

Then I notice that there is a change or addition proposed in the duties of the Railway Commission; but until I know what the concrete measure is I am going to refrain from any comment at all upon it.

Another subject that is referred to in the Speech from the Throne is the return to the Prairie Provinces of their natural resources. A Commission is at present sitting for the purpose of investigating the terms as between Manitoba and the Dominion Government. In view of the fact that, technically speaking, the matter is now in the hands of the law, I think it would be perhaps improper for me, as a member of this House, to enter upon a subject that is being inquired into before the Commission. Any of the members on my side of the House, for whom only I speak, may discuss the matter if he is so minded, and I have nothing to object to in that respect; and anybody inside this Chamber who has any views to present may introduce them, and his doing so will not by any means hurt me.

It is indicated, also, that the Province of Saskatchewan is renewing negotiations. I lived in that province for a considerable number of years before autonomy was granted. When I went west I did run unsuccessfully in an election for the other House, and in my own mind I disclaimed any intention of ever being interested in politics again. I kept that resolution until 1912, which was not perhaps doing too badly. The question of autonomy became very acute in my comparatively early days in the West. When the Autonomy Bill was brought in I was of opinion—and I am still—that the Dominion of Canada should not have passed that Bill in the form in which it was passed. I have always thought that the Dominion should deal with the natural resources of all the Prairie Provinces merely as a trustee, with the right of administering those resources during the early development stages, and that when the Provinces were ready to set up housekeeping on their own account they should be given all the resources absolutely. It may or may not have been necessary to make some kind of monetary arrangement to enable them to carry on in the early days, but I do not think that the British North America Act ever contemplated two kinds of provinces in Canada—the landless province and the province of the reverse kind. All the old provinces got their natural resources.

I do not think that the Dominion Government, in the ordinary sense, bought the lands from the Hudson Bay Company. When the rebellion broke out in the Northwest it be-

came necessary to make some settlement so as to bring peace and order into that country, and obtain the surrender of the charter of the Hudson Bay Company; but it was surrendered to the Crown in England, and all that the Government at Ottawa did was to pay \$1,500,000. Some people said that Canada had bought all the lands in that territory and had the right to do with them what it liked. On legal and constitutional grounds I differ absolutely from that view. The matter will be up for discussion again, but I do not think it will be brought into this House until some arrangement is made. These are my individual views, and I am not going to enlarge on them, but anyone who was interested in knowing them could have had them at any time. They are also the views of a very large number of people in the West, including the most distinguished public man ever on the Prairies, the present Chief Justice of Saskatchewan, Sir Frederick Haultain.

As we all know, the Province of Alberta had been negotiating for the transfer to it of territories and other lands on conditions to be mutually arranged. Constitutionally and legally I would say that its position is exactly the same as that of Saskatchewan. There is now a resumption of the negotiations begun some time ago, and therefore I am not going to comment on them, for the same reason that I do not comment in the case of Manitoba.

The honourable gentleman who moved the Address (Hon. H. J. Logan) enjoys a reputation as a distinguished speaker and statesman that was well known to me, although I never had the pleasure of meeting him before he spoke in this House. He has sustained the reputation that he won as a leading member of the other House, and I am sure he will be an adornment to this Chamber. He was well known in the West as one of the fighting brigade, shall I say, and a leading public man on the Liberal side in Nova Scotia.

Then an old friend of mine in this House (Hon. Mr. Tessier) followed him, and seconded the Address. As to this, may I say a few words in French? (Translation) I desire to felicitate in his own language the seconder of the motion for the Address. The honourable Senator from De la Durantaye (Hon. Mr. Tessier) is an old parliamentarian, a distinguished jurist, a journalist accustomed to enter the lists. His words are always listened to in this Chamber with all the respect due to sincere conviction, especially when expressed by a veteran in political combat. I cannot subscribe to all that he has said, and I shall have occasion to deal, in my own language, with some of the questions to which