

the recommendations of which he said on August 30, 1926, speaking at Windsor, Nova Scotia, would have great weight in parliament. What did he mean when, from his place in this house on March 18, 1927, he stated:

The government hopes that by accepting as we have the recommendations of the royal commission on maritime claims virtually in their entirety, parliament and the country will recognize in the attitude of the government a wish to remove this great question as largely as possible from the arena of sectional discord and party strife.

Does the government's inaction and failure to implement an important portion of the Prime Minister's promise mean that his cabinet is divided on the question and that he is delaying and denying justice to Nova Scotia rather than grapple man-fashion with the reactionaries within the cabinet? Whatever the causes may be, the failure of the government to carry out the promise of the Prime Minister is producing an effect on the steel and coal situation in my native province and developing a state of feeling among those dependent on these two basic industries which bodes no good to the government and has checked and arrested plans of reorganization, extension and betterment of the industry, and we in this house, representing the counties primarily interested in and, to a very great extent, absolutely dependent upon the prosperity of these industries, demand a declaration of the policy of the government in regard to the carrying out of the recommendations of the Duncan commission in the matter of these two outstanding major industries of Nova Scotia.

Mr. Speaker, I take it that each member of this house is the representative of the electors of his constituency and, as such, should by right support in the debates of the house those principles and ideas clearly expressed by the majority of those who sent them here. In my case, I have no shadow of doubt as to the views and wishes of my constituents on the matter of the implementing of those recommendations of the Duncan commission not yet acted on by the government. May I remind the house that less than a year ago, or to be exact on May 22nd last the Finance minister, in a moment of irritation characterized the expressions of dissatisfaction of the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. MacDonald) and myself, as "whining." Again, during the debate of some few days ago, namely, on February 26 last, the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston), twice in one speech referred to what he called "continual harping" on the questions raised by the Duncan report and later in the same

[Mr. Cantley.]

speech referred to what he called the "doleful wails" which come from time to time from those on this side of the house representing the province of Nova Scotia. These wholly uncalled for and most offensive gibes we hurl back at the authors of them, in entire justification of our attitude and discontent as to the measure in which the Duncan commission's recommendations have been implemented. I want to tell my worthy friends that so long as the rights of the province of Nova Scotia as I see them remain unredressed and so long as I can obtain sufficient oatmeal to supply my internal combustion engine, I will offer protests in this house on every fitting opportunity.

I now draw the attention of the house and the Prime Minister to some features of the Nova Scotia case and point out that a certified copy of a report of the committee of the Privy Council on April 17, 1926, to be found on page 6 of the report of the royal commission on maritime claims, reads as follows:

The Prime Minister is also advised that on the 12th day of March, 1926, the Premier of the province of Nova Scotia presented to the legislative assembly a resolution to the effect that his government is engaged in preparing a memorandum setting forth in detail the claims of that province with the object in view of seeking such adequate redress as will insure a return of contentment and prosperity to the people of that province.

The report continues:

The Prime Minister observes that it is most undesirable that any section of the people of the maritime provinces should entertain the opinion that their interests are being knowingly prejudiced, and that the public interest requires that every occasion for the existence of a feeling of grievance should, if possible, be removed.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in view of the foregoing declaration of the Prime Minister that the public interests require that every occasion for the existence of a feeling of grievance should, if possible, be removed, it surely was incumbent upon the Prime Minister to make every possible effort to that end notwithstanding which the undeniable fact is that no action has been taken by his government on two of the most important recommendations of the Duncan commission—recommendations accepted by him. I refer to their evasion of and deliberate refusal to implement the recommendation of the commission as to the two basic products of the maritime provinces which, he admitted, lie at the very foundation of the economic prosperity of those provinces. The Prime Minister, speaking in this chamber on the subject of the Duncan commission report on maritime claims on March 18th, 1927, said: