

any farm land because there is so much of it and because there is no outside market for it. The market is not large enough. What I want to say in regard to coal is the same as I said in regard to land, that the provincial government under stress for the raising of a revenue might very well place a royalty on coal that would be a bar to the development of the industry in the stages through which it must pass while awaiting the development of the market. At the present time there is a royalty charged on coal by this government. This royalty of ten cents a ton is levied on coal mined under land granted on certain conditions. Other and adjoining land granted under different circumstances produces coal, but pays no royalty and I am credibly informed, that the circumstances being as they are, the difference of ten cents a ton is sufficient to put out of business the coal mine—it is local mines that I am speaking of—that has to pay that royalty as compared with the one that does not pay royalty. I submit we cannot afford to have our coal industry any more than our land settlement placed in jeopardy by placing it in the danger of provincial government which might very well be in financial stress as is the government of every province of the Dominion at the present time—

Mr. BRODER. Would they not likely be as anxious for development as the federal government?

Mr. OLIVER. Surely, they might be anxious, but if they had not the means, they could not do what they might desire to do and the experience of every government of every province of this Dominion is that they are under financial difficulties. Their provincial revenues are not equal to their provincial expenditures in scarcely any instance, they are continually looking for other sources of revenue and under the circumstances it certainly seems very plain that the danger to the development of the natural resources of the country is too great. We cannot afford to take the risk. We have heard of the great province of Ontario. It is a great province and it has a great people. It has a great undeveloped area and in that great undeveloped area is a vast clay belt, we are told—a clay belt suitable for settlement, awaiting settlement and we have a vigorous government in the province of Ontario. We have had one for many years and we have one now, we suppose. Has the province of Ontario at any time, or under any circumstances, or in any way successfully placed one single settler upon that great clay belt of Northern Ontario? Where has been the immigrant policy of the government of Ontario? Where has been their policy of development of their great northern country?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I think the late Liberal government claimed that they had created a New Ontario.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Ontario, Ontario.

Mr. OLIVER. They acquired this new Ontario, it is true, but what I am pointing out is that after they acquired it they have, just as we would be afraid would be done in the new provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, skinned it of its natural resources for the sake of provincial revenue. Show me where they have put money into the development of that part of the province of Ontario.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. We are sorry to hear that their policy was so unwise.

Mr. OLIVER. I am neither defending nor attacking the government of Ontario. I am stating what I understand to be the plain facts and it is open to any hon. member of the House to correct me if I am incorrect. I am laying down the principle that no provincial government is circumstanced to undertake the work of the development of a new country as is the Dominion government, because it derives its revenue from a different source and where the Dominion government has good and sufficient reasons for inducing free settlement by the expenditure of large amounts of money, no provincial government has any inducement or can afford to undertake that work and as a matter of fact does not undertake the work.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Alas, and alack a day for provincial rights in the House of its old friends. Apparently the new provinces can do nothing. They are not able to administer public lands or public trusts, and if they were given charge of their estate they would only squander it. That apparently is the view of the hon. gentleman.

Mr. SCOTT. That is the hon. gentleman's statement.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. No, it is the statement of hon. gentlemen opposite, and especially of the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver). Later on in this discussion I intend to move a resolution something on these lines: that this clause be amended by the substitution of terms giving at least half the coal areas in each of the new provinces to the respective governments of those provinces. If there is any thing that the west is rich in it is in coal, and if there is anything the future, of the west depends on it is coal. Unless these settlers are assured for all time of the control of a cheap supply of coal, they run the risk of passing under a coal monopoly, as in the United States, where all the great cold areas, especially the Anthracite coal regions in Pennsylvania, have passed into the hands of barons, so that the people are paying \$6 per ton for Anthracite coal when they should get it for \$1.50 per ton, the cost of mining and transportation. Are we to repeat this mistake