

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Does the term 'per capita' appear in the new resolution?

Mr. FIELDING. The words 'per capita' are not expressed in this part of the resolution, but of course as the population increases the land allowance will change.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. It does not fix any definite sum like 80 cents per head as in the case of Ontario.

Mr. FIELDING. The resolution is not dealing with the subsidy vote.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. I know it is not.

Mr. FIELDING. When we deal with the subsidy of course the language is the same, but this is an allowance in lieu of land. There is no corresponding legislation in respect to Ontario and Quebec and in that regard one can make no comparison.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. But there will not be a vote per head as well.

Mr. HAGGART. Yes, there is.

Mr. FIELDING. Certainly, that is already done.

Mr. HAGGART. The minister promised to bring down a statement of the lands in these new provinces which are at the disposal of the government other than those lands which were intended for actual settlers, free gift lands and homestead lands, and the value of them. A motion was submitted some time ago and pressed a number of times by the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) and the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. W. J. Roche) for information as to the location, area and value of these lands, and the amount of these lands at the disposal of the government. We were promised a statement in regard to these matters. We have only the estimated value in regard to an estimated area of 25,000,000 acres without any information at all upon the subject, and even in taking the value of these lands, in making an allowance to the province for them, surely the cost of the management of that land ought to be deducted from the amount in making an allowance for each province.

Mr. FIELDING. In reference to the request for information to which my hon. friend referred, I was under the impression that we had brought down all the papers sought for. If there is a request for a return of the kind mentioned that has not been brought down I do not remember it. My hon. friend may be correct, but I have no recollection of such a request.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Is it not suitable that such a statement should be made, that we should take stock at the present time of the public lands at the disposal of the government for the carrying out of this arrangement with the provinces? Surely the Minister of the Interior could give us a

statement or he could easily obtain one, setting forth how many millions of acres are at the disposal of the government for this purpose, say in the province of Alberta. We ought to know this, and also should have a statement showing what public lands are still not alienated in any way in the other adjoining provinces, which will be available for the payment of the money proposed in these resolutions.

Mr. FIELDING. The value of these lands is always a problematical question, and it may not be easy for any of us to put a value on them. In the early stage of the discussion a request was made for information and information was brought down which I think covers most of what my hon. friend seeks. If hon. members will look at sessional paper No. 97, they will find that information therein given respecting the areas of the provisional districts of Alberta, Assiniboia and Saskatchewan. All the information he desires, I think, he will find there except that as to the value. That is a question as to which each of us is free to form his own opinion, and in the amendment which we have put before the committee we have eliminated the estimate of the area and the value and have put in a specific sum. We avoid a discussion, for the purpose of the Act, of the value and area of the land.

Mr. HAGGART. The cost of management should be deducted in allowing the interest on the value of the land. The minister too will remember that we had a promise from the Minister of the Interior when the Grand Trunk Pacific was under discussion, that a large quantity of these lands would be available for sale, and would realize to the government of this country nearly the cost of construction of the line across the continent. Has any provision been made for keeping apart lands for the fulfilment of the promise of the Minister of the Interior, that they could be used for the payment of the transcontinental railway?

Mr. FIELDING. It seems to me that provision is made. We keep the whole of the lands, not a part, we keep them all.

Mr. TURRIFF. Over a year ago, I made an estimate of the amount of section lands that would be available after all the land grants which railways had earned or would earn had been applied for, and I estimated that there would be probably 50,000,000 acres of odd sections available. It would however be impossible, I think, for any one to put a value on that land, simply because a great deal of it is not surveyed, and we do not know of what character it is. In reference to what the Minister of the Interior said about selling lands for the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific he did not make a statement of the kind attributed to him. He said that the building of that