

very well consider carefully our financial position in undertaking to spread civilization and improvement over these very much vaster areas under our conditions. We knew that we must have the means or we cannot have the success. We must have the means with which to build roads, to provide schools, to take care of all these requirements of civilization which fall to the lot of the provinces; and without those means, without that money, if we cannot go forward as provinces, we had better not undertake the responsibility of it. We find that in the condition in which we are at the present time the Territories receive a matter of nearly a million and a quarter dollars of revenue from this Dominion, or of subsidy, in the place of a provincial subsidy. Outside of that, there are expenditures which, in the provinces, are borne out of the provincial funds, but which, so far, have come out of the Dominion treasury, and which aggregate something like half a million dollars. At the present time, considering the Territories as a province, we are receiving as a subsidy from the Dominion treasury, a matter of a million and three-quarters of money. Now, compare that with the subsidy received by any of the other provinces. We find that Ontario receives a subsidy of a little less than a million and a half, Quebec a little over a million, Nova Scotia under half a million, New Brunswick under half a million, Manitoba a little over half a million, British Columbia \$300,000 and Prince Edward Island \$200,000, the two larger of these with populations infinitely greater than that of the Northwest Territories. As I said, in the Northwest Territories we are not receiving more money than is necessary for the development and improvement of the country. Out of the money that we are receiving, and which bulks so large, comparatively as current expenditure, has to be provided a great deal of what would ordinarily be considered capital expenditure. Surely it was reasonable on our part to say that, considering the subsidies given to the provinces, considering that these subsidies are based on population very largely, considering the needs of that great western country in the immediate future, considering further that our population was increasing so rapidly and that, with the increase of population, we could claim continually more favourable financial terms, we had everything to gain by waiting for provincial autonomy and nothing to lose. I will not trouble the House to evidence that fact by comparing the terms demanded by the Northwest government itself in 1901 and again in 1903. Because this government did not grant to the Northwest Territories the autonomy that was asked for in 1901, in the space of fourteen months they had made something like a quarter of a million dollars a year. I thought if we could, by waiting a matter of fourteen months, increase our annual

Mr. OLIVER.

revenue by a quarter of a million dollars, we could not make money as quickly in any other way than by waiting a few years longer for provincial autonomy.

Mr. LALOR. Why did you not continue to wait a little longer?

Mr. OLIVER. My hon. friend (Mr. Lalor) asks me why we did not continue to wait a little longer.

Mr. LALOR. You are making money so fast, it is a wonder you did not wait a little longer.

Mr. OLIVER. As far as I am concerned, and as far as the majority of the people in the Northwest Territories are concerned, they are prepared to continue to wait for provincial autonomy on those conditions.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. As long as it pays?

Mr. OLIVER. As long as it pays. The demand for provincial autonomy does not come from the people of the Northwest.

Mr. BOYCE. Does it not come from the government of the Territories?

Mr. OLIVER. I believe the government of the Territories has made certain demands for provincial autonomy. I have shown the House how wise these demands were by comparing the demand of one year with the demand of the succeeding year. I am not responsible for what the government of the Northwest Territories have done. I represent a section of the people of the Northwest Territories, and I say that the people of the Northwest Territories have never asked for provincial autonomy. However, if it seems good to the parliament of Canada and to the government of this Dominion to organize these Territories into provinces and to give them fair and reasonable financial consideration, certainly we are not the people to refuse that consideration or to refuse those reasonable financial terms. We believe that the terms which have been offered, and which are contained in the Autonomy Bills, are fair and reasonable financial terms, are such as we can conscientiously afford to accept, and such as will be a benefit to the people of those Territories, and will tend to the improvement of the country. We would be doing less than our duty; we would be poor friends of our Dominion, if we willingly accepted anything short of a liberal allowance for provincial purposes in these Territories. As the ex-Minister of the Interior has said, it is on the development of these Territories that the prosperity of this whole Dominion depends. He would be the worst friend the Dominion had, who would prevent the progress of civilization in these provinces by stinting the means whereby that can be obtained. I shall not go into a comparison with the subsidies which are given the other provinces, except to repeat that the conditions in the Territories are so different from those in the other provinces—such a small population occupying such a vast area of agricultural