

changed his views on the question, but I can tell the hon. gentleman that if he consulted his constituents he would learn reasons why he should oppose the lands being handed over to the provinces. The manufacturers and business men of this country want to see the business of Canada continue to prosper as it has done for the past eight years. We have made wonderful progress under the present conditions; immigration is pouring into our country in great volumes and business generally is increasing very rapidly. If the lands were handed over to the provinces, I am afraid the hands of the clock would be turned back, not that the people of the Territories are not competent, but they would necessarily have to disturb the existing system and we cannot afford to take any chances on that.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. I would remark to the hon. gentleman that my courage has returned. I was not aware that I whispered in low tones what side I was going to take. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Zimmerman) did not hear me it was not because he could not, for he heard me a few minutes before when he interrupted me. I do not remember that the hon. gentleman found time during the debate to state his views. But I can tell him that there never was any doubt from the time I began to speak until I concluded as to what way I was going to vote. Every one who knows me well, can tell the hon. gentleman what my opinions are. If the hon. gentleman could not understand the drift of my speech that is not my fault, because my decision was never for a moment undefined from the beginning to the end of the debate.

Mr. OLIVER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Cockshutt) has made a very valuable contribution to the debate, for he has let us know exactly where the gentlemen on the opposite side of the House stand on this very important question.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. I was speaking for myself.

Mr. OLIVER. Yes, but the hon. gentleman (Mr. Cockshutt) had the courage to say what some of his friends think but do not say. The hon. member stands for the principle of slow settlement in the Territories; he stands for the principle of smaller subsidies; he stands for the principle of the sale of the lands. He declares that the system of settlement in the province of Ontario has been a success. We are glad to know all these things, and we are glad to know that gentlemen opposite stand now where they have always stood, namely, for slow settlement for the sale of the lands, and for general stagnation. The hon. gentleman has suggested that it was under a Liberal administration in Ontario that the lands were not properly administered, but

Mr. ZIMMERMAN.

Ontario was not always Liberal, and the history of the administration of the Ontario lands since the first provincial government was created, proves that a province which depends upon the sale of its lands for its revenue cannot afford to handle these lands with the liberality that the Dominion government which does not depend upon that source of revenue is able to.

Mr. W. WRIGHT. Does the hon. gentleman not know that nearly all the new lands that have been settled in Ontario within the last thirty years, have been absolutely given to the settlers?

Mr. OLIVER. I believe that the lands have been given to the settlers under that very Liberal administration to which the hon. gentleman objects, but what I said was that in all this great clay belt of northern Ontario which is laid down upon the map and which is said to be of very great agricultural value, there is not at the present time a single settler in that great clay belt as laid down on the map, nor has the government attempted to place a settler there.

Mr. W. WRIGHT. Does the Minister of the Interior know whether there is actually a clay belt there at all?

Mr. OLIVER. I do not.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. And if there is it was only discovered a year or two ago.

Mr. OLIVER. The very fact that it is not known whether there is a clay belt or not fit for settlement, is all we want to know of provincial administration of a new country.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. The hon. gentleman himself told us this afternoon that there were millions of acres in the west, and we did not yet know whether they were good for anything or not.

Mr. OLIVER. I said there were millions of acres that have not yet been settled.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. And over which a white man had not gone.

Mr. OLIVER. Exactly.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The hon. gentleman told us that we were really only acquainted with a very small portion of that country.

Mr. OLIVER. I do not think I said that. I said there were large areas in Alberta and Saskatchewan that were not known, but I do say that the efforts of the Dominion government to colonize that country have resulted in placing half a million people in the districts of Saskatchewan and Alberta during the same period that the province of Ontario has not placed a single settler on its lands known as the clay belt. With regard to the advantage or disadvantage of giving away the lands, my hon.