

# POOR DOCUMENT

## MC 2035

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, SAINT JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1926

### Party Spokesmen Give Pledge to Aid Prosperity Moves

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vinces in order to present the Maritime case to the Duncan Commission appointed for that purpose some months ago, went to great trouble and care to prepare an intelligent statement which was given before this Board. Sitings were held in the principal cities and towns of the Maritimes, Halifax, Charlottetown, Amherst and Saint John. In presenting that case we were confronted with statements concerning the Confederation Pact. The best solution of Maritime troubles is the carrying out of that pact. The Confederation Pact was not the British North America Act, which was later drawn up. I will submit evidence to show the fallacy of this. Some time ago A. P. Patterson, of Saint John, obtained some data on the Confederation Pact. This pact was drawn up at a conference in London on December 4, 1866, a conference of delegates from the provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, at the Westminster Palace Hotel, and known as the Westminster Pact. Sir John A. Macdonald was the chairman, and H. Bernard the secretary of the conference.

**IN NATURE OF TREATY.**

"In the words of Sir John A. Macdonald: 'The scheme was not one framed by the Government of Canada or by the Government of Nova Scotia, but it was in the nature of treaty settled between the different colonies, each clause of which had been fully discussed and which had been agreed to by a system of mutual compromise. It was highly desirable with a view to the maintenance of British power on the continent that there should be a confederation \* \* \* if satisfied with the Government that the scheme as a whole was for the prosperity and benefit of Canada.' Further down he says: 'We will have the rights of the minority respected.'"

"In the Westminster Conference report the first two clauses read: 'The best interests and future prosperity of British North America will be promoted by a Federal Union under the crown of Great Britain, provided such union can be effected on principles just to the several provinces.'"

"2. In the Confederation of the British North American Provinces the system of Government best adapted under existing circumstances to protect the diversified interests of the several provinces and secure efficiency,

harmony and permanency in the workings of the Union is a General Government charged with matters of common interest to the whole country and Local Governments for each of the Canadas, and for the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, charged with the control of local matters in their own sections, provision being made for the admission into the Confederation on equitable terms of Newfoundland, P. E. Island and the North West Territory and British Columbia."

**L. C. R. STIPULATION.**

The British North America Act, Mr. McKenna continued, framed after the Westminster conference, called for the building of a railroad (I. C. R.) from Halifax to Saint Lawrence. This was accomplished, but the Westminster conference called for "the construction of the Intercolonial Railway being essential to the consolidation of the Union of British North America, and to the ascent of the Maritime Provinces thereto, it is agreed that provision be made for its immediate construction by the General Government, and that the Imperial guarantee for 3,000,000 pounds sterling pledged for this work be applied thereto, so soon as the necessary authority has been obtained from the Imperial Parliament. The communication with the Northwest territory, and the improvements required, are regarded by this conference as subjects of the highest importance to the Confederation, and shall be prosecuted at the earliest moment that the state of the finances will permit."

**NEARLY BROKEN.**

"The Confederation nearly broke on the rock of the Constitution of this country," said Mr. McKenna. "By an agreement the members of the House of Commons were elected by unit population. Quebec was taken as a standard and was to have 65 members. The representation of the remainder of Canada was to be based on the population of Quebec and its 65 members. The Senate was first elected by provinces and equally divided among the two political parties. Nova Scotia had 12 members, New Brunswick 12, and Ontario 24. Provision was made for Western Canada for 24 more when the time came. The Senate was supposed to be a non-political body, appointed for life and to serve the people. But it has been anything but non-partisan. Today it is simply a political body and the members are elected by the political party in power."

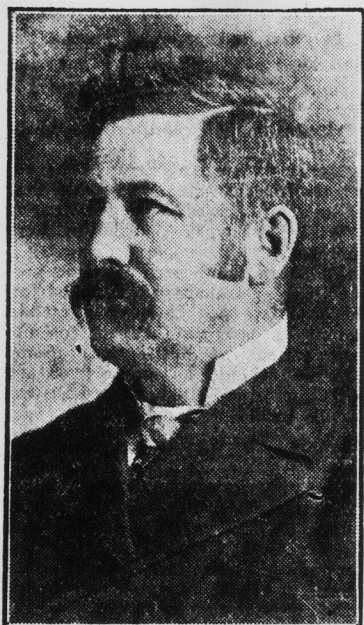
**WEST'S DEVELOPMENT.**

"It is not necessary," said Mr. McKenna, "to deal with the development of the West and its increase in representation in the House of Commons and Senate, and the influence it has thereby been able to use at Ottawa. The conditions as they exist are well known to all, but what should be taken notice of is that there has developed in Canada a political condition which is a violation of the Confederation Agreement, and until this is remedied we cannot hope for national unity. How to get back to the original condition and have the Senate function as was intended is a matter which might well be considered by this convention, and I would suggest that the matter be placed in the hands of a committee with representatives from each of the nine provinces, to bring in a resolution containing the committee's recommendation of what action should be taken to effect a remedy."

**EFFECT OF FAILURE.**

"This was not done," said Mr. McKenna. "If this agreement had been carried out we wouldn't have any Maritime, Central Canada or Western problems to overcome today. This Westminster document contains all correspondence between the Lieut-

#### Promises Aid



#### A. O. Dawson

A. O. Dawson, past president of the Montreal Board of Trade, in an address on some problems of the Central Provinces at the outset sketched the physical aspects of Ontario and Quebec and the Great Lakes system with its water power resources.

#### LAND SETTLEMENT.

"The Provinces of Ontario and Quebec should have a carefully thought-out policy of land settlement and forest conservation. The present methods of forest ranging and fire prevention are not nearly effective enough. Annually large areas of valuable timber and pulp wood are fruitlessly destroyed."

"Touching on the subject of fire prevention and conservation of property generally, there has been too much indifference on the part of the people in the central Canadian Provinces. There is a great need for some system of supervising fire insurance risks and tracing the sources and causes of fires, with an eye to their prevention."

"Before turning from the fascinating study of these central provinces, I wish to summarize a few outstanding facts regarding them in their relation to the Dominion as a whole."

"First—Their area (not including Yukon and the Northwest Territories) represent 42 per cent. of the whole of Canada."

"Second—These Provinces contain 60 per cent. of the population of Canada."

"Third—Of the gross agricultural wealth of the entire country, including land, buildings, implements and machinery, live stock, animals on farms, and agricultural production, Ontario and Quebec show 46% as their share."

**ONTARIO GRAIN CROP**

"Fourth—In the Province of Ontario alone, there was raised this year nearly 140 million bushels of different kinds of grain."

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**DUNCAN REPORT.**

"The Duncan Commission has finished its sittings and has forwarded its findings to the government at Ottawa. We hope for much from the report of this commission. It is true that we have not been admitted to the holy of holies yet, but if the report is what we believe it is, and if the present government will not live up to its promises of fulfillment, the agitation from the Maritime Provinces will be renewed and properly renewed. We are entitled to equal partnership, according to the agreement. We haven't received it."

"This Board of Trade can do much to solve the problem," said Mr. McKenna, "it is somewhat like the problem of politics between Ontario and

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