

be reached by ships drawing more than seven-teen feet of water. There is the story. Could anything better illustrate the manner in which this administration approaches the transaction of public business? Does it sound well that we should spend millions of dollars on terminals at Prescott without deepening the St. Lawrence channel sufficiently to enable the new Welland canal to be taken advantage of to the fullest extent? What are you going to do about it is the question I am asking the government? Are arrangements being made with the American government to assist in dredging the St. Lawrence river? It is an international waterway, and we cannot change the channel ourselves, we can do it only by arrangement with the neighbouring government. I repeat, has any arrangement been made, or are any negotiations in progress to this end?

Now, may I ask the Minister of Railways (Mr. Crerar) just what the next paragraph in the speech from the throne means. It says:

Legislation will be introduced respecting the several railway properties formerly privately owned and now embraced in the Canadian National Railway system.

Are we to have another branch line? Or is there to be a capital reorganization? What does it mean? Is this house to be subjected to the indignity of not being told in the speech from the throne just what is meant in regard to this legislation respecting the Canadian National Railway system? Will any hon. gentleman say what is meant by that paragraph? Perhaps they are going to build a new bridge, perhaps they are going to build another branch line. The paragraph is vague and indefinite, and I say it is unfair to this parliament that it should be so.

Then the speech from the throne passes on to deal with the relations the government have had with the various provinces of the confederation. The Duncan report dealt with the rights of the maritime provinces. From time to time the hon. ministers from those provinces have told us that the report has been implemented one hundred per cent, some even say one hundred and twenty-five per cent, and yet we are told in the speech from the throne that matters are now engaging the attention of the government in connection with that report. There is one important recommendation made by Sir Andrew Rae Duncan which has certainly not been implemented; that is in connection with the iron and steel duties. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning) will probably deal with that at an early date; the tariff board has heard evidence upon it. In a word, it is one of the essential parts of the Duncan

[Mr. Bennett.]

report—I have read the recommendation so frequently to the house that I refrain from again quoting it—and yet, though the government and its supporters say that the Duncan report has been implemented one hundred per cent, we are told that consideration is now being given to the final revision of the financial arrangements contemplated by that report.

Then we come to our western provinces, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. Manitoba has been dealt with; Alberta has been dealt with; Saskatchewan has had an offer made which has not yet been accepted. This is neither the time nor the place to deal at length with these matters; that opportunity will be afforded when the legislation is presented to the house. But may I direct attention to one paragraph of the Alberta agreement? I refer to the second recital:

And whereas it is desirable that the province should be placed in a position of equality with the other provinces of confederation with respect to the administration and control of its natural resources as from its entrance into confederation in 1905;

Note the words "from its entrance into confederation in 1905." That statement is either accidental or it is placed there by design. If accidental, it is inexcusable; if by design, it should disappear. Here are the words of the proclamation of the Queen in Council made on the 23rd day of June, 1870:

And it is further ordered that, without prejudice to any obligations arising from the aforesaid approved report, Rupert's Land shall from and after the said date be admitted into and become part of the Dominion of Canada upon the following terms and conditions,

That is the Queen in Council. Then I turn to the British North America Act of 1871, under which this power is given:

The parliament of Canada may from time to time establish new provinces in any territories forming for the time being part of the Dominion of Canada, but not included in any province thereof,

So that jurisdiction to create a province arose only if the territory included therein was part of the Dominion of Canada. Lastly I come to the Dominion Act of 1905. The first recital reads:

Whereas in and by the British North America Act, 1871, being chapter 28 of the acts of the parliament of the United Kingdom passed in the session thereof held in the thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth years of the reign of her late majesty, Queen Victoria, it is enacted that the parliament of Canada may from time to time establish new provinces in any territories forming for the time being part of the Dominion of Canada, but not included in any province thereof,