

NOVA SCOTIA MUST STAND UP FOR HER RIGHTS

Will Ask Compensation from the Federal Government for Her
Interest in Western School Lands—The Case Ably Dealt
Within the Nova Scotia Legislature by Mr. J. C. Tory—
New Brunswick is Also Interested.

(Halifax Chronicle)

The very important question of compensation for Nova Scotia for Western School Lands and the extension of the boundaries of Quebec and Ontario occupied the time of the House for nearly three hours yesterday afternoon, when Mr. Tory, in a comprehensive, and interesting address explained the resolution calling for a Maritime Conference on these subjects of which he gave notice several weeks ago. With many figures he explained the subject, tracing the history of the controversy, and showing that Manitoba, Alberta, and Saskatchewan would get ten million dollars a year from this source in addition to the many millions of dollars which they had received as subsidies. He told of the great tracts of land, in which Nova Scotia had a proprietary interest, that had been secured by Quebec and Ontario, and spoke of several other matters in which Nova Scotia had been unfairly treated, notably immigration, agriculture and the fisheries. He proposed settlements of the question whereby the slim Provincial treasury might be fattened with an enormous sum. Mr. Graham, Mr. MacGregor and Mr. Hall also spoke echoing Mr. Tory's sentiments but not placing so much emphasis on the injustice which had been done to Nova Scotia.

Maritime Conference

Mr. Tory commenced by reading over his resolution, which provides for the immediate calling of a conference of representatives of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, to formulate a plan to effect a settlement through joint action of the Western School Lands problem to obtain compensation for the Maritime Provinces for the cash subsidies paid to the Western Provinces in lieu of lands, for the lands ceded to Ontario and Quebec, in which the Maritime Provinces held a proprietary interest, and also compensation for the non-observances of provisions affecting the Maritime Provinces which were set forth in the British North America Act. He announced that the Premiers of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island had already promised their cooperation.

Mr. Tory regretted that no progress had been made since last year's discussion of the subject, but he was positive since the confusion of the war was practically at an end, that the time had come for serious action. Party politics, however, must be eliminated from the pressing of the matter upon the Federal authorities, since division would only weaken and nullify all efforts to obtain compensation in these matters. Co-ordination of all forces in the Maritime Provinces was an essential thing for a successful outcome. He stated that the question might soon be settled adversely if Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick were not keenly awake to the existing situation and the action that their own in-

terests demanded.

A Most Important Question

The question was one of the most important that the House could discuss, particularly because of the steady expansion of the public services of Nova Scotia such as education and the highways programme, and some financial relief must be obtained to carry on. A great amount of money was involved in this problem of compensation.

Mr. Tory then spoke of several current events with a bearing upon the question. The Liberal Convention last year had adopted a resolution favoring the granting to Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta control of their resources. The Speech from the Throne at the present session of the New Brunswick Legislature had insisted that all Provinces in the Confederation should be treated fairly in any division of lands and resources.

He said that the British North America Act had not subjugated the Provinces to Federal authority, but had aimed at the distribution of government functions to benefit every unit as much as possible. The claims he was about to present were not based upon law, but upon conditions which the British North America Act had failed to anticipate; they were based upon reasonable justice and fair play growing out of this Federal partnership. Injustice in such a partnership would be vicious and immoral. He was sure that if injustice could be proved it would not be continued when brought to the attention of the Federal authorities.

Copied from United States

Mr. Tory said that the origin of the Canadian land policy had partly been copied from that of the United States but without a grasping of the significance of certain underlying principles; this lack of understanding had resulted in a failure to procure justice for every portion of Canada. He traced the American land process he disputed Louisiana, Florida and California purchases, which had added millions of acres to the newly formed Republic. The State had assumed administration of all lands and had set aside one school section in every township—later two sections for school purposes, and two townships in every town for university purposes. This had resulted in the accumulation of a large surplus amounting to some thirty million dollars in the Federal treasury which was divided among the States for educational purposes. In 1863 the Morel Act set aside a portion of the Public Domain for each State, the proceeds to be funded at five per cent and the interest to be expended on the development of scientific industrial knowledge 30,000 acres were allotted to every Senator and to every member of Congress. This incident had been in no small measure responsible for the great American agricultural colleges and schools of mechanical art and might underlie the remarkable growth of industry in the country below the

line. To those States which did not contain the lands allotted to them were given land scripts, which were sold and redeemed from the public domain.

The Situation in Canada

Mr. Tory then passed to the Canadian situation. The four original Provinces in the Confederation had contained only 526,000 acres out of 2,586,000. In 1870 an Imperial Order in Council effected an agreement in which the four Provinces agreed to purchase the vast territory and paid three hundred pounds for the billion acres which were laid to by the company owning Prince Rupert's Land, leaving it in possession of several large and very fertile tracts. In 1876 another order in council ceded to the Dominion the balance of the land outside the boundaries of the six Provinces, British Columbia and Prince Edward Island having joined the initial quartette.

Later Manitoba had been formed, but the terms of its constituency had been abrogated in 1912. Saskatchewan and Alberta had been organized. The important point here was that the first six Provinces had maintained administration of their minerals and resources while, in the last three, they were vested in the Federal authorities.

Set Aside for School Purposes

Following the American idea, two sections in every township of the Western lands had been set aside for school purposes, but, unlike the United States, only the Provinces which contained the lands benefited from the proceeds. Mr. Tory then proceeded to produce an amazing array of statistics to show how the trio of youngest members of the Confederation had profited. Manitoba had 7,993,000 acres of school lands, Saskatchewan 8,421,000 acres, and Alberta 7,795,600, a total for the three of 24,213,300, or approximately twice the area of Nova Scotia. The interest on the funded principal on lands sold, which had been paid to the three Provinces was: \$2,576,568.52 to Manitoba, \$2,397,978.48 to Saskatchewan, and \$2,108,445.35 to Alberta, aggregating \$7,082,992.35, up to March 31st, 1918.

Besides this the school credit of the three Provinces was \$16,977,333.67 and the value of the lands as yet unsold was estimated at \$49,778,000 for Manitoba, \$69,672,000 for Saskatchewan, and \$55,408,000 for Alberta, making a total of school credit, actual and potential, for Provinces comprising 18.3 per cent of the population of Canada, of \$198,938,320, which would eventually give them practically ten million dollars a year for school purposes. From her school lands Nova Scotia had not derived sufficient money for the grant to the teachers for one year thus educational competition with the West would be hopeless in every respect.

Methods of Settlement.

Mr. Tory next suggested methods of settlement, citing the use of the public domain by the United States to establish a general and comprehensive educational system, but suggesting that Canada might not have sufficient lands available to do this. He thought a more practical scheme was that used in equalizing the debts of the various provinces in the Confederation process. The Maritime provinces—he made it plain that while British Columbia had a claim also, he was merely pleading the cause of the Atlantic seaboard—should be credited with an amount equivalent to the Western provinces, possibly with interest, the money to be employed for educational purposes. The interest on the sum thus credited would mean that \$445,000 would flow annually into the treasury of Nova Scotia; \$322,

000 to New Brunswick; and \$85,000 to Prince Edward Island, the total amount being \$144,000,000, worked out on the basis that the Maritime Provinces held 13.3 per cent of the population.

Compensation for Subsidies.

Mr. Tory passed on to the second clause of the resolution, regarding compensation for subsidies paid to the Western Provinces in lieu of lands and resources. Saskatchewan and Alberta were each at present drawing \$562,000 in annual subsidies from the Federal Government. Manitoba's yearly stipend was \$490,000, because of certain payments in advance. Up to 1918, the aggregate amount paid out in subsidies to these three Provinces had been \$19,455,373.96. Yet the lands on which these subsidies were paid had cost \$86,000,000 to administer and the gross revenue had been just a trifle more than \$46,000,000 leaving a net loss to the Federal Government of \$39,000,000. Should the Maritime Provinces be granted similar subsidies on the basis of population, Nova Scotia would receive \$562,000, New Brunswick \$370,000, and Prince Edward Island \$150,000. Mr. Tory stigmatized discrimination in subsidies as iniquitous and unjustifiable.

Large Additions to Territory.

He explained the clause asking for compensation in lieu of extended boundaries. At Confederation, Quebec had comprised 123,875,200 acres more, giving the province an area of 452,000,000 acres, equivalent to one-fifth of the total area of Canada. Ontario had begun with 144,000,000 acres and had had 115,000,000 acres added. These lands had been purchased by the four original units of the Confederation but had been taken gratis by Quebec and Ontario, a self-gift which would not only increase their material wealth, but also their population, giving them the weight of influence and voices in parliament to control Dominion affairs and push the Maritime Provinces into insignificance. Mr. Tory claimed that the strong invariably oppressed the weak and that the only hope was for the Maritime Provinces to cease squabbling over the bone of party politics, to form a league and to present a solid front in seeking redress and self-protection. He said that it was difficult to value the territory which Quebec and Ontario had taken to themselves, but that using the formal valuation of a dollar an acre, Nova Scotia should be entitled to \$37,000,000; New Brunswick to \$26,000,000; and Prince Edward Island to \$7,000,000. This settlement might be effected in two ways, first by the issuing of scripts to the Eastern Provinces, and secondly by Ontario and Quebec surrendering any compensation in the school lands question as payment for their grants.

Mr. Tory then passed to more general phases in which the Maritime Provinces had failed to receive their just due, emphasizing the grievances of Nova Scotia. He said that \$3,143,586.44 in taxation had been paid to the Federal Government from Confederation. Of this Nova Scotia had contributed \$242,000,000 to 1918, but had had only \$55,000,000 to expend upon her own many and constantly growing services, such as roadmaking, education and the stimulus of agriculture for a smaller period. He failed to see where the money contributed to the Federal Government had gone, for few traces of its expenditure could be discerned in Nova Scotia. On a per capita basis five hundred millions should have been expended, excluding war expenses.

He spoke of the Intercolonial Railway condemning its construction as a curse rather than a benefit, claiming that it was a trunk line and as such had stultified the possibility of any other line being built retarding and blocking railway development in the Province.

The Federal Administration had only given Nova Scotia one third of the railway expenditure that her population warranted in comparison with what had been spent in other Provinces. In this single phase the Western Provinces were \$334,000,000 ahead or the game.

As for agriculture, another matter of joint expenditure, practically everything had been left to the Province until the past few years, though millions had been expended on Western wheat fields. Nova Scotia had had to share in the \$20,000,000 expended for immigration purposes; yet of the three million folk brought to Canada, only 158,000 had come to the Maritime Provinces. Proper administration of the fisheries, our greatest industry, was also vital. The Federal programme had been inefficient and lackadaisical. There was a crying need of a Minister of Fisheries who knew something about his business.

Foolishness of an argument is due chiefly to the fact that nobody will be fair in an argument.

When some people spend their time in self-contemplation it looks to others like time thrown away.

When the right young man comes along the girl doesn't have to give him any encouragement.

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT AND MEETING OF CREDITORS.

Notice is hereby given that Harry Leslie Norrad, of Bloomfield Ridge, in the County of York and Province of New Brunswick, Merchant, on the 14th day of April, A. D. 1920, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 141 of the Consolidated Statutes of New Brunswick, 1903, intituled Respecting Assignments and Preferences of Insolvent Persons, and amending Acts, did make a general assignment of all his

personal property which may be seized and sold under execution, and of all his real estate, credits and effects for the benefit of his creditors, to the undersigned John B. Hawthorne, Sheriff of the County of York, and also that a meeting of the creditors of the said Harry Leslie Norrad will be held in the office (County Court House here) of the said Sheriff, on Friday, the 30th day of April inst., at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of appointing inspectors and the giving of directions with reference to the disposal of the said estate and the transaction of such other matters as may properly come before said meeting.

And notice is further given, that the creditors of the said Harry Leslie Norrad are required to file their claims, properly proven, with the undersigned assignee, within three months of the date of this notice, unless further time be allowed by a Judge of the Supreme or County Court, and all claims not so filed within the time limited, or such further time (if any) as may be allowed by such Judge, shall be wholly barred from any right to share in the proceeds of such estate as if no such

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Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Fredericton and North Devon, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector:

St. John, N. B., April 7th, 1920.

Post Office Inspector's Office,
H. W. WOODS,
Post Office Inspector.

claims existed, but without prejudice to the liability of the debtor therefore. Dated at the City of Fredericton this 14th day of April, A. D. 1920.

JOHN B. HAWTHORNE,
Assignee.

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3.10 " Gagetown	" 4.50 a.m.	
4.30 Ar. Fredericton	Lv. 10.30 a.m.	
5.00 Lv. Fredericton	Ar. 10.00 a.m.	
7.47 " Woodstock	" 7.12 a.m.	
9.00 Ar. Centreville	Lv. 6.00 a.m.	

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