

Mr. SCOTT. My hon. friends opposite applaud the remark. I am, therefore, giving an accurate description of what they have attempted. We had some reference here a few days ago to a Northwest conference called by Mr. Haultain and to the matters discussed there. I proposed a motion at that conference with regard to the redistribution schedules. The hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Herron) arose here and declared that the motion made by me was not as I stated, but was that we should hold out together to get our land and minerals for the new provinces.

Mr. HERRON. I state now that you did make that statement, and it is the only statement that you have made.

Mr. SCOTT. I state now deliberately to my hon. friend that the matter of lands was not discussed at that conference at all, and I say it in the hearing of several gentlemen who were present. There were three conferences in all. The hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) attended the first two, but was not present at the third, and the matter of lands was not mentioned at the third conference concerning which we had the discussion on this floor. I tell the hon. gentleman now that there never was any such motion made at any of the three conferences.

Mr. HERRON. I repeat positively what I have said.

Mr. SCOTT. Regardless of what my hon. friend says, I say that no such motion was presented at any conference.

Mr. HERRON. And I reiterate my statement.

Mr. SCOTT. I will tell the hon. gentleman more, if he wants to know it, about those conferences. We had three altogether. It has been already explained that the invitation was issued by Mr. Haultain to all the Northwest members to attend conferences at Ottawa and a part of that invitation reads as follows:

My colleagues and I are very anxious to have the co-operation of the Senators and members from the Territories at the very outset of these negotiations with a view to, if possible, presenting a case for the Territories which in its broader features, at least, shall be approved by all the Northwest representatives.

I ask any of the hon. gentlemen opposite who were present at these conferences if he ever heard any mention by Mr. Haultain or any one else at any of them with regard to the subject of education. Let them say yes or no, here and now. Did Mr. Haultain bring up the subject of education? Was that one of the large and broad subjects which we were brought together to discuss? I say that the subject was never mentioned. In that fact alone we have the complete proof that the Northwest

government and the Northwest people generally were not asking for any change in their educational constitution.

Mr. LALOR. Does the hon. gentleman make the statement that Mr. Haultain called the conference?

Mr. SCOTT. Yes.

Mr. LALOR. Did you not make the statement on a previous occasion in this House that it was the Prime Minister who called this conference?

Mr. SCOTT. My hon. friend is quite mistaken. The Prime Minister suggested to Mr. Haultain that he should furnish to the government the schedules of redistribution, and Mr. Haultain called a third conference partly for the purpose of getting assistance from the Northwest members and senators generally with regard to redistribution and two or three other matters. I repeat that no motion was made at any conference as is described by the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Herron) either by myself, himself or by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) or by Mr. Haultain to the effect that we should stand out for the absolute transfer of our public lands. What I did at that conference however, was to attempt to get it to take the position—not by motion, but by suggestion; and that is doubtless what has misled the hon. member for Alberta—that we should unitedly and resolutely stand out for the principle that the public lands belong to the people of the Territories and that we should have their actual transfer or a fair price.

Mr. HERRON. The hon. gentleman has acknowledged just now that he was wrong.

Mr. SCOTT. It is my hon. friend who admits the mistake. I suggested that we should unitedly take the position, and hold to it resolutely, that the lands were ours, and that we should get an actual transfer of them or a fair price. And in my opinion, and in that of the majority of the people of the Northwest, even of Mr. Haultain himself—because he has said so in a public letter—we have got a fair price for the lands. Let me say to hon. gentlemen opposite, from their leader down, that in view of the history of the last two years with regard to the subject of autonomy, it does not lie in the mouth of any Conservative anywhere in the Dominion to charge any Northwest Liberal—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. SCOTT. Let my hon. friends be patient and I will give them plenty of proof. I say it does not lie in their mouths to charge any Northwest Liberal with a willingness to sacrifice any Northwest local interest at the behest of any party leader. The hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) knows very well to what I am referring. He and I and the Liberals and many Con-