

BETTER TERMS

Premier McBride Reviews Negotiations and Policy of Provincial Government

"Mr. Speaker: In rising to move this resolution upon the question which has come to be generally known as the subject of better terms, I need scarcely preface my remarks by explaining to this House at any length the object which we have in view today, which is to crystalize, as it were, the proceedings which it will be necessary for us in British Columbia to take by reason of the decision of the Federal Government to appoint a commission to adjudicate upon our claim, such as was suggested by this administration some time ago. Perhaps of all the questions that have been discussed over an extended period of time by this Legislature there is none that is more pregnant in possibilities or of more vital importance to the future of this country than is this. I find it impossible, no matter how optimistic one may be, to convey to this House any idea of the results that may accrue to British Columbia when this matter shall have been adjusted in strict fairness to us—what the final and right solution may mean in the working out of the destiny of British Columbia as a very important part of the Dominion.

B. C.'s Attitude Fair and Reasonable.

"As for the position of British Columbia in this matter, I may say in all sincerity that we have never approached this question in any selfish or unfair manner whatsoever, but have consistently and insistently kept to the front always our contention that what was right and in the general interest of British

Columbia must be for the common good of Canada. In all our consideration of this matter of fairer terms, we have sedulously tried to have our friends of the Eastern provinces understand that what we have proposed is not simply and solely the betterment of the financial position of this province, but rather an arrangement based on simple equity that will be of assistance to us in the development of this province of Canada so that it shall become a more important factor in the confederation of provinces, place British Columbia in a better position to contribute substantially to the Federal exchequer and generally advance and strengthen our position as an important part of Canada. In offering this resolution, it will not be necessary for me to say very much—and nothing of an argumentative nature—in commending it to this House. It will be, I am sure, a matter of very great satisfaction to the members of this Legislature and to the people of this province that a question, or rather a series of questions which have agitated their minds for some years have now been placed upon a basis which promises in the near future to be definitely and for all time to come set at rest.

History of the Negotiations.

"The history of the negotiations for better terms and all that may be included under that head, ought to be, and I am sure is, familiar to residents of this province who have lived here for