

pledges of the Dominion Cabinet to our people that construction of this railway should commence in British Columbia simultaneously with construction in the other provinces. In the meantime, the Dominion Government and the Liberal party made repeated attempts to put the McBride Government out of power, in order that a Liberal Provincial Government, who would give the Grand Trunk the land and cash subsidies it had asked for, might be put in power. These attempts, however, were fruitless.

There was, therefore, no construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific in this province until last year, when the railway company, finding that the Liberal party in power at Ottawa was unable to help it, was forced to come to terms with the McBride Government. The result was an arrangement between the Government and people of British Columbia and the Grand Trunk Pacific whereby the interests of the people were completely protected, the railway company being forced to buy the lands which the Dominion Government would have made it a free gift of, and the province of British Columbia holding a quarter share of the townsite of the railway company's terminal city of Prince Rupert.

This agreement has been justly termed the best bargain which a Canadian Province has ever made with a railway company, and its excellence is in itself a guarantee that the agreement with the Canadian Northern, upon which the people are now asked to decide, is to the full as carefully drawn up in the protection of their interests.

Some idea of the extent to which the Dominion Government at Ottawa was prepared to give away the lands of British Columbia to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Co., without any compensation whatever to the people of the province, may be gathered from the perusal of an extract from a Report of the Committee of the Privy Council, under date of 2nd April, 1906. This extract, after reciting that the Grand Trunk Pacific Co. had applied to the Indian Department for permission to purchase 13,519 acres of Indian Reserve lands on Kaien Island, Digby Island and part of the Tsimsean Peninsula, goes on to suggest that, since British Columbia would not be asked to convey other lands to the Indians to replace the area applied for, and that since the sale of the land would be to the advantage of the Dominion as well as this Province, it would be well if the Provincial Government were to waive its reversionary interests in the land under the provisions made in 1876, between the Province of British Columbia and the Dominion Government.

This remarkable proposition was sent to the Lieutenant-Governor of this province, and by him submitted to Mr. Mc-