

the other. To a greater or lesser extent, problems have arisen with respect to all the provinces of Canada. Those of the Maritime Provinces were investigated by the Royal Commission on Maritime Claims and have been in large part solved by the effect given to the recommendations of that body. Consideration is at present being given to the final revision of the financial arrangements contemplated by the Commission's report.

This paragraph I take to mean that the Government, through the Finance Department, is at present assessing and accounting in order to determine the proper sum to be paid as a permanent subsidy to the Maritime Provinces. When that has been done those provinces will be put on a parity with the other provinces, and in this way effect will be given to another recommendation of the Duncan Report. The paragraph also says that most of the recommendations in that report have already been carried out. That is so. I shall mention some of the things that the Commission recommended and that have been done. The ports of Saint John and Halifax have been nationalized. In this work the Government has expended from five to ten million dollars in equipment and improvements. Freight rates have been lowered twenty per cent, not only on the Canadian National Railways but on the Canadian Pacific Railway and on all the branch lines in the Atlantic district. It is calculated that this has already resulted in a saving of some three and one-half million dollars to the people of the Maritime Provinces. I understand that the railways of Prince Edward Island are being changed over to standard gauge. Improvements are being made to the harbour at Charlottetown, whereby the people of Prince Edward Island will be able to ship their products abroad with greater facility; and a second ferry will be provided for service between the Island and the mainland. Honourable senators will see that all the major recommendations of the report have been, or are in process of being, carried out. Suggestions that have not yet been adopted are still under consideration, and doubtless some of them will be given effect in due course.

The next paragraph of the Speech from the Throne reads:

The provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have negotiated for many years with the Government of Canada for the return of their natural resources. The Province of British Columbia has sought the restoration to the province of lands comprising what is known as the railway belt and Peace River block. With the Provinces of Manitoba and Alberta and with the Province of British Columbia agreements have been reached, which will be submitted to you for approval. An offer similar in

character and terms to that accepted by Alberta has been made to Saskatchewan with respect to the transfer to that province of its natural resources.

It seems to me, honourable senators, that the Government deserves to be commended and complimented for so efficiently solving these western problems. An agreement has not yet been reached with Saskatchewan, but the Government has made an offer to that province along the lines of the arrangement made with Alberta.

As the paragraph points out, agreements have been arrived at with Alberta, Manitoba and British Columbia, terminating controversies that have baffled successive administrations for twenty years or more. When the necessary legislation has been adopted, Confederation will be rounded out, for the Western Provinces will have control and authority over their lands and natural resources in accordance with similar powers of the other provinces.

The next and last paragraph dealing with the provinces is as follows:

The Provinces of Ontario and Quebec have been concerned over the question of water powers in their relation to navigation. It having become apparent, through a reference to the Supreme Court, that this question cannot readily be settled by judicial determination, a solution has been sought by conference which it is hoped will lead to a satisfactory settlement of this highly controversial problem.

A conference already has been held between representatives of these two provinces and of the Dominion Government, and, although the Supreme Court decision did not deal with the question effectively, it is expected that the negotiations that are proceeding will lead to a satisfactory conclusion of the complicated dispute as to the ownership of water-powers in navigable streams.

I feel that the Government, because of the course pursued and the results achieved in all these negotiations relating to the provinces, has turned controversy and discord in the East and the West into harmony, contentment and happiness, and by so doing has made a tremendous contribution to national unity.

I had thought of saying something about the reference in the next paragraph to the Pensions Act, but I will refrain.

In conclusion, I wish to draw the attention of honourable members to the unique and historic paragraph that refers to the decision of the Privy Council as to the eligibility of women to be called to the Senate. As a result of that decision we have in this Chamber to-day the first woman Senator, Hon. Cairine Mackay Wilson. Those of us who know Senator Wilson well, who are acquainted with the background of her family history