SECESSION

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MR. INSINGER

(Yorkton) remarked that certain reasons were given a week or more ago by the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Ross) why it was necessary to reconsider their position with regard to their constitutional status. It was stated that their powers were not sufficient, and that the powers they had been ostensibly given were incomplete. The hon. member further brought out the point which would appeal more strongly to the House, perhaps, than anything else, that they should ask for more money. That was a very tangible question, and appealed not only to members of that House but to every man in this country. If they could in justice put in a claim for more funds from the Dominion Parliament, if they could show that the Territories were entitled to receive more from the Dominion treasury, they would be remiss in their duty if they did not make some kind of a claim. He believed the present to be a favorable time to reconsider their position. As early as 1885 they made a similar petition, but then they hadn't the same knowledge nor the same experience of legislation. The requests they then made were premature. When they asked for responsibility in 1885 and 1888 they asked for something that probably had they got it they would not have been in a position to use. But they had now been administering the affairs of this country nearly as much as any of the provinces, and he thought they could claim to have administered those affairs, with no discredit to themselves, and quite as well as the affairs of any province were administered. He therefore thought they could put in a good claim, with a good conscience, to the Dominion Government for more powers and for more funds. There was another reason why to-day they were in a better position than formerly. There had been a change of Government on a certain date in June. He did not want to say for a moment that one side of the House was more favorable to the Territories than the other side, still it was well known that many members of the present Government, when in opposition, made propositions to give the Territories more powers than had been given them. Mr. Davies, now a member of the Government at Ottawa, in 1893 declared that it was the duty of the Government in amending the North-West Territories Act to give them certain rights wholesale,—not to quibble about it and take back with one hand what they gave with the other. He (Mr. Insinger) thought they could now go to the Cabinet and remind its members of certain statements made by them when in opposition. They had now a member in the House at Ottawa, who was more able than any member they had had there before, to present the claims of the Territories before Parliament. He referred to Mr. Oliver. It was not only his ability, but by his long experience he was better posted on the requirements of this country, on their laws and general constitutional standing, than perhaps any other member of that House. Then, too, he was with the Territories on the present question. But to proceed. A certain day was appointed to draft a memorial to consider the matter and to bring in a report accordingly. The mover of the motion (Mr. Ross) made a speech in which he laid down the lines in which he thought the House should restrict itself in asking for Territorial autonomy, and he gave his reasons therefor. Every one in the House thought they were in unison with the expressions of the hon. member for Moose Jaw. Those members who it now seemed were not kept silent, and by their silence assented to the expressions of the hon. member for Moose Jaw. But as soon as the committee met it was found that that unanimity did not remain, and from many parts came different opinions upon the subject. He was not sorry that that was so. It was made apparent there were three possible propositions that could be laid before the House. One was to make one province of the whole of the Territories and ask for full provincial rights. Another proposition was to divide the country into more than one province, and make one province of Alberta; the third proposition was to ask that the powers they already had should be completed and put beyond doubt, and ask for more money,—or Territorial autonomy. He did not intend to follow the hon. member for Banff in all his reasons and figures and calculations, because he simply could not. He did not think it possible to follow the hon. gentleman into anything that went to the bottom of his heart, and that touched his sensibilities keenly, because then his imagination ran a little wild. The hon. gentleman at first seemed to be under the impression that it was rather premature to ask provincial rights, but he blossomed slowly out into a champion for provincial rights of the Territories, and then he bloomed right out into a champion for Alberta being made into a province. He based his claim on the consideration of the local revenues; that a very large part came from Alberta, and a very small part went to Alberta. He showed that they had more liquor drunk in Alberta, and that there were more criminals in Alberta, and that there were more people contributing to the local revenue in Alberta by means of fines.

Mr. Brett: What I did point out was this, that the greater amount contributed by fines came from the rest of the Territories. Out of about $400, only $40 came from Alberta.

Mr. Insinger was very glad to hear the disclaimer by the hon. gentleman. There was more hope for Alberta than the hon. member had given hope for. It struck him (Mr. Insinger) as a very peculiar claim that Alberta should be held out by one of its representatives as being a place where more liquor was drunk than anywhere else. Then the hon. member pointed to the schools. Certainly it was a very strange claim to put forward that Alberta was a more ignorant place than any other part of the Territories. (Laughter.) The hon. gentleman had shown that population had increased in Alberta, and he must know that the establishment of schools would always be a few years behind the incoming of the population. So if the hon. member would only rest his soul in patience, say for a year or so, he (Mr. Insinger) had sufficient confidence in the intelligence of the people of Alberta to believe they would have the full number of schools, and that they would before long make a full drain upon the Territorial resources for payment of schools. Another claim for the autonomy of Alberta was made on the ground of population. The hon. member went into points which he clearly did not understand, and the parts he did understand he clearly did not comprehend. (Laughter.) Any body who knew Alberta knew what the hon. member for Banff ought to know, but did not seem to know, namely, that in Alberta, they had special immigration in the years 1891-94, and that that special immigration there is not going on now.

Mr. Brett: It is going on yet.

Mr. Insinger: It may be going on, but if so, it is a very silent trend. What we hear is only the rumbling of the wheels, as it were, of the people who are going out. (Laughter.) Still he believed there always would be a certain number of people going into Alberta, but the calculation made by the the hon. member was utterly wrong, and he knew it, or he ought to know it. He must know that on the building of the colonization railroad there was a large influx of population, and that that influx had stopped. So the large increase shown to have taken place then had not continued. Then the hon. member ought to know, and he did know, that of the increase of population that went in during those few years quite a number had gone out, and the hon. member did know that the population of Alberta had not increased in the same ratio in the last few years as it had increased before. He (Mr. Insinger) must therefore refuse to believe any conclusions based on the hon. member's fanciful figures. They were figures, but they were not facts. The hon. member ought not to make claims for rights from the Dominion Parliament based on figures which he knew were belied by facts. Were the Assembly to allow that to be done, it would make them the laughing stock of the whole country. When the hon. member speaks about the development of industries, he must know that in one large Territory they had more industries, and of course larger chances of development and would have more power of development, and would have more credit for their developments than any particular portion of it would have. He did not want to create an impression in the mind of the hon. member that he (the speaker) did not fully realize the great importance and richness of Alberta. There was no doubt that it was one of the fairest parts they had, but that was not a sufficient reason why it should be separated from the rest of the Territories. Indeed it was a very good reason it should stay in with the rest. But really the point upon which the hon. member put the most stress was because of his, well, call it sentimental reason;—the sentimental reason that the idea in the minds of intending immigrants was that the Territories was a country of continual snow. How a territory should create an impression of snow he could not see, but he did know that Alberta would create an impression of snow upon the mountains in the mind of anyone who knew anything about it. Why did not the territories in the United States create an impression of snow in the United States? There was this difference between the territories, and it was to our advantage,—that this side the border the Territories had the rights of provinces, and on the other side the Territories had not the rights of the states. But if there really was anything in the sentimental, and the main, reason of the hon. gentleman, and if it would act as a balm to soothe the wounds of his bleeding heart, he (Mr. Insinger) saw no reason why the conceding so small a thing as the change of a name should not be granted. He did not object to have the name "Territories" taken away, and to calling the whole of this country Alberta. If any little thing like that would satisfy the hon. gentleman he would have no more objection to the Territories being tacked on to Alberta than he would to Alberta being tacked on to the Territories. (Hear, hear.) By that, sentiment might be appeased and the hon. gentleman's heart be at rest for a little time. He (Mr. Insinger) had never yet met the immigrant who was scared from coming into this country because it was a Territory. He found as a rule that when people came to this country they knew very little about it at all. They knew that they came to America, and if they were very clever they knew they were coming to Canada, and that was about the extent of their knowledge. He was sorry the hon. member stated an amendment might be brought in, but that he was not going to bring it in now. This was the proper time to bring in any amendment if the amendment was drafted, for really to give "home rule" to Alberta was an amendment which attacked the principle of the memorial. The memorial was drafted for the distinct purpose of obtaining Territorial autonomy and would not fit on to a province of Alberta. It would certainly expedite matters if the hon. member for Banff would bring on his amendment in the full House. It showed a certain amount of want of courage in not bringing his amendment down to the full House when particularly asked by the mover of the memorial to do so. If it was meant that by becoming a province they should have the right of chartering railways, that was a matter for serious consideration. The hon. member for Banff has spoken about making a contract, or bargain, with the Dominion Government. On going to the Dominion Government, say they made a contract, and a contract was supposed to be binding. For the hon. member to say they could enter into a contract and consider the contract would only bind the other side simply showed that the hon. member did not know what the word "contract" meant. The question was, were they sufficiently strong to go into the position to make a full contract, and if they had the full power to make these demands? Unless they had sufficient interest at Ottawa to enforce their side of the question they would, to use a vernacular expression, "get left" on the contract. They had only four members at present, although they might have five in a short time. Were the Territories in a position to fight all the other parts of Canada, because fight they must. Would the Parliament at Ottawa give them full consideration for the large amount of public lands which had been taken from them for the general benefit of Canada? The Parliament at Ottawa would simply give what they thought proper, and not what the Territories wanted. More than 30 millions of acres had been taken away from the Territories for the C.P.R. Could they put a price on that land? A great part of that land at present had no value. If this country developed,—as it had, slowly it was true, but it had developed,—surely that land would get a larger value, and the Territories would be in a better position a few years hence to make a demand for compensation better than they were now; and if they did make a demand now they would get left. Rather than that he would possess his soul in patience a few years longer. Reference had been made to the position of Manitoba at the time it entered into confederation. The Territories were not in the same position as was Manitoba. Manitoba was not made a province because the people there wanted or liked it. They were simply made a province because they were compelled to; it was through necessity. And when they wanted to make a change in a few years they found it would cost them a rebellion nearly to shake off their contract and make a new one. The Territories were not forced by force of circumstances. When they went into a province they would do it with a free will, and with power to make contracts which would be binding upon their heirs forever. Considering the lands here would have an enormous value in a few years, and considering that if they were to put a price upon those lands now they would be doing a great injustice to the people who are to come after; when they considered their position, that they were not able to force their claims, he thought they should halt before entering into a binding contract. The hon. member seemed to think—and perhaps many people had expressed similar opinions—that as soon as a province was formed the revenue at once fell in, but he (Mr. Insinger) did not know from where. Probably from the sky, or some other place equally remote. The estimated revenue for the province of Manitoba last year was $800,000. The idea of having a province was to develop. If they wanted to go into the developing business they had to get the money, and the whole thing hinged upon the fact that when they became a province it would give them more money. He did not think that was the fact. If the hon. member would look up the revenues of Manitoba he would find that the estimated revenue consisted in the first place of a Dominion grant of $50,000. So far as the Dominion grant was concerned the Territories were making a claim for some similar consideration. On that ground, therefore, the province was in no better position than the Territories. In the next place the Manitoba revenue consisted of the magnificent sum of $6,000 local revenues. These were the the same local revenues as the Territories could levy with the exception of a law stamp levy, which brought in $12,000. The Territories however, could bring in similar legislation to provide for the same purposes, but up to the present they had not thought fit to do so. The balance of those revenues was made up of fees which were not of particular benefit to a province. They found that Manitoba as a province—and the Territories would be in the same position—did not increase their revenue by one single cent on the amount they would get as a territory. Therefore the province had no advantage over a territory. The hon. member for Banff had stated that in British Columbia they had local taxation, but they had no municipal taxation; and in Manitoba they had municipal taxation but no provincial taxation. From that he seemed to infer that they would be the same as British Columbia. Surely the hon. member must see that because Manitoba did not raise its money by provincial taxation, and British Columbia raises its money by a local taxation, that we could do without either of them. But if the Territories, as a province, went in for large plans surely they must go in for some taxation. Where was money to come from? Was it to come from heaven, or from England, or where, and bring in capital and they never pay interest on it? In Manitoba they had a local taxation for the maintenance and building of their Court houses, only they did not raise it for the province, but divided it amongst the municipalities, but after all it was exactly the same thing as provincial taxation. It was not necessary for the Territories to go in for being made a province in order to get what they were seeking; the same object could be obtained by going in for territorial autonomy, and with the distinct advantage that the demand for larger Territorial powers was on the face of it, not a contract, but only an arrangement that would hold good for a few years, or until such time as they might want something else. Another great advantage the asking for Territorial autonomy would have over asking the erection of a province, was that they had a great deal more chance of getting it. The hon. member for Banff seemed to think that in politics by asking for a great deal more than you expect you would get a little. A mistake of that kind was worse than a mistake. It was simply prejudicing the whole case. If they went to Ottawa and showed that they asked for more than they expected, that they were asking for what they did not want; if they went and asked for things in the lump and did not know that they had a distinct knowledge of the items, he thought they ran a great chance of getting nothing at all. Their principle should be to go and ask for those things in detail;—show why they wanted those things, and prove that they really wanted them. If they showed that they understood what they wanted, and that they knew how to handle it, they stood a very good chance of getting it. He did not believe in asking for a whole lot of things in the chance of getting a little. He believed they should follow the lines laid down in the memorial. In asking for Territorial autonomy they did not ask for the power to charter railways. The power of chartering railways was absolutely useless to them unless they were in a position to go and grant them the credit of a country, and that they could not do. Another power they did not ask for in the memorial was the administration of justice in criminal matters. That was a point upon which a certain amount of difference of opinion should be allowed. He was inclined to ask that administration of justice be given them, but it was found there were certain very heavy charges against the administration of justice, and it would be foolish to take upon their shoulders such a very large debt unless there was a very good reason shown in favor of it. In the memorial they asked for certain amendments. First they asked that the powers which were given under the North-West Territories Act, and which were now subject to any Act of the Parliament of Canada, should be secured to the Assembly. That means that the moment the Assembly had passed a law in any subject some member of Parliament might turn round and make some bill in which one clause perhaps affected the Territories, and therefore put aside their ordinance. They had been in such danger several times. For instance there was the Animals Infections Acts. They had the same danger when they brought into that House a bill regarding the inspection of coal mines. When they brought in a bill respecting irrigation they did not know whether they had power or not to deal with the subject. The memorial asked that the powers they had, and such other powers as they asked for, should be given to them the same as to any province in Canada. It was also asked that the Executive Committee should be changed for an Executive Council. An Executive Council had all the political precedents of England and Canada to show it its way. An Executive Committee never knew what it was at. The memorial also asked that the Assembly should have powers to incorporate insurance companies; that the appointments of sheriffs and clerks should be put in their hands; and they asked for other powers which would not be of any great value to them, but it certainly would be policy to have them. They made a claim for more funds for the reasons that they stood greatly in need of more money, and that the Parliament of Canada was responsible for the due administration of education in this country; as long as they were a territory and not a province the Parliament of Canada was responsible for the full government of affairs in this country. They had also shown that if they be allowed to make an analogy of what was due to them, and what to the province, they could show a very great claim for a greater amount of money, but they did not in the memorial want to base their claim on that, and they did not want to put a distinct figure on the subsidy they might claim for compensation for lands. He thought there were few occasions when they, as a House, had to state their position as a House, and when those occasions did arise it was their duty to give unreservedly expression to their opinions, so that not only the House but the country should know exactly where they were. He did not think it was their duty to slowly follow public opinion, but to lead public opinion. The Territories needed more funds, and they had a right to more funds. They contributed as much as any province in Canada, and there was no reason why other men in Canada should be given fifty cents back out of every dollar they contributed, while they of the Territories should be sent back only ten or fifteen cents of the dollar they contributed. (Applause.)

MR. MAGRATH.

(Lethbridge) stated that as the hon. gentleman who had just sat down had suggested there should be an amendment before the House on the lines the hon. member for Banff had spoken, he rose to propose such an amendment, which was seconded by the hon. member for Banff (Mr. Brett.)

It was in connection with the following clause of the memorial:—"The Assembly is of opinion that to remedy this undesirable state of affairs it is not necessary to have recourse to the granting of a full provincial status. They believe that till the time arrives, which may be at a not distant day, when the Territories should be taken into Confederation (as one or more provinces) the passing of a few amendments to the North-West Territories Act will allow them, subject to disallowance of their ordinances, to exclusively make laws in relation to matters already within their legislative jurisdiction."

Mr. Magrath said that according to that clause they did not appear to have fully made up their minds as to whether that day was at an early period or not. The next point was as to when they felt they "should be taken into Confederation as one or more provinces." The amendment he would move simply meant that they should more forcibly point out that it was the opinion of the House that this country should be taken into Confederation as two provinces at a very early period, otherwise it did not disturb the memorial in any matter whatever. He did not follow the hon. gentleman from Banff, but he did hear the levity with which the hon. member from Yorkton referred to Alberta.

Mr Insinger: I didn't refer to Alberta with any levity at all.

Mr. Magrath: I certainly accept the hon. gentleman's view of the matter, but it appeared to me in his referring to Alberta that he did do so, and that, subsequently, he made amends by asserting that Alberta was after all one of the fairest provinces.

Mr. Insinger: I might have referred to the views expressed by the hon. member for Banff, but there is a difference between the views expressed by the hon. member for Banff respecting Alberta, and Alberta itself.

Mr. Magrath: I am glad to hear the explanation. I feel the time will come when we must enter Confederation as a province.

Mr. Page (Cannington): As a province?

Mr. Magrath: I say as a province. He considered the interests in the Territories were entirely different. In the west they had to look to the west for their trade, while in the east the trade was largely diverted, or largely flowed towards the east, and in that it appeared to him there was a wide difference. As to being created into a full province at the present time he did not think it was desirable or necessary. It was an unfortunate thing in Canada to day, that they were overgoverned. (Hear, hear.) There were too many institutions in Canada, but he felt, if they thought their interests were going to be different in this country, that they should emphasize their views in relation to that so far as the creation of more than one province was concerned.

Half past five having arrived Mr. Speaker left the chair, leaving the hon. gentleman in possession of the floor.

The House re-assembled at eight o'clock. In the greater part of the evening the chair was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker Page, in the absence of the Speaker.

Mr. Magrath, resuming, said the question for consideration was not a question as to the importance of the memorial at large; it was merely a question as to the expression of opinion contained in one clause of that memorial. He, and those who held the same views as he did, wished to go further than the memorial. There was the difference. They all agreed that the time would come when the Territories would be taken into Confederation (hear, hear.) They were a unit on that. (Hear, hear.) But it had occurred to those who held the same opinions as himself that the memorial did not emphasize that fact strongly enough. They had never approached the Federal Government on matters pertaining to the welfare of this country that were conceded to them when asked for. Were they going to wait until the time had arrived when they considered the time was ripe for the entering of the Territories into Confederation before they brought the matter strongly to the attention of the Federal Government as they should? He did not think that was desirable. There had been a good deal of talk about educating the country. He thought they had some education to do in reference to this matter. It was their duty to commence the education, and commence it on vigorous lines. He did not for a moment imagine if they presented the memorial to the Federal Government that it would be received, and that they would be received with open arms. He also thought that they should bring the matter very forcibly before the Government, not that he thought they were going to have it granted, but that they might keep pressing it from time to time. If they were satisfied that the Federal Government would take the memorial into consideration and act upon it then he and his friends would sit down. But their experience had been otherwise, and for that reason they had considered it necessary to draw attention to that portion in one clause of it. There was no diversity of opinion as to the main point in that part of the amendment. The next point he understood was they considered that when the time did arrive for the Territories to be taken into Confederation, that the section of the country from which he and his friends came should be set apart as a province. They did not presume to try to educate the House as to what should be done with the rest of the Territories. That remained for the representatives of the people of the balance of the Territories. He thought he could state confidently, that when the time had arrived, the larger portion of Alberta would be found a unit on that question. (Hear, hear.) They had to bear in mind that a portion of Alberta had already discussed this matter. It had not been discussed in his section. From the discussions that took place there was no question in his mind that the people of that section of country had stated positively and emphatically that they wished to be set apart as a province. As to the other sections it was a matter of question. He believed if Alberta was canvassed to-day that they would vote against provincial institutions. (Mr. Haultain: "Hear, hear.")—because they were frightened, he thought, largely from the fact that there was no question but there was too much government in Canada. (Hear, hear.) It was hardly possible to walk down any by alley without meeting someone who was in the business. So people for that reason, he considered, had just cause to feel alarmed. But that did not alter the fact that they were coming to it, that they had got to come to it, and the question then would be with the people of Alberta, whether they wanted one or two provinces. When that time came, he was positive that 90 per cent of the people of Alberta would ask for Alberta being set apart as one province. (Hear, hear.) It might be argued that the Territories are not as large as some of the provinces in Canada. He was reminded the other day that what was good for Ontario and elsewhere, it did not necessarily follow it was good for this country, and he concurred with that statement, although it did not possibly suit his views at that time. But the cases were not parallel. Ontario was very large, probably much larger in extent than were the Territories,—at least much longer. But the populated portion of Ontario was not, nor ever would be, as large as the portions of the Territories that were capable of population, and that would be populated in due time. There were good reasons that could be advanced on the part of the people of Alberta which it might not be desirable to advance, as he might be accused of being narrow in his views, but they all looked after their own interests first, and although he belonged to Alberta he was a Canadian, and if he thought the portion of the country to which he belonged, by having provincial rights of its own would be of, advantage not only to itself but to Canada, he thought no one should blame him for having that wish. (Hear, hear.) The hon. member from Banff had made quite a lengthy speech in which he brought down some figures. He (Mr. Magrath) did not say he endorsed the ideas the hon. member advanced. He had no doubt the figures were correct, but the hon. member for Yorkton, in referring to them, stated the figures were not fact, but he did not try to dispute them, and he did not add that figures don't lie. He (Mr. Magrath) did not think the criticism of the hon. member for Yorkton had the force he would like the House to believe. There were other matters referred to by the hon. member which he (Mr. Magrath) need not reply to because he was good enough to withdraw——

Mr. Insinger: I beg your pardon; I didn't withdraw a single statement I made.

Mr. Magrath: I certainly understood you to withdraw——

The Speaker: He withdrew nothing.

Mr. Magrath: I accept the hon. gentleman's correction.

Mr. Insinger: I accept the hon. gentleman's apology.

Mr. Magrath: I have a distinct recollection that the hon. gentleman referred to several matters in Alberta deduced from figures the hon. member for Banff adduced. The deductions he drew were that the tippling proclivities of the people of Alberta were noted, and he made other statements in reference to the Albertan's ability for consuming liquor. (Laughter.) As a representative from Alberta, of course I don't like that. (Hear, hear) I presume there are other representatives from Alberta who are going to speak to-night, who are more capable of looking after Albertan interest than I am, and I leave it to them to either endure, if they see fit, the expressions that the hon. gentleman chose to make in reference to that matter, or refute them if they think it desirable. I therefore beg to move, seconded by the hon. member for Banff, "That the report be referred back to the select committee with instructions to strike out the first clause of the section referred to, and insert in lieu thereof the following: The Assembly is of the opinion that until the Territories are admitted into Confederation as two or more provinces which they consider is necessary at an early date for the compact government on local lines of such a vast country, that the passage of a few amendments at the first session of the Parliament of Canada to the North-West Territories Act will allow them, subject to disallowance of their ordinances, to exclusively make laws in relation to matters already within their legislative jurisdiction." (Applause.)

MR. FEARON,

(Medicine Hat) said he was in the embarassing position of agreeing in part with promoters of the memorial and in part with the framers of the amendment. He agreed with the first part of the question as to whether the time had arrived that steps should be taken towards admitting the Territories into the Confederation as a province. The framers of the memorial as interpreted by the hon. member from Yorkton seemed to infer that the time had not yet arrived. The position they took was that they would leave matters as they are,—in the same indefinite manner as now exists. It was there that he differed from them. He considered the time had arrived that at least steps should be taken to frame events which would speedily allow the Territories to be taken into Confederation as a province. The hon. member from Yorkton, in giving his reasons why he considered it premature that such a step should be taken gave as one, that even with an increased subsidy the difference between the amount of money coming to them as a province and now, would not be sufficient to more than bear the expenses of the Territories, and that it would be absolutely necessary to carry on the government,—that was on the lines that a province should be carried on to develop the resources of the country,—that means would be taken to borrow money. Mr. Insinger considered it would be premature to do so. The point then to be considered was, if, with a population of 112,000 in the Territories, that was not sufficient, when would they arrive at that point? If with a membership in the Dominion Parliament of four members they were not sufficient, how many should they have before they would be in a position to compel the Dominion Government to grant the Territories terms as favorable as they could desire? It was constantly brought forward that admission into Confederation as a province would necessitate the borrowing of money. He believed it would, but he did not consider it so much of a bugbear as it was popularly supposed to be. They were in the position of a business house, or a farmer, who by cultivating part of his farm was able to pay expenses. He had natural resources in a large area, but he did not attempt to cultivate simply because he had not the means to do so. Was it better for him to continue indefinitely only paying expenses, or to borrow money, develop his farm and make it a dividend paying concern? That was the position they were in regarding the Territories. Whether would it be better for them to go on for an indefinite period simply paying expenses, allowing their natural resources to remain dormant, or whether it would be better to borrow money and develop the resources? The hon. member from Yorkton, in speaking of British Columbia and Manitoba, as the different systems of carrying on municipal or provincial government, showed it was absolutely necessary that some taxes had to be levied in British Columbia, but he said the taxes were levied by a provincial tax. That was correct. But that tax in rural districts, other than municipalities, this year was only 10 mills on the dollar. There was a poll tax of $3 per head for all who were not otherwise assessed. As he said, the tax was only 10 mills on the dollar, but they should bear in mind the provincial government paid all the expenses of the school system,—that it included what in the Territories was their school tax,—he asked did they consider that a very high tax? How many school districts were there in the Territories whose assessment was lower than 10 mills on the dollar? So that to-day they were assessing themselves nearly as high as British Columbia assessed itself. British Columbia had developed from a population of 20,000 to a population of 80,000 during the last 15 years. British Columbia came into confederation as a crown colony. But supposing B.C. had been an undeveloped portion of the North-West Territories, and instead of going into confederation as a province had simply been formed into a local government on the lines of the North-West Territories, what would have been her position to-day? The amount of money she would have had to expend would only have been sufficient to pay expenses, consequently they would have had no money to make their roads and to make the necessary improvements that had produced that increase. British Columbia not being an agricultural country, it might be said the N.W.T had increased in the same ratio, but with this difference,—the Territories had an asset that could be realized, upon agricultural lands; British Columbia had none. So if British Columbia had been in the position of a Territory she would have been to-day with very few more in population than she was then. It was only by borrowing money she was able to develop her natural resources that made it possible for a population of 8,000 or 9,000 to exist at Cariboo, 300 miles from the railroad, and made it possible for millions of money to be invested there. It was not a danger to have the power vested in a provincial government to borrow money; it was only by that means that it was possible to develop the natural resources of the country. He hoped he had made himself clear on that point. The first part of the question was that he was distinctly in favor in the near future of the best efforts being made to admit the Territories into confederation as a province.

Mr. Insinger: One province?

Mr. Fearon: That was where he agreed with the framers of the memorial, and where he differed with them in not going far enough. Where he differed from the framers of the amendment was where they laid down that the Territories should be admitted as two or more provinces. If they entered as two provinces they would enter as three. Was it desirable that the Territories should be divided into three provinces? He thought not. That would be a state of affairs only parallel to the Maritime provinces to-day, where there was a movement to consolidate the three provinces into one. The hon. member from Banff spoke of the amount of money paid into the local revenue fund from Alberta. The amounts were small and unimportant for the very reason that they might from year to year alter the amount of money obtained from licenses, registrations of companies; and other sources of revenue were such that at any time the case might be reversed. There was no argument advanced why Alberta should be separated from the Territories and formed into a province that could not be advanced in favor of any other part of the Territories. In fact it was disintegration, a principle opposed to the spirit of the age. He was opposed to any division of the Territories. There were many arguments why they should remain united. First, that as a whole they certainly would be of more importance than they would be divided. The hon. member for Lethbridge (Mr. Magrath) thought the Territories would be too large, and as evidence advanced that the territories to the south had recognized the principle and divided as small as possible. It would be found, however, that the territories, which are now States, like Dakota, Texas and others were as large or larger than the North-West Territories. It had not been shown that there had ever been any difficulty about the machinery of the Territories. If it was possible for the Executive Committee in a sparsely populated country, now to manage the machinery of Government in the North-West Territories under present conditions he did not see how but a provincial cabinet ought to be able to do it with increased facilities. He would have preferred seeing an amendment brought in which would more clearly have answered his position, but as it remained at present between voting for the memorial as it stood, which left it in doubt, and the amendment proposed, which distinctly stated that two or more provinces should be formed, he must vote against the amendment and in favor of the memorial. (Hear, hear.)

The debate will be continued in next issue.

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