

are the four Provinces confederated under the British North America Act;

And be it further resolved that a memorandum of the case be prepared and transmitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with an humble request that the Manitoba Act may be so amended as to place this Province of Manitoba on the same status in the Dominion as the older Provinces of the Union."

Here are the proceedings of the Government of the Province of Manitoba. Here is the Speech from the Throne, the State papers to which I have referred, and the notice of certain resolutions which the Premier proposed submitting to the Local Parliament. But the Premier goes a step further. He not only complains of the fact that no satisfactory answer has been made to his application respecting the transfer of the public and school lands to the Province of Manitoba, that no arrangement has been made respecting an additional money grant which they claimed as of right, but he further insists that the financial and fiscal policy of the Government is ruinous to the best interests of Manitoba. A few days ago he tabled notice of certain other resolutions, and I draw the attention of the Government and the House to an extract taken from the Emerson *International* upon this subject. It says:

"The speech to a Provincial Legislature is supposed to indicate legislation only on such matters as are within the jurisdiction of that Legislature, and everybody knows that the Tariff is the creation of the Dominion Parliament and entirely outside the jurisdiction of our Local Solons. But Hon. Mr. Norquay meant that expression of sympathy with the farmers on the Tariff grievance, and he took the first opportunity to prove it by giving notice at the first sitting of the Local Legislature, after the formal opening, that he would, on the following Wednesday, introduce a resolution setting forth that the duty on agricultural implements, lumber, and canned goods was believed to be an undue and unnecessary burden on the people of this country, and asking the appointment of a Select Committee to enquire into the matter, with a view of obtaining evidence that would sustain a memorial to the Dominion Government, asking them to remove the burdens complained of."

These, Sir, are the proceedings which were taken by the Premier of Manitoba, the political friend and ally of hon. gentlemen opposite, with the view of inducing his Government to redress the grievances complained of by that Province. Sir, the Premier of Manitoba, I am sorry to say, utters by no means a hopeful tone as to the future of that great Province. He speaks of the crisis as grave and serious. He made these demands upon the Government of the Dominion, and they have not so far been redressed. He appealed to the Privy Council of Canada, and according to his statement, the ears of the Privy Council were closed to his appeal; and now he proposes to appeal to the Imperial Parliament. I say all this indicates a most unsatisfactory condition of affairs in our new Province in the great North-West. The Premier of Manitoba goes a step further, and warns the Government here of the danger of the critical condition of public affairs in that Province. At a public meeting, Premier Norquay said:

"At present we are on the verge of a crisis from which we must emerge in a better or worse condition. Not, however, until the masses were made aware of the situation, would they stand up and maintain their rights. The time had arrived when Manitoba must be placed on a level with other Provinces of the Dominion. Not one new arrival had been in the Province three months before he, who before was loud in its denunciations, was equally loud in demanding its rights. The eyes of the farmers had been opened, and they were alarmed at the prospect. These matters would shortly engross the attention, not only of the Provincial, but of the Dominion Parliament."

From all these circumstances, Sir, it is perfectly evident that the political sky in the Province of Manitoba is dark and lowering. No one can tell the moment when we may go just a step too far in our injustice to Manitoba to retrace our steps with safety. The Government should remember that justice deferred always enhances the price of it. Let us deal fairly and honestly with Manitoba, and let us fairly and honestly consider its claims. I say, and I say it with regret, that the present situation there is fraught with difficulty and danger; and is a fit subject for Parliamentary enquiry. When we acquired that vast territory, it was supposed that it would be a magnificent field for a large immigration; and

we know that enormous sums have been expended year after year in the effort to turn the tide of immigration from the United States to the free homesteads in Manitoba and the North-West Territories. Sir, unless we can gratify the reasonable demands of the settlers in that country, we cannot hope for that prosperity for it, which is the earnest desire of every true Canadian. The existence of a spirit of dissatisfaction and distrust in the minds of the settlers may produce very serious consequences to the peace and prosperity of this country. Now, Sir, I find that the large body of the farmers of the Province of Manitoba are at one with the Government of that Province on this question. In the month of December last, a meeting of delegates from the farmers, representing every section of the Province, was held in the city of Winnipeg. From the names of those delegates, one may see that they were representative men, many of them hailing from the Province of Ontario. At that meeting they set forth their bill of rights, containing the demands and claims that they insisted upon being conceded to them by the Dominion Government. That bill of rights I am going to trouble the House by reading:

"And whereas, in convention they proceeded to form the association now known as the 'Manitoba and North-West Farmers' Union';

"And whereas, they thereafter formulated a 'Declaration of Rights' in behalf of the citizens and Province of Manitoba, in which declaration they stated the grievances of the people as follows:

"Whereas, in view of the present depression in agriculture and commercial industries in the Province of Manitoba, the farmers of the Province have assembled for the purpose of expressing their views upon the causes of the said depression and the means of removing the same;

"And whereas, the present and the future prosperity of this Province depends both commercially and otherwise upon the successful prosecution of agriculture;

"And whereas, numerous and embarrassing restrictions are placed upon the efforts made by the settlers to extend their operations and improve their condition;

"And whereas, such restrictions are unjust and unnecessary, and have been continued in defiance of the just rights of Manitoba;

"And whereas, some of the said restrictions consist of the oppressive duty upon agricultural implements, the monopoly of the carrying trade now enjoyed by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and the improper and vexatious methods employed in the administration of the public lands of Manitoba;

"And whereas, the inhabitants of Manitoba are British subjects, and have made their homes here, upon the representation that they would be allowed all the privileges which, as such subjects they would elsewhere in Canada be entitled to, and it appears that by the terms of the admission of Manitoba into Confederation they should be allowed such rights and privileges;

"And whereas, they are denied such rights, and they find that the representative system of the Province is such that they are practically denied the privilege of securing the redress of their grievances through their representatives in the Provincial or Dominion Parliaments;

"And whereas this Convention approves that statement of grievances.

"And whereas the convention of the 19th December, 1883, further stated and resolved as follows:

"And whereas a large proportion of the business of the Dominion Government is wholly connected with Manitoba and the North-West, especially the important Departments of the Minister of Railways, Public Works, Immigration and Agriculture, which should be controlled by our Provincial Legislature;

"And whereas it is the right of every British subject to call the attention of the constituted authorities to the existence of abuses and wrongs;

"And whereas this Convention approves of those statements;

"And whereas, in consequence of facts recited, the convention of the 19th December, 1883, claimed for the citizens and Province of Manitoba the following rights:—

"1. The right of the Local Government to charter railways anywhere in Manitoba free from interference, and

"2. The absolute control of her public lands (including school lands) by the Legislature of the Province, and compensation for lands sold and used for Federal purposes.

"3. That the duty on agricultural implements and building materials be removed, and the Customs tariff on articles entering into daily consumption be greatly modified in the interests of the people of this Province and the Northwest.

"4. The right of representation in the Dominion Cabinet."

Now, Sir, that was the declaration of rights of the convention of farmers which met in Winnipeg on the 19th of December last. That convention selected certain delegates, who were instructed to proceed to Ottawa and press the claims of the Province of Manitoba upon the attention of