

To come to what actually has taken place with respect to the endeavour of the government to settle this question, I would point out that in the first instance the question was taken up with the three provinces combined. We assumed that that was the wish of the western provinces, but it was discovered after a preliminary conference that very little headway could be made in the settlement of this question by meeting the provinces collectively. It was then decided to endeavour to settle with each province separately, and that step was justified by the fact that a little later we were able to come to an agreement with the province of Alberta, though still unable to come to any agreement with the other two provinces.

My hon. friend the leader of the opposition asks why Manitoba is treated in a different way from Alberta. The answer is this. The province of Alberta and ourselves were able to come to definite terms with regard to a settlement.

Mr. EDWARDS (Frontenac): Was that in 1926?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes. We were able to come to definite terms, and were on the point of having a bill passed through this house in accordance with the terms which were then agreed upon. We were not so fortunate with regard to Manitoba. There were very difficult questions of accounting to be dealt with, and because of that we had to adopt some other method in seeking a solution. The method adopted met with the approval of the Manitoba government. We agreed upon a method and basis of settlement with Manitoba. This was a step in advance of any that had hitherto been achieved so far as that province is concerned. Not only did we reach a satisfactory method and basis of settlement, but we were in complete agreement as to the personnel of the commission that should inquire into the matter and report to this house. That commission is at work at the present time, and as soon as its report is made it will be presented to parliament. We hope it will afford the basis for a satisfactory conclusion to the resources question with that province. If Saskatchewan is still to be negotiated with, that is not the fault of this administration alone; it is because up to the present time we have been unable to concede to that province what it thinks it is entitled to in connection with the transfer. But the point that I should like to make is that in all these cases we are now further

advanced than at any time during all the years that an effort has been made to reach a satisfactory conclusion.

Coming to the railway commission, my hon. friend made a rather drastic attack upon the government, charging us with having appointed to that commission worn-out politicians. I do not know where my hon. friend got the idea of worn-out politicians, unless it was from the personnel of the commission in the days when his friends were in office, for as I recall at that time two or three of its members had been members of his own party in this house. I personally do not think these gentlemen were worn-out politicians; I cast no reflection upon the government of the day in the appointments they made. But I do say that this government in filling vacancies on the board has appointed as members men who have been well qualified for the position. For instance, the government has appointed the Hon. Mr. McKeown as chairman of the commission. Mr. McKeown was called from the bench to that position. He was not in politics, but he replaced a gentleman who had been appointed to the board from the political field by hon. gentlemen opposite. We have reappointed Mr. S. J. McLean. Mr. McLean was appointed originally by the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and has been continuously on the commission from that time. He has had no association with politics whatever, and so far as his appointment is concerned I think my hon. friend's remarks will not apply.

Mr. BENNETT: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I might mention the other members of the board, but I do not know to whom my hon. friend is alluding. I wish he would tell us frankly the personnel to which he takes exception. Every other member of the commission appointed by the government was selected because of his wide knowledge of public affairs and because of a belief in his ability to carry out its duties in a satisfactory way.

I come now to immigration, and my hon. friend's reference to the paragraph in the speech from the throne on this subject. He attacked our policy because, he said, a large number of the British miners who had been brought out to this country to help in the harvesting operations in the west had returned to England. May I say to my hon. friend at once that the bringing out of the miners had nothing to do with immigration, except indirectly. Our hope certainly was that many of the miners would see the advantage of remaining in this country.