

Mr. BARKER. Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Carried.

Mr. BARKER. The hon gentleman from York (Mr. Campbell) may call 'carried' as usual, but before it is carried I want the responsibility of the government on this question, and not the responsibility of the member for Centre York.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Spoken.

Mr. BARKER. If the First Minister is satisfied I have nothing more to say. I do not propose to accept the statement of the hon. member who introduces this Bill on behalf of the company as an answer to my question with regard to the protection of the country. I have no fault whatever to find with the hon. gentleman; he introduced this Bill on behalf of the company, not on behalf of the public. If the First Minister, or the Minister of Justice, or the Minister of Finance, says that he is perfectly satisfied, I have nothing more to say. If I am a guarantor, I want to see that there was \$100 worth of work done in respect to every \$100 I guarantee. If some responsible member of the government says he is satisfied, I do not raise any further question. It is not fair to the members of this House to throw into their hands on the morning that the question comes before the Railway Committee, 108 pages of agreements, and ask the members to pass upon them. I asked the question of the Minister of Justice and of Mr. Chrysler at the time, and I got no answer; but I am willing to accept the statement of the First Minister in that regard.

Mr. FIELDING. I accept the view of my hon. friend (Mr. Barker) that it is not reasonable to expect any individual member of the House to make himself familiar with all the details of this very elaborate document. All that we can do in a case of that kind is to see that the various points involved in the matter are considered as they arise, and that upon them we have the advice of competent legal authority that the rights and privileges of the country are protected in every respect. My hon. friend wants some one to say on behalf of the government that we are satisfied that the interests of Canada, as represented by the government, are properly protected. The members of the government have been advised by very careful and competent authority, and we are perfectly satisfied that at every point the interests of the government under this contract have been properly protected, and that the mortgage carries out to the fullest degree the intentions of parliament as expressed in this legislation.

Mr. BARKER. The counsel expressly said that the terms of the contract as passed by parliament were being altered.

Mr. L. G. MCCARTHY.

Mr. FIELDING. Not as respects the obligations of the government. They were amplified in certain respects, but the obligations of the government have not thereby been altered at all.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the third time and passed.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTHWEST.

House in committee on Bill (No. 69) to establish and provide for the government of the province of Alberta.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

On section 12—distribution of seats—

Mr. PERLEY. My right hon. friend the Prime Minister has suggested that we ought to try to go into this question with what he calls an open mind. Now, I have endeavoured, with the figures given to us by the government, to make up my mind as to whether the division proposed by the government is a fair one or not. This is a very grave and important question. We are forming two new provinces in the Northwest, which are practically the wards of this Dominion, and I am sure that my hon. friend the Prime Minister, if he had two wards of his own, would try to clear up everything before he launched them on life on their own account. He would not leave them in such a position that when they came of age they would be sure immediately to have trouble before they learned to take care of themselves. Our object should be to avoid friction—to avoid causing to any portion of the people of these provinces a feeling of injustice, which they may spend their first session, and perhaps their first years, in trying to rectify. They will have their hands full taking care of their own family affairs, trying to set their house in order and get started on the business of life; and they should not have thrust upon them any trouble of this kind. I do not see that this is a question of Dominion politics at all. It seems to me that all we ought to try to do is to have this first election in the province of Alberta conducted in as fair and equitable a way as possible, so that every man entitled to vote shall have just as much to say about forming the new government as any other man in the province. Surely a question of this kind is above party politics. Surely we can lay aside all feelings of partisanship, and try to ensure to every man in the new province fair-play. I for one do not think the Prime Minister of this country would lend himself and the strength of the great Liberal party behind him in helping any section of people in the new province of Alberta to control that province. The question of the location of the capital of the province will probably be settled by the first election; and I do not think this government should lend their influence either to help the people of the north to establish the capital permanently