

consisting of a member of the Privy Council, who had been a member of a former government, a very able financial man, and a judge from the Saskatchewan bench, to hear, consider and adjudicate upon the claims of Manitoba.

With respect to Saskatchewan, the premier of that province had some correspondence with the Prime Minister of Canada, and he is to come here on the 19th day of February to consider the matter further, just after his legislature has been prorogued for the year. What about Alberta? We all know the situation with respect to that—the agreement brought in, the reference to the courts, the courts determining in accordance with the contentions of the government. Since then we have now a further suggestion, and with it the statement that this is the final conclusion at which the government has arrived. Mr. Speaker, the speech from the throne itself is the most damning indictment that there could be against this administration in its dealing with the natural resources of the provinces in western Canada. There is the speech from the throne, and in one paragraph it says: We have appointed a commission. On the other hand, the speech from the throne says: We are going to negotiate with the other two provinces. How can it be possible to suggest that you are going to deal with Manitoba in one way, and with the other two provinces in another way? Let us look at the manner in which each of them is being dealt with up to the moment.

Saskatchewan, as I have said, is not to be dealt with until the 19th day of February, when discussion is to take place between the premier of that province and the Prime Minister of this country.

So far as Manitoba is concerned, I read that on the 1st of August, 1928, an order in council was passed from which I quote the following clauses:

1. The province of Manitoba to be placed in a position of equality with the other provinces of confederation with respect to the administration and control of its natural resources, as from its entrance into confederation in 1870.

2. The government of Canada, with the concurrence of the government of Manitoba, to appoint a commission of three persons to inquire and report as to what financial readjustments should be made to effect this end.

3. The commission to be empowered to decide what financial or other considerations are relevant to its inquiry.

4. The findings of the commission to be submitted to the parliament of Canada and to the legislature of Manitoba.

5. Upon agreement on the financial terms following consideration of the report of the commission, the respective governments to intro-

[Mr. Bennett.]

duce the necessary legislation to give effect to the financial terms as agreed upon, and to effect the transfer to the province of the unalienated natural resources within its boundaries, subject to any trust existing in respect thereof, and without prejudice to any interest other than that of the crown in the same.

6. Pending this transfer, the policy of the government of Canada in the administration of the natural resources of Manitoba to be in accord with the wishes of the government of the province.

The committee, therefore, on the recommendation of the right hon. the Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council, advise that, pursuant to part I of the Inquiries Act, chapter 99, revised statutes of Canada, 1927—

The Honourable W. F. A. Turgeon, a judge of the Court of Appeal of Saskatchewan.

The Honourable T. A. Crerar, of the city of Winnipeg, province of Manitoba, and

Charles M. Bowman, of the town of Waterloo, in the province of Ontario, Esquire, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Mutual Life Assurance Company of Canada,

(the commissioners agreed upon by both governments), be appointed commissioners to conduct such inquiry, and that they be authorized to engage the services of such accountants, engineers, technical advisers or other experts, clerks, reporters and assistants as they deem necessary or advisable.

E. J. LEMAIRE,

Clerk of the Privy Council.

That deals with the Manitoba situation.

Now I turn to the situation in Alberta. We find that just a few weeks ago a conference took place between the representatives of the province of Alberta and the representatives of the Dominion of Canada, and on the 29th day of December last, only a few weeks ago, the Prime Minister of Canada wrote to the Premier of Alberta in the following terms:

Dear Mr. BROWNLEE,

The members of the government having been advised of the outcome of the conference held in Ottawa on the 12th and 13th instant, between a committee of the Dominion cabinet and representatives of the government of the province of Alberta, and having approved of the same, I have now the pleasure of communicating to you the terms of the offer which the Dominion government is prepared to make respecting the transfer to Alberta of the unalienated natural resources within the province.

Speaking broadly, it is proposed to transfer to Alberta the natural resources in their entirety with the exception of those areas now set apart for park purposes.

With regard to mineral rights in national parks within the province, it is proposed to place Alberta on the same footing as the other provinces of the Dominion.

With respect to the school lands trust fund and the school lands, it is proposed that these shall pass to the administration of the province but shall be set aside and continue to be administered by the province for the support of schools organized and carried on therein in