

a province, they have the municipal work of a province to legislate for, they have the small provincial functions of road building and bridge building, the duties and responsibilities which belong to the ordinary routine management. They have that. But there is not a foot of their soil, not an acre of their resources outside of what are possessed now by the inhabitants of that country, not one acre of this, not one foot of that will belong to them. So I say it is against human nature to suppose that these two provinces will be satisfied with this settlement. From the very moment they begin to be provinces they will commence an agitation which dissatisfaction will arouse, and which dissatisfaction will push further each year, and it will be reinforced by their necessities which will constantly grow. So I say this feeling will grow as the provinces grow, it will be accentuated by their necessities; as their population increases demands upon them will become greater. They will feel more and more that in the first place they were defrauded of their full heritage, that they have not got what actually belonged to them, that consequently they are not a full and independent province, and they will not rest until they get these rights. As my hon. friend who sits beside me (Mr. R. L. Borden) well observed, the longer the thing goes on the greater the dilemma, and the more the difficulty there will be. Therefore I say these provinces will not be satisfied, because they will feel from the first that they have not power over their own belongings.

Suppose you take the converse of it and the argument is shown with greater strength. Suppose a proposition were made in this House to-day to take over the lands of the other provinces of the Dominion to administer them and assume all the cost of administration and take all the profits of administration. Is there a single province in the Dominion which would look upon a proposition like that as being fair, which would admit it for a single moment. The argument is not a bit stronger by reason of their being now already full-fledged provinces and in possession of their lands, than it is with reference to the new provinces from which you would withhold what every old province has and possesses in its own right, from which you withhold what the British North America Act considers to be and contemplates as the possession of a province. Simply because you hold the lands at the present time and refuse to give them up the argument is not a bit stronger in the one case than it is in the other and the injustice of it will be equally felt. Every year that these provinces are provinces, while this condition of things with reference to their lands prevails they will feel more and more that they are marked off from their sister provinces, that they have not the resources and not the

powers and consequently not the full rights which their sister provinces have. These feelings will become seeds of dissatisfaction which will grow and spread and ripen into the harvest of desire and of a constant agitation until the desire be realized that they shall have their own birthright and their own lands. As I said before you can hardly approach the question of lands without approaching the financial question as well and that is the crux of the whole matter. As my hon. friend has said, they would like to have their lands but they do not see how they are to get their money. As far as that is concerned it seems to me there must be some way in which that difficulty could be met. Taking all the information which I got from the Minister of the Interior and from the return which was brought down it seems that the grain growing, irrigating, ranching and general farming lands in the areas of the two provinces which are to be formed will amount to 294,000,000 acres, in round numbers. No one can say just how much of that will be agricultural land, just how much will be good grazing land, just how much will be land which proper irrigation will make very valuable and very desirable, but the whole of it is returned as above. The total area, as I said, is 294,000,000 acres, deducting the water acreage. Alienated lands have been returned as 65,000,000 and if you subtract the 65,000,000 from the 294,000,000 it will give you about 228,000,000 or 228,500,000 of lands belonging to one or other of these categories. As I said before, it would not probably be wise to prophesy just how much of that would be excellently good land, how much worthless, and how much would come between the two; but judging from our experience in the Northwest Territories and as our knowledge has progressed it is possible that we may ourselves be surprised to discover what a very large proportion of these lands are really serviceable lands, suitable for agricultural, farming and grazing purposes. If that be true—and I think we are not pushing the matter too far to take that as fairly true—you will have an acreage of 228,000,000 of this serviceable or fairly serviceable land. That is an immense patrimony. Suppose you leave the odd-numbered sections still to be used for immigration purposes, for settlement purposes as an inducement to the outside world for speedier, better and more rapid settlement, suppose you leave that to be deducted from the amount which still remains, you have still the immense acreage of 114,000,000 or 115,000,000 acres of land which would be at your disposal. No one thinks or suggests that these are lands that you could put into the market and sell now, but let us take the history of the past which should throw some light on the history of the future. Twenty years ago in that western country along the main line