

sentatives of the Northwest Territories. After the conference a draft Bill, setting forth in detail the terms and conditions on which the Territory would be willing to become one of the provinces of the Dominion, was submitted to the Prime Minister. In the following spring at the next session of the legislative assembly that Bill was laid before the assembly and unanimously endorsed by them. The only dissenting voice was in reference to the question whether there should be one or two provinces. In regard to every other detail the Bill was endorsed with unanimity. On the 21st of May, 1902, a general election was held throughout the Territories and the question of autonomy was the main issue in that election. The Bill was distributed throughout the whole country and an appeal was made to the people by the premier and by other gentlemen who were supporting him in that election in these words: 'These are the matters upon which your judgment is invited. The issue is plain; it is for the people of the Territories to decide.'

The people of the Territories did decide by returning Mr. Haultain to power by an overwhelming majority. In spite of this fact a great many excuses were made by the Dominion government for delay in dealing with the question. Two more sessions of the legislative assembly were held and in each one of these sessions a resolution demanding that this question be taken up was passed unanimously, being voted for by both Liberals and Conservatives. There was no dissenting voice on either occasion, but still the matter was not taken up by the Dominion government. During the session of 1904, when it was again probable that the demand would be repeated, we suddenly received the well known letter from the Prime Minister in which he made his promise that if he was returned to power he would deal with the matter at the present session of parliament.

I have indulged in this history in order to show that the government of the Territories had a definite and full mandate from the people of that country as to the terms which they should ask to be granted to the Territories when they became full-fledged provinces. The government of the Territories were invited, as you know, Sir, to a series of conferences by the right hon. the Prime Minister during the first few weeks of the present year. The premier of the Territories and a member of his executive council attended the meeting. I wish to say here that as far as my information goes, there was no change in the conditions which Mr. Haultain demanded from the Prime Minister from those which he had been authorized to demand by the people and the legislative assembly of the Northwest Territories. I believe that he departed from them in no single particular, and I think the protest that he addressed to the right hon. Prime Minister after the introduction

of the Bill is a proof of that fact. But, what did we find? We found that after this conference the Bill which was introduced differed in most essential points from the request of the Northwest Territories, that it was, in fact, in many respects absolutely contrary to the wishes of the people. In consequence of this difference a strong remonstrance was made by the premier of the Territories which was couched in dignified and determined terms. Because it was not signed by the other member of the executive council, it was stated by the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) that it was only Mr. Haultain's individual opinion. The hon. Minister of Finance said that if it was the case that we were doing something against the wishes of the people of the Northwest the government of the Northwest had entered no protest. I should like to ask what warrant had he for any such statement? All we have heard is that Mr. Bulyea expressed a different opinion to that of Mr. Haultain in an interview which he was supposed to have given to the 'Globe' directly after the introduction of the Bill. I am told that Mr. Bulyea denies having given that interview. At any rate, whether it was so or not, Mr. Bulyea is remaining in the government of Mr. Haultain. It is inconceivable that if he disagrees with his colleagues on such an important matter as this, he should continue to remain a member of the government. I say, Mr. Speaker, that his actions count for far more in this particular than anything that he may have said in any supposed newspaper interview. It is juggling with words to assert that when the premier of a government protests it is only the protest of an individual. As a matter of fact, Mr. Bulyea had just the same mandate that Mr. Haultain had from the people of the Northwest Territories. That mandate was too clear for it to have been possible for him to have taken any position other than one in accordance with the views of his leader and the fact remains, that he is still a member of Mr. Haultain's government. I have also gone into this history to show that two Dominion general elections have been held since this matter was placed before the Dominion government. The government refused to act or define their policy in any particular during the whole lifetime of one parliament. More than that, when another appeal to the people became imminent they refused to define their policy before the elections. Although they had had the draft propositions before them for three years they were not prepared to declare themselves in any respect. The hon ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) went into the Northwest Territories and when he was questioned in regard to this matter he refused to commit himself except on one point which I shall mention just now, but on all the main points in connection with the draft Bill he refused to commit himself. We were