

a province of larger area than the proposed province of Alberta, a province which is, I might almost say, entirely mineralized, which has coal, and gold, and silver, and lead, and copper, and iron, and every metal almost on earth, and has them in the greatest abundance. I suppose there is no other country of equal area that is as highly mineralized or mineralized with as valuable metal as British Columbia. British Columbia has timber and land and that province works all its natural resources for all they are worth as sources of revenue, yet if I have read the reports of the provincial government correctly, the total receipts from the sales of lands from all sources that I could gather in the province of British Columbia a year or two ago amounted to some \$615,000.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Did they not collect royalty?

Mr. OLIVER. Yes, this is all I could gather. I have here the revenue from sales of mineral lands, timber lands and the rest, and the whole thing totals \$615,000. If that is the total which British Columbia derives from the sale of lands and the rental and working of all its natural resources, I submit that we in Alberta cannot reasonably expect to support our provincial government from the sales of our mineral and timber lands.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I would like to say to the hon. gentleman that one of his arguments at least would lead to some extraordinary results. He says that whatever the Dominion government provides money for, they should control. Well, the Dominion government, under the terms of this Bill, provides money for the administration of justice in the new provinces, and for other matters which are under control of the provinces. All I was suggesting was that if the lands were under control of the new provinces, it would be proper to take into consideration the expense involved in the administration of those lands. He says you must not get revenue out of these lands as that would bear harshly on the people. But I did not observe him to rise here and rebuke the argument of his predecessor two years ago when he led us to believe that we would get from sixty to seventy-five million dollars out of these lands. Well, it will not bear less hardly on the people if that money be taken by the Dominion than if it be taken by the new provinces. I heard no word of repudiation from the hon. gentleman when the ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) announced that policy. On the contrary, he voted in support of the government and in support of that argument. Are we to-day having a new policy announced? Has the hon. gentleman decided to repudiate the policy of the government as announced by his predecessor, because

that is what his argument leads to? Let me tell him that in the province of Nova Scotia, which has an area of only 21,000 square miles, and where a wiser policy has been pursued in respect of its mines than that which is being pursued in respect of its Crown lands, the amount of money received from mineral lands in the year ending 30th September, 1903, was \$619,234, which is a very comfortable amount of revenue for a province with a small area, and which was within a few dollars of one half the total revenue of that province during that year. And I might add also that it is a province, only portions of which are mineralized. The Annapolis valley and other very large portions of the province, which are suitable for agricultural purposes, are of course not mineralized, but there is quite a large area—between one-half and one-third—which might be regarded as mineralized land. If such lands were handed over to the new provinces, probably some system of not giving away the whole of the mineralized land, but reserving a certain interest to the people in the shape of royalty, might be carried out with equally good results. In the province of Alberta, such a policy would contribute largely to the development of the country. The hon. minister may see possibly that there might be some room for reflection in the suggestion that the lands, even if the present system were maintained, would be of some use to the new provinces. The Dominion government did not propose to make \$60,000,000 to \$75,000,000 by doing away with the homestead entries. The predecessor of my hon. friend distinctly said that these homesteads must be reserved for the poor man, but he proposed to make this money out of the alternate sections which are not reserved for homestead sections.

Mr. OLIVER. What did he say?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. He said this:

But I would point to the fact that we shall enter upon the business of selling something like 50,000,000 acres of land in the Territories in a short time, and if we watch the manner in which the business of selling land by railway and land companies, has been going on, we have no reason to doubt that, if we choose, these lands will be disposed of with some degree of rapidity. What I desire to say is this: There is probably, out of that 50,000,000 acres of odd-numbered sections—the even-numbered sections are kept for the poor man's homesteads—20,000,000 or 25,000,000 at present so far removed from communication as to be absolutely of no value whatever. But, in my judgment, within ten years from the time this railway is completed, 20,000,000 acres of land owned by the government at present will have acquired a value of at least \$3 per acre.

And in the previous part of his remarks he pointed out that by reason of the corporations selecting their land, the government would be free to dispose of the odd-