

# PREMIER TABLES NATURAL RESOURCES' CORRESPONDENCE

LETTERS WHICH PASSED BETWEEN PREMIER SIFTON AND SIR WILFRID LAURIER, AND LATER BETWEEN PREMIER SIFTON AND PREMIER BORDEN ARE LAID ON TABLE OF HOUSE.

As promised in the speech from the throne, the government has laid before the legislative assembly the correspondence carried on with Ottawa in respect to the control by Alberta of its natural resources. At the sitting of the House yesterday afternoon, Premier Sifton tabled the letters which have passed between himself and Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Premier Borden. The first letter was that written to Sir Wilfrid Laurier by Premier Sifton on March 7th, 1911. This letter conveyed to the premier the resolution passed on December 6th, 1910, by the Alberta legislature, commending the government of the province for entering into negotiations with the government of Canada relative to a measure of control of the natural resources of the province.

The letter was written on August 7th, following discussions with Premier Sifton stating that he had not sent it earlier because he had had no opportunity of consulting Mr. Oliver before the letter left for the west. He had kept the matter for consideration with him on his return, had done so and Mr. Oliver had agreed with him in the lines set down in the answer of August 7th. Sir Wilfrid summarizes the situation as it appears to him and states that the claims of the province are worthy of serious consideration.

On Nov. 8th Premier Sifton addressed a letter to Premier Borden enclosing the resolution or the legislature and a copy of the letter to Sir Wilfrid, also calling his attention to the statements he reported to have made with regard to provincial control of natural resources, previous to the federal election, and requesting that he arrange an interview with the premier.

The letters of the different dates are as follows:

First Letter to Laurier, Edmonton, Alta., March 20, 1911.

Dear Sir Wilfrid:—On the fifth day of December last a resolution was passed in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta commending the government of the province for entering into negotiations with the government of Canada relative to a measure of control of the public domain of the province and advising the government of this province to continue further negotiations in the matter. The resolution is as follows: "That the House approve of the action of the government in the Ottawa negotiations with the Ottawa government for the securing of a purchase agreement with respect to the control of all such natural resources as are of a purely local concern, and that they be urged to continue such negotiations."

The consideration of the question of the right of the new provinces of Western Canada to control the public domain involved an historical review of the development of the constitution and political institutions of the Northwest Territories since the purchase thereof from the Hudson's Bay Company. From such a study we may trace the gradual growth of the territories from a state of semi-autonomy to almost the full status of one of the old provinces of the Canadian confederation.

By the British North America Act of 1867 it was among other things enacted that it should be lawful for Her Majesty's government or an act of the House of Commons to address from the Houses of Parliament to Canada to admit Rupert's Land and the North-Western Territory or either of them into the Dominion of Canada on such terms and conditions in each case as should be in the address expressed and that the Queen should think fit to approve subject to the provisions of the said act.

On the 16th day of December, 1867, an address from the House of Commons to the Queen was passed and in due course presented to Her Majesty, praying for the union of Rupert's Land and the North-Western Territory with the Dominion of Canada, and setting forth that the welfare of this sparsely and widely scattered portion of British Territory would be materially enhanced by the formation therein of political institutions bearing analogy as far as possible to those which exist in the several provinces of the Dominion of Canada.

In order to further the petition of the Parliament of Canada, Her Majesty, under the authority of the Rupert's Land Act of 1868, accepted the surrender from the Hudson's Bay Company of all the lands, territories, powers and authorities whatsoever granted in the original charter of the company. In pursuance and exercise of the powers vested in the Queen by the aforesaid act, Her Majesty, by the advice of her privy council, ordered that from and after the 15th day of July, 1870, Rupert's Land and the North-Western Territory should be admitted into and become part of the Dominion of Canada upon the terms and conditions set forth in the address referred to and that the Parliament of Canada should from that day forward have power and authority to legislate for the future welfare and good government of the said territories.

By the B. N. A. Act of 1871, the parliament of Canada was given additional power to make provision from time to time for the constitution and administration for peace, order and good government of any territory not referred in any province; and authorized in the language of Lord Selkirk:

"the utmost discretion of enactment." By this act a long step was made in advance of the powers which the Dominion government enjoyed in the exercise of the B. N. A. Act of 1867, which provided only for the establishment of four provinces and their union to one under the name of the Dominion of Canada and for the extension of the Dominion by admission into it of other parts of British North America.

The new powers granted or confirmed by the act of 1871 may be stated as follows:—

1.—The administration of the N. V. T. as such without giving them the full rights or the status of a province.

2.—From time to time to establish any provinces and at the time of such establishment to make provision for the constitution and administration of such province without the restrictions set forth in section 146, B. N. A. 1867, thereby allowing "the utmost discretion of enactment" for the purpose of enabling the parliament of Canada to create a constitution for any province it might deem expedient to create.

3.—Under the powers actually conferred by the act of 1871 the parliament of Canada has passed several acts providing for the administration and good government of the North-West Territories, viz., the act of 1871, the act of 1872, and the act of 1878, the last of which may be described as the most comprehensive and far-reaching of the acts passed by the Dominion government in the matter of the Territories.

In the following summary of legislative acts there may be traced the evolution of the constitution of the Territories towards the maturity of complete provincial autonomy, and the point in which the analogy or identity does not apply is in the matter of the public domain. In the three provinces the public domain is a matter of local concern, and the public domain of the Northwest Territory, the parliament of Canada has seen fit to reserve for itself the right of disposal of the public domain within the province, in the interests of the Dominion, places a burden on the province, and the province is relieved of the burden of the public domain. The Northwest Territories having given 100,000,000 acres to the Dominion, contributing not only towards the public domain of the Dominion, but also towards the portions of the public domain of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and having provided free lands for thousands of settlers, it is not surprising that the Dominion government, in the exercise of its powers, has charged to the full the extent of the public domain of the Northwest Territories to the general welfare of the Dominion of Canada. Further, it may be consistently submitted that since the Dominion of Canada has exempted a large proportion of the railway lands and railway property from taxation for the benefit of Canada, and consequently closed a fruitful source of revenue to the new provinces, it is not surprising that the Dominion government should have been able to maintain the public domain of the Northwest Territories.

Therefore, these observations in mind, acting in accordance with the resolution of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, and believing that the resolution following will promote the good government and advancement of the province of Alberta without prejudice to the Dominion of Canada, the government of the province respectfully asks your assistance to grant the measure of control of the natural resources of the province as generally stated in the following request, and express the desire that your government will take the matter into consideration and give effect to our claims.

1.—That the administration for the benefit of the province of all lands belonging to the Crown situated in the province of Alberta be transferred to the province, except the following:—

(a) Lands reserved by statute or order in council.

(b) Lands reserved for Indians.

(c) Lands owned by any person or corporation.

(d) Lands reserved for the benefit of the province of Alberta, and all lands which are now or may hereafter be reserved for the benefit of the province of Alberta.

2.—That all mines, minerals, timber and royalties belonging to the Crown situated in the province of Alberta, and all sums due in respect thereof on a date to be fixed by agreement, be transferred to the province of Alberta.

3.—That the interest of the Crown in the waters within the province and administered by the province of Alberta be transferred to the province of Alberta, and that the province be empowered to continue such negotiations as may be necessary for the purpose of securing the full enjoyment of the waters of the province, and that the province be empowered to make provision for the future welfare and good government of the said waters.

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## EDMONTON BULLETIN

The distance of the central administration office from the provinces even in these days of rapid transportation and communication, and the consequent difficulty of transferring the business of the Dominion government to the provinces, is a fact which is not lost sight of by the Dominion government. It is a fact which is not lost sight of by the Dominion government. It is a fact which is not lost sight of by the Dominion government.

It is not overlooked that the Dominion government spends a considerable sum of money in the maintenance of the public service, but the government of the province is not asked to contribute towards the cost of the public service.

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was apportioned both in British Columbia and in Prince Edward Island, when they were subsequently admitted into the Union. The principle therein adopted was that the public domain in any province should be within and under provincial authority. Yet when Manitoba was received into the Confederation, at the same period though not in the same years as British Columbia and Prince Edward Island, a different policy prevailed, and in the case of that Province it was enacted that all the public lands should be the property of the Dominion government.

It is beyond question that the reason which caused this departure in the land tenure of Manitoba thus early in the history of the Dominion was that the lands in that Province were largely prairie lands, immediately fit for settlement and tillage, and likely to be sought by immigrants. Even at that early day it was recognized that the subject of immigration was of the greatest importance to the Dominion, and therefore, it was quite proper that the lands in that Province should be under Dominion control.

When the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan were admitted to the Union, in 1905, the same principle was also retained and the Provinces were granted a larger yearly allowance out of the treasury than was given to the other six provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and British Columbia.

If I understand your letter aright, Mr. Sifton, the historical accuracy of the policy then laid down in the Dominion government is not only agricultural but also industrial. You recognize that the Dominion should continue to own and administer the public lands, and that the lands should be immediately available for settlement, and which are sought by immigrants, and which are sought by immigrants, and which are sought by immigrants.

I have to observe to you that the material alteration of the basis on which the financial terms were calculated, and that the financial terms were calculated, and that the financial terms were calculated, and that the financial terms were calculated.

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## Jas. McNamara Sentenced to Life and his Brother to Fifteen Years

Self-Confessed Murderer Will Not Go to the Gallows.

"YOU DESERVE NO CLEMENCY"

Says Judge Bordwell, But For Other Reasons It is Given.

Los Angeles, Dec. 4.—James B. McNamara, confessed murderer, was sentenced to life imprisonment today by Judge Walter Bordwell. His brother, John J. McNamara, secretary of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, who confessed to the dynamiting of the Los Angeles Iron Works, was sentenced to 15 years in the penitentiary.

Twenty-one persons lost their lives in the Los Angeles Iron Works explosion, which occurred on the morning of the 23rd of September. The judge thereupon sentenced him to 15 years.

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The court then began the formal statement of reciting the indictment for murder of Charles J. Hagarty, upon which McNamara had pleaded guilty, and asked McNamara if he had any statement to make.

"I have not," he said. "What is your full name?" asked Attorney Frederick. "James B. McNamara," said the prisoner.

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Thursday, December 7, 1911

## Financial and Commercial

EDMONTON CITY MARKET

Edmonton, Nov. 25.—While demand for farm products holding their own in Edmonton, the market conditions for the week have been shaded off from the market conditions for the week. While everybody wants potatoes, the supply is more than equal to the demand. Quotations are about the same as last week, with a few exceptions. A few are complaining of cheap potatoes which were sold at a low price last week. Other vegetables are selling at a low price, but the market is not so good as it was a month ago.

Grain prices are still weak, but a few are complaining of cheap potatoes which were sold at a low price last week. Other vegetables are selling at a low price, but the market is not so good as it was a month ago.

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