

Minister of Customs, the ex-Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Agriculture and a number of the other gentlemen opposite have ignored the constitution to say that they must compromise on behalf of peace—and party. Surely, Mr. Speaker, these gentlemen see to-day the falsity of the stand they have taken; surely they see that instead of them compromising on behalf of peace they have created a disturbance in this country that will not be settled for years to come. A weak government may use weak arguments, but no arguments were ever weaker than the arguments used by this government. Man after man on the government side has tried to picture this country as in the hands of the opposition. Sir, if the people of Canada had an opportunity to-day, the affairs of this Dominion would be controlled and directed by the great Conservative party for the Conservative party is to-day voicing the sentiments of the people of Canada. If this government continues to juggle with the constitution then the people of Canada will soon demand that they be given a constitution that the ordinary man can understand. It was certainly not an edifying sight to see the way practically every supporter of the present government applauded the Prime Minister when he was taking away provincial rights from these new provinces. Nothing can atone in the life of a nation for a lack of courage, honesty and common sense in the men who are conducting the affairs of state. In matters of colonial legislation Great Britain always consulted her colonies, and their advice was always accepted. But, here the Dominion government legislate contrary to the demands of the provinces. Bear in mind that there never was a British constitution framed without the consent of those who had to live under it. Great Britain had our consent to the British North America Act before that Act was passed in the imperial parliament. In giving a federal constitution to Australia, the imperial parliament had the consent of the Commonwealth to every clause, and when there was a difference of opinion that difference was settled by agreement—not by coercion. The people who assume Dominion or provincial responsibility should have a voice in governing their admission to that status. The representatives of the Territories ask to have control of their public lands; they asked that if these lands were to be cut in two the line dividing the provinces should be placed sixty miles east of the line now proposed in the Bill. They asked to have perfect freedom in managing their educational policy. All these requests were ignored by the Dominion government; the only excuse given for not granting the demands with reference to the lands being that it would interfere with the Dominion immigration policy, and the only excuse for limiting the control of education by the province being, that it would interfere with the party. Great Britain re-

nounced the control of Crown lands in Canada upon the establishment of this Dominion, and what Great Britain has done for the Dominion the Dominion might well do for her provinces. All provinces feel the disadvantage of being small. Eastern Canada was once composed of four provinces or colonies as they were then called. Cape Breton was merged into Nova Scotia, and there was also about the time of confederation a movement on foot to amalgamate the maritime provinces so as to cheapen legislation; in fact I understand there is some discussion with that object in view going on at the present time. British Columbia was once two provinces, the Island of Vancouver being separated from the mainland, but the two are now united as one province. In the west we will have three provinces where two would have been sufficient, and were it not for the school question there is no good reason why we should not have but two provinces. The government lands in the United States are largely controlled by an independent body of men responsible to the president, whereas in Canada at the present time, the Crown lands are controlled and handled to the advantage of politicians. The right hon. the Prime Minister argued that the west was bought with a price, but now he finds that the west was not bought by Canada, that Canada never recognized the Hudson Bay deal, that there are no papers to show any transactions between Canada and any person for these lands, and that Canada would never recognize such a transaction. This government evidently does not think that the provinces can be trusted with their lands, but Mr. Speaker, the time is coming and not far distant, when these provinces will demand the rights to their lands as is conceded in section 109 of the British North America Act, and they will get them. The present Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) made an unfair reference to the province of Ontario when he compared the amount of money that province received from government Crown lands, with the compensation which the new provinces will get for their lands from the federal government. Mr. Oliver said:

I find that the province of Ontario with a population of two and a quarter millions in the year 1902 derived from these lands \$1,499,000. We find by the arrangement that has been made with these Northwest provinces that when their population reaches that of the province of Ontario they will derive two and a quarter millions in respect of their lands.

The hon. gentleman (Mr. Oliver) took just the figures for the Crown lands alone in 1902, but if he had come down to the present year he would find that the province of Ontario received from its Crown lands a revenue of \$2,767,735.71. To that he should have added that the Ontario government received from the Dominion government in subsidy grant and interest \$1,504,038.44