

Foster) would be soon realized by the provinces should the public lands remain in their possession. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) has shown further, that there is a way by which ample means would be placed at the disposal of the local administration without entrenching on their capital in the way of public lands. The Minister of the Interior in his reply did not attempt to criticise the figures given by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster). In fact he admitted there was a great deal in them when he stated that the effect of that speech would be to create dissatisfaction with the financial terms among the people of the west. That statement clearly proves to this House that the Minister of the Interior thinks that the people of the west will be satisfied that the suggestions made by the member for North Toronto are well within the bounds of probability.

The minister says the object of the sale of lands in the west should be to develop the country rather than to derive a revenue, and he has deprecated the policy which he says the members of the opposition would adopt, of squeezing the last cent of value that could be got out of the land, as he claims has been done in the disposal of the school lands. The hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) very well called his attention to the sale of homestead lands to the Saskatchewan Valley Land Company a short time ago at \$1 an acre. Surely the fact remains that in that particular case every cent is being squeezed out of the people who want to buy these lands. There is this bad feature about it also, that the proceeds of this squeezing goes into the hands of a private company, and not into the hands of the Dominion or provincial authorities; and yet it seems to me that the Minister of the Interior approves of the policy which was initiated at that time, of selling a vast tract of land to a private company, with the intention of making that company an immigration agent on a large scale. I hold that if this policy is continued, as we may anticipate will be the case if the Minister of the Interior so highly approves of it, it will have a most pernicious effect upon the immigration into the Northwest. I have already seen, in the part of the country with which I am familiar, the result which the possession of these lands held for speculation by the land companies is having upon immigration. There are a number of homesteads in that part of the country, but it is impossible for the ordinary settler to get a homestead from the government. As a general rule, however, one of the land companies will be able to offer him for sale one of its pieces of land, and in some way or another procure for him the right of homesteading a piece of government land alongside of it. That is a matter of common report all over that country, and persons have told me of it from their own personal experience. I wish to say a word or

two with reference to the arguments put forward by the Minister of the Interior in regard to the Dominion government having a greater interest in the establishment of settlers in the Northwest than the provincial government has. Talking of governments alone, I think that is perfectly true; but I think the deduction he draws from that statement is altogether wrong. It appears to me that the Immigration Department will continue to be maintained on its present very elaborate basis; but if you had in addition the province directly interested in the lands, you would have it also working for immigration. We have already had an explanation of the way the provincial government of Ontario is working for immigration on its own account. Reading the report of the Minister of the Interior the other day, I noticed that the Dominion Department of Immigration was claiming credit for putting a large number of farm hands into the province of Ontario during the year. I was told that the provincial authorities rather objected to that claim on the part of the Dominion authorities, considering that they had had a very large share in obtaining those immigrants. At any rate, the efforts of the Ontario government must have been successful to a very large extent; and I hold that it is better to have both the Dominion and the provincial governments interested in procuring immigration, for the more immigration agents we have the better for the country. I wish to put on record an argument which was used by the Northwest government when it was requesting the grant of provincial autonomy from the Dominion government and was requesting at the same time that full ownership of the public domain should be vested in the province. As this deals to a certain extent with the legal aspect of the question, I wish to see it upon Hansard:

The right and title to the public domain is in the Crown, but in the colonies directly established by Great Britain the beneficiary interest in the revenues arising from the sale or other disposal of the public domain has been surrendered by the Crown for the benefit of the people residing in such colonies. The Union Act of 1840 specifically provided that the territorial and other revenues then at the disposal of the Crown should be placed in future at the disposal of the province of Canada then being formed. Similar dispositions were made, either by statute or by the exercise of the royal prerogative, in favour of the other colonies in British North America. The British North America Act continued these arrangements for the benefit of the provinces forming the confederation, and the sections of the Bill under reference provide for the extension of the principle to the province of which it purports to provide for the formation.

It may be noted that there has been no legislation or exercise of the royal prerogative transferring to Canada or otherwise, any right to enjoy the beneficiary interest in the territorial revenues of the Northwest Territories. The