

hesitation, not with the utmost pressure and persuasion, when the time comes for the amendment of my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) to be voted upon in this House, to vote in favour of that amendment.

Mr. E. L. CASH (Mackenzie). Mr. Speaker, as one of the representatives from the Northwest Territories in this parliament, and giving, as I am, my hearty and unreserved support to the Bill now under consideration, I desire to state to the House, in a few brief words, my reasons for the vote I shall give on this measure. The constituency which I have the honour to represent lies immediately west and to the north of the province of Manitoba. It includes that portion of the district of Saskatchewan which has not been included in the new province of Saskatchewan, and which has been strongly contended by hon. gentlemen opposite should be included within the province of Manitoba. Now, Mr. Speaker, a great deal has been said during this debate about extending the boundaries of Manitoba, and as any extension of these boundary lines, either westward or northward, would take in a portion of the district I represent in this parliament, I think I can fairly claim the right to say a few words on that subject, although it is a matter which has nothing to do with the Bill now before the House.

It has already been stated that the people of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan object to any extension westward of Manitoba's boundary. I can speak on this matter for the people I represent immediately to the west of Manitoba, and I am certain they strongly object to being taken into the province of Manitoba. Several reasons are given for this objection, among which are that by joining Manitoba they would have no advantage which they would not have by forming part of the province of Saskatchewan, and they would be subject to heavy taxation. By starting in as a new province they start free of debt, by joining Manitoba they would become liable to a present actual debt and a possible future liability of some \$20,000,000 or \$25,000,000, and they can see no good reason for assuming their share of this liability when they would not be getting any corresponding advantage. Another reason is that in Manitoba, as a rule, taxes are higher than in the Territories, and I think there is a pretty general feeling that the government of Manitoba has adopted a policy which tends towards extravagance and recklessness, which in the near future may lead to direct taxation. Whether or not the people are justified in entertaining these views, I do not say; but I do say that from contact with the people of my district I know that the feeling does exist, and I can only add to what other hon. gentlemen have already said on this subject, that it is too late in the day to think of increasing the size of Manitoba by taking in that part

of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan lying west of the Manitoba boundary. That Manitoba was not extended westward is not the fault of the Liberal party, but of the Conservative party. When, in 1881, the Conservative government in this country tried to include within the province of Manitoba that portion of Ontario lying west of Fort William, it was then suggested by the Liberals to Sir John Macdonald and his government that it would be wise to extend the boundaries of Manitoba westward instead of trying to obtain the portion of the territory claimed by the province of Ontario. I find in 'Hansard,' page 1445, that Hon. David Mills urged the government to extend Manitoba's boundary westward, but the Conservative government refused to do it. Mr. Mills' words are as follows:—

I propose that pending the settlement of the dispute between the government of Canada and the government of Ontario with reference to the western boundary of that province, the boundary of Manitoba shall not be extended eastward beyond the limit marked out by the arbitrators. The hon. gentleman (Sir John A. Macdonald) may extend the boundary westward and northward as far as he pleases.

So that, if there is any one to blame for the non-extension of the western boundaries, it is the party to which hon. gentlemen opposite belong and not the Liberal party.

But it is also contended that the boundary line should be extended north so as to take in that portion of Mackenzie district which lies north of Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, I want to enter my protest right here and now against that being done. The people in my district to the north of Manitoba do not want to go in with Manitoba. Of that I have proof, for since the publication of this Bill now before the House I have received petitions from these very people, asking that they be not put into Manitoba, but be included in the new province of Saskatchewan. It seems to me to be unwise and unjust to force these people into a political union with a province against their will, when they would prefer and have petitioned to be allowed to cast in their lot with the about-to-be created new province of Saskatchewan, with which part of the country they have heretofore been affiliated and of which they form an integral part. There are between 1,500 and 2,000 people in that portion of my riding, and I think that they are entitled to be heard on this matter and some consideration should be paid to their wishes. If Manitoba wanted an increase of territory she should have carried on her government more economically so as to make the proposition to join her attractive. As it is, the very reverse is the case.

Now, there is another matter I would dwell on, and that is the claim of Saskatchewan to be allowed to have a port on Hudson bay. This has already been referred to by the hon. member for Eastern Assiniboia