

upon the basis of these lands being acquired by Canada, leaving to hon. gentlemen opposite with whom the duty rested, if the House should affirm this view, of entering into such negotiations as would result in bringing down to the House a proposal based on retention of lands by Newfoundland. He therefore moved the following amendment: "That by the British North America Act of 1867, it is in effect provided that each of the Provinces by that Act united, should retain its public lands; that the public lands of Newfoundland proposed to be purchased by Canada at the price of \$150,000 a year, or \$3,000,000, do not pay the expenses of management; that the public lands may be managed more efficiently, economically and satisfactorily by the Province in which they are situated than by Canada; that there is no good reason for a departure from the principles of the British North America Act involved in the proposed purchase; that the House, while prepared in settling the terms on which Newfoundland should be admitted into the Union to give its earnest consideration to any exceptional circumstances in the condition of that Province, is of opinion that these terms should be so re-arranged that Newfoundland would retain its public lands." Seconded by **Hon. Mr. Holton**.

Hon. Mr. Tilley agreed that by the provisions of the British North America Act each Province controlled its own public domain, but he was speaking in the presence of members of the conferences of Quebec and London, who knew as well as he did that the proposition was made that the management and control of public lands should be vested in the Dominion. It was urged at great length, cogent reasons were advanced at the conference at London especially that the public lands should not be in the hands of the Local Governments. The General Government having control of emigration, &c., it was felt that in order to give effect to such schemes as they might propose, and to secure uniformity of system, that the public domain should be administered by the Dominion Government, that they could manage it more judiciously and wisely than the local Governments. The majority decided that the land should remain, as far as the four Provinces were concerned, in the hands of the Local Legislature. But it was not so with Newfoundland. In the case of that Province, they themselves suggested that their lands should be placed in the hands of the Dominion Government.

[Mr. Blake—M. Blake.]

\$3,000,000 que le Canada verserait pour l'achat des terres domaniales de Terre-Neuve ne couvre pas les frais de gestion de celles-ci; que les terres domaniales peuvent être gérées plus efficacement et de façon plus rentables par la province où elles sont situées que par le Dominion; qu'un tel achat ne justifie nullement une entorse aux principes de l'Acte de l'Amérique du Nord britannique; que bien que la Chambre soit disposée à tenir compte de la situation exceptionnelle de cette province lors de la détermination des conditions d'admission de celle-ci dans l'Union, elle estime néanmoins que ces conditions doivent être fixées de façon à ce que Terre-Neuve garde ses terres domaniales. La motion est appuyée par **M. Holton**.

L'hon. M. Tilley admet qu'aux termes de l'Acte de l'Amérique du Nord britannique, chaque province garde la gestion de ses propres terres domaniales, mais il s'adresse ici aux députés qui ont participé aux Conférences de Québec et de Londres et qui savent aussi bien que lui qu'on a proposé que la gestion et le contrôle des terres domaniales soient confiés au Dominion. Lors de la Conférence de Londres en particulier, on a avancé des raisons valables pour ne pas confier la gestion des terres domaniales aux Gouvernements locaux. Étant donné que le Gouvernement général est chargé de l'immigration, etc., on avait estimé, afin de mettre en œuvre les plans proposés par le Gouvernement et en vue d'en assurer l'uniformité d'exécution qu'il serait préférable que les terres domaniales soient gérées par le Gouvernement du Dominion qui le ferait de façon plus judicieuse que les Gouvernements locaux. Mais la majorité a décidé que la gestion des terres des quatre provinces continuerait à relever des Gouvernements locaux. Mais ce n'est pas le cas de Terre-Neuve.

Cette province a elle-même demandé que ses terres soient remises au Gouvernement du Dominion.