

viding line than the fourth meridian. It is a well-known line, and in that respect more acceptable than any of the lines between the different ranges. One of the reasons advanced by my hon. friend was that this dividing line would not include all the ranching country in the western province; but, Sir, the ranching country extends right down to the province of Manitoba. I have in my own constituency, within thirty or forty miles of Manitoba, dozens of men who have made their living the last fifteen or twenty years in ranching—men who do not grow any grain, but depend solely on the raising of cattle, and whose cattle are let loose all summer and branded just as they are up in southern Alberta. So that if the hon. gentleman wanted to make the western province wide enough to take in all the ranches, he would have had to bring it down to the borders of Manitoba. In addition, let me say that, from my knowledge of the country, gained in the course of twenty-seven years' residence there, during six years of which I was Commissioner of Dominion Lands, the two new provinces are about as nearly equal as any one could wish, not only in area, but in their capacity for supporting population. To prove that, all I need say is this, that the different railway companies which had the right to select railway lands all over that country, have selected 13,000,000 of acres in the proposed province of Saskatchewan and 12,000,000 in the proposed province of Alberta; and, from my own knowledge, I know they would have selected a good deal less in Saskatchewan and more in Alberta, were it not for the fact that there are more railways under construction in the new province of Saskatchewan than in its twin sister Alberta, so that the lands in the former, though in some respects not as good as in the latter, are on that account more saleable. In the two provinces, therefore, the area of grain-growing land is about equal. In addition, we must not lose sight of the fact that the province of Alberta has the greatest deposit of coal of any country in the world. I do not think that even British Columbia has as great coal deposits as are to be found in Alberta. Wherever you go into the Rocky mountains, from the American boundary right up to the Peace river pass, vast deposits of coal have been discovered. Right in the Crow's Nest pass there are seams of from ten to seventy feet in thickness of bituminous coal, and for hundreds of miles we find large deposits of coal right up to Edmonton, the Peace river pass, so that outside the agricultural wealth of that country, you will have in the years to come large settlements growing up all along the Rockies owing to the coal industries there. All along the Rockies, especially north of the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, there are also thousands of miles of valuable spruce and fir now beginning to be exploited, so that in a few years that country will

be able to supply all the timber required by the settlers in the prairie country and in the east. So that, although the proposed province of Alberta may have from 6,000 to 8,000 miles less of area than its twin sister Saskatchewan, the deficiency is more than made up by its coal deposits and timber limits. In making this comparison, I am not taking into consideration the great Peace river country. I do not know personally what that country may be. I have heard reports good and bad about it; but I want to say this, that after an experience of twenty-seven years, I have come to the conclusion that there is no one part of the Northwest, from the boundaries of Manitoba to the Rocky mountains, which does not turn out better than expected the more we learn about it. I have found that to be the invariable result. In that district where I have lived many years, the Moose mountain country, I remember fifteen years ago the people of Manitoba said you could not grow any wheat, because it was too dry, yet there is no finer wheat-growing country in the Territories to-day. Why, in the first few years of grain-growing around Regina, there was more wheat sown than was reaped, and yet there is to-day no finer wheat country than the immense plain around that city. Only ten years ago, if I were asked myself if wheat could be grown in southern Alberta, I would have said no; but what is the case to-day? We have thousands and thousands of acres of the finest wheat-growing there every year. In fact, all over the country you will find that the more you learn about it the better it turns out. There are vast stretches in the new province of Alberta which, a few years ago, were looked upon as suitable only for ranching, but which will be producing good crops of wheat every year within a very short period. In that whole country of Saskatchewan and Alberta there is not an acre, generally speaking, which, if not adapted for wheat-growing, is not good for cattle or the grazing of horses, so that there is practically not a waste acre in all that country.

I should like to say a few words on the financial question. That, I notice, is a matter which has scarcely been touched by hon. members opposite, but which is nevertheless of great importance to us in the Territories. In my opinion, the government has started us out very fairly. In fact, the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) said that all the other provinces would be knocking at the door of the federal administration because of the good terms we had received. On that point I do not agree with him, because, in my judgment, we are being given pretty much the same terms as were granted the other provinces. Each of our new provinces is to get \$50,000 for civil government. The province of Ontario gets \$80,000, Quebec \$70,000 and the lower provinces, with the exception of Prince Edward Island, get \$50,000 each. So that I do not see any