

settlement so auspiciously made, my hon. friend from North Toronto did not go too far the other day when he made the remarks to which attention has been drawn in this House. Well, what further? The 'Northwest Review' is not, so far as I am aware, under the control or direction of the government or any member thereof, but there is a newspaper in the province of Quebec which declares itself to be the organ of the Liberal party and to be under the direction and control of my right hon. friend the leader of the government. I quote from an editorial statement of the 11th of February last in that journal, 'Le Soleil,' published in the city of Quebec:

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.

Now, it will be interesting to know whether or not that is a plain, clear, unvarnished falsehood or whether there is any foundation for the statement made editorially in the columns of that newspaper. It has been stated, and stated without contradiction in this House so far as I am aware—and I speak under correction from the hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House who know more of this matter than I do—that the editorial management of that journal was controlled by my hon. friend the Minister of Justice (Mr. Fitzpatrick). Further than that, it is stated that now the control of that journal has passed into the hands of Mr. Choquette, a gentleman who, in the first place, was a follower of my right hon. friend the leader of the government in this House, who, in the next place, was appointed by my right hon. friend to an important judicial position in the province of Quebec and who, immediately before the last election campaign, descended from the bench for the purpose of becoming the organizer of my right hon. friend in the province of Quebec. There is an editorial article in this newspaper, 'Le Soleil,' of 4th of April which I will translate for the purpose of reading:

The 'L'Evenement' announced yesterday afternoon that 'Le Soleil' had been bought by the Gouin-Turgeon faction. Our contemporary made a mistake; it often makes mistakes. The purchase of a certain number of shares in the 'Le Soleil' Publishing Company by the Hon. Senator Choquette is only an ordinary transaction such as takes place every day in the affairs of every company. As to our journal, it remains as it has always been, the organ of the Liberal party, and in the future as in the past it will defend the policy and the interests of the Liberal party.

Having defined as far as we can define with the information at our hand, the position of 'Le Soleil' and its relation to the

Liberal party in this country, and especially to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice, let us observe what that journal has said with regard to this boundary question, because it is sometimes important to consider the utterances of great political organs upon political questions. It is desirable in the present instance to do so, in order to lead up to the incident to which attention has been drawn only yesterday. On the 17th of February 'Le Soleil' editorially made the remarks, which have been translated as follows:

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 district 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.

Those, it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, are very significant words coming from a journal which claims to be under the actual control and direction of the right hon. gentleman, and which is said—and without contradiction up to the present time—which is said to have been at the moment of these editorial utterances, under the direct control of the Minister of Justice.

Under these circumstances, what took place? The delegates from Manitoba arrived in Ottawa on the 16th day of February. They came here for the express purpose of discussing with the government the extension of the boundaries of Manitoba; they met the right hon. gentleman and the Postmaster General, and perhaps some other members of the cabinet. According to their statement, they were told by the right hon. gentleman that if they would remain a few days in Ottawa he would send for them again, and perhaps be prepared to give them an answer. They were not sent for by the right hon. gentleman again although they remained in the city of Ottawa until the 23rd day of February. I do not know whether the exact date has