

ed the great expense entailed by this duplication of provinces, and we would have had two splendid provinces that would have proved powerful factors in this great confederation. I realize that there is a considerable sentiment opposed to that view in the Northwest Territories. I cannot admit that their objection is a valid one; I think it is largely sentimental. They look upon the word 'annexed' with objection; they do not desire to be merged. It is not a universal sentiment, but still a considerable portion of the people there object to merging their fortunes with those of the people of Manitoba, and we cannot entirely ignore sentiment when it is very strongly developed. But I feel sure that if they had decided voluntarily to join their fortunes with those of the people of Manitoba, within the next five or ten years, because of the great advantages they would have derived by reason of increased transportation facilities, by reason of reduced freight rates and other great advantages they would be perfectly satisfied with their position.

Whatever reason the government may have had for not desiring to extend the boundaries of Manitoba westward the question of the northern boundary is entirely different. By the provisions of this Bill the easterly boundary of Saskatchewan is the western boundary of Manitoba, extending from the northwest corner of Manitoba to the 60th parallel of north latitude, and that portion of the provisional district of Saskatchewan lying east of that boundary line is put where? In the new province of Saskatchewan? In the province of Manitoba? No, it is thrown into unorganized territory under the jurisdiction of this government. What objection was there to having that portion added to the province of Manitoba? The right hon. gentleman said he could not, contrary to the wishes of the people of the Territories, take any portion of their land away from them, west of Manitoba's boundary line, and that they had, through their legislators in their assembly, on more than one occasion, put themselves on record as being opposed to having any part of that territory taken away from them. But he has not the same reason for refusing to give Manitoba this district overlapping it on the north. On the contrary, the very same territorial assembly, composed of the very same gentlemen who passed this resolution objecting to any part of the territory west of Manitoba's boundary line being taken from them, passed resolutions in which they gave their consent to having that portion which overlaps Manitoba on the north added to that province. Still in the face of that resolution, the right hon. gentleman refuses to accede to the request of the government of Manitoba. I find, on looking at the Northwest Territories journal of the 14th of December, 1898, the following resolution was passed:

Mr. W. J. ROCHE.

The order of the day being read for the second reading of resolution reported from the Committee of the Whole, which is as follows:

Whereas, it is expedient that the boundary lines between the Northwest Territories and the other provinces and territories should be finally determined at an early date.

And whereas, this legislature denies the right of the parliament of Canada to increase, diminish or otherwise alter the limits of the Northwest Territories, except as hereinafter mentioned, without its consent because it claims for the people it represents equal rights with the people of the provinces in this respect;

And whereas, certain areas now comprised within the Northwest Territories more properly belong to other provinces or territories, and should therefore be separated from the Northwest Territories;

Therefore be it resolved, that while consenting to such alteration of the limits of the Northwest Territories as will separate therefrom those areas lying north of the northern boundaries of the provinces of British Columbia and Manitoba respectively, this legislature is firmly of the opinion that the political unity of the Territories should not be disturbed.

So that, we have the very same gentlemen in that territorial assembly, passing that resolution, giving their consent to having this district north of the Manitoba boundary line added to the province, yet the right hon. gentleman refused to accede to the request of the province of Manitoba, endorsed as it was by the Territorial Assembly. What reason did he give for not acceding to that reasonable request? He said that in this House there are a number of representatives of the people who live in that sparsely settled portion of the country; and if these people objected to being incorporated in the limits of Manitoba, parliament would not be justified in adding them to that province. But, let me ask the First Minister, did he obtain the consent of those people before he put them into the unorganized territories? Did he obtain their consent before separating them from the rest of the district of Saskatchewan and putting them outside that district? Most assuredly not. Why not then have incorporated them within the limits of Manitoba. There is no valid reason why that district should not be added to that province. What was the reply he gave when the request was made to have the northern limit of Manitoba extended to the 60th parallel of north latitude? Oh, he said, I must first consult the province of Quebec, the province of Ontario and the province of Saskatchewan. Each of these provinces has an equal right for the extension of its territory to Hudson bay; and some time in the future it is my intention to have a conference between the representatives of those provinces to see how the territory of Keewatin may be divided before we accede to the request of Manitoba. But what possible reason is there for consulting any of those provinces. The province of Ontario intervenes between Keewatin and the province of Quebec. What say could the