

know whether they are to be withheld from us or not.

With regard to the value of these lands, in the latest report of the Minister of the Interior, we have the statement of the sales of land made by the railway and other companies from 1893 to 1904. The sales amounted to 10,512,349 acres, and the amount of money for which these lands were sold was \$36,992,482, or about \$3.50 per acre. That is to say, we find that as the actual result of the 10 or 11 years' sales of the great land companies, they obtain for a little over 10,000,000 acres a sum nearly equal to the whole compensation to be paid to the people of each of the new provinces for 138,000,000 acres. Then, again, we have the figures given by the government of school lands sales. As I have said, they average about \$9.90 per acre. Also, the Prime Minister mentioned as 'a very moderate rate' \$3 per acre. He was afraid that if the land were handed over to the people of the Northwest Territories they might begin to sell them at something more than this very moderate rate of \$3 per acre. When he was questioned whether the lands were generally open for sale at these figures, we discovered that they were only open to a few favoured individuals and that the general public were not able to buy lands even at \$3 per acre. I will go a step further and take the figures given by the Minister of the Interior a couple of years ago in discussing the Grand Trunk Pacific project. He then made the calculation that that one line of railway alone was going to open up 50,000,000 acres of land, and that the 20,000,000 or 25,000,000 acres which the government would have for sale would have an accrued value of \$3 per acre within ten years after the completion of the line. Or, take the ex-Minister of the Interior's (Mr. Sifton's) statement made last Friday, when he referred to the school lands trust fund as being valued at \$50,000,000. That statement he made in the course of his speech on the educational clauses of this Bill. Now, these school lands consist of two sections out of every 36 sections in the township. That is, the school lands are about one-eighteenth part of the whole territory. About 1½ sections of each township have been set aside for the Hudson Bay Company, so that the school lands amount to one-seventeenth part of the area available. And, if the seventeenth part of the whole area is estimated by the ex-Minister of the Interior at \$50,000,000, it is a simple calculation to arrive at what he estimates as the value of the whole public domain in the Northwest—all you have to do is to multiply \$50,000,000 by 17. But I am not suggesting that that is a fair valuation of these lands. The ex-Minister of the Interior, I presume, thinks it must be. It is an exceedingly difficult thing to find at this time what the value of these lands will be

at some date in the future. But while it is a most difficult thing to arrive at any final conclusion on this question, I submit that the calculations I have quoted go to prove conclusively that the compensation that is offered for the loss of these lands is absolutely and utterly inadequate. The Prime Minister took the Manitoba lands as a precedent, as I have before mentioned. But, in the case of Manitoba, the swamp lands were handed back to that province. The Prime Minister says there are no swamp lands in the new provinces. I would not like to make such a confident assertion as that myself. But, if there are none, I think the Northwest should have some lands given them in lieu of the swamp lands. How much better it would be to avoid all these difficulties which confront us in the calculation of their real value by banding the lands over to the new provinces just as their public lands have been placed in the possession of the other provinces of the Dominion. The people of the new provinces would then feel that, in this respect at any rate they had been fairly treated; that in this respect, they had been granted full provincial rights. Or, I will make another proposition. If this parliament considers only 25,000,000 acres of land of that country to be of any value, I would invite them to select 25,000,000 acres in each province and pay us \$1.50 per acre and hand over the remainder to the provincial authorities. The people of the Northwest will make some use of the land if you will give it to them.

As a matter of fact I hold that no monetary consideration is sufficient to compensate us for the loss of our land. It is impossible to have a satisfactory administration of these lands from a centre upwards of two thousand miles distant. Nearly everything has to be referred to Ottawa. It takes nearly a week to get an answer to a letter from one of the nearest points, Regina. The people on the spot understand the conditions far better than the officials of the department down here in Ottawa. The land will be much better administered by officers responsible to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. The whole administration will be under the eyes of the people who are most deeply interested in the lands. It is quite a different matter when the administration is placed in the hands of one man at Ottawa. He becomes, in a sense a dictator, and he is responsible to a body of men very few of whom have any intimate knowledge of the local conditions which prevail in the Northwest Territories. The representatives of the other provinces of the Dominion control and manage their own lands. And they are the people best qualified to control and manage those lands. But I contend that they are not so well qualified to control and manage the lands of the Northwest as are the people of the Northwest themselves. I was very much amused by one feature of the speech made