

HAULTAIN'S SPEECH

(Continued from page 1)

figures point to an eastern and a western province. It is true one of them is a little higher than the other and he may claim to be referred to a northern and a southern province. The Prince Albert members may draw some conclusion from the opinion held by the hon. gentleman three years ago, and it is probable that he will be obstinate enough to indulge in it at the present time. (Laughter.)

WHAT TWO PROVINCES?

Now the proposition of the amendment is two provinces. What two provinces? That is a fair question to ask him, gentlemen who are allied with the opposition of two provinces, as against one. Will they be two provinces, north and south, which the Commissioner of Public Works has shown will throw the whole of our organised territory into the southern province? Or will they be provinces east and west, which I fancy certain members of this House would believe in? The hon. member for St. Albert (Mr. Villeneuve) is willing to go the length of three provinces, and is willing to put himself in the hands of the Dominion Government. He says we will have three provinces if that Government thinks it desirable to so constitute us. He practically says, "We are the creatures and they are the creators do us whatever you will."

QUESTION OF MANDATE.

Then the hon. gentleman says we had no mandate. What about the mandate which the hon. gentleman received in the elections of 1888 according to his elector address which I have just read? He says in it is incumbent upon candidates to discuss with electors, this important question. Did he discuss it for the purpose of not getting a mandate, or for the purpose of coming down here and being able to say, "Nobody had a mandate." Or did he discuss it, as he states himself, in view of the fact that, "the subject was to be raised in the next House." I have prepared this information. So far as a mandate is concerned, there seemed to have been a mandate to the Legislature, judging by what almost every member has stated. The hon. member from West Calgary (Mr. Bennett) has said so. He goes further and says the Government had a mandate to discuss non-controversial terms. The whole House will agree that we had a mandate, except possibly on the question of area. My opinion on the question of area is well known. The matter had been discussed in the House as early as 1886, and the House at that time declared most emphatically in favor of a single province. More than that, it has been so stated in the House and in the country. The hon. member for West Calgary referred to my speech of May, 1890, as non-controversial. So it was, I pursuedly asked the House to leave controversial parts out of the question. The question of area at the time would have been controversial. Therefore, we were not in a position to make a recommendation with regard to it, but we were in a position to discuss some of the general features of what our terms should be. I was anxious not to have a division of the House. Even then there were divergences of opinion, but we were discussing a feature of it on which there was no reason that we should differ. If I had then proposed the one province Bill, judging by the opinion I have been able to gather from members of the House, I could have received a mandate, because I believe a majority of the House is in favor of one province. I also think it would be of particular value to obtain an expression of opinion at that time, and therefore I did not ask for it. I wanted unanimity on the most important subject, that we might speak as one man to the Dominion Government. We knew perfectly well that we could not be unanimous on the question of area; we could not be then, and we are not now. We will never be able to get this House or the country to agree on it.

DR. SITTON.—MOTIONS OF RIGHTS.

The hon. member for Yorkton says his proposition is that we should get the views of the people and incorporate them in a Bill of Rights. I argue the hon. member going all over the country gathering the views of his own people on the question of one or two provinces, and then embodying them in a Bill of Rights!

Dr. Patrick. My idea was to make it an issue at the elections.

Mr. Haultain.—I did not say those words. I wish to put a strained interpretation on his views. But he says we have got together the views of the people, and I am coming around obtaining 188,000 people and afterwards, after consulting them, to a Bill of Rights. I am coming around to you, hon. gentleman, and would draw all this. It variegated, just as it would be, as meaning amendment he has to the House. It tain the various provinces. In the Bill of Rights he would have his one province

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Mr. Bennett.—So are you.
Mr. Haultain.—No, if you read the Memorial, you will find that it is directly stated that we simply expressed the views of the members of the Government.

Mr. Bennett.—Yes, that is it, the "Three Tailors of Tooley Street."

Mr. Haultain.—No, I think it ill becomes hon. gentlemen who are in a hopeless and helpless minority to suggest that we, having the great majority of this House and the country at our back, are the "Three Tailors of Tooley Street." Now, the amendment proceeds to say that it will be the duty of the next Legislature to adopt a Bill of Rights demanding that the Territories be established into two provinces. Is there anything more absurd or preposterous in the Government's action than to be created into one province than there is in an insignificant minority dictating to the next Legislature the sort of legislation that should be adopted with regard to exactly the same question? I put it again to the House, whether the application of the "Three Tailors of Tooley Street" applies to the Opposition side of the House or to this side. The hon. gentlemen are not only attempting to speak for this House, but dictating to the next Legislature—to the future members of this House and the Parliament itself, as to their duty. If we had no mandate, what would have the hon. gentlemen to contemplate doing what the amendment proposes? The whole question boils down to this: They say to the Government, you have expressed an opinion in favor of one province, therefore we will declare want of confidence in you by introducing a resolution which distinctly advocates two provinces. They do not content themselves by expressing their opinion, but they go further and say it will be the duty of the next Legislature to ask for two provinces, notwithstanding the general view. It does not matter whether the majority of the House or of the country favor one province, or whether the members for St. Albert favors three provinces, or whether Mr. Bennett favors annexation with Manitoba, but I, the member for Yorkton, say it will be the duty of the next House to declare for two provinces. Wherein are we different from the hon. gentleman? except that we went to Ottawa clothed with all the authority of a Government, having the right of a Government, possessing the confidence of this House and the country to speak definitely on this subject. The long amendment is a vote of confidence, a definite policy and an admission of incapacity. The hon. gentleman (Dr. Patrick) says we may not be able to obtain at the outset what we want. Is that the proper spirit in which representatives should go to Ottawa to press the claim of our people? Is that the sort of men of whom men should go forth to war—we are afraid we won't get all we ask for, because we are merely the creatures and you the creators. Yet they then turn around and blame this Government for suggesting at Ottawa one phase of a very large question,—for daring to suggest to our creators what they should or should not do. Well, so long as we represent the people of the Territories, we propose merely to express our opinions on our "creators," but also to enforce those opinions whether we are creatures or creators. (Cheers.) We are told that because we suggested the one province idea, we have precipitated annexation to Manitoba. Who suggested the one province idea? I do not claim to be the discoverer of it. I have not very strongly expressed the opinion, but the opinion of the same men, the sensible men is largely in favor of one province. There are other views, but the sane view is in favor of one province, and always has been.

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