

somewhat like the other provinces, \$750,000 a year. Thus, in order to create some sense of equality, you had these sums paid to the maritimes, to the western provinces and to British Columbia, while the position of Quebec and Ontario was unchanged. One must remember that in the days of Sir Wilfrid Laurier an interprovincial conference was called for the purpose of considering these very matters, and Sir Wilfrid carried through this house a petition which declared that it was a final and irrevocable settlement made between the provinces and the dominion. The petition went to England, and there those words were struck out through the efforts made by Sir Richard McBride on behalf of British Columbia.

Now there is no responsibility attaching to any government other than Liberal ones in respect to these matters. They made these settlements; they created the western provinces; they deprived them of resources; they gave them money instead of resources; then they gave them resources and money. I am not complaining that the western provinces got this money, but I point out that the methods employed created a situation that brought about the stresses and strains to which the speech from the throne refers.

But there is something more. Let us see what the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) says—and I always commend him at least for this, whatever else I do not commend him for, that when he was confronted with this situation he at once realized that it was creating those stresses and strains. These words of his I have not forgotten; I wish every hon. member would keep them in mind.

Mr. GARDINER: Fourteen years old.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, and they represented then the sound judgment of one who had not become so much the politician he now is. These are his words, speaking to an audience of United Farmers of Manitoba:

The most harmful slogan ever introduced into the consideration of western public matters was the cry, "Down with eastern vested interests," which has developed into an attempt to organize the east against the west and the west against the east. Members of the party to which I belong, in the past were responsible for the introduction of that cry, and I pledged myself as a leader of that party to put forth every effort to remove from the appeals of the organization to which I belong, any such unworthy sentiment.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. BENNETT: It must be gratifying to the minister to hear the applause with which those about him receive this reference to his past. In any event I congratulate him

upon that statement. Unfortunately I have heard those appeals from so many platforms in western Canada, made by all types and kinds and under all conditions.

Perhaps the Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning) would like a little past history. I have it here beside me. In Saskatchewan he too dreamed dreams and saw visions of the east eating up the west. I do not know whether it was the seven lean years or the seven fat years spoken of in Revelations coming up and devouring them, but at any rate the east was gobbling up the west, and the hard working, toiling west was but the victim of the avarice of the east.

Well, the Minister of Agriculture in those days set his foot and his voice against that sort of thing. That was commendable, but the evil to which he directed attention was not stopped just because he thus spoke. It may have been stopped by his immediate followers; I know not, but I know that in the province in which I live that was not so. Those of us who are familiar with the great Progressive campaign of 1921 will remember that a minister whom I do not now see in his place headed that great cause, and certainly at that time in his view the east was very avaricious indeed.

That is another cause, Mr. Speaker, of the stress and strain and the arousing of these animosities. Think what the cumulative effect of it all must be. Here we have great leaders of public thought, the great leaders of the Liberal party; we have a minister of the crown in a Liberal government of to-day, and we have all these matters being proceeded with.

Then, sir, we have something else. We have invidious distinctions being made in the treatment of the western provinces. That is another cause. We disallowed the statute in the province of Alberta, and properly so, that prohibited the right of access to the courts. We disallowed a statute of that province with respect to banking, but did we disallow the statute in Ontario that provided that recourse to the courts could not be had? We did not.

There are other matters to which reference will have to be made presently that have brought about these stresses and strains. One cannot treat provinces differently with respect to the same matters without involving oneself in difficulties, and if these people complain of discrimination, as they do, there exists one more cause for stress and strain. Take them all together. I of course cannot speak with any degree of authority as to what may be in mind, for instance, in the province of Ontario, but perhaps the Minister of National