

them may be debatable. It is difficult in a matter of this kind, as we know from past experience, to come to a conclusion satisfactory to everybody, but my hon. friend (Mr. R. L. Borden) is aware that sometimes the line of contention is very minute. Even if the suggestion my hon. friend has made should be accepted, no time would be lost and everything would be gained by a discussion of this matter and a fair exchange of views between both sides.

Section 12 and the schedule allowed to stand.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Section 16 would be the next in order but it would be more convenient if we would consider it with section 2, when the other provisions of the Bill are disposed of.

Mr. FIELDING. We have dealt with sections 17, 18 and 19 in the form of a resolution which has passed the committee of the House, and I would move that these resolutions be substituted for these three sections. We have discussed these thoroughly and I do not know if there is any desire to raise any other question concerning them.

Mr. FOSTER. I have asked the Minister of the Interior for certain information which I have not yet received in connection with these resolutions.

Mr. FIELDING. What was the information?

Mr. FOSTER. I wanted to get the land areas; the different qualities of the land and all the land still remaining unalienated.

Mr. OLIVER. I have the information asked for by the hon. gentleman. It is as perfectly prepared as possible on such short notice, but as I said the other day it is an absolute impossibility to give any correct statement, because part of the agricultural land and grazing land is also mineral land, and there is generally a lack of definite division between them. I hand this information over to the hon. gentleman which he will have to accept as on the authority of the officers of the department and a reasonable attempt to give the information he asked for.

Mr. FOSTER. I would like the section to stand until I can digest this information. I want to call the minister's attention to the fact that in the return which has been brought down, there is a recapitulation of all the lands in the district of Alberta, Assiniboia and Saskatchewan, which I understand are the existing divisions. Then there are the lands which have been alienated in these. For Alberta and Assiniboia that would be all right; but when you come to Saskatchewan, there is a portion of the provisional district which I understand is not included in the province of Saskatche-

wan, and a calculation would have to be made as to the quantity of alienated lands which would have to be deducted on account of that portion.

Mr. OLIVER. I think there have been no lands alienated in that strip; but I will make inquiry with regard to that.

Mr. FIELDING. I will move that sections 17, 18 and 19 be replaced by the resolutions which have been adopted in committee, and which will be found on page 542 of the Votes and Proceedings, and that they stand for further consideration.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. With regard to section 16, although it is convenient, as my hon. friend the Minister of Justice suggests, to delay its final consideration until we are prepared to take it up along with section 2, I thought it might be convenient for him to-day to give his explanation of the difference, according to the view of the government, between the original and the amended section 16, which was spoken of on the second reading of the Bill and also in the discussion on section 2.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I have not my papers with me and am not able to deal with that subject now. I anticipated a long discussion on the previous clauses of the Bill, and did not prepare myself to deal with that particular clause to-day.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Of course, we really have never had up to the present time any statement on behalf of the government, beyond a very general statement made by the Prime Minister on the second reading of the Bill, which did not go into particulars and seemed to me to be remarkably indefinite, as to what the difference between the two sections is. We had a very full and elaborate statement from the ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) with regard to the difference, and I am not at all clear as to whether the view he took is the one which still commends itself to my hon. friend the Minister of Justice, and for that reason I would have been glad to have his views on that subject to-day. However, I am entirely willing to consult his convenience, except that I would suggest to my hon. friend that after he has made his statement, we might possibly after some discussion ask the clause to stand for a little consideration of any views which might be put forward in case they should prove to be very divergent from those of the ex-Minister of the Interior.

Mr. FOSTER. Would it not be well also to suggest to the Minister of Justice that he should use his personal influence to have the ex-Minister of the Interior here when that discussion takes place. It would be very interesting.