

be borne in mind that this 348,981.01 acres received by the province has cost her the sum of \$71,748.08. This is about 20 cents an acre. Now under the old administration these lands were handed over to the province at about the cost of 10 cents an acre. But under this new arrangement Mr. McMillan spoke of our lands were going to be handed over to us at a cost of about one-half of what they had been, but as a matter of fact they are costing us twice as much at 10 cents an acre. It is hardly working it out that way. Let me read to you an Order in Council of the 27th of September, 1904, which will give an idea how these lands have been dealt with. After reciting that the inspectors had examined an area of 284,034 acres, the Order in Council goes on to provide as follows:—

The minister states that of the area thus examined, the commissioners find an area of 146,274 acres falling to the province as swamp lands.

That by a comparison of the schedules furnished by the commissioners with the books of the Department of the Interior, and its agencies in Manitoba, it has been found that of the total area of 146,274 acres selected as such swamp lands, an area of 43,192.27 acres is available.

The minister submits a revised schedule of such of the lands included in the schedule of the commissioners as are found available, comprising an area of 43,192.27 acres, and being satisfied of the accuracy of the same, recommends that the lands enumerated therein be vested in His Majesty, King Edward VII, for the purposes of the province of Manitoba under the provisions of the fourth section of chapter 47 of the Revised Statutes of Canada.

Now let me analyse that statement for a moment, to give you some idea how we are being treated in regard to our swamp lands. First, the area selected is cut down from 284,034 to 146,227 acres. Secondly, the area of 146,274 acres is cut down to 43,192.27 only as being available. The province is charged with the cost of examining 284,034 acres, and only gets 43,192.27 acres. It will be observed that it is stated that out of these 284,034 acres examined by the inspectors, the province only get 146,274 acres as her property. But out of these only 43,192.27 are handed over. Now I would like to know what has become of the difference? What compensation has been given, or is proposed to be given, by this government for this forced confiscation? This is a question for the new Minister of the Interior, and I would ask him to answer this question. Of course it would not be right to recall him from the west at this particular time; his mind and his money no doubt are running in other channels. Now I will not deal any further with these lands more than to say this, that according to the Act of 1885, and at that time, there were fully 7,000,000 acres of swamp lands in the province which should have been handed over to the province; and after waiting twenty years in

Mr. STAPLES.

patience the province has only received 162,264.04 acres, much of which is unsurveyed, unsaleable and unfit for settlement.

Now let me deal a little while with the school lands of Manitoba and the west. In giving you a history of how we have been dealt with in regard to the school lands of Manitoba, I would say to the hon. gentlemen who represent the west that is being now formed into new provinces, that they had better be careful because if they get the same treatment that was and is being meted out to Manitoba, I am afraid they will come to the conclusion that it would be much better for the provinces to retain control of their public lands. The government, when dealing with this question, or when purchasing the territory, set aside certain lands to be used for educational purposes. There is no doubt that if these lands were handed over to the provinces they would deal with them much better and more wisely than the federal government. So far as Manitoba is concerned, there never was a time in the history of that province when it needed so badly the school lands and the revenue derived therefrom, as at the present. Our schools have been nationalized, but, Sir, we are taking a step in advance of that, we are endeavouring to centralize them and therefore we need all the possible assistance that is coming to us from these sources of revenue.

Let me say a word too on the school lands, capital fund. That this fund belongs to the province of Manitoba I will not ask you to accept my statement or my argument, but I will go to a better source to prove this fact. I will go to the ministerial ranks, yes, I will go to the right hon. Prime Minister himself. This is what he had to say in parliament in 1898 at the time we were making demands upon the government for this fund:

The money we are giving Manitoba to-day does, by the admission of everybody, not belong to Canada, but to Manitoba. If this money is ours, why have we been paying interest on it all along? We are not to-day giving a single cent to Manitoba, we are doing nothing else than repaying the injustice which was committed to the prejudice of Manitoba. If we are going to look into the question, as it ought to be looked into, whether it is a trust or not, let me say that in this legislation, dealing with and amending to some extent the Dominion Lands Act, we are only dealing as one of the anomalies of which we have too many in this country. Fortunately, in this instance, it is not one that is embedded in the constitution, but one of our making, and therefore subject to our unmaking. A certain proportion of the public lands of this country, in the province of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, have been applied for school purposes. I submit this point to the judgment of every man in the House. The education of this country has been placed in the hands of the provinces. The subject of education in Manitoba is in the control of that province. The question of education is subject to provincial jurisdiction. In the case of lands to be applied for the purposes of edu-