

days to have the lands reserved for the people of that country? Why are they abandoning the old claim of the Territories to have the possession of their own lands? For years they stumped the Northwest in support of the demand that the provinces, when created, should have the complete ownership of their lands, and not only the lands, but the mines. Now they propose to surrender all these to this government. I pointed out the other day that the people of the Northwest should control the lands if for no other purpose than to control the supplies of fuel, which are essential to the development of the country. But as it is, the coal lands, as all others, will be in the hands of this government, who will be free to alienate them and hand them over to corporations of all kinds, so that the people of the Northwest, instead of getting cheap fuel, will have to pay extortionate prices for it. That is not what the people of the west desire. They have expressed themselves on this subject time after time, and in the mouths of gentlemen who to-night are silent on this question, and who, I believe, are ignoring the instructions given to them by the voters of the two new provinces. We even heard the Minister of the Interior in the old days claiming that the settlers of the west ought to own their own lands. Now the song is: We want the Dominion to own them in order that it may develop our country. I do not see that that argument fits the case at all. On the contrary, the policy of those hon. gentlemen from the west to-day is against the interests of that country. That policy is dictated solely by a political reason, and I think they will hear from the west before this debate is through.

Mr. OLIVER. We have heard.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. In what way?

Mr. OLIVER. From Edmonton.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Some sessions ago the hon. gentleman wanted the lands for the people. At that time he was speaking the sentiments of the people, but he certainly is not to-day. His sole object now is to help the Liberal party, and he and his colleagues on that side from the Northwest are willing to rob the people of that country of their undeniable right to own and control their own land.

Mr. SCOTT. What did Edmonton say?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. It said it wanted the control of the lands by the people.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. I think these hon. gentlemen will find that when the people are given the opportunity, they will say they want what should belong to them. If a man has a farm, he wants to keep that for himself; and just as sure as we are here, an agitation will begin in the west and grow and grow until the people get control

of their own land. They will insist on being put in the same position as the other provinces and not be treated as wards, incapable of self-government, incapable of making their own school laws and administering their own public lands. This whole Bill it intended for the one express purpose, and that is to fasten this vexatious school legislation on the people. In order to do that, the government are treating the people as wards, not competent to make their own laws on education, or administer their own lands, or have a voice in the fixing of the boundaries of their own provinces. In the same way also Manitoba is being punished for its course on the school question. Everything that is taking place in connection with this Bill, has its origin in the school policy and has for its object the forcing of that obnoxious policy on the people. Are not the people in the west capable of administering their own lands just as well as this Dominion government? In my opinion they could administer them much better and create out of them a great reserve fund which would save them from taxation for years. But if this Bill passes, they will have to resort to municipal taxation of all kinds to enable them to carry on their own affairs and will be dependent on this government for whatever income they may get. What we should do instead is give these provinces a fair start and then let them manage for themselves. The First Minister declared that he was completing the freedom of the Northwest. Well, there never was a province so hampered as these two are going to be. They are to be cribbed, cabined and confined in every sense of the term, and by men who have always posed as the advocates of their rights. If the people had control of their own public lands, they might find in them a means of freeing themselves from the tyranny of the railway companies or from any railway monopoly. I am not in favour myself of giving land bonuses to railways, but a solution of the great transportation problem might be found in the control by the provinces of their own lands. But under this Bill, these lands are to be administered by the Dominion.

Mr. SCOTT. My hon. friend the leader of the opposition repeated this afternoon some remarks which he had made on several previous occasions. He appears very much concerned because he thinks a doubt has been expressed on this side that should these new provinces be given possession of their lands, they might some day make a mistake. Well, it is the hon. gentleman himself who has made a mistake. He has attributed that doubt to the wrong partner. It is held by his own follower, the hon. gentleman from South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean) and not by any one on this side. Last year the hon. member for South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean) told the House that every legis-