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The memorial of December 10th seems to suggest that the Government of Saskatchewan takes the view that there is some legal ground for a contention on its part that The Saskatchewan Act, by which the Province was brought into existence, or some parts of that Act, were not within the competence of Parliament, and that for this reason there is some legal foundation for a claim on the part of the Province that it is entitled to make against Canada claims with respect to a period between 1870 and 1905, when it was first constituted. We find it difficult to appreciate the nature of the legal arguments upon which this claim is founded, but these are obviously, in any event, a matter for the consideration of the Courts. Accordingly, if the Government of the Province desires to present its contentions on this head, our Government is quite ready to co-operate in obtaining a decision upon them by referring appropriate questions to the Supreme Court of Canada, whose decision would, according to the usual practice, be subject to appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. In case such a reference were made, the matter of an agreement with the Province would, of course, have to stand in abeyance pending the final disposition of the questions submitted.

May I be permitted to express the hope that the basis of settlement of the Resources question in Saskatchewan as herein proposed, may commend itself to your colleagues and yourself, as being in the interests alike of the Province and the Dominion.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) W. L. Mackenzie King

Prime Minister.

POOR  
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