

transaction between government and government, the price which we have given is a fair one, the basis is a reasonable one and one which is perfectly intelligible and will meet with the approbation of the House.

Mr. LAKE. In reference to what the right hon. gentleman said, I should be perfectly willing to admit that you could not put fifty million of acres on the market at this moment and obtain for them the price of \$1.50 per acre, but I do firmly believe that if these lands are husbanded carefully we shall in the long run get fully the price which has been realized by the land companies for their lands and fully the price of school lands and even more than that price. He has taken the estimate of the late Minister of the Interior that 50,000,000 acres would be about the amount of land comprised in the odd numbered sections which will be available for disposal by the government. I would suggest to the right hon. gentleman that it would be only right to take also the estimate which the late Minister of the Interior put upon the value of this land in his remarks on the occasion of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway debate. He stated that within ten years from the completion of this railway these 50,000,000 acres of land would be available, and I think he must only have referred to the lands which would be opened up by the railway. He further said that within ten years from the completion of the railway—I am only speaking from memory, but I think I am perfectly correct; if I am not some gentleman may put me right—20,000,000 acres would have an accrued value of \$3 per acre. That is the basis that we ought to go upon. If these lands are not going to be thrown on the market in one block at once the value which they will have in the future should be given to them. Further than that I may quote from a remark which was also made by the late Minister of the Interior during the debate on the second reading of this Bill. When, speaking in reference to the value of the school lands fund, he stated that that was a fund which would be worth \$50,000,000. I may point out that the school lands are something less than one-seventeenth part of the whole of the lands included in these two provinces. I cannot suppose that the late Minister of the Interior would make a statement of that sort unless he had some ground for believing that at some day in the future the amount to be received for these lands would reach that sum.

Mr. FOSTER. I think, if I can judge from what the right hon. Prime Minister stated, that the inference, if not the statement, of the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) is the correct one. It does not seem to me that there was any calculation made at all, and that all the specious putting out of quantities of land and the estimating

of prices simply have no significance at all except that you want to have a sufficient number of acres of land to multiply by \$1.50 to make up the sum that you have come to the conclusion you would give to each of these provinces for its government—\$37,500,000. If so, why should you bring in the land at all? The land evidently had nothing in the world to do with it. What the government were evidently looking at was this: What is the amount that we should reasonably give to each of these provinces to enable it to carry on its financial affairs; \$37,500,000. You gave that. You have denied that they should have their lands. You say the lands should belong to the Dominion government. They do anyway. You say that the provinces as formed shall not have any rights at all over their lands; You deny any right or title at the present time to the people of the Northwest in these lands which may be all right and you deny any right to their lands after they are formed into provinces, when as provinces they, I think, ought to have their lands and the management thereof, for various reasons. But, you deny both of these premises. Then, why do you make the specious pretense of having anything to do with lands at all? Why do you not simply make your resolution read in this way: That the Dominion government does not propose to give over to these provinces their lands, and yet, recognizing that they must have money to carry on their public works, you give them the amount of \$37,500,000 to be paid in a certain way. That would be a fair, open, clear exposition of the real facts which the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) has inadvertently let out. The hon. Minister of the Interior, being young, is less wily and less skilled in the arts of concealment than his older colleagues. I sincerely trust that his virgin modesty and openness will always remain the same, and that he will be a shining example of a minister who is frank and outspoken, who will call a spade a spade, and who, when he makes a resolution to give money for any purpose, will not attribute it to some refined method of calculation as to the quantity of land and the present and prospective value of land, but will just simply say in his resolution, as he says before the committee, that he proposes to give these new provinces \$37,500,000 each. This other is all subterfuge and a specious application of the wily arts of the politician to lull the sentiments and probably the rightful sentiments of the people in the Northwest. The hon. Minister of the Interior has been good enough to say that we should have the information. I would like to know the quantity of lands there is in each of these provinces that are considered to be arable lands, the acreage that is considered to be grazing lands and the area that is put in the category of mineral lands. I suppose there are certain portions of these lands, of which you already have made surveys and in regard to which

Str WILFRID LAURIER.