

action in the future by this government towards removing the incubus of the exemptions. The mention in the Bills of specific compensation to the provinces on account of the exemptions was deemed unwise for the reason that such mention might complicate such action at a future day. While voting for the Bills, I hold myself free to perhaps move an amendment in some direction in committee to section 23.

One of the questions which had to be considered in connection with this matter was the question of the number of provinces—whether there should be one province, as was contemplated in the request made by the Northwest government and legislature, or more than one province. I may be permitted to say that I was myself quite strongly in favour of the proposition that only one province should be created; and even yet, looking at the question purely from the local and territorial point of view, I can see no reason why one government, one legislature, one set of machinery, should not have been sufficient for that territory. But, on the other hand, I was bound to recognize, as the people of the Territories generally have recognized, that the other partners in confederation had a right to an opinion in this matter, and the decision which has been come to, to create two provinces, is, I think, generally satisfactory to the people of the Northwest as a whole. Except for the protest in the letter of Mr. Haultain, which was given a mild echo by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) last evening, I know of no protest raised in the Northwest Territories against the creation of two provinces. Those of us who originally favoured one province were finally compelled to recognize the impossibility of having the whole of that great area erected into a single province while leaving Manitoba in its present size, and the people I represent were unanimously against the extension of the Manitoba boundaries westward. My duty to the people I represent, therefore, seemed to be clear, and I believe that I have done my duty by those people in assenting to the proposition to have two provinces created.

My hon. friend from Calgary (Mr. M. S. McCarthy), speaking two or three nights ago, voiced an objection against the dividing line which has been selected, the fourth meridian, contending that it should have been farther east, and pointing out that the ex-Minister of the Interior had contended that the line should have been sixty miles farther east. Well, the question of the dividing line was not looked upon, on my part at least, as being a contentious matter. From my point of view, it would have been better for my province, in one sense, to have had the dividing line brought farther east, because if the financial position of each province were to be the same it would be better for the province the

smaller it was. But on the basis that each should have equal financial strength, each member in giving advice was under great responsibility as regards the line to divide the area. I may say that my own advice was that the present eastern boundary of Alberta should be selected as the dividing line and I still believe that the future will show that that would have been the most equitable dividing line between the two provinces, looking to their future populations. It must not be forgotten that the province of Alberta will have in the extreme north a large habitable area, the counterpart of which the province of Saskatchewan will not possess. My hon. friend from Calgary suggested that the area covered by the foothills in the Rocky Mountains should, so far as population is concerned, be eliminated. I do not agree with him at all in that regard. There are immense coal deposits in that area, and I have no doubt that in the years to come there will be immense coal-mining towns in the southern part of Alberta in the Rocky Mountains.

A question has been raised regarding the interests to stockmen and the branding of cattle. Well, if there should be any difficulty in that regard, it is one that will be very easily overcome by such a means possibly as the creation of a commission by the two provinces acting conjointly to deal with the administration of brands. But no matter how far east you might put the dividing line, the whole ranching country would not be included in the western province. There have been years when the town of Yorkton, at the extreme east side of the eastern province, was the largest cattle exporting point in the Territories.

In the matter of representation, as well as other non-contentious matters which have been dealt with in the Bill, the people of the Territories have nothing but satisfaction to express. The provision for a census to be taken next year and for a redistribution for the purposes of this House on the basis of such census is entirely satisfactory, as is also in a general way the provision with regard to representation in the Senate.

Now I come to the matter of the compensation for the lands and the financial terms. I may say at once that the financial terms and the compensation for lands command together my very hearty endorsement. I propose to trouble the House with a few details. They will be pretty dry, but I am inclined to think that they have more bearing on the case and should interest the people concerned considerably more than a good deal of the matter that has been presented to the House. Taking the two provinces together the financial terms include a grant for government of \$100,000, a per capita subsidy at the rate of 80 cents per head on a basis of 500,000 population—a very generous computation at present—amounting to \$400,000; an annual payment as