

to any accident that might happen to them. They are in close neighbourhood to many of the Thousand Islands, where hundreds of steamers are passing every day loaded with passengers, they are within a very short distance of the town, and if another explosion took place similar to that which I have mentioned, our town would be blown out of existence. A most rigid inquiry should be made. I warned the government when they first proposed to adopt this system of lighting that it was dangerous, and would surely result in accidents. An accident has occurred already, and even more disastrous than I expected. At every place in the country where people have adopted this system of lighting, accidents have occurred; but the government, for some reason or other, went on and adopted it and are using it now. The people in Gananoque at present are very nervous on account of this immense quantity being stored there, and think this commission should be enlarged; and if the stuff is found to be dangerous, it should be removed out of the municipality at once.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) has already called the attention of the government to this matter. I realize fully the importance of the subject and the importance of the observations the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) has just addressed to the House. I have not been able to confer with the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, but he will be here this evening, and I will mention the subject to him.

Mr. TAYLOR. I think the commission should be composed of others than civil servants in the department which has control of the lighting.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Perhaps so.

EXTENSION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF MANITOBA.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I would like to call the attention of the government to a press despatch which purports to set forth some observations from an hon. member of this House in the constituency of Mountain, province of Manitoba, where, I understand, an election for the provincial legislature is now in progress. The despatch, which is as follows, may be found in the Montreal 'Gazette' of the 24th April:

Winnipeg, Manitoba, April 23—(Special).—From a despatch received from Belmont in Mountain constituency, it would appear that Manitoba's boundaries are settled. In a speech at that place on Friday night, S. J. Jackson, M.P., for Selkirk, announced the new boundary lines, the following is an extract from the despatch:

Mr. Jackson is the first of the Dominion parliament members to take part in the campaign in Mountain, and to-night he informed the electors that before the Roblin government took action for the boundary extension, Mani-

toba, Saskatchewan and Ontario members had discussed the matter, and had arrived at a basis of agreement, which, though informal, embraces beyond all doubt, a basis of settlement on which the matter will be arranged. The enlarged province will then have a greater area than the new province of Alberta. The new province of Saskatchewan is to be increased in area by adding territory between the 60th parallel of latitude, and the Churchill river. With this addition its area will be about 275,000 square miles, and that of Manitoba will be about the same.

Manitoba's western boundary will be as at present, except that it will continue straight north until the Churchill river is reached. The boundary will follow the course of that stream to its mouth, and continue down the coast line of Hudson bay until the mouth of Wenisk river is reached. It will ascend that stream to Wenisk lake and continue south through Lansdowne lake to Fishing lake, which is on the boundary of Ontario, and which will be the boundary for Manitoba until the 49th parallel is reached. That portion as delineated for the boundary award, Keewatin, lying between Wenisk river and James bay, is to be given to Ontario, which will thus have a deep water port on Hudson bay. By this arrangement Saskatchewan will have a Hudson bay port at Fort Churchill, and Manitoba will also have the use of this, the boundary line being the middle line of the river. In addition to this Fort York will also be in Manitoba's territory, and several other harbours south and east of this, while Ontario will get what that province has so long desired, a deep water port on Hudson bay.

'This arrangement is satisfactory to all parties,' said Mr. Jackson, 'and as soon as the Autonomy Bills are disposed of, and the matter is taken up by Dominion government this will be the settlement arrived at.'

I thought it advisable to bring this despatch to the attention of the government, because it is unusual to have an announcement of this character made by a private member of parliament, more particularly when parliament is in session. If Mr. Jackson is well informed, it seems to me the proper course would have been for the First Minister or some other member of the administration, having particular charge of matters of this character, to make the announcement in parliament. For that reason, I venture to inquire whether or not Mr. Jackson's statement is well founded; and if so, why is it that the government has seen fit to have the communication made to the people in this informal way?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I have read the despatch to which my hon. friend has just called attention. I do not understand from it that Mr. Jackson presumed to speak on behalf of the government or to say that any policy had been arrived at and finally determined upon. What I understood him to say was that there had been conferences between members from the districts of Saskatchewan and Alberta and the province of Manitoba, and that they had come to a conclusion that an arrangement could be made which would be acceptable. Should that prove to be the case, and should the govern-

Mr. TAYLOR.