

ground for complaint in that respect. We get a debt allowance on our population the same as is given the other provinces, so that there is no ground of complaint there. We get a per capita allowance of 80 cents on our population up to 800,000. There might perhaps be some criticism of that arrangement, because the lower provinces, Manitoba and British Columbia only get a per capita grant up to a population of 400,000, whereas Ontario gets it based on a population of 1,400,000 and Quebec on a population a little less. These two provinces get it on the population they had when they entered confederation. I do not think, however, that there can be any reasonable ground for criticism because our limit of population has been increased to 800,000 while some of the other provinces had theirs left at 400,000. They came into confederation some thirty-seven years ago, and it has taken all these years for them to get up to the limit of population. Nova Scotia is the only province of the three that has passed the limit, and it is only by a narrow margin. So that the limitation of population on which we receive 80c. per capita will be reached in our province in very much less time than thirty-seven years; in fact, we expect that in a few years we shall have reached that population. I, for one, have never been able to understand why this limit has been placed on any of the provinces; I cannot see why that 80c. per capita should not be paid to each of the provinces on their actual population. Every additional inhabitant coming into these provinces pay, roughly speaking, \$10 yearly into the revenues of the Dominion government; and I do not know any good reason why 80c. of that should not go back to the province for the carrying on of provincial work, and if, in the future, the other provinces shall make a demand on this government to have that per capita grant paid on their actual population, I should think they would be within their rights, and also that the Dominion would be perfectly justified in granting that demand. And I am sure that the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan would take exactly the same view in asking that the per capita grant be made on the actual population of each province. I believe that in this matter there is not much to complain of. Now, as to what we get in lieu of our lands—which, I suppose, is what the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) was referring to. I, for one, am perfectly satisfied with the arrangement made. I think it is a better arrangement than to have handed over the lands to the provinces. That was made clear by the hon. member from Edmonton (Mr. Oliver), who showed with absolute clearness that the ideas of the two governments, the provincial and the Dominion, would be absolutely different, that if the lands were handed over to the provinces they must use them for the purpose of producing immediate revenue, whereas by

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keeping the lands in the hands of the Dominion government they would be used rather to fill up the country and not necessarily for the taking of the last dollar out of the lands. But, if the Dominion government should decide to change their policy and dispose of the odd sections, keeping the even sections absolutely for the poor man's homestead, if they should decide to sell the lands for instance, as they sell their school lands, they will eventually accumulate a fund from these lands the interest on which will pay the subsidy they are giving to the provinces in lieu of the lands. So, it appears to me, it is a good arrangement for the province and a good arrangement for the Dominion. It is a particularly good arrangement for the provinces in this respect, that the revenue is a net revenue, the provinces have no expenses in connection with the administration of the lands, and it is a revenue that grows with the increase of population. We only get the full revenue from the lands when we have a population of 1,200,000 in each of these provinces. So, having it in this shape, I think the people of the Northwest can congratulate themselves upon having received fair and handsome treatment at the hands of the Dominion government, and that the Dominion government has also made a bargain that is absolutely justifiable. I am pleased to say that there has been very little criticism in connection with this phase of the matter. One thing I might point out is that there is no danger of the public domain, the source of revenue, being squandered. Now, I would not for a moment allow that the people of the Northwest Territories are not as well able to look after their own affairs as are any other people in the Dominion. But there is this fact that we must all acknowledge—that in the past the different railway companies have managed to get bonuses and guarantees out of practically every province in the Dominion. I cannot say how it is in Prince Edward Island, but I know how it is in every other province in the Dominion. Take, for instance, the province of Manitoba. As I said a little while ago they have gone security for between \$19,000,000 and \$20,000,000 for one railway company alone. That railway may be all right, but we know what the history of railway companies has been. There is always a chance of that liability being called upon. We know what British Columbia has done in giving away large tracts of land and coal and timber bonuses to railways. We know what the lower provinces and Quebec and Ontario have given in cash or guarantees. And we know that the Northwest Territories have been for years getting hundreds of miles of railways throughout its length and breadth without the cost of a single dollar to the province in any way; and if the people of the Territories will have the sense to stand firm and not give any grants to the railway