

he and his colleagues from the west, the better it will be for himself and the more it will expedite public business. So long as the Minister of the Interior assumes the right to dictate and to misrepresent—because it is practically misrepresenting—the position of the opposition with regard to this measure, so long he must understand that we will strike back to defend ourselves and the member for South York did not express the wish that that territory should not be represented in this House, and when the Minister of the Interior says he did, and tries to say that such is the view of the opposition, he misrepresents the member for South York and the opposition as well. We believe that that territory should continue to be represented, and we have said nothing in this House, or out of it, that would lead to any other conclusion. We have been told by these Liberal members from the Territories that so and so is the wish of the people of the Territories, but I hold in my hand resolutions and petitions from the people of the Territories which express a diametrically opposite opinion from that expressed by the Liberal members of the Northwest in this House. In my judgment, these hon. gentlemen do not represent the true sentiment of the Northwest in many respects, because I am bound to give credence to the petitions sent here and signed by thousands of the people in that country who know what they want. One of these hon. gentlemen told us the other day that the people of the west were satisfied with the financial arrangement proposed in the Bill, and that they did not wish that the provinces should control their own lands. I have here a statement from a gentleman in the Northwest which is the very reverse of that, and he says:

The people are unanimously in favour of the new provinces having control of their own public domain.

This gentleman writes from Crossfield, I do not know in what part of the country it is, and he says further:

I may say in regard to the Autonomy Bill that after consulting our leading citizens of both political parties they are unanimously and strongly in favour of the new provinces having entire control of their own educational affairs without being interfered with by the provisions as embodied in the Autonomy Bill. Furthermore, the people are unanimously in favour of the people of the provinces having control of their own lands.

And yet, in view of this statement, some of these gentlemen opposite tell us that nobody up there desires that the provinces shall have the control of the lands. These gentlemen opposite do not represent the sentiment of the people as set forth in these petitions, and if we believed their statements we would be misled. Are the members of the opposition to abandon all their rights because half a dozen members from

Mr. SPROULE.

the Territories have met in caucus and have decided on this and tell us they are going to carry it out. The sooner these gentlemen learn that they only represent a part of this country, and that they do not control the whole parliament of Canada, the better it will be for themselves and the better will public business be expedited.

Mr. SCOTT. If we take the denunciations we have just heard from hon. gentlemen opposite against the high-handed manner in which these poor Northwest members have acted and place them alongside the wails which we heard from these same hon. gentlemen a few weeks ago, because these poor Northwest members were entirely ignored with regard to the Autonomy Bills, then I think the poor Northwest members may consider that they come out of it about even, and require no further defence.

Mr. HENDERSON. I beg to draw your attention, Mr. Chairman, to the statement of the Minister of the Interior, that a threat had come from this side of the House that this Bill was to be obstructed. I have been in the House for seventeen years, and this is the first time I have heard a minister of the Crown draw the attention of the Chairman to such a matter. I am entirely at a loss, from my parliamentary experience, to know what your course will be, Mr. Chairman. Shall we be forced to go across the floor and bow before the minister and beg his pardon; shall we be obliged to appear at the Bar of the House to answer whatever charge he may prepare against us, or shall we on this side of the House be expelled from the chamber to satisfy the new Minister of the Interior? He seems to have something in his mind—

Mr. COCHRANE. Not much.

Mr. HENDERSON. Well, he is assuming a very dictatorial tone, more dictatorial than any minister ever assumed before, and I scarcely know what is to be the result. Perhaps you, Mr. Chairman, have been considering it while we have been discussing other questions, and you will be able to tell the House what will be the outcome of the terrible threat of the Minister of the Interior. It would be a relief to us on this side of the House to know just exactly the position we are in. I am surprised at the language of the Minister of the Interior, and I would like to characterize it by a name which might not be very polite, because I think it is entirely uncalled for. I shall leave the matter in your hands, Mr. Chairman, with the hope that you will give it your kindest and most conciliatory consideration, and that you will not expel us from the chamber in order to satisfy the new Minister of the Interior, who comes down here with such very high authority.

Now with regard to the question that is before the committee, more directly. A