

not a claim which either the province of Ontario or the province of Manitoba can urge to have given to it the port on Hudson bay at the mouth of the Churchill which the new province of Saskatchewan cannot urge with ten times greater force. I have stated and I think we are all practically of the same opinion, that it would have been a great deal better if the boundaries of the province of Manitoba had been extended in days gone by. And I for one would like to see them extended now, if it can be done without coercing any body of people. But, so far as the port at the mouth of the Churchill is concerned, I have no doubt whatever that the new province of Saskatchewan will be able to establish a claim to it when she comes before the conference which will be paramount to any claim that either Manitoba or Ontario can put up.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as to the financial terms given to the proposed provinces: It seems to me to be generally admitted on both sides of the House, that these terms are fair, just and liberal. Some think they are even generous. But, so far as I have heard, no one has objected to the Bill on the ground that the financial terms are too generous or to liberal, or that they are not justified by the present and prospective needs of the provinces. It is quite true that the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) stated to the House some days ago that the terms granted to the new provinces were so much more liberal than the terms enjoyed by the older provinces that we would have the older provinces making an immediate demand for better terms. However that may be, the financial aid with which this government proposes to set up the new provinces in their provincial house-keeping, is to my mind, fair and just; and considering the present needs and the probable future requirements of the provinces it is just such fair and reasonable aid as I expected this government and this parliament to grant. We start the provinces with a revenue from the Dominion of over \$1,000,000. This increases with the increase of the population until the population reaches 1,200,000, when the revenue from the federal treasury will be over \$2,200,000. Now, this amount, together with what additional revenue the provinces can get from local sources, ought, I believe, with economy and efficient management, to enable the provinces to make reasonable provision for the needs of their people without going heavily into debt. The hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Scott), the other night, submitted to this House some calculations showing that the financial position in which this Bill places the new provinces establishes them on a basis of equality with the older provinces. I have made a few calculations that support the conclusions at which my hon. friend (Mr. Scott) arrived.

Mr. LAMONT.

In making a comparison between the position in which the new provinces will be placed under this Bill and that of the provinces which derive their revenue partly from federal subsidy and partly from the Crown domain, we have to bear in mind the fact that in these provinces the revenue from the Crown domain varies from year to year. If the provincial authorities dispose of any considerable portion of the Crown domain in one year, the revenue for that year will be large, while in another year it will be considerably smaller. Therefore, to make a fair comparison, we must not select one particular year, but must take the average of a number of years. It must also be borne in mind, in dealing with the provinces that derive their revenue partly from the Crown domain, that it is the net revenue from the Crown domain that we must deal with, because the expenses of the management and administration of the Crown domain are properly chargeable against the gross revenue. I find that in Ontario, in the thirty-six years from confederation up to the end of 1903, the average annual revenue which the province of Ontario derived from the federal treasury and from her Crown domain amounted to \$2,204,015, while the new province of Saskatchewan, when she reaches the population at which Ontario entered confederation will have a revenue of \$2,207,875. Applying the same principle to Quebec, I find that for the thirty-six years from confederation down to the end of 1903, the average annual revenue of the province of Quebec from the federal treasury and the Crown domain was \$1,629,249. This is considerably less than the new province of Saskatchewan will enjoy when she reaches the population of Quebec. But in that connection, Mr. Speaker, I would draw your attention to this fact, that in the last report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands for Quebec it is stated that during the last seven years ending in 1904, the revenue from the Crown lands in Quebec has increased fifty per cent. The details for 1904, I was not able to get, but I made a calculation which shows that the average annual revenue which the province of Quebec had derived from the Crown domain and from the federal treasury for the six years from 1897 to the end of 1903, amounted to \$2,207,135, while the revenue for the new provinces will be \$2,207,875—almost identically the same. So, under these financial provisions, the new provinces and the older ones are placed upon a basis of equality.

Now, as to the question whether the provinces should own the public lands. I have no hesitation in saying that I am satisfied that the best interests of the provinces are being furthered by the retaining by this government of the public lands and the giving to the provinces compensation in lieu thereof. It is in our best interest as pro-