

would be the task of good statesmanship to carry it out with this string to it—

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I said that if there was any danger, but I did not think there was any, then I would adopt that course.

Mr. SCOTT. If the hon. gentleman can show that he has the backing of his party to transfer these lands unrestrictedly to the new provinces, then we will talk business with him; but, as I understand it, he is only speaking for himself.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Scott) is not the Minister of the Interior, and he has no authority to speak for the Northwest Territories.

Mr. SCOTT. I have entire authority to speak in my position as member for West Assinibola, which is a portion of the Northwest Territories. Taking my hon. friend's own words, that it would be the task of good statesmanship, if he were driven to it, to turn these lands over with his string to it, then I ask the hon. gentlemen from Calgary and Qu'Appelle to tell us how the provincial governments would be able to get enough money during the next five years, for instance, to build roads and bridges and maintain schools?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. When the hon. gentleman proposed that the new provinces should retain these lands, how did he think they were going to get the money?

Mr. SCOTT. I had not figured it out as thoroughly as I have since.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Have you figured it out now?

Mr. SCOTT. To some extent, and if my hon. friend (Mr. W. F. Maclean) will pay attention to me, perhaps he will be able to throw some light upon the question. A portion of the \$1,030,375 which each of these provincial governments is going to have from the 1st of July next, we trust, to devote to the services of local government; a portion of it is the \$375,000 to be given them in lieu of the lands—

Mr. W. WRIGHT. Could we not give them all the subsidy now in this proposed measure and give them the lands as well, and come out ahead by over one million dollars?

Mr. SCOTT. If my hon. friend (Mr. W. Wright) can get his leader and the majority on his side of the House, as well as the majority on this side, to agree to that proposition, those of us from the Northwest Territories will jump at it. But at the present time the arrangement is that each of these provinces shall receive a little more than \$600,000, and, in addition, \$375,000 in lieu of lands. And if the provinces are going to be given their lands, then this parliament will have to consider very seriously whether it will be justified in continuing to

Mr. SCOTT.

maintain the Mounted Police in those provinces. If we are going to put these provinces absolutely in the position of the other provinces, I suppose we could not maintain the Mounted Police which costs Parliament about one-half million dollars in the whole Territories, and which would mean an expenditure of about one-quarter of a million for each province—

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. May I interrupt my hon. friend here? There was something said about the Mounted Police, and as to some arrangement, which did not appear on the face of the Bill. Has the Prime Minister any announcement to make in that regard?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. There has been no arrangement made.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I mean as to the intention of the government.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. We will come to that when I propose the estimates for the Northwest Mounted Police. I shall announce the policy of the government then.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I do not ask that anything should be discussed out of its turn, but the question of the maintenance of the Northwest Mounted Police is relevant to the financial features of the Bill, as the hon. member (Mr. Scott) also seems to think.

Mr. SCOTT. As the Prime Minister has suggested, we have the announcement with regard to the Northwest Mounted Police for the coming year in the estimates already before the House. Then there is the question of immigration. If the lands were entirely turned over to the provincial governments, would the leader of the opposition consent to have this parliament vote \$600,000 or \$700,000 a year for immigration? Every one I have ever heard discuss this matter agreed that if the lands were transferred to the provinces, the provinces would have to relieve this parliament to some extent from the expenditure on immigration.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Every session we vote money for immigration in the Lake St. John region, Quebec, and in Manitoba, and I never heard of any agreement with these provincial governments.

Mr. SCOTT. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sam. Hughes) be prepared to state that he will vote to hand the lands over unrestrictedly to the people of the new provinces, and then continue to vote for an immigration expenditure of \$600,000 or \$700,000 a year?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. I am not in the witness box. My hon. friend (Mr. Scott) seems strangely agitated this afternoon in the absence of the real Minister of the Interior, who is not here, and who apparently has deputed the would-be Minister of the Interior to take his job. Let the hon. gentleman (Mr. Scott) make his speech and we will answer it in good time.