

of the Territories are just as independent and have minds of their own just as well as had the people of Manitoba in 1896, and a coercive policy would meet with as much opposition from them as it did from the province of Manitoba in 1896. It seems to me therefore that the extension westward of the boundary of Manitoba is absolutely out of the question. With regard to the northern extension, I should like to call the attention of the House to a few facts which seems to have been overlooked. It was pointed out the other night by the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. W. J. Roche) that in 1898 the legislature of the Territories passed a resolution consenting to a northern extension of the boundary of Manitoba so as to include that portion of the Saskatchewan which lies north of that boundary. But Mr. Speaker, let me call attention to two other resolutions dealing with the same subject. The first was submitted in 1901 to the legislative assembly of the Territories. It was couched in the following terms:

That in the opinion of this House no terms should be accepted for the erection of the Territories into a province or provinces entailing the annexation of any portion thereof to the province of Manitoba.

Mr. Haultain, who was then leading the government of the Territories, moved an amendment in these words:

This house is strongly opposed to any further extension of the western boundary of the province of Manitoba, and in the opinion of the house any such extension would be opposed to the wishes and detrimental to the interests, not only of any portion of the Territories more directly affected thereby, but of the Territories as a whole.

The amendment on that occasion carried, but I want to call attention to the fact that the member in the legislative assembly representing that portion of the district of Saskatchewan lying north of the Manitoba boundary rose in his place in the assembly and protested and voted against that resolution which impliedly consented to a northern extension of the limits of Manitoba. But that is not all. The matter came again before the legislature in 1902, on a resolution similar to the one I have read. On that occasion again there was an amendment, and it was in these words:

That this House is of the opinion that the annexation of any portion of the Territories to Manitoba will be in direct opposition to the desires and welfare of the people of the Territories.

Again, Mr. Samuel McLeod, the representative of Prince Albert East, who was representing that portion of the Territories north of Manitoba, protested and voted against any extension of the limits of Manitoba so as to include a portion of Saskatchewan. It is therefore evident

that these people living north of Manitoba have on every occasion, through their duly accredited representative in the territorial assembly, protested against being annexed to that province. And I think that the right hon. the First Minister was right in refusing to force these people or any other people to join the province of Manitoba. It seems to me that he did all that was possible when he did not include that portion of territory within the new province of Saskatchewan. I think, Mr. Speaker, that it should have been included. It has always been part of the Territories since the district of Saskatchewan was established. It has been always represented in the territorial assembly and has always been connected with the Territories, why then should it not continue to form part and parcel of the new province of Saskatchewan with which it has always been connected? The only reason why it has not been included so far as I can see was the desire of the First Minister to give the province of Manitoba an opportunity to show that these people would not object to joining that province, but, Sir, to ask this government to force these people into Manitoba, when on every occasion they have protested against any such course, would be, in my opinion nothing short of coercion. If the province of Manitoba can show at the conference, which the right hon. gentleman says will be held, that these people will not object to joining Manitoba then, the conference will be in a position to hear the request of that province, but until Manitoba can show that consent, she is not in a position to urge any claim to have that portion of the district of Saskatchewan included within her boundaries. If Manitoba can show that these people do not object, then the conference will be in a position to hear the rival claims of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

There is another point to which I wish to call the attention of the House and particularly the attention of the Postmaster General. In the remarks the Postmaster General made the other day in reference to the interview he had with the delegates of the Manitoba government with regard to the extension of the Manitoba boundaries, I understood him to take the position that it would be a fair distribution of the district of Keewatin if Manitoba were given the harbour at the mouth of the Churchill on the Hudson bay and Ontario the harbour at the mouth of the Nelson.

Well, Mr. Speaker, all I have to say in reference to that is this: That if the principles of right and justice prevail at the conference, as I think they will prevail, neither the province of Ontario nor the province of Manitoba will get the port at the mouth of the Churchill, but that port will go to the province to which it rightfully belongs, namely the new province of Saskatchewan. There is