

to them for the successful manner in which they accomplished their difficult task. But of what use is experience if you do not profit by it? And in the granting of a new constitution to these baby provinces in the west we should be careful to avoid the pitfalls of the past, to improve where improvement is possible upon existing legislation and to start those new provinces unhampered in their career, by any obnoxious restrictions that can be a source of vexation, turmoil and strife amongst the mixed population inhabiting that part of the Dominion. Some of these people are our fellow Canadians from the older provinces; some are our fellow British subjects from England, Scotland and Ireland, some come from the more advanced European races and many come from the republic to the south. All these classes of settlers at any rate come from countries where they have been in the enjoyment of the greatest amount of constitutional liberty and they will look for and expect the same liberty in their new homes. We are therefore legislating at the present time not merely for existing conditions but for the whole future of that country. We can afford, nay it is our duty, it is an imperative duty that we should deal not only justly, but generously in starting these new provinces house-keeping on their own account. There may have been reasons of a financial character that prevented this Dominion from dealing with some of the other provinces, upon their entering into confederation, with equal generosity, but because of that lack of liberty and generosity repeated demands have been made on the treasury of this country by those provinces and we should guard against anything of that kind in the initial dealings with these new provinces of the west. I am sure there is a desire on the part of the older settled provinces not only to accord the very best possible treatment of a financial character, but to grant the greatest amount of constitutional liberty and legislative freedom in our dealings with these new provinces. The financial arrangements should not be entered into in any niggardly spirit nor should they be carped at because they happen to be more generous than those accorded to the several provinces in which we each reside. Nor should this government deny or withhold from these provinces of the west the management of certain affairs, the control of certain features of their policy, simply because of a reluctance on the part of this government to part with what has undoubtedly been in the past and will be in the future great political party levers, features of administration which have been used for this purpose and can be so used in the future.

There are a few things that I as a Manitoban desire to speak about before entering on a discussion of the provisions of the

Bill proper. One of these is incidental to this Bill and was dealt with by the Prime Minister in his introductory remarks; I refer to the reasons he assigned for refusing the reasonable request of the people of Manitoba through their legislators for an extension of the boundaries of that province. The Prime Minister stated that this request had been made not only upon his government, but upon other governments in the past. It was a request most reasonable in its character, a unanimous request joined in by both political parties, but a request which even at this most opportune moment when the delimitation of the western provinces is being made, he and his government could not entertain. And what are the reasons he has given? First because the government of Sir John A. Macdonald had a similar request made to them some 20 years ago, and if it could not be entertained on that occasion it could not be entertained to-day; yet in the earlier portion of his remarks the Prime Minister admitted that the Canada of those days was not the Canada of to-day. That was very true and he might have said further that the Manitoba of those days was not the Manitoba of to-day. At that time Manitoba was supposed to extend as far east as the head of lake navigation. All of that portion of country east of Rat Portage to Port Arthur which was looked upon as disputed territory had been counted in as belonging to Manitoba, and that province was supposed to constitute an area of 154,000 square miles, but to-day we find that owing to the decision given in connection with the boundary award all that portion east of Rat Portage has been handed over to Ontario thus diminishing the area of Manitoba by more than one-half. So I say that the request of 1905 is a much more reasonable one and an entirely different one inasmuch as it is a request on behalf of a province that we know for a certainty contains only some 73,700 square miles, whereas the request of twenty years ago was on behalf of a province which we imagined contained 154,000 square miles. Personally I would have preferred to have seen Manitoba's western boundary extended still further west as far as the 105th Meridian of west longitude, having one province west of that line extending to the eastern boundary of the province of British Columbia. Thus we would have two good sized provinces whose areas would have been more in conformity with those of British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec. By doing this we would have done away with this duplication of governments and the increased cost as a consequence thereof. We have been told frequently in times gone by that Canada is already over-governed, because of this multiplication of provinces whose areas are too small. With such a division of territory as I suggest we would have avoid-