

That does not seem to be unfair, but unfortunately what is it that we are to depend on? Is it to be by word of mouth of ministers who are telling the story and who may not know what happened? Will it be by means of the speech from the throne, which deals only in vague and glittering generalities? Will it be by means of measures that appeal to the government but perhaps not to the several provinces? I think if it was important that at the imperial conference there should be kept a precis of what took place, far more important is it in the domestic issues of this country that we should have laid before us a complete precis of what took place, in order that we may be able to ascertain for ourselves just what are the respective views of the Dominion and of the provinces.

The next domestic matter to which I refer is one that was touched upon at that conference, and one with respect to which I desire to make but a few observations. We had last session presented to this parliament the so-called Duncan report—a Duncan report which the Prime Minister anticipated might possibly rank with the historic Durham report as one of the great documents affecting the life of Canada. That report was tabled. The leader of the government accepted it; the leader of His Majesty's opposition accepted it; the people of the maritime provinces accepted it and expected it to be entirely implemented, and I rejoice that provision has been made for continuing during the present year at least the subsidies that were provided for under that report by parliament last year. But there still remain many matters to be dealt with by this parliament before that report is implemented in its entirety, and I can only hope, indeed, I am quite confident, having regard to what was said by the Prime Minister last session, that every reasonable effort will be made by the government this session to see to it that there is no possible cause for complaint on the part of the provinces affected by reason of that report not being implemented in its entirety. I will not at the moment do more than leave it in just that position.

I next turn to another matter which was dealt with at that conference, and one which is I think as important a subject as has engaged the attention of this parliament in recent years. I refer to that paragraph in the speech from the throne which deals with the return to the province of Alberta of its natural resources. Let us for a moment con-

sider the position of the government with respect to this matter. I should like this House to remember that this is not a new matter. The right hon. gentleman who leads this house has prepared seven speeches from the throne. He has prepared and placed in the hands of the representative of the sovereign seven documents dealing with national questions and problems—one in 1922, another in 1923, another in 1924, another in 1925, two in 1926, and the one that we are now considering. Let us for a moment see how on the threshold of his career as Prime Minister he dealt with the matter of the return to the provinces of their natural resources. Here are his words:

The long standing question of granting the control of the natural resources of three western provinces to their respective provincial governments has engaged the attention of my ministers. Sympathizing with the desire of the authorities of these provinces, which have now advanced to maturity, to have the same control and management of their resources as is possessed by the older provinces, my government have made a proposal to the governments of the several provinces concerned, which it is hoped may lead to a satisfactory settlement of the question at an early date.

Those of us who have lived in western Canada since 1900 will recall the circumstances under which the provinces were induced to accept money instead of lands; will recall the election that was conducted in 1905 and the vigorous appeals that were made to the electorate of those provinces to accept money rather than resources. When I look at the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Stewart) and recall the fervid eloquence with which the Liberal party told the electorate of the great benefits that would accrue to them if they accepted money instead of resources—well, it was a matter of consolation and joy to me to read in the speech from the throne that these people had now advanced to maturity, and that the government sympathized with them in their desire to control their natural resources.

The next year came. In 1923, 1924 and 1925, no reference was made to natural resources, but negotiations were taking place. But in 1926, at the end of the speech from the throne, occur these words:

Your attention will be invited, among other measures, to a bill to provide for the transfer to the province of Alberta of its natural resources, and to a bill amending the Dominion Elections Act.

The agreement upon which that bill was based was signed on behalf of the government of Canada by the hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) and the hon. Minister of