

place of the revenue that otherwise we would have to take out of those lands.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Is it not after all a mere matter of control?

Mr. OLIVER. Certainly not.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Why not?

Mr. OLIVER. I have tried to explain.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Perhaps my hon. friend does not understand me. The Dominion he says pays a certain subsidy to the province and pays out large sums of money in respect of the administration of those lands.

Mr. OLIVER. Yes.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Well, can we not very well hand the lands over to the provinces and give them that additional amount and still have local control? Why would it not be better for the Dominion to take that course? As far as the Dominion is concerned, there would be no loss of money according to the hon. gentleman's statement. That is why I said just now that after all it is a mere matter of control.

Mr. OLIVER. If that is the suggestion of the hon. gentleman I would certainly advise him to put it in the form of a motion and place it before the House and the country.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Would the hon. gentleman support it?

Mr. OLIVER. I certainly would not, for I believe in the principle that if we are paying the cost of the administration of these lands we should administer them.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I did not suggest the contrary.

Mr. OLIVER. I have not followed the hon. gentleman.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I suggested that Canada shall make a proper allowance to the new provinces, having regard to the fact that they must take over certain items of expenditure which now devolve upon the Dominion of Canada in connection with the control of these lands. The hon. gentleman surely does not object to the new provinces getting an adequate allowance to carry on the business which is entrusted to them. Coming from the west he does not take that position.

Mr. OLIVER. Certainly not.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Does it not come down then to what I suggested?

Mr. OLIVER. Does the hon. member propose to give the provinces the cash allowance we propose in this Bill, and also to hand over the administration of the lands and also to recoup them for any possible loss incurred in the administration of those lands?

Mr. OLIVER.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I say that if we impose on them under the terms of this Bill a certain expenditure, it is reasonable and necessary that we should make provision for that expenditure, and I have also said over and over again that I believe the provinces should be entrusted with the control of these lands. I do not think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Oliver) had concluded his remarks so I shall not add anything more until after he has finished.

Mr. OLIVER. I have no hesitation in saying that the principle that the government which provides the money should have the control is one that I would always support, and that if the Dominion government had to provide the provinces with the money with which to administer the lands, it would be right and proper—and as a western man I would say it would be right and proper—that the Dominion government should administer that for which it pays. But to repeat, if I can make myself clear, it would not matter if to-day we handed over to the provinces the amount of money that we are proposing to hand over and then handed over to them the land and then handed over an additional amount to repay them for possible loss on the administration of those lands, the principle would still remain that the Dominion government could afford to give the lands away and still make money, and that the provincial government could not afford to give the lands away and make money; and that therefore those of us who believe in the propriety and the good policy of administering these lands for the sake of settlement rather than of revenue, other things being equal, certainly want to see that administration remain in the hands of the Dominion government. Now in regard to a suggestion made by the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Herron) as to the revenue that is being derived from the sale of mineral lands—and by inference he suggested that a sufficient revenue might be derived from the sale of mineral lands without trespassing on agricultural lands—I do not know what money could be derived from the sale of mineral lands, in the Territories; I do not know what money has been derived in the past or can be derived in the future. I hope that a very large revenue can be derived from that source, but even supposing that there can be a considerable revenue derived from that source, it does not alter the principle I have stated, but we may judge possibly of this by comparison. The district of Alberta, as every one knows, is not what would be called a highly mineralized territory. There are important and valuable mineral coal deposits throughout the prairie country and in the Rocky mountains and these of course are of very great value, but certainly Alberta is not mineralized to anything like the extent that the adjoining province of British Columbia is. There is