

numbered sections, reserving the even numbered for the poor man's homesteads, and we would get \$60,000,000 to \$75,000,000 out of it.

Mr. HERRON. I might say with reference to the comparison which the hon. gentleman drew between the lands of British Columbia and those of Alberta, that if we have no precious minerals in Alberta, still we have these immense coal deposits which are probably just as valuable as the precious metals. Some of the coal mines of Alberta have sold for as large a sum as some of these silver and copper mines of British Columbia. One of them sold for no less a sum than \$3,000,000. Within twenty-five miles of the locality where I live, I suppose we have fifty coal mines just as good as the one I referred to, which sold for \$3,000,000. Coal mines are being developed all over that country. Not more than a month ago, an eminent engineer reported on a mine newly developed within the last year, and in his report he said that there were ten million tons of coal above tunnel levels. That is only one mine out of fifty within twenty-five miles of where I live. It seems to me that a province with natural resources of that kind would have no difficulty in raising a fair amount of revenue. You might also take into consideration our fisheries, which may be of considerable importance. I think that if they were under the control of the Northwest government we should not see them leased at \$10 a year for 21 years. If they were handled in the proper way, they would be another considerable source of revenue. I consider the minerals of our country also very important. And I think we could make a law which would do more to promote the development of our mineral resources than can be done from here. The mining laws of the Dominion, I consider, very unsatisfactory to the people engaged in mining. And something should be done to remedy this difficulty.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. The Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) laid down the doctrine a little while ago, that not only should the Dominion have these lands, but it should also have the immense revenue from customs to be yielded by that country. That is, the Dominion is to have everything, and the old provincial righters have completely changed their doctrines. The minister spoke of this land being the land of the people. Formerly it used to be 'the land for the province' but the minister covers the change by a general assertion of 'the land for the people. But the fact is he is abandoning the old platform on which he and his friends used to stand before this House and before the country. But I believe there is no change in the view that the people of the country take on this subject. As has just been stated by the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Herron), the mineral lands may be

Mr. R. L. BORDEN.

worth more than the agricultural lands, but these now are given over to the Dominion. Why not adopt this solution of the difficulty, take stock of what there is there and give half to the people of the west and keep half for the Dominion? I hold that those provinces when established, should be started off with a large public domain of their own. They can give lands to the settler as well as the Dominion can. They can encourage mining by giving mineral grants. And perhaps they can do more than the Dominion can to develop the mineral lands by a policy similar to that of Nova Scotia. The province of Nova Scotia, for its size, is probably the richest province of the Dominion, by reason of its immense mineral deposits, especially in the way of coal. If there are these great coal deposits in the west that they say there are, and if coal is essential to the west, as I believe it to be, it would be a good thing if the new provinces had this public domain. And, if they cannot have it all, they should share it. It may be the view of the hon. gentlemen opposite that the provinces should not have part of this domain. That may be the view of the Dominion government, but I do not think it is in accord with the speeches made in the west or with the resolutions in the territorial assembly, nor do I believe it to be in accord with the views of the people of the west to-day.

Mr. LAKE. I believe that the consensus of opinion in the Northwest is in favour of the possession of the public domain by the people of the new provinces. It is curious to me that hon. gentlemen opposite say that they have not heard any dissatisfaction expressed in the country with the policy they now propose.

Mr. SCOTT. Why did not the hon. gentleman (Mr. Lake) go to Edmonton and ask the people to endorse his view?

Mr. LAKE. I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Scott), if he has heard from any but his own political associates must have heard a good deal more on this subject than he is willing to admit. We have been told by hon. gentlemen opposite that they have heard hardly any objection to the educational clauses of the Bill. The hon. member for Western Assiniboia (Mr. Scott) nods his head in assent to that. I can assure him that both with regard to the educational clauses, which we are not now discussing, and the land clauses I have heard a great deal of dissatisfaction expressed, and have had a large number of letters on the subject. I can well understand that hon. gentlemen supporting the government think that the Dominion should retain the land. The idea was expressed to me by a leading Liberal of the Territories before the recent election. He said to me: 'You cannot expect the Dominion government to divest themselves of the enormous patronage involved in the public lands of the Northwest.' But the point I wish to call attention to just now is