

desire to modify the provisions contained in the agreement in that regard. In the case of Saskatchewan the Hon. Mr. Justice Dysart has been named, together with the Hon. Mr. Justice Bigelow of Saskatchewan, and Mr. George McDonald, chartered accountant of Montreal. They have been sitting here for some days. Some years ago a commission was set up to deal with the province of Manitoba, that commission being presided over by the Hon. Mr. Justice Turgeon, assisted by the Hon. Thomas Crerar and Mr. Charles M. Bowman of the Mutual Life Assurance Company of Canada. As a result of their deliberations the sum of \$4,000,000 was awarded to the province of Manitoba for the purpose of placing that province on an equality with other provinces of the confederation, the judgment proceeding upon the theory that Manitoba should be placed upon an equality with Alberta and Saskatchewan. The matter now being heard by the commissioners deals only with the question of the administration of the resources. To quote the words of the agreement, it is to deal with "the administration and control of the resources" by the dominion between 1905 and 1930, when, by the agreement entered into, the province became entitled to its resources, together with a continuance of the subsidy which had been accepted in 1905 in lieu of such resources.

The problem now engaging the attention of the commissioners deals solely with these matters, and solely with questions which were provided for in the agreement, which, if my memory serves me correctly, the hon. member as Minister of the Interior signed on behalf of the dominion, together with the then Minister of Justice. That is the only commission that has been set up, and the fact that three or four years have elapsed before its being set up is accounted for by some little delay in submitting the question to the supreme court. The judgment of the privy council in answer to the two questions submitted was delivered only last fall, so the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) informs me.

Mr. VENIOT: I think the house adopted the Duncan report in 1928.

Mr. RHODES: The first vote was in 1927-28.

Mr. VENIOT: The year ended March 31, 1928. The Duncan report recommended that these be considered as interim payments to the three provinces. I understand that steps were taken by the Finance department to bring about an accounting between the provinces and the dominion from confederation down in order to see how they stood financially. I wonder if any further progress

has been made in this respect preparatory to the meeting which is to be held with the premiers of the maritime provinces?

Mr. BENNETT: That is one of the matters which it is proposed they shall submit to the committee of the cabinet. Much work has been done by the officials from time to time in collecting information as to the extent to which the financial assistance granted to the maritime provinces places them on an equality with the other provinces. I do not say that it has been done in any great detail but additions to the information have been made from time to time. I have in mind one particular official who has been adding to his store of information. The hon. member for Restigouche-Madawaska (Mr. Michaud), who has brought this matter to our attention, suggests that we might discuss it, but in view of the representations to be made by the three provinces to the committee of the cabinet, possibly it might not serve a useful purpose for us to enter into a discussion of the matter until after the presentation has been made by the provinces. Another ground for consideration claimed by the maritime provinces is that Canada having extinguished the title of the Hudson's Bay Company to the northwest territories and the northeast territories, and having secured the money by a loan on credit of the whole Dominion of Canada, of which they paid their share, the provinces of Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba were enlarged out of that territory, but the maritime provinces, geographically located as they are, were not able to secure any part of it. They claim that they should be placed on terms of equality with the agreement made between Manitoba and the federal government in 1929 and between Alberta and Saskatchewan and the federal government in 1930. They claim that they should receive some compensation in lieu of their not having received any portion of the territory acquired by the dominion on the credit of the whole country.

Mr. VENIOT: That is one contention.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): That is not a new claim.

Mr. VENIOT: That was one of the claims put up in 1928.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes.

Item agreed to.

External Affairs—salaries, \$83,952; contingencies, \$61,800.

Mr. BENNETT: The only change in this item is a slight decrease.