

cation, would it not then be far more logical, far more in accord with what ought to be the proper division of legislative powers between the federal parliament and the provincial legislature, that the latter should have control of these moneys? Now, the reason why we ask to pay this money over to the Manitoba government is that in the crippled condition of the finances of the government, they are not in a position to give education all the assistance they desire, and that, in the infant condition of the province, it ought to receive. My hon. friend, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) stated a moment ago, and stated very truly, that in future years, when the province of Manitoba is more fully settled, it will be easier for it to dispense with this assistance than at the present time. But now, when the population is scattered over immense territories; when the people are struggling, as new settlers have to struggle everywhere, now is the time when this assistance should be given. We believe it is better to take the money lying idle in the Dominion treasury to assist the schools than that a heavier burden of taxation should be laid upon the settlers.

That is what the right hon. gentleman had to say in 1898 and following him the hon. the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) made a very lengthy speech along the same lines which I shall not take the time to read. Now, I agree with every word uttered in those speeches, but why under the sun did they not take action and hand this fund over to the province of Manitoba? I think this is a very opportune time to make the demand.

Then, I want to say a word or two in regard to the school lands interest account. The province of Manitoba for many years claimed that they were entitled to the interest that had accumulated upon the deferred payments on account of school lands that were purchased and though they made this claim for a great many years they were unable to have it recognized. After negotiating with this government for years, reasoning with them in every possible manner, they decided that they would go to the highest court in the realm, they took this case and laid it at the foot of the Throne and by so doing they wrung from the unwilling hands of this government the sum of \$224,114.76. When this money was handed over what did the Order in Council say?

Whereas the law officers of the Crown have advised that under the said Act the province of Manitoba is entitled to be paid all sums of interest on the balance of purchase moneys from time to time remaining unpaid, and of income arising from the said school lands in the said province received by the government of Canada towards the support of public schools in the said province as in the said Act provided.

And the following recommendations were made:

The minister recommends that authority be given for the immediate payment to the province of Manitoba of the sum of \$175,013.74, being the amount of interest on the balance of

purchase money from time to time remaining unpaid, and so received by the government of Canada, as aforesaid, and of the further sum of \$49,101.02, being the amount of rents and profits arising out of the school lands, and so received by the government of Canada, as aforesaid, such two sums together making the total sum of \$224,114.26, being made to the province of Manitoba towards the support of public schools therein, as provided by the said Act.

The minister further recommends that authority be given for the payment to the province of Manitoba, annually, in the future, and together with the interest on the school fund, and towards the support of public schools in the province of all interest received since April 1, 1902, or now accrued or hereafter to accrue due on the balance of purchase money from time to time remaining unpaid, and which shall from time to time come to the hands of the government of Canada, and also for the payment in like manner of all rents and profits and receipts in the nature of income arising out of the school lands received since April 1st, 1902, or which shall from time to time be received by the government of Canada.

Now, Sir, we would naturally suppose that was the end of it; we would think from year to year that this money would be handed over to us. But, such is not the case. What did they do then? They immediately proceeded to see if they could not in some way or other embarrass the educational facilities of that province and they began to see if they could not find any old accounts against the province. They succeeded in discovering that in years gone by, in 1878 or 1879, the province had been loaned the sum of \$30,000 and therefore, without consulting Manitoba in any way they deducted that \$30,000 from the balance due to Manitoba which they had no right to do. I am not a lawyer and this is a legal question, but I may say that the province of Manitoba contends that this money should have been taken out of the first money derived from the sale of these lands, and the Dominion government claims that it should not. However, if the little province of Manitoba wants to get justice in this case as in others, I suppose it will have to go to the courts. I would repeat that the amount allowed for government, \$50,000 a year is inadequate, is not nearly sufficient to conduct the affairs of Manitoba and I feel justified in making the demands I have made, that in connection with the re-adjustment which is now taking place that province should receive an increase by way of allowance for government.

Now we come to the question which is causing so much excitement at the present moment, that is the extension of the boundary of Manitoba. Sir, if I may use a slang expression I might say: Would it not give you a chill? No, that is not the proper expression. I should say that if the light that has been thrown upon this subject is true and we have every reason to believe it is true, it should set on fire every pat-