

C 57440



Privy Council
Saturday, February 3rd, 1923

IN THE MATTER OF A PETITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA BY WAY OF APPEAL FROM
AN ORDER OF THE BOARD OF RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS FOR
CANADA: JUNE 1922, PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN RAILWAY
TOLLS.

Present:

THE PRIME MINISTER
THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
THE MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES
THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE
THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS
THE MINISTER OF LABOUR
THE SOLICITOR GENERAL
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE MINISTER OF SOLDIERS' CIVIL RE-ESTABLISHMENT
HON. J. E. SINCLAIR

Representing the Province of British Columbia & Alberta:

HON. JOHN OLIVER, Premier of British Columbia,
G. G. McGEER, Esq., K.C.,
A. CHARD, Esq., Supervisor of Traffic for the Province
of Alberta.

THE PRIME MINISTER: Mr. Oliver, I understand the
purpose of this meeting is to give you an opportunity
to present the constitutional aspects of this question.

HON. MR. OLIVER: Well, Mr. Premier, I think Mr.
McGeer would like to say a few words by way of opening,
if that is agreeable to you.

THE PRIME MINISTER: Certainly.

MR. McGEER: Mr. Premier, since filing the appeal
with the Privy Council, Alberta has instructed me that
they wish to join in the general appeal with British
Columbia, and I would like to make application now to
add the Province of Alberta as party to the general ap-
peal. I presume that would be granted.

Now, I understand the hearing to-day is for the
purpose of permitting Premier Oliver to present certain
features only of the appeal, namely, those that are
based upon constitutional grounds generally and which
establish, if the submissions are accepted, the right
of the Province of British Columbia to equal treatment
in the matter of transportation costs with all other
parts of the Dominion of Canada under the terms of union.
The submission, shortly, in connection with that is
that the Province of British Columbia entered Confed-
eration under the terms of an agreement which involved
the construction of a railway that would connect the
seaboard of British Columbia on the Pacific with the
railway systems of Canada. In connection with that ob-
ligation on the part of the Dominion the province in

turn

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