

But in less than an hour from that time, he suggested that the people of the North-west Territories should be asked to relinquish a measure of autonomy with regard to the lands, that they should accept the lands with a string to them, the string suggested being that they should accept responsibility for the administration of the lands, but they were to give away the even numbered sections as free homesteads, and to continue to sell the odd numbered sections according to the policy which is in force at the present time or that which was foreshadowed by the ex-Minister of the Interior in his speech on the Grand Trunk Pacific Bill a couple of years ago. Let me say to my hon. friend from Calgary (Mr. M. S. McCarthy) who made a comparison with British Columbia, that if we allow ourselves to drift into comparisons of details with respect to the several provinces, we shall find between every province in Canada just as acute differences as he finds between the way British Columbia was treated with regard to a strip along the Canadian Pacific Railway and the way the new provinces are being treated in regard to their lands. In fact, the hon. gentleman overlooked the most striking case of all, that of Prince Edward Island. That province is allowed \$45,000 a year, as I understand, not exactly in lieu of lands, but on account of the fact that she had not any lands. Now see what scope there is in that citation for the purpose of comparison. Take the case of Manitoba. I recollect reading a statement made by the Prime Minister of Manitoba a couple of weeks ago, in which he pointed out that the maximum revenue provided under the arrangement made by a Conservative government of this Dominion with that province, would be \$648,000, that would be the maximum revenue they would receive under the existing arrangement when that province reached the maximum population provided for. He then pointed out, with every appearance of a deep sense of grievance, that these new provinces will have a maximum revenue of \$2,207,000.

The hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster), to whom I listened with much interest this afternoon, was much mistaken in thinking that these resolutions were agreed to without serious consideration of the matter of the lands. The revenues derived by the other provinces come from the Dominion treasury in the form of cash subsidies, and from the amounts which they are able to derive by administering, selling and otherwise disposing of their public domain. In considering the provisions for these new provinces, attention was naturally given to these two aspects of the case, we endeavoured to reach the proper amounts of ordinary cash subsidies by looking at the amounts the other provinces receive. Then we endeavoured to arrive at what would be a proper amount to allow the

new provinces in consideration of the fact that they are not going to have in their actual possession the source of revenue which the other provinces except Manitoba, have in their possession, that is to say, the public domain. Of course there were two points of view, there was the federal point of view and the point of view of the people of the new provinces. Now let me say to the hon. member for North Toronto and the hon. member for North Lanark (Mr. Haggart), or to any one else who may think that too much money is being granted by these resolutions to the new provinces, that they may set their minds at rest in that regard. While we have not perhaps the actual measurement in acres of the quantity of land, while perhaps we are not able to arrive at an absolute estimate of the value of these lands, I think no person has any doubt about the fact that we have an enormous public domain out there, and that if a private corporation had that domain in its possession and treated it entirely from the point of view of revenue, they would consider it worth a great deal more than the \$75,000,000 which is specified in these resolutions for both provinces. If this government decided to treat that public domain strictly from the point of view of revenue, I venture to think they would be able to dispose of it for a considerably larger amount than \$75,000,000. Even if we knew the exact number of acres of wheat lands, the exact number of acres of grazing lands, the exact area of timber lands, and of mineral lands, we could not be much further ahead than we are at the present time. I do not suppose there are any two individuals who would agree as to the value to be put upon this enormous public domain. I might say, as the ex-Minister of the Interior said with regard to these 50,000,000 acres, that in a short time they may bring \$3 an acre. Probably he was right. Or I might be disposed to think that they may be worth even \$5 an acre; and by stretching the time a little, that in twenty-five or thirty years hence, if some of these lands still remain in possession of the Dominion government, they may be worth \$30, \$40 or \$50 an acre. As I say, it is impossible to agree upon an estimate with regard to their value. When we were in consultation about this matter we had the advantage of the presence with us of the hon. gentleman from East Assiniboia (Mr. Turriff) who until recently was the Commissioner of Dominion Lands; and I suppose he has as much information about that public domain as any one else in Canada. He told his colleagues, and the members of the government who were in consultation, that there were, to the best of his knowledge, or that there would be, available from time to time, in addition to the even numbered sections which are set apart for free homesteads, in the neighbourhood of 50,000,000 acres of odd numbered sections available for sale. Some members of the government

Mr. SCOTT.