

19. All mines, minerals, timber and royalties belonging to the Crown situate, being or arising in the province of _____, and all sums due and payable on the first day of January, 1903, for such mines, minerals, timber or royalties shall belong to the province.

20. The province shall receive and retain all the public property of the Northwest Territories not otherwise disposed of in this Act.

21. All buildings in the Northwest Territories belonging to Canada used or intended for court houses, jails, and land titles offices and for residence and offices of the Lieutenant Governor and government of the Northwest Territories, together with all appurtenances connected therewith, and all moneys, the proceeds from the sale or leasing of school lands in the Northwest Territories, and all moneys forming the assurance fund under provisions of the Territories Real Property Act, and the Lands Titles Act, 1894, shall be the property of the province of _____.

These are all the provisions, at least all that I have noticed, relating to the disposal of lands which are contained in the draft Bill submitted by the government of the Northwest Territories some two or three years ago. I assume that my hon. friend (Mr. Fitzpatrick) has had these provisions under consideration—possibly not so much under consideration as would have been the case if the government had adopted a different policy from that embodied in their Bill. But he has probably had them under consideration sufficiently to answer a question which I now wish to ask. That question is: Whether, assuming that the policy of the government had been the reverse of that which has been announced, that is, assuming that they had thought proper to hand over to the control and administration of the new provinces these public lands which are not at present used for the public service of Canada, would the provisions of these four sections which I have read, in the opinion of the government, be reasonable provisions? In other words do these sections provide for reservation to the government of Canada of such land, public buildings, &c., as might properly be reserved to the government of Canada if a policy the reverse of that which has been announced had been entered upon by the government in connection with the establishment of the new provinces?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I have not considered the sections from that standpoint. As we have decided to retain the control of the lands, it seemed unnecessary to consider the matter. Such sections as my hon. friend refers to would have been necessary had it been intended to divest ourselves of that title. I had not looked at it from the other standpoint whether or not we would have left to us that share or part of the public domain which, taking into account the distribution made at the time of confederation, would have accrued to the Crown under the British North America Act.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I may inform the Minister of Justice that it is probable an

Mr. R. L. BORDEN.

amendment will be moved to this clause, and in moving that amendment I desire to give such information as will make it a reasonable amendment, and one which will fully protect public rights.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I will be prepared to answer that question to-morrow afternoon. But I would like to consult the officials of the department, who are more familiar with these details than I am.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I will be much obliged to the minister. I think it would facilitate our work, perhaps.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. We might perhaps discuss the general principle.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. While we have had, of course, a great deal of discussion of a general character on the question, sometimes we can endeavour to test each other's conclusions a little better by short discussions in committee. As I understand the policy of the government on this question, it is largely based upon the necessity of the retention of these lands for the purpose of immigration. I realize that there have been other reasons put forward by individual members on the other side of the House; but so far as the policy of the government is concerned, my understanding is that if it were not for the supposed danger to the policy of immigration upon which the country has entered, we might have expected that the lands would be handed over to the Northwest provinces for the purpose of administration and control. It is true that one hon. gentleman opposite, speaking when he was not a member of the administration, I refer to the Minister of the Interior, took the view that from the standpoint of the finances of the new province it would be better for the government of Canada to retain these lands, to administer and control them at the expense of Canada, and to make the provision for carrying on the government of the Northwest provinces which have been made in the Bill we are now discussing. The Prime Minister, however, in introducing the measure and in speaking to it subsequently, has not, I think, put forward any such contention as that. He has based his argument solely upon the ground to which I have already alluded, except that he drew an argument from the example in this respect of the government of the United States which has retained control of the administration of the public lands in that country. So far as immigration is concerned, I am bound to say, with all due deference to the views of hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House, that I have not yet heard any argument or any statement of facts which leads me to believe that the new provinces would not as thoroughly conserve the interest of the country as a whole in respect to immigration into the