

I have no particular fault to find with the \$50,000 given for the support of the government and legislature in each of the new provinces, or the 80 cents per head on the estimated population of 250,000. I think perhaps that these grants are fairly reasonable, and I do not suppose there is a man in this House who would want to deal by these provinces in any other way than fairly and squarely and with the view of assisting them in every possible manner. But I am entirely opposed to the policy of the government with reference to the lands. The lands naturally belong to the provinces. In agreeing to pay each of the provinces a certain amount for its lands, we really concede that they belong to them. The only plea I have heard why the lands are not given to the provinces is that that would interfere with our immigration policy. With that view I entirely disagree. I have taken pains to find out what arrangements were made with the older provinces with regard to immigration, and I find that there has been no difficulty experienced in bringing immigrants to this country and locating them wherever the government thought best. Is it likely that the new provinces, which will be deeply interested in attracting settlers, would not be as much alive to the necessity of getting in population as possibly can be the Dominion government? It seems to me that the provinces could administer their own public lands better than we can and would be more interested in securing a good class of settlers. I have had occasion to speak several times with reference to the immigration into Canada, and the fault I have found is not that we are getting too many immigrants, but too many of an inferior class. Only the other day, the Ontario inspector of asylums said that in the Brockville Lunatic Asylum, out of the six hundred lunatics, sixty were immigrants, or ten per cent of the whole, which is entirely out of proportion to the number of immigrants located in that section of the country. It is not necessary for me to go into the details of the amounts that have been realized by the Dominion government from time to time on the sale of public lands, but I will content myself with saying that I am entirely opposed to the policy of the Dominion keeping these lands. I think it would be better to at once hand them over to the provinces and let the provinces administer them as they see fit. Let me give here the figures showing what we have received from the sale of lands, and I take those which were given by my hon. friend from Western Assinibolia (Mr. Scott) the other day. They will be found in his speech on page 3607 of 'Hansard.' From 1870 to 1880, the administration of Crown lands in Manitoba and the Northwest cost \$1,244,499.34 in excess of receipts. In the years 1881 to 1890 the accounts show \$753,576.53 in excess of revenue. In the years

from 1891 to 1900 there was again an excess of expenditure amounting to \$184,398.95. In the years from 1901 to 1904, there was an excess of expenditure over receipts of \$11,733.49. Taking the whole period from 1870 up to date, therefore, the administration of lands in the Northwest has cost this Dominion \$687,055.25 in excess of receipts, to which must be added refunds amounting to \$329,950, making a total of \$1,017,005.25 of deficit. I fail to see how the government arrived at the amount they could give as a payment for these lands. They claim that there are twenty-five millions of acres of land to each province, which are worth \$37,500,000, and on which of course they pay interest from time to time until it reaches a certain amount. I do not see why the government took it into their heads to keep these lands when it costs more to administer them than we are getting out of them. I hope that the government will reconsider this question, but I can quite understand why the hon. member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) should have declared that he was perfectly willing to accept this arrangement provided the government kept the lands for the settlers. We can quite understand that position. The province gets the benefit of the lands inasmuch as it gets the people who settle on them, and it gets the money besides, while we are giving away our lands from time to time, but continuing for all time to pay that subsidy.

There is another point. The right hon. the First Minister based his whole argument for submitting this legislation to the House, especially clause 16 dealing with separate schools, on constitutional grounds. If I understood him rightly, he claimed that he had to do this because the constitution demanded it. That is not the way, Sir, that I understand the constitution, and I do not think that is the way this House understands it. Not only that but I think he used synonymously the names 'province' and 'territory.' He used the words 'province' and 'territory' as if they were synonyms. I can quite understand that if these had been provinces it might have been that we would have had to give these rights but as they are territories I think it is quite different. We have been trying for a good while to induce Newfoundland to come into the Dominion. We have been anxious at times for this and I think we would be glad at any time to have her come in because that would round off the Dominion, and it is a province which we very much desire to have. If it had been a territory we would not have had to ask their consent; we would simply have brought them in under the constitution. That is what we are doing, as I understand, with the provinces in the west. We are not obliged to ask their consent to bring them in; we simply pass an Act and they come in of necessity and we give them such terms as the constitution provides unless we see fit

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