

tained in the resolution as at first introduced. It is true that the wording of the resolution has been amended in order to meet the difficulty suggested by the ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton). But the basis upon which the government proposes to proceed has not yet been departed from, so far as I understand. Well, then we might look at the condition, as outlined by a very important member of the government at that time, the ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), in 1903. What is the basis the government has laid down? The basis is that we are to pay to the provinces annually, by way of compensation therefor, a sum based upon the estimated value of the lands. I suppose that that is in line with the position taken by members from the Northwest, for example, my hon. friend from West Assiniboia (Mr. Scott), who no doubt has urged on the government the view he announced some two years ago in these words:

The people of the Northwest Territories contend that the public lands of those Territories are now simply held in trust by parliament until such time as new provinces may be created in that area.

That is the view, I suppose, that the government is taking or else my hon. friend from West Assiniboia (Mr. Scott) would not be supporting it. Therefore we must get at the value of the lands for which we are proposing to compensate these new provinces, in the words of the resolution as at first introduced. When it was important to show that these lands were so valuable that the country had a very great means of revenue in them, the government, through its then Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) spoke in these words:

But we are now arriving at that position when, I fancy within the next two or three weeks, a final arrangement will be closed, under which the railway companies which have claims for land grants, including the Canadian Pacific Railway, will have those claims finally settled. I am pleased to say that as a result of this, an enormous quantity of odd numbered sections will come back to the government and be available for disposition in any way which the government may be authorized by parliament to adopt. We shall no doubt have in the neighbourhood of fifty million acres of odd numbered sections to dispose of in such manner as parliament may authorize.

That is to say, we will hold in trust for the people of the new provinces, as my hon. friend from West Assiniboia (Mr. Scott) put it, not only fifty million acres of odd numbered sections, but also fifty million acres of even numbered sections which must be reserved for homestead interests. The ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) then continued:

I propose at an early day to submit a measure providing for the disposition of these

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lands. The first principle of which will be the actual settler on an even numbered section alongside an odd numbered section shall have the preference in buying that piece of land at a price to be fixed in the manner provided in the Act.

I have no recollection that that Act, which was to be introduced in a few weeks, has yet made its appearance. But continued the then Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton):

Of these fifty million of acres of odd numbered sections—the even numbered sections are kept for the poor man's homestead—twenty million or twenty-five million at present so far removed from communication as to be absolutely of no money value whatever. But in my judgment, within ten years from the time this railway is completed, twenty million acres of land owned by the government at present will have acquired a value at least of \$3 per acre. That is not a thing about which there is any question.

Well, if the government is holding these lands as trustees for the people of the Northwest Territories, even if they do not hand them over to those for whom they are holding them in trust, what is the position? They themselves admit by the terms of the first resolution, that they are making compensation by this provision to the people of the Territories. Do they base that compensation on the valuation of \$60,000,000 or \$75,000,000? The ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) desired to keep within bounds, and according to one of his estimates it would be \$60,000,000, and according to another estimate, which I have just read, it would be \$75,000,000 which these lands will be worth in ten years. Upon what basis do the government propose compensation? Upon the basis of twenty-five million acres? The ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) said those lands would be worth \$3 per acre in ten years or \$75,000,000. But the government propose to compensate the Territories, not on the basis of \$3 per acre, but \$1.50 per acre.

And I venture to think that there is every reason indeed for the criticism of my hon. friend from Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) and my hon. friend from Calgary (Mr. M. S. McCarthy). What is the position of the government? Do they recognize that they stand in any way in the position of trustee for the people of the Northwest Territories in respect of these lands? My hon. friend from Western Assiniboia cannot support them unless they take that view. That was his solemn declaration, made, I am sure not once, but many times, and certainly made in parliament. Well, they apparently carry out that view by providing that there shall be compensation. But when they compensate the provinces for the lands, they compensate them on the basis of fifty cents on the dollar. What justification has the government for that? It does not make any difference whether it is enough for the requirements of the