

few and the only important ones are well known. In the meantime if I can have them printed by to-morrow I shall endeavour to do so.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. My hon. friend will find almost all of the amendments in the reprint of the first Bill.

#### THE BUDGET SPEECH.

Mr. FIELDING. If the Bills respecting the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan are disposed of to-morrow, I hope to present the budget statement on Thursday.

#### THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

Mr. FITZPATRICK moved the second reading of Bill (No. 160) with respect to the Northwest Territories.

Mr. SPROULE. This is a Bill dealing with the powers of the Territories, and I think it would be well to have the explanation before we go into committee on it.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. This Bill is intended to provide for the government of that part of the Northwest Territories which is not included in the two provinces, that is to say, all that part of Rupert's Land and the Northwestern Territory which is not included in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, the district of Keewatin and the Yukon Territory, and it provides for it by continuing all the provisions of the Northwest Territories Act which are already in existence and which are already applicable to these Territories.

Mr. SPROULE. I understood that you repealed that clause of the Northwest Territories Act.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. The Northwest Territories Act is still in force with respect to the two new provinces, subject to be dealt with by them as they deem best, except so far as there are constitutional restrictions placed upon the powers of the new provinces.

Mr. SPROULE. What law would apply, to the Territories now?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. The law that has been in existence since 1875 without any change.

Mr. LENNOX. Whatever state of law applied to the Territories in 1875, now made into provinces, the same state of law would apply to the Territories we are now dealing with.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Will be continued on.

Mr. LENNOX. The same law as governed the two new provinces down to 1875 will now govern the Territories. Therefore by passing this Act we will be giving our sanction to the continuance to that state of law. We are affirming the state of law said to exist in these Territories at present.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I would not like to put it that way.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

Mr. LENNOX. We are re-enacting in a certain sense and giving our legislative sanction to whatever state of law exists in the Territories at present. The result would be that in giving our sanction to the existing state of the school laws there, whether those laws be good or bad, we may be confronted in the future with the same unfortunate condition as we had to face this session. When we come to establish this remaining portion of the Territories into a province, we may be met with the same argument on the school question as we were met with this session and be told that we are bound by what happened years before.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I think my hon. friend the Minister of Justice inadvertently misstated a little the condition of affairs. The Bill, as originally drafted, contemplated the repeal of the Northwest Territories Act. That was abandoned afterwards. The position now is that that Act is left exactly as it is but these provinces are withdrawn from its operation to a certain extent. Any provision of the Act particularly applicable to a new province remains in force until repealed by a provincial legislature, so far as it has jurisdiction, or by the Dominion parliament, in so far as its jurisdiction extends. The Northwest Territories Act, as a statute, remains, and what is intended by the Bill is to make certain supplementary provisions which the government believe to be necessary, in view of the fact that a very large portion of the Territories is about to be established into provinces. The Northwest Territories Act is really not repealed.

Mr. SPROULE. In what position will the schools be in the future? Will there be any authority to amend this law in any direction after we dispose of it here? This Territory is outside the two new provinces. There is no council outside the two new provinces. What authority would there be which could amend the Northwest Territories Act in any direction?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. The parliament of Canada has the absolute control of the Northwest Territories Act.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The Northwest Territories Act will stand subject to be amended or repealed by this parliament at any time. It will be open to us at any time to deal with it in any way we see fit.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time, and House went into committee thereon.

On section 3, delimitation of the Territories.

The Northwest Territories shall hereafter comprise the territories formerly known as Rupert's Land and the Northwestern Territory, except such portions thereof as form the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the district of Keewatin and the Yukon Territory, together with all British territories and