

servatives in the Territories up to two years ago were of the belief that, in view of early autonomy negotiations entered into with the Ottawa government, it was essential that the people of the Territories should be united and not have party divisions in their local affairs, so that we might come down as one man, with the whole strength of a united people, in the presentation of our case to the government here. I think I am stating the thing fairly. But what has occurred in the last two years? At the instigation of the hon. the leader of the opposition, the Conservatives of the Territories were called into convention in April, 1903, at Moosejaw, for the purpose of reorganizing for the next federal election. What was one of the most important actions taken by that convention?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Question, question.

Mr. SCOTT. These hon. gentlemen are getting a little tired of the subject.

Mr. GALLIHER. Take your medicine.

Mr. SCOTT. One of the most important resolutions adopted at that convention called for the purpose of reorganizing for the next federal election was this:

That in furtherance of the objects of this convention be it resolved, that Conservative candidates as such be placed in nomination in every constituency, at the next general election of members to the legislative assembly of the Northwest Territories, and kept in the field till the close of the polls.

Since the moment of the passing of that resolution, since the moment of the holding of that Moosejaw convention, Mr. Haultain and his Conservative friends in the legislature—of whom my hon. friend was one—have been dominated in their management of local affairs by considerations of federal party interest.

Mr. LAKE. I deny that statement, so far as I am concerned.

Mr. SCOTT. My hon. friend (Mr. Lake) will have a good deal of trouble to successfully deny it in the Territories. We had the matter of the capital advance. Mr. Haultain stated that on certain conditions he wanted the capital advance—that on certain conditions he would be satisfied to have it. And on these conditions it was granted. Is that not true? It was granted on the very conditions that he himself had set out. I make the statement to my hon. friend from Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) that on the first day of the meeting of the succeeding legislature in the fall of 1903, he told a man in Regina that the capital advance was not going to be accepted. I make the further statement that Mr. Haultain did not disclose to his Liberal supporters in the legislature, until practically the closing week of the session the fact that the capital advance was not going to be accepted.

Mr. SCOTT.

Mr. LAKE. I have no knowledge of that.

Mr. SCOTT. I will give my hon. friend (Mr. Lake), privately, information that will recall it to his memory. I do not wish to mention publicly here the name; but I will give my hon. friend privately the name of the gentleman to whom he gave that information on the first day of the sitting. And it was three weeks later before the Liberal supporters of Mr. Haultain were told by Mr. Haultain that he did not intend to accept the capital advance. And my hon. friend (Mr. Lake) knows perfectly well—I know he knows—that over that capital advance matter the unity which had prevailed in the assembly was very nearly broken; and if it was not broken it was not because of any excessive desire on the part of these Conservatives, or on the part of my hon. friend, or on the part of Mr. Haultain, that means should be taken to preserve it. Any sacrifice that was made was made by the Liberals in the Assembly, and to preserve that unity in local affairs that was so important, the Northwest Liberals have for two years past been putting up with slights and humiliation and insult,—having their every confidence abused, their every action mis-used,—they have been feeling the knife of the traitor in every way. But, for the purpose of preserving the unity that they considered essential for the presentation of the autonomy matter to this government and to this parliament, they put up with this kind of thing. But, Mr. Speaker, thank God, that condition need no longer continue.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. SCOTT. The autonomy matter is now settled, and the question is removed from the field of controversy. It no longer furnishes a reason for that sort of party self-sacrifice, and from this time forward the Liberals of Saskatchewan will not find their party interests conflicting with the interests of the province.

Mr. BOYCE. I ask that the motion before the House be read.

Mr. SPEAKER. Any hon. member has the right to ask that the motion be read, but not so as to interrupt the hon. gentleman who is speaking.

Mr. SCOTT. So much for that, at all events. The leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) declares that the amendment I moved this afternoon is meaningless. It is no more so than is section 23 itself. Does the hon. gentleman say that section 23 in this Bill has any meaning; that the Bill will have any different effect whether section 23 is retained or is left out of the Bill? That is a fair question. Will the taxing power of the province be the same if section 23 were not in the Bill as it will be with the section in the Bill? My