

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. The right hon. gentleman has not answered that part of my question as to whether a territorial government is to be retained in the remaining Territories, the Yukon, the Mackenzie, Keewatin, and Franklin. Even if Athabaska is not made the basis of a new northern territorial government, I maintain there ought to be a territorial government, and that the present organization ought not to disappear but on the contrary it should be strengthened. In that way we would have the making of another new province or provinces under way. That country is of great value; the evening papers to-night announce another discovery of gold in the Yukon and we should not abandon our territorial government, but should rather strengthen it now that we are creating new provinces. I believe Commander Perry is now fitting out in Cape Breton, and in an article in 'Harpers Weekly' he says:

Early in July I plan to start on my fifth Arctic voyage, when I shall attempt to reach the North Pole, taking the so-called 'American' or Smith's Sound route. Establishing a coal depot at Etah and a sub-base of provisions at Cape Sabine at Smith's Sound, I shall proceed to navigate the stretch of ice north of Cape Sabine. I hope to reach the northern shore of Grant Land in September, winter there with my ship and early in February begin the sledge journey to the pole.

Commander Perry is looking to the American Sound and Grant land, and he says he is going to plant the American flag on the North Pole. We do not know to what extent these American explorers have already explored in our own territory, and we ought to keep an eye on them because the first thing we know there will be a claim on the part of the United States to some jurisdiction in our territory and over our waters. I believe that some kind of organized territorial government is essentially necessary in all that land, to maintain Canadian sovereignty. My idea is that a new strong territorial government should be maintained after these new provinces are created, and it should be charged with developing the country and maintaining Canadian sovereignty all over our territory north of these new provinces and north of Ontario and Quebec.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. When the Northwest Bill is brought down, my hon. friend will find that we have made ample provision for the government of these territories not included in the provinces. By and by when the northern boundaries of Alberta and Saskatchewan are extended to the north pole, we will, I think, have accomplished all that is required in the way of government. In regard to the portion of Alberta and Saskatchewan left out of these provinces, as the Prime Minister has said, provision will be made for the government of this portion of the Territories

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

pending the disposition that is to be made of these Territories in the very near future, as I understand.

Mr. M. S. MCCARTHY. There is a great deal in the point raised by the hon. member for South York. Would it not be just as reasonable at the present time to add the Yukon to British Columbia, Keewatin to Ontario and Ungava to Quebec, as to add the district of Athabaska to these new provinces? A person looking at the map will see that from the northern limit of railway construction to the southern boundary of Athabaska, the distance is about 113 miles, and further north from Athabaska about four hundred miles. The First Minister made the remark, when he introduced the Bill, that he doubted very much the advisability of the policy which created Manitoba into a province in the year 1870, when there were only some 12,000 people there. It seems to me that the reasons he assigned for his objection then, are equally applicable now. Looking at the map it will be found that the Dominion government—unless there is some Bill intended to provide for it—will still continue to administer Mackenzie, and the officers administering that country will have to go through Athabaska. The danger is that you will have conflicting laws up there. Take for example the fur trade which is the largest industry in that territory; you will perhaps have one law in Saskatchewan, another in Alberta, and possibly a third regulation by the Dominion government in the Territories to the north. The census of 1901 tells us that there were 252 white people in Athabaska and 262 unspecified, so that in Alberta we will probably be taking in about fifty per cent of that population or in all one hundred and twenty-four white people. I have here the official postal guide and I find there is only one post office in Athabaska, so that the schedule we have before us gives two representatives from Athabaska in the local House for one post office. According to the census of 1901, there were in Athabaska: 80 English, 8 Irish, 39 Scotch, 105 French, 2 Germans, 2 Scandinavians, 1 Belgian, or 252 white people in all. There were 2,395 half breeds, 3,716 Indians and 262 unspecified, giving a total population in that district of 6,615.

Mr. OLIVER. The arguments advanced by the hon. member would seem to be good arguments against there being any division at all, but I do not see that they apply against the divisions that have already been made. If there is to be a division at all, the hon. gentleman has stated nothing against this particular division. He has objected to a division of the ranching country into two parts on the ground that the brands on one side of the line might become mixed with the brands on the other side. That is an argument against there being a line at