

Mr. SCOTT. I hope I am not displaying any undue agitation, but I do feel, and I have felt for a long time past, a great interest in this question. As I say, if with possession of the lands and without these land subsidies the provincial governments would be able to carry on their business without borrowing money in their early years, I would have less objection to the land being transferred. But I am satisfied, from the calculation I have given, that the provincial governments would be in very great difficulties, especially in their early years, if they had to accept the responsibility of the administration of the lands and not have the ready money from the beginning that is being provided for in these resolutions. Deduct the amount that is to be given in lieu of the lands, place the expense of the Mounted Police service on these provinces, saddle them with a part of the expense of the immigration service and, in place of having one million dollars per year to maintain schools and build roads and bridges, these provincial governments would find themselves each with a revenue of less than a quarter of a million dollars per year.

Mr. LAKE. The hon. member read a statement of expenditure on Dominion lands and amongst others was the expenditure chargeable to capital account. I happen to have the public accounts before me and I find that the expenditure on capital account is something over \$6,000,000. I understood the hon. gentleman to state the amount at something like \$9,000,000.

Mr. SCOTT. No, the \$9,000,000 will be the capital and the ordinary together. The capital expenditure was \$6,870,136.

Mr. FOSTER. I wish to supplement my list of inquiries by asking also for a statement of the quantity of alienated land in each province.

Mr. OLIVER. I shall have the inquiry made.

Mr. M. S. MCCARTHY. The hon. member from Western Assiniboia has thrown about as much light upon the objections to handing over the lands to the provinces as we have had from hon. gentlemen opposite up to the present time. He fears that there will be a conflict but does not the result of their argument lead them to this that there is an area set apart east of Saskatchewan in regard to which the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario, and Saskatchewan are to be heard, as to their respective claims in that portion of country. Now then if these lands are given to the province of Ontario I assume that that province will then have the right to administer that public domain, but if that territory goes to the province of Saskatchewan or to the province of Manitoba, these provinces will not have the right, they will have saddled upon them the ad-

ditional expenditure of the administration of that country, but they will derive no profit from these lands. If some hon. gentleman opposite will explain how there is going to be any greater conflict by reason of that land falling into the hands of the province of Saskatchewan, and more than there will be if it falls into the hands of Ontario, then perhaps we may place some faith in the objections they are raising to this proposition. All we have heard is that there will be some differences between the new provinces and the Dominion government in connection with the administration of the Immigration Department. Will not the same difficulty arise in the cases of Ontario and Quebec? Are there not vast areas of lands in the northern portions of those provinces to be opened up and settled? Have not statements been made in this House, for instance last session, during the discussion on the Grand Trunk Pacific Bill by hon. members from Quebec and from Ontario lauding the great value of the great asset they had in the Northern portion of their provinces through which that railway was to run, and that all they needed to induce settlement and fill that land up was the construction of a railway. Then I ask will there be any greater conflict in the administration of the Immigration Department between the government of Canada and the government of Ontario and Quebec than between the government of Canada and the new provinces in the west? Further than that, from a large portion of the area part of which is to-day being created into provinces and which was acquired by the purchase of the rights of the Hudson Bay Company has been handed over to the province of Quebec. Did it strike the Minister of the Interior then that in handing that land over to Quebec, to administer there would likely be a conflict between the provincial and the Dominion authorities in carrying out the immigration policy. I say that that objection does not hold, and I say further that I do not believe there is a member from the Northwest Territories sitting on that side of the House who in the west and until he came to this parliament, did not advocate that the lands in these provinces belong to the provinces absolutely and that the provincial government should administer them. I may be speaking in error, but if so I am subject to correction. I know that the hon. member for Western Assiniboia (Mr. Scott) has for years advocated not only on the public platform, but in his paper the Regina 'Leader,' that these lands belong to the province and should be administered by the province. That is the position he took and the hon. member for East Assiniboia (Mr. Turriff) has made a similar statement. The hon. member for Strathcona (Mr. Talbot) I think has made similar statements, but now they come down here to this parliament and the only reason I have yet heard