

der which is handed over to the original provinces the right to administer their public domain. If there is any doubt as to the policy that was adopted by the fathers of confederation, let us see what was said. I find in the confederation debates, at page 40, that Sir John A. Macdonald said :

It will be seen that the local legislature have the control of all the local works; and it is a matter of great importance, and one of the chief advantages of the federal union and of local legislatures, that each province will have the power and means of developing its own resources and aiding its own progress after its own fashion and in its own way.

Another distinguished Canadian, also one of the fathers of confederation, the Hon. George Brown, referring to this matter, in the course of his speech, said :

Each province is to have charge of its own Crown lands, Crown timber and Crown minerals, and will be free to take such steps for developing them as each deems best.

Further on, the Hon. Mr. Holton, interrupting Mr. Brown, said :

Unfortunately for your argument, the lands will be in the hands of the local governments.

Mr. Brown replied :

So much the better. My hon. friend can manage his public lands in Lower Canada as he likes, and we will manage ours.

At page 16 of the debates of 1869, Mr. Edward Blake made the following statement in opposing a resolution to admit Newfoundland into the union and to pay Newfoundland \$150,000 a year in lieu of its lands :

He was very strongly opposed to the Dominion acquiring the Crown lands of Newfoundland, and he has as strongly objected to Newfoundland being deprived of its Crown lands. He commended the policy of the framers of the constitution in leaving to each of the provinces the control of their own public lands. This was from the Canadian point of view. Then as to Newfoundland the arrangement was equally objectionable : (1) Its distance from the seat of government (2) and its small representation in parliament would lead to an unsatisfactory management.

The local government would be deprived of the control of these lands, which might by it be rendered valuable for the future development of the colony.

The development of mineral wealth could not be effected by raising a revenue, but by encouraging local enterprise. If the proposition was between giving Newfoundland \$150,000 a year and taking her lands, and giving \$150,000 a year and leaving her her lands, he would willingly vote for the latter (hear, hear). These lands under the local management of the government would contribute much more largely to the prosperity of Newfoundland than if they were in the hands of the government of Canada.

And he closed with an amendment to the resolution to this effect :

That the public lands can be managed more efficiently, economically and satisfactorily by

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY.

the provinces in which these lands are situated than by Canada, and that there is no good reason for a departure from the principle of the Union Act.

That is a statement which I desire to impress upon the members of this House in regard to the principles of the Union Act, as Mr. Blake regarded them in 1869.

But, Mr. Speaker, if there can be any doubt at all as to what was in the minds of those gentlemen at that day, I will refer to another statement which was made on June 10 in the same debate by Mr. Alexander Mackenzie. Mr. Blake had made his argument first, and had been twitted by the members of the government for voting to pay money to the Hudson Bay Company. If there could be anything plainer or clearer as to what was in their minds at that time, it would be hard to find it. Mr. Mackenzie said :

The Minister of Public Works, and the premier said they were surprised that the member for West Durham should object to our acquiring the public lands of Newfoundland after voting for the acquisition of lands in the Northwest Territories.

There was (a) difference between the two cases, in the Northwest Territories there were at present no constituted authorities as there were in Newfoundland, and it would not be pretended that after a government was established in the Northwest Territories we would administer its lands from Ottawa.

That statement to my mind is most significant because it was made in the year 1869, the very year when the surrender was taken from the Hudson Bay Company ; and I am sure that the First Minister and the Solicitor General will pardon the more obscure members from the west if we venture to differ from them in opinion, backed as we are by the statements of these men at the very time the contract went through. These were the views that prevailed at that time ; and in the consideration of this question we look to our fellow-citizens in the other provinces to admit our right to be put on an equal footing with them and be given the administration of our own public domain. I have shown what the arrangements were when the four original provinces entered confederation. Let us trace what the subsequent arrangements were in the case of those provinces which entered later.

British Columbia, which entered in 1870, was a colony entitled to its public lands, and not only has it control of its lands, but the Dominion pays it annually the sum of \$100,000 for a twenty mile strip through the Rocky Mountains that was alienated for railway purposes. Prince Edward Island entered in 1873, and I think at that time her Crown lands were in such a shape that an annual grant of \$45,000 was given her in lieu thereof. Manitoba is the one exception. That province was not allowed to retain its public lands, and hon. gentlemen opposite take glory in the fact that