

if any, as may appear to be proper, having regard to the answers to the questions submitted as aforesaid; such commissioners to be empowered to decide what financial or other considerations are relevant to the inquiry and the report to be submitted to the parliament of Canada and to the legislature of Saskatchewan; if by the said report, the payment of any additional consideration is recommended, then, upon agreement between the governments of Canada and of the province following the submission of such report, the said governments will respectively introduce the legislation necessary to give effect to such agreement.

In pursuance of that agreement made by the government led by the now Prime Minister, and of which the present Minister of Finance was then Minister of Finance—

Mr. DUNNING: And which you described as infamous.

Mr. BENNETT: I certainly said that not only did they get the lands themselves—

Mr. DUNNING: No.

Mr. BENNETT: They did get the lands under the agreement.

Mr. DUNNING: The lands were gone, alienated.

Mr. BENNETT: They were not any more alienated in 1930 than in 1905, except to the extent that compensation was provided for them. That is the whole point. In 1905 they agreed to take in lieu of lands the sum mentioned in the two acts I have read. In 1930 they agreed to take back their lands, and the government agreed to leave them with the subsidy they got in lieu of lands. It was not that they were without lands, but that they are going to continue to be. The hon. gentleman has not read it. They were to get this money, and they got it in lieu of not taking lands as a source of revenue. Then comes the agreement giving them the lands that were left, and giving them money which they got in lieu of the lands which then they did not have; they were to be compensated for the lands alienated from 1905 to 1930—or 1930 odd, whatever date it was—and they got the sum which was awarded to them by the commissioners. Manitoba got \$4,000,000 odd, and it was referred to by the right hon. gentleman at the opening of the campaign in the west. He pointed out that a cheque had been delivered to the province of Manitoba for the sum of \$4,000,000 under an arbitration, of which arbitration board the Minister of the Interior was a member. That is the position, and because Manitoba got the \$4,000,000—

Mr. DUNNING: He did not promise it in the election.

[Mr. Bennett.]

Mr. BENNETT: What he did was to say that the cheque had been paid—

Mr. DUNNING: That is right; it had.

Mr. BENNETT: —under the agreement that had been entered into a few weeks before for the purpose of determining what Manitoba should receive, and when Manitoba received that money Saskatchewan and Alberta claimed to be put on an equality with the other provinces of confederation. In pursuance of that agreement the award was made to which the Minister of Finance refers. I quote that in view of what the Minister of Labour said in his article in 1934, not then I suppose expecting to be a colleague of the minister. He said:

Subsidy readjustments of past years have revealed a lamentable lack of allegiance to principle and a disposition to reach short term solutions under the pressure of political expediency.

Those were the words of the Minister of Labour with respect to these very transactions. That was what he was dealing with; they were the only ones that had taken place. That is what he said in 1934, only a year and a half ago.

Mr. DUNNING: In 1934?

Mr. BENNETT: That is what he said in December, 1934.

Mr. DUNNING: He might have meant something else.

Mr. BENNETT: No; they were the only transactions that had taken place with respect to the provinces. The hon. gentleman can smile, but that does not get away from the essential facts, nor will cynicism advance public finance. It will not make for public finance being dealt with as it should be. Those are the words of one of the minister's present colleagues with respect to the only subsidy transactions that had taken place between the provinces and the dominion between the years 1921 and 1934.

I mention this because the Minister of Justice yesterday seemed to indicate that the policy of the great leader of the Liberal party was not to continue to pay subsidies to these provinces in increasing sums. I give these illustrations for the purpose of indicating exactly what has taken place under Liberal governments since, in connection with these subsidies. The only payment for which the late government is responsible was with respect to the increased sum paid to British Columbia, which had to be paid by reason of the circumstances to which I have alluded; for that province found itself in a position