

to enter into at this moment, the schedule was not included, but when the bill was finally disposed of the schedule was put in in order that there should be attached to the Act the declaration which this Parliament made that, at all events, as far as we were concerned, the settlement was final and unalterable.

Mr. R. L. Borden—I gathered from what was reported to have been said in the British House of Commons that the bill as proposed by this Government to the Imperial Government did contain in the body of it the phrase final and unalterable.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier—Not at all.

Mr. Fielding—No, as a matter of fact we did not propose any bill. We sent over the address of the Parliament of Canada and it was left to the proper officials of the colonial office and the parliamentary draughtsman to prepare the legislation. We did not prepare any bill.

Mr. R. L. Borden—Did not the Under Secretary of State for the colonies make some allusion to some change in that regard?

Mr. Fielding—I do not quite catch the purport of my hon. friend's question.

Mr. R. L. Borden—I think that the Under Secretary of State for the colonies, Mr. Winston Churchill, when he introduced the bill or at the second reading made some allusion to that change.

Mr. Fielding—No, we never proposed any bill; we simply sent over the address which contained the words final and unalterable. In the original bill the schedule was not attached, but the bill was amended in the end by the House of Lords by attaching the schedule; so that, while the words final and unalterable are not to be found in the enacting clause they are to be found in the schedule which is attached and which says that in so far as the Parliament of Canada is concerned it was designed to be final and unalterable.

In consequence of some references which my right hon. friend the Prime Minister made to this question yesterday the hon. member for North Toronto attacked him for what he called a compact with Mercier. The hon. member for North Toronto said that my right hon. friend had made a compact with the late Hon. Mr.

Mercier to this effect, that if the Province of Quebec would give my right hon. friend a majority he would see that the Province of Quebec got an increased subsidy. That is the statement the hon. gentleman made yesterday. Now, he has given us no evidence of any such compact, and I am bound to say that while I do not wish to discredit the hon. gentleman too much I would like to have some evidence of a compact because I have never seen it. I can assure the hon. gentleman that he is laboring under a delusion. As in the case of the hon. gentleman who sits beside him in dealing with the French treaty the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) had not taken the trouble to get the facts, because if he had he would not have said that my right hon. friend had made a compact with Mercier. Anybody hearing the hon. member for North Toronto yesterday would assume that the question under consideration was that of an allowance to the Province of Quebec; that it was a question between my right hon. friend and the Province of Quebec. I want to tell my hon. friend that there never was such a question as that referred to by my hon. friend of granting a subsidy to the Province of Quebec. The subject referred to was a proposal to grant subsidies to all the Provinces of the Dominion. Therefore, that which he has described as a compact with Mercier in Quebec was as much a compact with Ontario and with the other Provinces of the Dominion. But my hon. friend unfairly described it as a compact with Mercier for the special benefit of the Province of Quebec. I think he spoke without a knowledge of the facts, and if he looks into it he will see that I am correct in saying that there was no compact with Mercier, and that any transaction, any communication, any discussion in that regard between my right hon. friend and the late Hon. Mr. Mercier had reference not to something for Quebec only, but to an equitable distribution among all the Provinces in the Dominion.

Mr. R. L. Borden—Then there was a compact.

Mr. Fielding—My hon. friend says so. I have asked him to produce the evidence. I do not know that there