

ernments were to be able to run their business during the initial years especially if the lands in lieu of these moneys are transferred.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. I would like to ask the hon. member if he did not advocate up there for years the retention of the land by the provinces? Did he not claim for years that the land belonged to the provinces and should be administered by them?

Mr. SCOTT. Is that the hon. gentleman's whole question?

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. Yes.

Mr. SCOTT. Yes, I did in common with a very large number of people in the Northwest Territories, in common with practically all the members of the legislative assembly, and I venture to say that to-day a very large majority of the members of the legislative assembly—I speak from knowledge; I have seen them and they have told me so themselves, in fact members of the legislative assembly told me so before last New Year's, before these negotiations commenced—hold the same opinion now that I hold now. Together with them I have to some extent changed my mind in that regard, but if my hon. friend will read the statement that I made in the House three or four years ago he will find that what I laid particular stress upon was not so much the plea that the land should be turned over to the provinces as the plea that the government should put these provinces on an even financial plane with the other provincial governments in Canada. Let me ask my hon. friend where he thinks the local governments will get their revenue if they are not given the amounts that are provided for in lieu of lands? If the lands were turned over to them with the string attached that the hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) proposed in this House, how would the governments of the provinces get the moneys necessary to carry on their business?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Scott) has made that statement three or four times. Surely he understands the proposal I made. I have pointed out to him before two or three times what I said, but still he persists in repeating what he has twice repeated to-day. He has distinctly twice to-day said that the only proposal I made in regard to these lands was that they should be handed over with certain restrictions. Is that the hon. gentleman's statement?

Mr. SCOTT. I certainly understood the hon. gentleman to suggest that.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Will the hon. gentleman answer me fairly? Does he understand that to be the only proposal or the first proposal I made?

Mr. SCOTT. No.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Well then, why does he repeat it? Not only to-day, but on a previous occasion he has sinned in common with other members from the Northwest in this respect. Why does he endeavour to quote me as only making that proposal and no other proposal in the first instance? It does not seem to me a very high type of discussion to degenerate into that. I will read to the hon. gentleman what I said, and I stand by it to-day. I said this and I will not go back to the debate in February; I will only go back as far as the debate in March:

So far as the control of the lands is concerned, I adhere to the opinion I before expressed in this House, that the people of the Northwest Territories, when they are granted provincial rights, are fully capable of dealing with these lands, and that they are entitled to the control of these lands just as much as the people of the eastern provinces of Canada are entitled to the control of their provincial domain. I see no distinction.

That is the proposal I made, not only then, but in February. I went on further; it had been suggested in the Liberal press that these lands would be open to land grabbers in the Territories to a greater extent than they would be open to the attacks of land grabbers here, and I said I did not think that would be the case. I referred to the fact that the Prime Minister stated that if these lands were given to the provinces there might be interference with the free homesteads and with the present low price of government lands, and I said I thought there ought to be no difficulty on that score, because the people of the Territories were chiefly interested in the question of immigration. I continued:

May I not further suggest that if there was any danger, and I do not think there is, it would be the task of good statesmanship to have inserted, if necessary, a provision in this Bill with regard to free homesteads and the price of these lands, and obtain to it the consent of the people of the Northwest Territories.

I did not agree with the position of the Prime Minister, and I said that even if I did agree with it, then I thought it would be the task of good statesmanship to do as I proposed. My own proposition in the first instance was that these lands should be handed over to the control and administration of the people of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. SCOTT. Then I understand that the proposal of the Prime Minister being to retain the land here, the hon. gentleman's alternative proposal was to transfer the lands to the provinces?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Absolutely.

Mr. SCOTT. And my hon. friend (Mr. R. L. Borden) went on to say that if he could not carry out his exact proposal, then it