

with the transfer of the natural resources to the province of Alberta. For various reasons, or more particularly for one reason, this was not gone on with. It is quite true this covenant had been entered into between the federal government and the provincial government of Alberta. They were both parties to the agreement and signed it. Since the last session of parliament the government has referred the question of the validity of section 17 of the Alberta Autonomy bill of 1905 to the Supreme Court for a decision as to whether the particular clause in this section dealing with the question of denominational schools is valid or otherwise. We submit, Mr. Speaker, in all fairness to Alberta, that, in view of the fact that this matter will be decided by the Privy Council, there is no need to further withhold the natural resources from the province of Alberta, and that the natural resources should be transferred to the province, without any reference whatsoever to the school question. In all fairness to the province we believe that is the attitude the government should take. We maintain of course that by the act of 1905 the natural resources should have been transferred to the provinces at that time, but for certain considerations or for certain reasons it was not done. The sooner the natural resources are returned to the province the more expeditiously will those resources be developed. We have recognized that fact, and it has been our experience that long range administration is not very effective. Let me give you one instance, for example. All hon. members are all aware of course that certain developments are proceeding in Alberta in regard to oil. We are all aware that in certain portions of Alberta we have a large natural gas field. Arrangements have been made with certain companies to supply gas to the people of several cities in the province of Alberta. During the development for the securing of oil many gas fields have been tapped, and today millions of feet of gas are going to waste, yet in the city of Calgary, for instance, the people are paying 45 cents per 1,000 feet for gas. That situation should not be allowed to continue for any great length of time. We cannot waste a natural resource in that manner and still feel that we are looking after the interests not only of ourselves but of posterity. I am a firm believer in taking from our natural resources all that we require for our present day needs, but I am also just as firm a believer in preserving the balance for posterity, because after all we have that duty thrust upon us whether we like it or not. Taking these various factors into consideration, then, I submit that in all fairness

[Mr. Gardiner.]

the province of Alberta should have transferred to it these natural resources without reference to the difference of opinion with respect to the educational clauses of the act of 1905.

There is one other matter I wish to refer to and it is of importance to the province of Alberta. After the Panama canal was completed trial shipments of grain were made from our Pacific port of Vancouver. We found it to be quite feasible to ship grain by that route. Vancouver is certainly much nearer to the province of Alberta than either Fort William or Port Arthur, and naturally we desire to ship our grain by the cheapest possible route. The government of the day took into consideration the development of this port, and by legislation created a harbour commission composed of three members, charged with the responsibility of providing such appliances as are required to facilitate the passage of goods through the port. The largest single commodity going through that port at the present time is grain, and most of it is produced in the province of Alberta. In view of the situation we submit to the government that the wheat producers of Alberta should receive representation when the present vacancy on that board is filled. We would not like to see such a representative appointed as would look only after the interests of those producers and would discriminate against the interests of other shippers; but on the other hand we maintain that there is always a tendency for a commission of this description to place a higher cost upon the grain going through the port than should rightfully be levied against that commodity. Therefore we urge that it is not only in the interests of Alberta but also in the interests of Vancouver city and port that the wheat producers of Alberta who are providing the largest volume of the business going through that port should have representation on the board.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have only one other word to say. You will remember that when you were nominated for the position of Speaker I stated that we had created many precedents at the last session of parliament, and that it was very likely we would create some further precedents at this session. I find that I am in accord with most of what is contained in the speech from the throne, but I would not care to sanction some of the items until information with respect to them is available. Now, so far as I am concerned I purpose to create another precedent. If there is a division on the speech from the throne I intend to support the government, with the understanding that the items which are now so indefinite I will be free to discuss