

eastern Canada the necessity of recognizing the right of possession or, at least, of a beneficial interest in the lands of the Northwest Territories by the people of these Territories.

In other words the hon. gentleman went forth as a missionary to instruct and to convert the people in the eastern provinces to his view-point as to this land question with the result that the hon. gentleman was converted himself. He is drawing rather a long bow when he says that these opinions found no general acceptance in this House because my hon. friend the leader of the opposition has given voice to these same opinions for years past. In his speeches in the west and in this House during all the years that this autonomy question has been discussed in parliament he has expressed his opinion in favour of handing these lands over to the provinces. If the hon. member for West Assiniboia has not stated, some other hon. gentlemen have stated that one reason why these lands should not be handed over to the new provinces is that they might be at the mercy of land speculators. Fancy under provincial management these lands being more likely to be exploited than if they were under the management of the ex-Minister of the Interior and his officials of recent years! Under provincial management would there have been 250,000 acres of wheat lands handed over to the Saskatchewan Valley Land Company at \$1 an acre?

When this matter was up in the House for debate that hon. gentleman was forced to admit that 150,000 of these 250,000 acres had been handed over practically illegally, because he did not know whether the conditions of settlement had been complied with or not. He admitted that there had been no inspection to see whether the settlers were on the land or not, and when he was pressed further he admitted that they had been handed over without his knowledge, without the knowledge of his deputy and without their consent and that when they found that out they gave orders that no more lands were to be handed over until an inspection had been made. After the horse was stolen they ordered the stable door to be locked. When pressed still further to state who had done this, what was his reply?—an official of the government; and when pressed still further to state what was that official's name, the ex-Minister of the Interior stated that he did not know. Fancy the responsible head of the department, responsible for all the transactions taking place under his administration finding out that 150,000 acres of land had been illegally handed over to a company without complying with the conditions—having beside him his deputy who was an official of the government—and never taking the trouble to inquire that official's name! Well, we are very gullible sometimes on this side of the House, but we are scarcely so gullible

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as to give credence to such a statement as that except in the parliamentary sense. I fancy that the hon. member for East Assiniboia (Mr. Turriff) who was at that time the Dominion Lands Commissioner might be able to explain who this official was who illegally handed over that 150,000 acres to this company. The hon. member for West Assiniboia, in his paper, the Regina 'Leader' of Thursday, May 29, 1902, after the election had taken place, used the following language in the form of a heading:

HAULTAIN ENDORSED

By the overwhelming majority of the electorate and given a most emphatic mandate.

The people are in favour of one province—General administrative policy approved.

And so on.

Because the leader of the territorial government still maintains that there should be only one province and because he has seen fit to maintain his position in an open letter published in the country the hon. member for West Assiniboia says that he is a rank partisan. Speaking of the lands of the Northwest, the hon. member for West Assiniboia writes in the same issue of his paper:

The lesson of the election is very simple. The administration of the Northwest Territories is approved, and the policy of the executive is endorsed. The command of the electorate is 'as you were.' . . . As to the policy of the executive it is at present virtually confined to one question, that of the provincial status. Premier Haultain is returned to carry out the plan he submitted to the Dominion government and to the people of the Northwest. The plan is nothing new. Premier Haultain has been trying to carry it out for years. He has educated the people into the understanding of it and belief in it. All he has to do is to continue along the road he has been travelling for some time past. That is the road along which his followers have faithfully accompanied him and it is the direction to which he is pointed by the elections that have just taken place.

That hon. gentleman was evidently an ardent admirer of the premier of the Territories no longer ago than May 29, 1902, and later. One reason why that vicious personal attack was made upon Mr. Haultain the other night by the hon. member for West Assiniboia was that that hon. gentleman has not even to this day got over the castigation that he received on several platforms in the west at the hands of the premier of the Northwest Territories, and he desired in a measure to get even with that gentleman in parliament when that gentleman was not privileged to say a word to defend himself. In the same paper, of Mr. Haultain, whom he then lauded and whom he now calls a rank partisan, he writes as follows:

The country, therefore is to be congratulated that once again the Haultain administration