

present standing of the Territories is not inferior to that of some of the original parties to confederation. They have made a name for economical and pure administration, they have a good body of laws, and they have shown themselves enlightened and competent to legislate in the best interests of the people of that country. They have, for instance, a schools ordinance which has been lauded to the skies by many of the members on the government side of this House. A part of the lands, the ownership of which is claimed by the Dominion, and out of which these provinces are being formed, has already been handed over as a free gift, without terms or conditions, to the province of Quebec. I refer to the 16,000 square miles which, in the words of the Prime Minister were 'declared to be a part of the province of Quebec,' though we say they were simply annexed or added to that province. There should be no more difficulty in declaring the lands in the new provinces to belong to our fellow citizens in those provinces than in declaring the lands lying north of Quebec to belong to our fellow citizens in Quebec. There is a very prevalent opinion in the Northwest that neither the good of the new provinces, nor that of the Dominion were the chief factors in shaping the government's policy in regard to the Crown lands. The impression is that the most potent motive for the retention of the lands was that it would enable the government to maintain an army of land immigration officials who would without cost to party funds act as the political mentors of those immigrants who come to our western lands without experience or knowledge of the politics of the country and are instructed to vote for the good Liberal party who brought them out and will give them patents for their land if they do as they are told. Such men can and do act as the political agents of the Liberal party. If the amendment I am about to propose is voted down, I trust the government will take most strenuous steps to prevent political interference by their officials. Let them provide a penalty for such interference and put it into the power of the ordinary citizen to invoke the law in such cases. As I understand from the debate just closed there are no land or immigration officials now in the Athabaska constituencies. I trust that the government will show their good faith by positively forbidding any Dominion official to enter that district until after the local elections. I beg to propose, in amendment to the amendment:

That subsection 1 of section 20 be struck out, and the following substituted therefor:

All lands, mines and minerals and royalties incident thereto situate or arising within the limits of the province and now vested in the Crown and all sums due or payable in respect of the same shall belong to the province subject to any trusts existing in respect thereof and to any interest other than that of the province in

Mr. LAKE.

the same except those portions thereof now used or occupied for the public works, the public buildings or otherwise for the public service of Canada which are more fully set forth and enumerated in schedule 'C' to this Act, and which shall continue to be the property of Canada.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I apprehend that this amendment will be moved again on the third reading, and I presume that it will be just as well that we reserve what we have to say in answer to the speech made by my hon. friend from Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) for that time. It is now a quarter past eleven. There are not many here interested in hearing what we have to say, and it would be just as well to reserve our remarks until the third reading. I think that even then it would be very difficult to add much to what has been said on the second reading.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. As regards the amendment, it refers to the schedule, but the schedule, of course, we have not prepared. It will be prepared if the motion carries. The amendment is placed in that form simply for the purpose of reserving for the public use of Canada such portion of the public lands of the Territories as are absolutely necessary for that purpose. The language used has been selected altogether from the draft prepared by the government and from section 109 of the British North America Act. As far as the form is concerned, I do not think there can be any objection. As far as the principle is concerned, that has been somewhat fully discussed and will be discussed again on the third reading. My hon. friends behind me may have something to suggest.

Mr. FOWLER. I was not in the House when this matter was discussed before, but from reading the debates I have not been able to see any real cogent reason for this hardship, namely, the retention by the Dominion of the public lands within the limits of these two new provinces. It cannot be because these lands would be better administered by the Department of the Interior than they would be by the Crown Lands Departments of the new provinces. We have had some examples of the administration of the Northwest lands by the Department of the Interior. We have heard something of a company known as the Saskatchewan Land Company, which obtained from that department a very large block of valuable land for the beggarly sum of \$1 per acre, which it is now offering for sale at from \$8 to \$12 an acre, and it obtained these lands without conditions of settlement such as would correspond at least to the tremendous profit it is making. I do not think any province could possibly do worse than the Department of the Interior did in that particular instance, and that is only one instance of maladministration out of many. Therefore, I fail to understand why these new provinces should be treated, as my hon.