

of the minor points. The government has been criticised in some quarters for proposing that there should be two provinces instead of only one. As a resident of these Territories I admit that it would be very pleasant for us to feel that we had the banner province of the Dominion, that we overshadowed our lesser neighbours, and that the time would come when we would wield a tremendous influence in the affairs of the nation. But in the business things of life there is more to be considered than sentiment. I maintain that that immense territory would be too much for any single provincial government to handle. We know that when the premier of a province is forming his cabinet he takes his ministers from different parts of the province, but in the case of such an immense area as that of the Northwest Territories this would be utterly impossible. It is quite true that for some years past we have had an honest and a fairly capable government in the Northwest Territories but settlement is increasing, the population is getting larger, and I venture to assert that there are portions of the Northwest Territories that for the last two or three years have not been quite satisfied. I am sure that the people of the Saskatchewan district and northern Alberta would have been better satisfied if they had had a representative in the cabinet. Then, again, some objection has been taken to the dividing line placing the fourth initial meridian as the boundary between the two provinces, but I believe that very good reasons can be given for the selection of that line. In the first place, it divides the Territories almost exactly in two, making the areas of the two provinces practically the same, and in the second place that line will be much more convenient in describing property, &c., as it is the beginning of a new range. To my mind the only objection that can be offered at all to selecting that line, is, that it divides the ranching country, but I maintain that no matter where the line is drawn between these two provinces it would interfere with some particular interest. Even if the dividing line were placed 60 miles further east it would still divide the ranching country. I anticipate very little trouble from the clashing of herd laws or the branding regulations. The stockmen of southern Alberta and of western Assiniboia will still have common interests, and even with the two provinces their associations will still continue to do the work they have been doing.

I have been pretty severely criticised myself in some quarters, because I favoured the selection of the city of Edmonton for the temporary capital of the province of Alberta. Now, Sir, I want to say that if I considered my personal interests in this matter I would have advocated the selection of the town near which I reside and in which my interest lies. But I knew that at least 75 per cent of the constituents whom I repre-

sent were in favour of having Edmonton as the capital and considered its claims as the best, and I thought it my duty to advocate what they desire rather than to look for my own selfish interests.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we come to one of the most important features of this Bill, the one relating to the ownership of the lands. These residents of the proposed provinces who look on this question from a sentimental point of view only will no doubt favour provincial ownership, but I am convinced that the practical men who consider the future prosperity of not only the new provinces but of the Dominion as a whole, will be perfectly satisfied to have the land administered by the federal government. We in the west believe that the present remarkable prosperity of the west is due mainly to the tide of immigration that is flowing to that part of the country, and we further believe that the immigrants that are going to the west are induced to do so chiefly by the offer of free lands. What is the policy of the opposition with respect to immigration? I suppose the member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) has given expression to that policy, and on page 3542 of 'Hansard' he says:

If the new provinces were possessed of their own public lands, they would be the most interested of all in encouraging immigration to come within their bounds. We should have three local governments all hard at work trying to bring in immigration, and all competing with each other for immigration.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we would have not only three local governments competing for immigration; we would have no less than six. We would have the province of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec. What would be the condition of things if we had six immigration departments each sending out literature describing its own particular advantages, and each sending its agents to different parts of the world? It would not only be very expensive but it would be confusing, and you would have jealousy and quarreling amongst them, the effect of which would be to sever rather than to unite the different classes out of which we hope to make a united Canada. I am proud to be a resident of the proposed province of Alberta and I have unbounded faith in the future of that province, but at the same time I think it is best for Canada as a whole and best for Alberta, that the immigration literature should go out from the government of Canada, that our immigration agents in the different parts of the world should be Canadian agents, and that the immigrants who come to this country should be guided by Canadian officials. I would dislike very much to see any great change made in the immigration policy of the government. Those of us who lived in the west before that policy was inaugurated know only too well the condition of affairs at that time.