the days went by the more bitter did the Liberal press of the country become. They had worked themselves up to such a condition of frenzy that it became almost incumbent upon me to ask the Lieutenant Governor to dissolve the House. Well what occurred? I came to the city of Victoria. I met the Conservatives and the people of Victoria generally, and endeavored to give them a hurried account of what had taken place at Ottawa. But at the same time I told them there was no disposition on the part of the Conservatives to make this a party question. It is a provincial question, and at that time I referred to the resolution which had been passed by the preceding parliament by unanimous vote, moved by my-self and seconded by my honorable friend, the leader of the Opposition.

"Now, Mr. Speaker, what has always puzzled me since the occurrence of the last few months, is how in the name of consistency my honorable friends opposite could side in with the criticisms to which I have referred. If you look at the resolution of last session you will find that it is set out there that by reason of the permanent physical conditions that have to be met in the province of British Columbia we are entitled to Better Terms—permanent physical conditions that will last for all time to come, and for that time must demand for the province of British Columbia extra treatment in the way of money grants. Now Mr. Speaker, the sum and substance of this criticism has been in the first place that there was more or less neglect on my part in inadequately presenting a case to Ottawa; and in the next place that I had tried to make this a political issue; that I have tried as it were to make politics out of it, first, last and all the time, and in so doing I have very much subserved the public at large, and thereby damaged the case for British Columbia. Now, I wish to meet these charges here and I wish to ask the legislature of this province to go carefully over the records and reports that have come from that conference, whether it be reported in the conference, the report submitted by way of a return to the Dominion house, or my own report to the Lieutenant Governor. And I ask anyone who proposes to give me an impartial hearing on those records to explain how he may be able to find anything wrong with the manner in which the case of British Columbia was presented. I cannot say I possess the eloquence of some of my honorable friends opposite, or that I have the faculty of presenting a case of this kind in the strongest way that some of my honorable friends opposite might be able to do, but I may say, sir, that so far as my own ability permitted, I did not spare myself in trying to bring home to that conference the true position of affairs in the province of British Columbia. And I can say further that I tried to make the conference a success in every way, and I tried to act in consonance with my fellow prime ministers, and tried to keep the questions out of the political zone, and I tried to show to Ottawa that the people of the province of British Columbia were a unit in their demands for fairer treatment. And it was with very considerable regret indeed that I noticed on returning to this province the attitude assumed by my honorable friends opposite. And how ready they were with criticisms held against me to belittle the position of the province and make it appear that her case had not been properly presented.

"Now, sir, it must have struck the honorable gentlemen opposite that for the first time in the history of this agitation there had been an official acknowledgement that British Columbia had a cause that merited for her better treatment—better terms. For the first time in the history of this question the acknowledgement that her case had been entertained was given place on the official records, and it was a source of tremendous satisfaction to me to find that Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Premier Scott and the others of the prime ministrs there assembled were a unit in acknowledging that we were entitled to special terms. I simply point this out. It appears on the records, and it certainly is as I have stated the very first appearance there or elsewhere of any indication on the part of the federal authorities that we were entitled o better terms. Now then is another point that my honorable friends opposite might bring up this afternoon, and that is with regard to any alternative that might have been offered in place of the proposal outlined in Mr. Whitney's resolution. Honorable friends opposite might say if British Columbia had found herself unable to accept the terms of Mr. Whitney's resolution, was it not up to her to present some alternative proposition? I might say in reply to that I had very little time to prepare anything of the sort, but I at once realized the fact that here was the place and now was the time when I should not spare myself in formulating some proposal that might be acceptable to British Columbia and I might say in so many dollars and cents what we might expect, and if you look over the returns you will find that proposal on page 2, where I suggested that $1 per head of population be paid until the amount reaches $300,000, to remain fixed until the population is 400,000; 7 cents per head of the population thereafter until the amount reaches $400,000 per annum, to remain fixed until the population is $800,000; 50 cents per head of the population thereafter until the amount reaches $500,000, to remain fixed until the population is 1,500,000, and so on, making a graduating scale until final provision is made that this special estimate shall remain fixed as per population until it reaches 2,500,000 of people. In presenting that schedule I was careful to explain to the conference with the assistance of an actuary who was on the spot, and with the data I had before me, that this I considered a fair and reasonable basis of settlement. Of course this

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