

possessions in North America and all islands adjacent to any such territories or possessions except the colony of Newfoundland and its dependencies.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. These are all embraced in the Dominion?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. We are taking in a part of territory about which there may be some doubt—the part, lying between the height of land in Ungava and the Labrador coast. It would appear at first sight as if Rupert's Land included all the territory watered by the rivers that run from the height of land into the Hudson bay, but between the height of land in Ungava and the Labrador coast there is a small strip of territory which is apparently no man's land at present.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Is there any danger of this expression taking in all the British West India Islands?

Mr. FIELDING. If they are in North America.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The section says 'adjacent to.' I think there is a piece of British territory on the mainland in Central America.

Mr. FIELDING. The hon. gentleman refers to British Guiana?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. No; near Honduras, on the mainland of Central America. I confess I do not know the names of all the British West Indies.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. As far as a declaration of this parliament can affect it, we might bring it in; but I think a declaration of this sort would be exceedingly useful to us, because there are islands in the north that belong to Canada, and already two foreign states have entered into possession of a portion of our territory. In order to make my position clear, I may say that this is taken from the Order in Council which was passed July 1st, 1880—it is an adaptation of that description.

Mr. BERGERON. Is that covered by the Northwest Territories Act, or is it something new?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. It is covered by the Northwest Territories Act, except a little piece between Ungava and the Labrador coast.

Mr. BERGERON. Would it not be better to avoid a description by saying that the Northwest Territories Act is withdrawn so far as the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta are concerned? If that is done, it will remain just as it is for the rest.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. This is intended to adapt a description of this country contained in an Order in Council passed by the Imperial authorities. If we take the suggestion of the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L.

Borden), I do not think there need be any discussion about it.

Mr. BERGERON. There would be no discussion on my part—the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) may be sure of that. But he has heard some discussion, and that kind of thing would be avoided if he would simply withdraw the Northwest Territories Act so far as it relates to Saskatchewan and Alberta, leaving it to apply to the rest.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I am satisfied with it as it is.

On section 4—commissioner.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I suppose this is a reversion to what was the original form of government of the Northwest Territories? Does the hon. minister follow the exact language?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. It might be possible to have a commissioner appointed who is not in the Territories. It might be possible to have a commissioner with his headquarters here. There would be no reason why the Minister of the Interior should not be commissioner of all these Territories, in view of the fact that they extend over such an immense area.

On section 5—council.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Is it intended in the immediate future to act upon that, or is it a power that—

Mr. FITZPATRICK. It is a power that is taken.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. No immediate necessity to exercise it?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. No immediate necessity.

On section 7—disallowance of ordinances.

Mr. SPROULE. Is this the same law that relates to the Council of the Yukon Territory?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Yes.

Mr. SPROULE. Exactly?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I would not say that it is exactly the same language, but it is the same thing. It is the law applicable to all these territories originally before they had power of legislation. It refers to the power which the Governor in Council exercises with regard to disallowance. A statute of a province goes into effect unless disallowed within a certain time. But in the Yukon and other territories ordinances come into effect after they have been submitted to the Governor in Council.

Mr. SPROULE. I was referring to the previous section—No. 6, ordinances by the Commissioner in Council. There appears to be a difference between the Yukon and the Northwest Territories in this respect.