

error and was probably due to the draughtsman of the Act not clearly apprehending his instructions.

It appears that in those days they had draughtsmen who did not follow out their instructions, just as they have to-day.

Dr. Harrison, subsequently, on December 10th, 1887, addressed a memorandum to the then acting Minister of Finance, setting forth his view on the subject. The matter was then taken into consideration by the minister, but does not appear to have ever been finally dealt with.

This is what the hon. treasurer of the province of Manitoba said. And, as an hon. friend reminds me, this was under a Liberal administration, the administration of the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Greenway).

Now, I would like to say a word on the per capita allowance. I do not find any fault with the basis upon which this account is calculated, except that I do not think the limit of allowance for Manitoba should be based upon a population of 400,000, when that of the other new provinces is based upon a population of 800,000. I do not wish to be misunderstood; I do not say that the new provinces are getting what they are not entitled to, but I do claim that a readjustment should take place to extend to Manitoba the same treatment as is being given to the provinces of the west.

The right hon. Prime Minister, in introducing this Bill, led this House, in his usual manner, to believe that the swamp lands of Manitoba were the most valuable lands in the province. This is entirely a mistaken idea. Before dealing with the financial side of the question, I would like to say that I think it would be well for the right hon. gentleman, in order to convince himself of the nature of these lands, that he should come to the little province of Manitoba and examine them for himself. The trouble has been that we cannot get these lands examined and handed over to us. But, before coming up there, I would advise the Prime Minister to equip himself with a pair of very long-legged rubber boots, a slouch hat and a boat; and, if he is anything of a sport, let him bring a gun and a good dog, and I can guarantee him the best day's duck shooting he ever had in his life. (And I think that by the time he gets these Bills worried through this House, a little recreation of the nature I have indicated will not be out of order.) But since he has mentioned the swamp lands of Manitoba, I would like to say that these lands have a history, a sketch of which may not be without interest to the members of this House. In 1885, under an Act of this Dominion government, the swamp lands of Manitoba were to be handed over to the provinces to deal with as they saw fit. At that time there were about 7,000,000 acres of swamp lands. Though many years have elapsed, instead of getting these lands as we should have got them, immediately, the quantity

examined is only 2,130,341.41 acres, and out of that amount only 1,962,264.04 acres have been handed over to the province. And at what rate? They cost the province of Manitoba \$143,977.39. And this was imposed upon the province in the most arbitrary way. In fact, this government deducted it from the half-yearly subsidy of the province; and, if there are any fees due for the inspection of these lands, they immediately pay these fees out of our half-yearly subsidy and charge them up at 5 per cent interest. This is not the intention, nor is it reasonable that it should be done, owing to the fact that this government is holding back from the province of Manitoba millions of acres of our swamp lands. The Order in Council of 1885 provides as follows:—

The cost of selection of any swamp lands be not made a charge against the half-yearly payments to the province on subsidy account, until the requisite sanction of His Excellency the Governor General in Council of the said selection has been obtained, but that the deduction shall be made from the payment to the province next following the date of the Order in Council giving such sanction and vesting the lands in Her Majesty for the purposes of the province.

That is how these lands were supposed to have been dealt with. To give you an idea of what the feeling of the Hon. D. H. McMillan was with regard to those lands, let me read to you an extract from his budget speech in 1898:

As you are aware, the chief source of revenue is the subsidy. The amount received this year was \$454,557.33, which is \$15,978.41 less than estimated. This amount was deducted on account of the inspection of swamp lands, and this year there is a further reduction of \$6,000 for the same purpose. I hope this is the last we shall see of a reduction on account of swamp lands inspection. The costly system practiced for the last eight or nine years has been done away with, and the selection will be done under an efficient system, which I think will result in the selection of the lands at one-tenth the cost and in one-tenth the time of the old system. I think it is really too bad the way the province has been charged in this matter, and I intend to make a charge against the Dominion government, and I hope the province will be recouped.

Altogether \$86,000 has been deducted as the cost of the swamp lands inspection. We have been sometimes charged with not living within our revenue. How could we when these amounts were continually deducted from our revenue?

That is what the Hon. D. H. McMillan had to say about these lands. As an evidence of how they have been diverted to the purposes of the Dominion, let me point out that since 1890, 850,845.52 acres have been examined and determined by inspectors as swamp lands, and of these only 347,981.01 acres have been actually handed over to the province, showing that the Dominion had diverted 502,864.41 acres of the lands of the province in the Act of 1885. It must also