

as a dozen, and it shows that the Roblin government have been able through the Canadian Northern Railway, to have the freight rates greatly reduced and thus benefit the farmers. I would point out to hon. gentlemen opposite that Manitoba now has only 73,000 square miles of territory, and I am absolutely in earnest when I tell the government that in the case of Manitoba they have not nursed their child as they ought to have done. I hope my words will have some effect on them and that when they reconsider this matter—as I have no doubt they will reconsider the school clause they will extend our province to the west. The two clauses in this Bill which have been most discussed have been the land clauses and the educational clauses. I cannot agree with my hon. friend from Portage laPrairie (Mr. Crawford) with regard to the lands. He is the most generous man I have ever heard of in this House from Manitoba; he is willing to give everything to the Dominion government, but it seems to me that a representative of Manitoba is not doing his duty when he speaks in that way. I believe that the western provinces should own their lands just the same as Quebec, Ontario and the maritime provinces own their lands. The arguments on the other side of the House, from the Prime Minister down, have been attempts to find excuses for retaining these lands to the Dominion, rather than to show the country what would be the best disposition of these lands. My hon. friend (Mr. Crawford) said we did not say anything about the timber or the minerals, but I take it for granted that if we owned these lands we would own the timber and the minerals as well. I believe that the western provinces are just as well able to administer their lands, yes, and better able than the Dominion government which is so far distant. I want to be fair, and I will admit that there may possibly be a little something in the argument that for the time being immigration might be interfered with, but if I understand it aright, the immigration policy of this government takes in the whole Dominion and is not applicable to the west alone. I believe that those western provinces would be deeply interested in getting immigration into them, and they would certainly better understand their needs than would the people down here. I wish to quote now from a statement made by the hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Sifton), a gentleman very close to the government, who, in addressing the Toronto Club, said, as published in the Winnipeg 'Tribune,' April 11, 1905:

I may say that if there is anything further done it should be in connection with the far northern territory. I have expressed it as my opinion, and I repeat it, that the care of the Dominion northern lands should be cast upon the provinces. Though circumstances have forced the Dominion government to take charge

of large tracts of sparsely settled territory, this policy is not in accordance with the spirit of the constitution. To give the task to the provinces will relieve the Dominion government of a responsibility with which it is ill able to cope, because its members cannot have the personal knowledge necessary to make the work efficient.

These are the words of the hon. member for Brandon, addressed on the 6th of this month to the Canadian Club in Toronto. If that hon. gentleman thinks that the province could manage those northern lands better than they could be managed here, I cannot understand why the province could not better manage all the lands. It seems that the Dominion must keep control of all the good lands, but that any land which is not quite so good it is willing to give to the control of the province.

Now, I want to give some figures to show the progress of Manitoba and the Northwest in recent years. Last year we grew 86,000,000 bushels of grain; and this year there will be ready for crop about 2,500,000 acres. That is a very large tract of land. The immigration which came into the country from the United States last year amounted to 48,000. The cash receipts from the sale of Dominion lands amounted in 1896 to \$174,509, and in 1904 to \$1,681,824. The land sales by companies having land grants amounted in 1896 to \$361,338 and in 1904 to over \$5,000,000. I produce these figures to show that it is not probable that this country is going to give those two new provinces any money grant that will adequately compensate them for their lands. I would like to show you, by a comparison with land values in some of the western states, how the lands in the Northwest may be expected to increase in value. In Illinois, in 1850 land was worth \$10 an acre; to-day it is worth \$61.12. In Iowa in 1850 it was worth \$7.87; now it is worth \$53. In Minnesota in 1850 it was worth \$9.38; to-day it is worth \$39.05. Is there any reason why our lands should not increase in value in the next thirty years in the same proportion? If they do, consider our public lands as worth \$50 an acre, and then you will have some idea of what you are doing when you retain the lands and profess to give these provinces a generous recompense for them. We can hardly at the present time make a true estimate of the value of those lands. In 1881 we had 232 miles of railway in that country; to-day we have 6,000 miles.

In Winnipeg in 1900 the total assessment was \$25,000,000; in 1894 it was \$48,000,000. The building permits in 1900 were 530; in 1904 they were 1,737. The buildings erected in 1900 were 658, in 1904 they were 2,224. The actual money spent in the city of Winnipeg on improvements in 1900 was \$1,333,463; in 1904 it was \$12,000,000, of which over \$9,000,000 was expended in permanent improvements. The population of Winnipeg, according to the last returns given