

amounted to \$36,992,482. Thus the land companies, during the eleven years previous to the 30th June, 1904, sold something under eleven million acres of land for nearly \$37,000,000. Those are the returns given in the report of the Department of the Interior. What I want to get is a definite idea of the basis of the calculation which was made by the government in arriving at this sum to be allowed the new provinces as compensation for their lands.

Mr. OLIVER. If the hon. gentleman will say just what information he wants in order to arrive at a basis for his arguments, I shall be very glad to order it to be prepared. I thought that the information submitted would be sufficient; but if it be not, and I am definitely informed what will be sufficient, certainly such a statement will be prepared. I may say that the question is not so much what a certain quantity of land in the Northwest Territory could be sold for as a question of how much money is required to carry on the government of the new provinces in comparison with the amounts which are available for the other provinces to carry on their provincial business. As stated in the resolution, it is not a matter of buying and selling lands, but of providing for the support of the provincial governments in proportion to that given the governments of other provinces from Dominion subsidies and the sales of land. We wish to place these new provinces in at least as good a position as the older ones.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. If that be the case, what is the use of any recital respecting the lands? I do not see the force of it, yet the resolution was based altogether, in the first instance, on the amount of land and a certain value per acre. That has since been modified by the amendment introduced by my hon. friend the Minister of Finance for the purpose of getting rid of the difficulty suggested by the ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), who said that these new provinces, having their right to the lands recognized by the terms of the proposed statute, would continually come back upon the government with the plea that the lands had much improved in value, and there would consequently be constant friction between the Dominion government and the new provinces. But my hon. friend has put the matter in a new aspect; and I do not see why, if he is speaking with the concurrence of his colleagues, the Minister of Finance should have introduced the amendment in its present form, and why he should not simply eliminate all reference to the lands and put the matter in the form of a subsidy for the reason suggested by the Minister of the Interior, namely, that it is necessary for the carrying on of the governments of the new provinces, to make a certain additional grant to them.

Mr. OLIVER. That is exactly what is being done by the amendment, as I under-

stand it. This is a special allowance in view of the lands. There must be some reason given for making such an allowance different from what is given the other provinces, and that is the reason; and the question of the value of the lands is not the main question to be considered, as the amendment introduced indicates. I was going to allude to a remark made by my hon. friend from Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) as to the value which has been received for lands sold by the land companies. On that value he proposed to base a comparison with the value of other lands in the Territories. I point out that the lands sold at that value were lands specially selected by the railway company, lands that, in many cases had been specially advantaged by the construction of the railway. The value of these lands, of course, is no fair basis of comparison in estimating the value of the lands remaining. The fact that these lands have been selected and taken out of the possibility of revenue for either this government or the provincial government absolutely reduces the value of the remaining part of the lands.

Mr. LAKE. I would suggest that the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) has forgotten that I included the lands of the Hudson Bay Company which were not specially selected. And the price received for them was \$5.50, as against \$3.50 per acre, which was obtained for the lands of the railway company which the minister says were specially selected. I might mention a further basis of calculation in the school lands which have been sold recently in the Northwest. These are not specially selected either. The school lands are simply two sections in each township. And the average price for which they sold was about \$9 per acre. The average price for school lands in Assiniboia was \$9.69 and the average of all, I think I am correct in stating was over \$9 per acre.

Mr. TURRIFF. In the case of the school lands it is only the best lands that have been sold, in most cases. A high valuation is placed on the school lands, and if they do not bring that price they are not sold at all. In the last sale of school lands in Assiniboia, the lowest price was \$7, and anything that purchasers did not think worth that was not sold, but still remains the property of the government. The same thing applies, to a large extent, to the Hudson Bay Company's lands. The company put a high price per acre and hold these lands until the particular part of the country in which they are becomes well settled, and so they get a high price. This policy is carried out even when it is necessary to hold the lands for many years. And, in case of the school lands, the government still hold the lands which will not bring a good price.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. In view of the argument of the Minister of the Interior (Mr.