

Mr. HYMAN. Private members' work will be taken up, and if we get through with that we will go into supply.

Mr. INGRAM. On what items?

Mr. HYMAN. I cannot answer that, but it will not be on the Public Works estimates.

Mr. INGRAM. Could any of the ministers say what estimates they will discuss?

Mr. HYMAN. It is a difficult matter. If the hon. Minister of Agriculture is here, I think he will go on with his estimates, but I would not like to be bound down to saying exactly what we will go on with. It will be private members' day, and I suppose it will be taken up with private members' business.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 11.05 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, February 27, 1905.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 82) to incorporate the Dominion Annuity Company.—Mr. Bole.

RIGHTS OF THE PROVINCES.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN (South York). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I intend to ask the attention of the House to a very grave matter; and, if necessary, to put myself in order, I will conclude with a motion. The very important matter to which I propose to call attention has reference to provincial rights, particularly the rights of the province of Manitoba, and I regret very much that neither the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) nor the late premier of Manitoba (Mr. Greenway), who has now a seat in this House, is in his place. It is largely because these hon. gentlemen have not chosen to call the attention of the House to this matter that I do so to-day. I think I can best bring the question immediately within the view of hon. members by reading a translation of an article that was published in 'Le Soleil' of Quebec, on February 11.

Mr. EMMERSON. Read the original.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. I will read the original, but for the benefit of the Minister of Railways, I will translate it; I am quite competent to do both. 'Le Soleil,' which claims to be under the personal control of the Prime Minister and to speak for him, in its issue of February 11, made this declaration:

We declare once for all that 'Le Soleil' is the organ of the Liberal party, and by that fact is under the direction and absolute control of Sir Wilfrid. The supporters of Sir Wilfrid, and those who affirm themselves to be such, are begged to take notice of the present declaration.

On February 17, that paper, in an editorial, discussed the rights of the province of Manitoba in this way:

In proportion to her big sisters Manitoba will count as little more than a large county.

This is one of the reasons invoked by Manitoba's delegates to obtain an enlargement of her territory.

There is another. Quebec and Ontario have extended their limits, the one to the west, the other to the east, to attain on the north the shores of James bay.

Manitoba aspires to the shores of Hudson bay, on the northeast. It would be necessary to withdraw her boundaries several hundred miles towards the north, to cut the districts of Saskatchewan and Athabaska, and encircle that of Keewatin.

Manitoba is asking for treble her existing territory.

This enlargement is hardly possible.

The district of Saskatchewan opposes it, at least the part directly interested.

The finances of Manitoba in their actual state are not made to attract the free residents of the districts. Manitoba has a debt of \$4,000,000. The school legislation of the little province is not of a nature to attract the immigrants who people the districts. The Northwest has its separate schools. Manitoba has abolished them.

Every good act has its reward, every bad act its chastisement.

Manitoba will remain lowest with her pretentious law.

In other words, a threat is here held out by the Quebec organ of hon. gentlemen opposite that Manitoba is to be kept in her inferior position, as compared with the other provinces, as a punishment because she chose to vindicate her provincial rights. She is to be denied territory, and worse things than that are to befall her. Again I say I regret the absence of the Minister of the Interior and the late Prime Minister of Manitoba. Among the laws of this country is a very important Act called the Dominion Lands Act. Reading from the Revised Statutes of 1886, I find that section 23 of that Act, under the head of School Lands, says:

Sections eleven and twenty-nine in every surveyed township throughout the extent of the Dominion lands, are hereby set apart as an endowment for purposes of education, and shall be designated school lands; and they are hereby withdrawn from the operation of the clauses of this Act, which relate to the sale of Dominion lands and to homestead rights therein; and no right to purchase or to obtain homestead entry shall be recognized in connection with the said sections, or any part of them.

Sections 24 and 25 provide how these lands shall be sold. Subsection 3 of section 25 says:

All moneys, from time to time, realized from the sale of school lands shall be invested in