

correct record of some of the things that had taken place and putting him in the very awkward position before the people of the country of having given an incorrect statement of the facts. On that occasion he also told us that he had great pity for the Northwest Territories—no Minister of the Interior, not a friend in the government and all the members from the Northwest dumb and muzzled. Within five minutes after making that assertion he made the assertion that the terms granted to the Territories by these Bills were so good, were so liberal, were so magnanimous that they would bring every other province knocking at the door of the Dominion for better terms. If the Northwest Territories had not any member in the government and had not any friends in the government and if the Northwest members did not do anything to help the Territories, they have not fared very badly according to that hon. gentleman.

On that occasion he was very anxious that the portfolio of the Interior should be filled and, Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that he is not half as sorry as the members from the Northwest Territories are that the hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Sifton) is no longer the Minister of the Interior. Why? Simply because we members from the west know better than any other class of men in this country just what the Northwest Territories and what Canada has lost by that hon. gentleman not being a member of the government. I had the pleasure of going to that western country in 1878, just in the month that Sir John Macdonald came into power, and I know what the conditions were. We know what their rule was for eighteen long years. We saw the Canadian Pacific Railway built through that country, we saw thousands and millions of dollars expended, we saw thousands and thousands of workmen brought into that country and we saw hundreds of thousands of dollars expended per annum in bringing in immigrants. What was the result? The government of Sir John Macdonald spent money with a lavish hand in bringing in immigrants but they passed laws and regulations of such a nature and carried them out in such a manner that they drove the people out of the country. That was the result of their administration for eighteen long years. But, in 1896 a brighter day dawned for Canada and especially for the Northwest Territories and if ever the right hon. leader of the government did one good day's work for Canada he did it on the day that he appointed the Hon. Clifford Sifton as the member of his cabinet representing the Northwest Territories. What has taken place since that day about eight years ago? The whole history and the whole development of that country have undergone a change and you would not know the west now comparing it with what it was eight years ago.

Just to give an instance that can be readily understood by every hon. member of the

Mr. TURRIFF.

House, I may say that at that time we had four members in this House from the Northwest Territories. In 1901, when the census was taken, we were entitled to six members, and I have no doubt that the House of Commons here thought they were doing a very generous act, as in fact they were, when they gave us ten members instead of six. But, if we had representation by population in this House the Northwest Territories would be represented by not ten members but by fifteen. Whatever advantage has been obtained for the Northwest in the past has been brought about largely by the active and energetic work of the ex-Minister of the Interior. And, Sir, I am sure I will meet with the approval of every member from the west when I say, that nothing would please us better than if it could happen that the Hon. Mr. Sifton were again to take up his portfolio. I believe every member from the west will agree with me that we have not another man who is in the same class as he is, as regards ability for carrying on that work in the west and benefiting the country generally.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Mr. TURRIFF. The hon. member for South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean) may point over to this side of the House, but I venture to say that neither the hon. member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) nor the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Scott), or any other man from the west will for a moment disagree with me, when I say, that there is no other man in the Liberal party, or in the Conservative party either, in the west, or in any other part of Canada, who is able to take the place of Mr. Sifton as a representative of the west—not even the hon. member for South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean).

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Why is he not here to-night to accept your compliment?

Mr. TURRIFF. I would say further, that the hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Sifton) is too young a man and too able a man that Canada should lose his services. It is our hope, we Liberals at all events, that the country will be able to avail itself of his services before long, and that in the interests of the whole Dominion of Canada we shall long retain him. When the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) was recently fishing for information, he talked about dangling the portfolio of the Interior, and senatorships, before the members from the Northwest in order to get their support for this Bill. Let me tell him that there is no member from the west who is not supporting this Bill on its merits, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) went very far astray when he made the assertion to which I have referred. But, of course, he ought to know; he has been in the government and he has been out of the government and he went back into the government and he probably