

all compels British Columbia, by reason of her disadvantages in regard to the manufacture of dutiable goods, to make an excessive contribution to the revenues of the Dominion, this in itself will be recognized as an inequality requiring readjustment. And these are undoubtedly causes of more or less constant operation which place her at a disadvantage to compete with the other provinces in the manufacture for home consumption of dutiable goods. For example:

1. Her special products, mineral, fish and lumber, are not the raw materials that go most largely into the manufacture of dutiable goods most largely consumed in the province.

2. Her position in relation to the other provinces and other countries adds both imposts and long distance freights to the first cost of articles imported for use and for local manufactures.

3. Her mountains render transportation difficult and expensive and competitive railway rates more or less impracticable as are possible and exist in other provinces.

OUR POSITION COMPARED.

Under such circumstances we would expect naturally to find exactly what is the case, her people mainly engaged in the production of goods for outside markets, and only in a small degree for the manufacture of goods for local consumption, and our contention is borne out by comparison with conditions in other provinces as revealed in the census returns.

For instance, in fisheries, lumbering and mining we find the number engaged in these occupations five times that of the other provinces. British Columbia has 17½ per cent, Nova Scotia 9 per cent, Prince Edward Island 9 per cent, New Brunswick 6 per cent, and the other provinces from 2 to 1½ per cent. The average for the whole of Canada except British Columbia is a little less than 3 per cent. Her mineral product is ten times that of all the rest of Canada per head of population. Similar results can be shown in lumbering and fishing.

On the other hand, the value of her agricultural products was not 2 per cent of that of the Dominion and was only about one-half the per capita value of Canada's products in agriculture. In the value of manufactured products used for home consumption the comparison is still less satisfactory. Hence it is that the imports of British Columbia for the last 30 years have been as shown by the tables of Trade and Navigation over twice those of all the rest of Canada per head.

Added to this consideration is the other most important fact that, as shown by the returns from the time of Confederation to the present, British Co-

lumbia has been contributing to the Federal treasury in the proportion of about three to one of all the rest of Canada, and has been getting less back in the way of appropriations, relatively, than the rest of Canada, as has been shown conclusively by statements that have not been and cannot be disputed.

DISTANCE AND FREIGHT RATES.

There are two ways in which this province may be considered in relation to the Dominion in its present relations, one is the natural physical conditions and geographical situation, which were not taken into consideration and provided against in making the Terms of Union, and the other the treatment she has received at the hands of the Dominion under the terms of Union. We have been wholly with the first part of the subject, and in this connection we may be permitted to quote from the report of the first delegation of 1903 to Ottawa:

"I now come to the last head. In my letter to Mr. Parent I alluded at some length to this phase of the matter. I pointed out that, while we bought so extensively in the East and paid the high rates of freight which the distance necessarily entailed, there were no markets in the East for our products, and that ever since Confederation we have had to find a market in Great Britain and foreign lands for our lumber, fish and minerals, and sell in competition with the products of other nations, where there was cheap labor. We have had to pay long distance freights on both what we bought and sold; we have been obliged all through life to reverse the order of successful business principles, and buy in the dearest market and sell in the cheapest. It is only recently that we have been able to find a market in Canada for lumber and fruit, and that is in the Northwest. To that market we are looking with some hope in the future, providing we can obtain more direct railway communication.

"Instead of the province, under its physical handicaps and its peculiar situation and conditions, being assisted and encouraged in its efforts to develop the country, its people are being inordinately taxed as compared with other provinces, and our efforts to secure a recognition of the facts are, in many quarters, regarded with suspicion, and, I was going to say, derision. It is worthy of note that in almost every matter we have brought to the attention of the Dominion Government, such as the fisheries, the Chinese head tax, the question of financial relations and our contributions to the Federal treasury, as compared with expenditures, the outcome of Confederation has been the same—a disproportion of benefit to the Dominion, and a set of circumstances in British Columbia different to what pertains in the East."