

that the scope of the commission will be made sufficiently wide as to embrace the many other open questions that have arisen or may arise between the Dominion and the province, and which may in all fairness and justice be adjusted in such a forum. There may be such other questions, some of them of a constitutional character, which properly may be presented to this commission. If the Government of British Columbia is able to secure a settlement of such questions without delay in this manner it will be justified in going to considerable length in doing so. It is but fair to conclude that in this general question of better terms, when it comes to be inquired into, may be incorporated all those matters in dispute between the two Governments or have been the subject of treaty, and that steps will be taken at a very early date for the work of the commission to commence. I shall not attempt to anticipate the results. We have, I believe, a strong and just case, and the best efforts of this Government will be put forth to obtain a verdict based on equity for the province. I have much pleasure in moving, seconded by my friend, the Attorney-General:

"Whereas by a resolution passed on March 7, 1908, this House declared that the grant of \$100,000 annually for ten years, provided by the 'British North America Act, 1907,' to be paid to this province, is inadequate as a settlement of the claims of British Columbia for special treatment at the hands of Canada; and

"Whereas this House affirmed in said resolution its right to further urge on the Dominion Government that steps be taken to bring about a fair and adequate settlement of the recognized claim of this province; and

"Whereas it appears from the report of Hon. R. McBride, Hon. W. J. Bowser and Hon. W. Foss, a delegation from the Government of British Columbia to Ottawa in November, 1911, that, in response to their representations, the Dominion Government is prepared to appoint a commission, as requested in a memorandum submitted to the Dominion Government by the Hon. R. McBride on October 9, 1906, to investigate the merits of the claim made by this province; such commission to be composed of three persons of eminent repute, one commissioner to be named by the Dominion, one by the Province and the third by agreement of the two commissioners or, failing such agreement, by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

"Therefore, be it resolved, that this House endorses the course taken by said delegation, and is of the opinion that such commission be appointed at an early date; and that an humble address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor requesting that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Hon. the Secretary of State at Ottawa."

The resolution passed without a dissenting vote.