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Our Claims Presented.

Premier Mathieson returned from Ottawa on Saturday last, where he and his fellow delegates had been pressing the claims of this Province upon the attention of the Federal Government. A hearing was given the delegates before the full Cabinet, when Hon. Mr. Mathieson presented our claims in a most able and comprehensive manner. Afterwards the whole matter was referred to a committee of the Council, consisting of Premier Borden, Hon. Mr. Foster; Hon. Mr. White, Finance Minister; Hon. Mr. Rogers, and Hon. Mr. Perely. By this committee the whole case was diligently enquired into, from time to time, and we have no reason to doubt that the result will be satisfactory. As a matter of fact, there is every reason to hope that the outcome will be a large measure of justice to this Province. The very brightest hopes are entertained of a satisfactory result.

Premier Mathieson and his fellow delegates took advantage of the occasion to discuss the question of inland fisheries with the Minister of Marine, and others of the Cabinet. The greatest difficulty in the way in this matter is in the wording of the terms of Confederation. Under the act the title of all public harbors is vested in the Dominion of Canada, and no definition of the areas and limitations of these public harbors has been arrived at. In consequence of this uncertainty it was impossible to fix upon the areas most suitable for the cultivation of the oyster fishery. But, through the ability and perseverance of Premier Mathieson, it is pleasing to learn that an agreement has been reached, under which the Government of this Province may proceed to the development of this source of Provincial wealth.

It is to be provided by an amendment of the Fisheries Act of 1906 that the Government or in Council may upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon authorize the Government of the Province to grant leases from time to time of such areas of the sea coast, bays, inlets, harbors, creeks, rivers, etc. in the Province as the Government of the Province may consider suitable for the cultivation and production of oysters; and the lessees of such areas shall, pursuant to such agreement, but subject to the fishery regulations of Canada have the exclusive right to the oysters produced or found on the beds within the limits of their respective leases.

It is provided, of course that no agreement shall prejudice the right or title of the Dominion to enjoy and use the same for any purpose than the cultivation and production of oysters. This difficulty being thus overcome the Province will benefit by the advantages and wealth which must accrue from the development of our unrivalled oyster areas, which are now all but barren, in consequence of indiscriminate fishing. Mean time the Dominion Government will be responsible for their protection. This of itself, is a matter of the utmost importance to our Province, and to the Mathieson administration the credit must be given.

Condition of Labour.

The Charlottetown correspondent of the Labour Gazette reports as follows on the labour conditions during the month of January:

A very considerable decline took place in the demand for labour, especially in connection with building operations. Work on all buildings under construction ceased with the setting in of the cold winter weather, and as a consequence carpenters, masons, bricklayers and plasterers were for the most part unemployed. This was also true in a large measure of unskilled labour.

In several lines of mechanical industry, however, activity prevailed. This is particularly true of iron and metal working. In the foundry and machine shops business was quite as active as in the previous month, the same number of hands being employed, and the same rate of wages paid. In the blacksmith's shops, too, business was quite good, particularly so of horse-shoeing.

Tobacco manufacturers were fully as busy in January as they had been in December. The output of manufactured tobacco was quite equal to that of the previous month; the hands employed being practically the same, and the pay roll undergoing no diminution.

The printing business was good, and printers were in demand; no competent mechanic in this line desiring work being obliged to remain idle.

Our one shoe factory was a little less active in its operations in January than in December, although the output was not materially reduced. The lumber business was on the whole quiet. Little or no stock was handled outside at our lumber yards, but those having planing mills and kindred woodworking departments did a good business in these inside operations. The staff of artisans employed in these was not reduced, and the wages remained stationary.

In the offices and mechanical department of the Prince Edward Island Railway all were busy. In the machine shops, the car shops, and the various mechanical freight and other departments of the system the permanent staff of skilled and unskilled labour underwent no diminution. The number of unskilled labourers of the temporary class was not as large as in December. Wages were the same.

The second of the special Lenten sermons was preached in St. Dunstan's Cathedral on Sunday evening last, by Rev. T. Campbell, Rector of St. Dunstan's College. His theme was the Divinity of Christ and his text was the 80th verse of the X chapter of the Gospel according to St. John: "I and the Father are one." To us, who are enlightened by the gift of divine faith, it is a shame, said the Rev. preacher, that we should be asked, whether or not Christ is the Son of God. But the key to this question placed in our souls by faith and grace is not so apparent to those who have not been equally favored. Abundant evidence of Christ's Divinity is found in the Scriptures. In various places in the Gospel, in addition to the text quoted, Christ declared himself to be the Son of God. His whole public life and the miracles He performed were in attestation of this profession of His Divinity. In support of this statement of Divinity He gave His life, and proved its truth by His resurrection from the dead. The Apostles and Disciples bore testimony to this same truth; wrought miracles in His faith and suffered death in testimony thereof. The faith preached and taught by Christ and His Apostles and handed down to us by their successors and the grace of God imparted to us through the Sacraments keep this truth burning in our souls. The teaching authority which Christ committed to His Church has faithfully guarded this sacred doctrine from all taint of error, and from time to time has lopped off all excrescences of error. This has been exemplified in every age of Christianity; in the third century when Arianism was condemned; as well as in the twentieth century when Modernism was anathematized. It should be the duty of us who are so highly favored to show forth by our lives that we are firm believers in the Divinity of Christ and faithful followers of the maxims which He inculcated.

Panl McCormack, aged 50, and his son Joseph A. aged 35, died within a few minutes of one another this morning. The son had been ill for some time; but the father's death was sudden. R. L. P.

The Federal Parliament.

In its reference to the debate on the Manitoba boundaries question in the House of Commons on Tuesday Feb. 27th, the St. John Standard among other things, has this to say:

Mr. Borden—"The Government of Ontario has assented to this arrangement, and the Government of Manitoba has assented to this arrangement, and every one has assented to it, except my hon. friends on the other side of the House."

Thus succinctly may be summed up the outcome of the long and at times bitter struggle in which the Province of Manitoba has been engaged for nearly forty years to obtain an extension of her boundaries and the full recognition of her provincial rights.

The question is settled. Manitoba will have her Northern boundary extended to the sixtieth parallel of latitude, which now marks the Northern boundaries of Alberta and Saskatchewan; her Western boundary will be the present Eastern boundary line of the Province of Saskatchewan to the sixtieth parallel; and her Eastern boundary will be the present Eastern boundary as far North as the Northeast corner of the Province, thence in a straight line to the most Eastern point of Island Lake and thence in a straight line to the point where the eighty-ninth meridian of West longitude intersects the shore of Hudson Bay. The area of Alberta is placed at 253,000 square miles; the area of Saskatchewan placed at 250,000 square miles; the area of Manitoba is increased from 73,000 square miles to 521,832 square miles. This in brief is the settlement arrived at as regards territory.

Financially, a satisfactory agreement has also been reached. The following is a summary of the past and future basis for a subsidy:

Year Beginning July 1, 1911.	
Allowance for Government and local purposes.	
B. N. A. Act, 1907, sec. 1 (1) a	\$190,000.00
Eighty cents per head per annum on 455,614 population, as ascertained by the census of June, 1911	364,491.20
Indemnity for want of public lands (cap. 50, Acts of 1885)	100,000.00
Interest at 5 per cent, on capital allowance in lieu of debt (various statutes)	178,947.66
Total	\$833,438.26
Year Beginning July 1, 1912.	
Allowance for Government and local purposes.	
B. N. A. Act, 1907, sec. 1 (1) (a)	\$190,000.00
Eighty cents per head on 455,614 population, as per census of June, 1911	364,491.20
Indemnity for want of public lands \$562,500.00	
Swamp lands deduction, about	\$134,230.00
University lands deduction	15,000.00
	149,230.00
	43,270.00
Interest at 5 per cent on \$8,107,500	\$405,375.00
Less interest at 5 per cent on \$475,816.15	23,780.81
	381,584.19
Total	\$1,349,345.39

Without going into an elaborate explanation it may be said that as far as financial terms are concerned Manitoba will be on the same basis as the other Prairie Provinces. For the year beginning July 1, 1912, Alberta will receive \$1,260,105.40; Saskatchewan, \$1,551,820.60, and Manitoba \$1,349,345.39. In addition, and to compensate the Province for the delay which has resulted since July, 1908, when Parliament unanimously passed a resolution defining the boundaries now finally established, Manitoba will receive four years arrearages amounting to approximately \$2,178,648.52.

The surprise of the debate was the Prime Minister's announcement of the satisfactory arrangement with Ontario, by which that Province secures an outlet on Hudson Bay. This has been one of the great difficulties in the way of a settlement. The Laurier Government for years had been playing one Province against the other with the natural result that no satisfactory basis of agreement on this point had been arrived at. On the first reading of the bill Mr. Borden informed the House that an Order in Council had been passed on February 20, transerring to the Province of Ontario a strip of land five miles wide within the boundaries of Manitoba to provide for the extension of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway to the shores of Hudson Bay. Ontario will secure access either to Nelson or Fort Churchill by the terms of this agreement, at whatever point the terminus of the Hudson Bay Railway is established.

The Opposition had all the wind taken out of their sails with this announcement. Mr. Guthrie demanded to know whether the Governments of Manitoba and Ontario were satisfied with this arrangement.

Mr. Borden replied calmly that everyone had assented to it except his honorable friends on the other side of the House.

Sir Wilfrid fractiously complained that he could not find anything in the correspondence showing the consent of the two Provinces.

"I do not think there is any correspondence on the subject," replied Mr. Borden. "The Government of Ontario has been represented here by a member of that Government, who came and consulted with us on the subject. The Government of Manitoba was represented here also by two members of that Government, who came and consulted with us on the same subject."

"All this has been verbal then?" retorted Sir Wilfrid, catching at a straw.

Mr. Borden obviously enjoyed the situation.

"It has all been verbal," he replied with a pleasant smile, "but none the less satisfactory."

An extraordinary jumble, one of the most extraordinary that ever came before Parliament, was the only criticism Sir Wilfrid could find to utter at the Government's successful settlement of this long standing dispute. "We shall have the new problem in the Dominion of Canada," he said, "still hopeful of complication. The great Province of Ontario—the banner Province as it likes to style itself—becoming subject to Manitoba!"

Mr. Borden was not slow to follow up his advantage. "I do not think my right hon. friend is very well satisfied with this arrangement," he said. "But I should have thought so old a parliamentarian as he is might have concealed his disappointment much more cleverly than he has done. Under the circumstances, his heat is very natural, and we are not at all disturbed by it. For the extending of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway through Manitoba territory these 5 miles have been set apart just in the same way as they might be set apart for any great railway corporation desiring to build a line through the Province of Manitoba to a port on Hudson Bay. It is to be expected that any Province would welcome the construction of such a line if built by any of the railway corporations of this country and I do not know why Manitoba should not welcome the construction of such a line by the great sister Province of Ontario. I believe Manitoba will welcome it. As to the difficulty with regard to jurisdiction, my right hon. friend perhaps forgets that the Intercolonial Railway of Canada extends through the Provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and that the Canadian Government has a very considerable mileage in Prince Edward Island. My right hon. friend knows that each one of those Provinces has jurisdiction within the territory through which those lines of railway run, and I do not see any greater incongruity in the somewhat alarming picture which he endeavored to draw, than there would be in having the Intercolonial Railway of Canada run through those four different Provinces, and perhaps in the future through other Provinces of Canada. There will be no difficulty in working out the proposal, at least none is apprehended by those who have given it a great deal of consideration. It gives to Ontario a port on Hudson Bay and if the Temiskaming and Ontario Railway should be constructed to that port, it would be an advantage not only to Ontario, which will thus secure the desired port, but to the Province of Manitoba, and to every province of Canada that that should be brought about."

The settlement of this long standing dispute at all points, in a way satisfactory to all parties concerned, is one of the triumphs of the Borden Administration. The charge of the Opposition affords very conclusive evidence on that score. While it will be watched at a distance by the people of the Maritime Provinces, it is not without its significance. The question of restoring their natural resources to the three Prairie Provinces will eventually come before the Government. During the debate the Prime Minister gave an assurance to the Maritime Provinces that when that day comes their rights will be respected. He said: "When this question comes to be considered, some regard will have to be given to the claims of some other Provinces in Canada and especially the three Maritime Provinces, whose boundaries have not been increased, whose boundaries cannot very well be increased on account of their natural situation. That is a matter that will have to be taken up in connection with the handing over of their natural resources to the three Prairie Provinces. I would like my hon. friends from the Maritime Provinces to understand that that is a matter which has not escaped the attention of the Government."

A notice which has been received by the Canadian government from Washington indicates how seriously the old Canadian section of the international waterways commission, which was headed by Sir George Gibbon, compromised the rights of Canada with regard to the water levels of the Great Lakes and the power possibilities of Niagara Falls.

A telegraphic message was received on Thursday giving notification that on Wednesday next the U.S. secretary of war will hear at Washington the application of

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Naval Service of Canada.

Sealed Tenders, addressed to the undersigned, will be received up till noon on the 15th of March, for the supply for twenty months from April 1st, 1912, of the following Fresh Provisions to the Ships of the Naval Service at Halifax, N. S.: Beans, Fresh Fish, Butter, Fresh Milk, Bread, Potatoes, Onions or Leeks, Cabbage, Turnips, Carrots, Parsnips, Beets. Forms of tender may be obtained from the undersigned or from the Naval Store Officers, H. M. C. Dockyards, Halifax, N. S., and Esquimaut, B. C. Unauthorized publication of this notice will not be paid for.

G. J. DESBARATS, Deputy Minister of the Naval Service, Department of the Naval Service, Ottawa, Feb. 10th, 1912. Feb. 21, 1912—4

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Ch'town, July, 19, 1911—3m