

any idea of the acreage of unsold land in these two new provinces? In the return we have the acreage in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Assinibola, some 122,309,000. Has he any information to give us on that subject?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. If the Minister of the Interior will allow me. If my hon. friend will look at sessional paper 97 on page 3 he will find there the information he requires. He will find that in Alberta there are 38,160,964 acres.

Mr. SPROULE. I have that. But are the three provinces all included in the two new provinces?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Yes.

Mr. SPROULE. Is any portion of Athabaska?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Yes.

Mr. SPROULE. How much?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. All of Athabaska.

Mr. SPROULE. There is none of Franklin or Mackenzie, which is 155,600 more; that would be approximately 277,000,000 acres of land in the two provinces that is still unsold. Does not the minister see that we have recognized that the beneficial ownership of that land is recognized by us—as being vested in this because we agree to pay them practically a certain interest upon \$37,500,000, which is at the rate of \$1.50 per acre on 25,000,000 acres. We take 25,000,000 acres out of nearly 278,000,000 acres and say we value that at \$1.50 an acre, and we are now going to pay you on that annually 1 per cent until the population reaches 400,000, or \$375,000 a year; thereafter until the population reaches 800,000 we will pay you at the rate of 1½ per cent or \$562,000 a year; thereafter until the population reaches 1,200,000, two per cent or \$750,000 a year, afterwards three per cent or \$1,112,500 a year, and an addition annually for five years of one-quarter of one per cent for building purposes, or \$94,500 a year. We are practically giving them at the maximum, a fraction over three per cent of the money that would be realized by the sale of 25,000,000 acres of that land at \$1.50 per acre. I suppose the people of the west will in time come to say to us: You have taken 25,000,000 acres but there are 125,000,000 acres left; we ought to have some interest and some rights in that land but you have allowed us nothing for it; you only gave us a very small interest upon 25,000,000 acres valued at \$1.50 per acre, and most of which would sell to-day at from \$3 to \$5 per acre. I assume that the people of the west will not long be satisfied with this financial arrangement, nor will they regard the federal government as having done full justice to them. I take it that

in the near future they will set up other claims against us. I see herein another return that each province is supposed to contain 75,000,000 acres of arable land and grazing land—I wonder if that is grazing land or grazing and agricultural land combined, because there is no distinction made between them in the return. At all events it would indicate that there are to-day 150,000,000 acres of good land there and if we deduct 25,000,000 acres from that, it would appear that we have taken 125,000,000 acres from the provinces and given them nothing in return. I have no doubt that will be their claim after a while. From whatever standpoint you view it, it seems to me we are only building up arguments for the people of these two provinces to appeal to us on in the near future, either for additional financial aid or for some compensation in lieu of the land.

Mr. BARKER. It appears to me that this clause 20, dealing with the lands, is an example of that which runs throughout the whole of the Bill. The government seem to have been concerned to find some means to do, not what the interest of the province or of the Dominion requires, so much as what party exigencies demand. We find that from the beginning to end of this whole measure; history is knocked endways, dates are upset and everything is done to fit in alleged facts to certain intentions of the government. I would like to call attention to what I think is really before us. In my opinion it was the intention of the British North America Acts, 1867 and 1871, that when any portion of the Territories became so far developed as to justify provincial status, it was not merely the privilege but it was the duty of this parliament to confer such status upon that portion of the territory. It was not only our duty to do that but we were not at liberty to add anything which could hamper new provinces in the enjoyment of such provincial rights. What do we find here? We find south of the 55th parallel of latitude, three districts, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Assinibola, all of a somewhat similar nature and developed very much in the same degree. They would constitute, so far as area is concerned, a compact province of reasonable dimensions; a little larger than Ontario and not quite so large as Quebec. The government, instead of granting the wishes of these districts and constituting out of them a new province, chooses for its own purpose apparently—because I cannot see any other purpose in it—to add to these provinces a territory that is yet undeveloped, that requires perhaps the nursing and administration of the Dominion. It adds that territory to these three developed districts, cuts the whole area in two parts and says: You have got in each province something that requires fos-