

tives in the Assembly. The estimated expected population of the Yukon amounted to as much as one-half the total population of the organized Territories. There was every reason to expect that before the general election there would require to be a redistribution which would give the Yukon representation in the House, in which event accurate information collected by a member of the Government would have been most desirable. It was true that a different destiny had overtaken the Yukon territory, but he was arguing from the point of view of last winter and from the conditions and circumstances and possibilities which the Government had had to consider at the time. The financial side of their policy was fully justified. There was no use in arguing that they should have known that the territory would be cut off. Even if they had known that their jurisdiction would cease on 14th June, the expedition would still be justified. As to the mission all the particulars to be had before the return of the Commissioner had been given, and he would leave the question to the judgment of the House.

## A FOREIGN APPROPRIATION.

The next item was one of \$750 "to pay the Imperial Institute the proportion of expenses of the Canadian Court allotted to the Territories to Dec., 1898." He said that this one of the rapidly diminishing items, a few of which remained as a legacy from a previous period when the business of the country was carried on by the Lieut.-Governor and was left in practically irresponsible hands. In 1894 the capital amount due on this particular agreement was \$1824. The agreement had been made by the Lieut.-Governor and the Minister of Interior, the former in reality acting upon instructions from the latter; and by the Department was to provide \$1,300, the Territories paying \$500. Thus the Territories were committed to the payment of that annual amount for the Territorial Court in the Institute. The arrangement would not be renewed. The Government were taking no part in the Territorial exhibition in the Institute, considering that the matter belonged to the Federal authority which retains exclusive jurisdiction respecting immigration. But the subscription would have to be paid, as it was agreed to by an authority competent at the time to make an agreement for the Territories. For some time Messrs. Redpath and Skinner, Canadian trustees of the Institute, had been themselves paying the Territorial subscription. The time had come for the Territories to carry out the agreement made in their name, to pay what is owing, but no more. No doubt the intention was excellent, but there were no such striking good results from it as would justify, in the state of Territorial finances, the payment of \$500 a year or even a lesser amount. The connection would be discontinued.

THE VISITING AMERICAN JOURNALISTS.

Under the heading of Miscellaneous there was an item to assist in defraying the expense of the entertainment of parties of members of American press associations. He had been personally present at the entertainment given to one of these parties at Regina. From what he could gather from the very large number of papers received, he had no hesitation at all in stating that the plan was a first rate one. The country had received an amount of practically free and most appreciative advertising in the States represented by these parties through which we could reasonably hope to get an immigration that no expenditure in the way of salaries and expenses of agents could bring about. Certain communities undertook to arrange entertainment for the parties, and the Government was asked to help to defray the expenses. In no case were they proposing to pay more than half the expense incurred by communities. For every dollar the Government would pay, the communities paid a dollar of their own.

## TO CARRY ON NEXT YEAR'S SERVICES.

In addition to the supplementaries, the House was asked to appropriate \$10,000 for 1899. In changing the financial year they had several ends in view. One aim was to enable the holding of the annual legislative sessions in the early portion of the year instead of in the fall; and in arranging for winter sessions, to enable the public accounts to be brought down within a reasonable time after the closing of the financial year. They had to allow for a certain length of time to elapse between the closing of the year and the closing of the accounts,—either that or make use of Lieut.-Governor's warrants, because the accounts of no business whose year ended on a certain date could be closed up sharp at that date. They had approximated the desirable arrangement now—an unwritten and flexible arrangement of course—of having the House called early in the year. The Treasury Ordinance allowed one month after the end of the year for the closing of the accounts, and it would not be desirable to call the House together until four or six weeks after the new year. It was desirable that it should be called not later than he had indicated. It would be unconstitutional for the Government to advise prorogation now with dissolution and elections approaching and with a new financial year commencing before the new Legislature could well meet, without asking Supply sufficient to carry on the public business until the new House was likely to meet. The amount so voted would practically settle the period at which the new House would have to be called. In asking an amount for this purpose they were simply following Canadian constitutional precedents—following the regular practice of the provinces. The amount asked (\$60,000) was not large enough to allow the Government to run on very long without a session. Two-thirds of the amount, or \$40,000, would be paid out in January for school grants, leaving only \$20,000 to carry on the ordinary business until the House met. So there was no need to apprehend any violent strain, or any attempt on the part of the Government to carry on the business too long without the sanction of the new Legislature. The amount, the House would understand, would have to be voted in the Estimates of the next session.

## THE LESSON OF THE ESTIMATES.

He had now completed the explanation of the Estimates, and had explained in detail and at length, which would save time later on. He thought he had explained every important item. Apart from those items there were certain matters which this was an appropriate time to consider. The amount asked in the supplementaries was extraordinarily and unexpectedly large. The most significant feature of the Estimates, it seemed to him, was the fact that although the revenue for this year was so very far in excess of their ordinary revenue, there appeared to be necessity for all of it. Here they were in the middle or just a little past the middle of a financial year for which Supply had already been voted, and without going outside the fyle of the office,—merely upon the representations sent in by members, engineers and others of work which demanded public expenditure, they easily found ample scope for the application of the extraordinary revenue. The next departure

were insignificant financially. Upon the old and regular services they easily found places for the disposition of all the increase. If they could so easily expend the remarkably large amount—because \$162,000 was a remarkably large amount to be supplementary to the regular revenue, they must conclude that the ordinary revenue was not by means adequate to supply the ordinary wants of the Territories. This conclusion had been looked upon as not far away before, but it was driven home with force to-day. Then followed the other question, What were they to do? In a single year they were spending upon actual requirements and necessities \$162,000 more than in future years they were likely to get. Their necessities were constantly increasing, their services were growing, and the needs would never become less. What were they to do? It was plain that they could not possibly look for any such increases in revenue in future years. But the growth of the services, the extensions of schools, and other conditions obliged them to look for some means of obtaining an increase in revenue. They were brought to the point which he had discussed last year. The present transitory state was in a way very suitable, yet they were confronted with the fact that it did not yield enough money to meet the conditions. The problem was one which would very soon have to be faced. It was all very well to say that the present institutions were suitable; that was very true. The Territories were not fixed and bound down by Imperial Acts as were the Provinces. We were not bound by fixed agreement or final terms. Our position depended only upon an Act of Parliament which might be amended or changed, and a Vote depended upon the annual will of Parliament, and could be increased at Parliament's pleasure. If the Territorial financial problem were solved, our present institutions would be suitable for all needs for some time to come. Our legislative jurisdiction was the same as possessed by the provinces, excepting that we lacked the borrowing power. In all respects, except the financial side, the legislative machinery and position were quite adequate. But the financial side was vital. The machinery and institutions must have money to keep them in operation. However excellent or desirable those institutions, the country was confronted with the fact that the machinery and institutions were no longer feasible if side by side with them there was failure from the financial point of view. There seemed to be only one thing to do, only one step to take to relieve the position; and they should prepare for that step as practical men, not as theorists. The argument that provincial establishment meant taxation may be a very useful argument with which to appeal to the populace, and with which to carry meetings, but to men who take the trouble to see all sides of the question there was only one conclusion to come to, and that was that very little hope existed of relieving the strain except by the Territories taking the final step and entering the confederation of provinces. It could not reasonably be hoped that Parliament would give the necessary increase in the present grants; and in his view it would be the principal work of the new Legislature at least before the end of the next term to open negotiations for the entrance of the Territories into confederation. Personally he was not an ardent provincialist. He had always taken the ground that it was well to make haste slowly, and so long as we could work out our own salvation he favored the present status. But if we could not get the necessary revenues we simply could not continue to carry on the business. He had no hesitation at all in stating that the plan was a first rate one. The country had received an amount of practically free and most appreciative advertising in the States represented by these parties through which we could reasonably hope to get an immigration that no expenditure in the way of salaries and expenses of agents could bring about. Certain communities undertook to arrange entertainment for the parties, and the Government was asked to help to defray the expenses. In no case were they proposing to pay more than half the expense incurred by communities. For every dollar the Government would pay, the communities paid a dollar of their own.

of the Indians, and were not for local purposes. The Dominion Public Works department made many expenditures in the North-West for objects of provincial character. The Dominion built no jails nor court houses in the provinces. All these services, now carried out at federal expense, would fall upon the local authority under provincial establishment. Then there was the vote from which the Assembly derived the bulk of its revenues—the vote for Government of the North-West Territories—\$358,000 last year, of which \$282,000 came to the Assembly. The balance, expended from Ottawa, was for strictly domestic matters, including the maintenance of insane patients, the land titles offices, the expenses of Lieutenant-Governor's office and Government House. Besides the foregoing the Dominion was this year expending \$150,000 upon surveys in the North-West, an item which would be charged against the capital account of the Territories, and which belonged to the domestic side, although so long as the Dominion holds the Crown lands the item could not be properly chargeable against us. However, he hoped that some day the item would appear in the Territorial Estimates. He certainly believed that we were as much entitled to

## POSSESSION OF EVERY ACRE

of public lands as was any of the provinces. The bargain with the Hudson's Bay Company, by which a paltry amount was paid over from the Dominion treasury, was not to buy the country but to extinguish an imaginary title. The mere fact of that bargain did not in any sense constitute ownership. He believed that when we became entitled to a province we would be as much entitled to all the lands, mines, bay and timber as the other provinces which hold and derive the revenues from these sources. It would be an important, difficult and perhaps delicate task to discuss this matter in the negotiations, but he did not believe it was a matter to be left at the bare dictation of Parliament. Although Parliament possessed the right to erect a province or provinces, the question of the lands and minerals involved a larger constitutional and legal right. His own opinion was that there was a strictly legal right to depend upon, and that such right might be successfully prosecuted before the highest tribunal in the realm if necessary. (Prolonged applause.)

## ONE GRAND, UNITED, STRONG PROVINCE.

There was only one way to begin the negotiations for erection as a province—not as provinces. He had had the misfortune to hear in that room an expression of a wish for division. There were no sound grounds for such a wish. Such desire was not founded upon any sound reason relating to administration or expenditure or anything else. It was an expression simply of local ambitions. He did not believe a single argument had ever been advanced in favor of division other than the desire of some locality relating to the capital establishment and the incidental local expenditure attending such establishment. (Applause.) He had heard a number of speeches but he had not yet heard a single convincing argument in favor of division. It seemed to him that there was every reason for a single province. As far as concerned administration, where was the difficulty? What point was so remote in these days of telephones, telegraphs and railways, and in later days doubtless these conveniences would grow in scope and usefulness,—what point was so remote that the affairs of government could not be administered as well practically, so far as distance went, from the North Pole as from any other point? With one province they would avoid the elaboration of governments; they would have one strong and efficient set of machinery instead of a duplication or trifling of functionaries. So far as concerned any differences of interest or geographical location, there was not a single argument. In the Territories there was great diversity of interest, but there was no conflict of interests. He had been a member of that House for ten years and of the North-West Council which preceded it; he had, he thought, taken a fairly active share in the work, and he could say that he did not recollect any single occasion when there had been any conflict of interest upon any question raised in the House. That the situation showed diversity of interests, of conditions, of climate and of population was certain, which simply made necessary diversity of treatment. That there had been any failure to deal with the diversified interests and conditions could not be successfully charged. They frequently made exceptions in the laws in favor of different areas with different conditions. There never had been conflict. All the representatives had always had a ready hearing and had full scope to carry out what was best for their particular part of the country. He did not mention this point because the remedy was found the present school grants could not be continued more than two years longer; and even next year, with the revenue no larger than the present year's ordinary revenue, when the amounts for schools were provided little would be left for public works and other purposes. As practical men they must conclude that the present institutions were not so well fitted with the financial embarrassment. Outside of the method of direct taxation the only method open was to negotiate for entrance to the important question which affected no one portion but all of the Territories as a unit. We had not yet population equal to the number of inhabitants of one eastern city, but the resources and the opportunities which were ours should serve us to make the best effort to do the best with those resources and opportunities, and to push forward in the direction best for the future of the Territories.

## NO LACK OF POLICY.

At this point Mr. Haultain stated that he feared he was taking up too much time, but there were cries of "Go on, Go on." Proceeding he said he would like to make some reference to the matter of policy. He thought no one could say, even in regard to those supplementary estimates alone, that there was any lack of policy. In every item there was policy cropping up. He made a hasty review of the items. The item for civil government involved a policy—the policy of maintaining efficient departments, developing the public service for the convenience of the people, of having the public business done systematically, and for providing machinery for carrying on the work with efficiency and economy. The items for schools were associated with their educational policy, which no one would deny was in the right direction, a policy to give a good plain practical education to every child in the Territories, and to have the children associated and educated together without any regard to race, religion or other consideration; they had avoided a number of the delicate and difficult questions which had divided the people in some of the provinces, and to-day the territorial system was, if not in name, in reality a national school system—if not in name, it was merely by reason of a certain constitutional right which he would not wish to, and there was no reason to, disturb. Their policy was to group all the children in the public schools regardless of class or position, creed or nationality, and their policy aimed at the extension of the sys-

tem as far and as wide as the resources would allow. They paid as liberal grants to schools as any country in the world, which grants made it possible for the smallest conceivable community or collection of individuals to have a school and made it possible for nearly everybody, for every child except in very isolated localities, to receive the advantages of a plain, common education. The aim of the system was to give a good common education rather than to support the higher branches. The Government believed of course in higher education, and in time they would have to extend in that direction; but as yet they found the necessity of being strictly practical, situated as they were yet in the position of settlers and pioneers. The development of the public common schools was the whole object as yet. The results of their policy in regard to the training of teachers they could look up already with pride. The Territories were becoming independent of the eastern provinces in the matter of supply of teachers. Of the higher grade teachers the supply was exceeding the demand. The item for inspection of courses indicated a policy—a policy to look after the interests and lives of the men toiling in the mines; the item was small but it met the actual requirements. The public works items revealed policy—the policy to do what was required to be done as substantially as possible, and to distribute the amounts available for public works equitably between the natural divisions of the country,—a policy to provide first the most needed and important works in the way of main highways, bridges, and water supply. They had a policy respecting surveys,—very important because it concerned the means of communication with markets and between centres. In regard to Agriculture they were devoting a policy in keeping with the traditions of the North-West Government. All their institutions had begun small and grown slowly. The agricultural policy now proposed was proportionate with their resources if not with their needs. The Government had recognized the necessity of action in the line of encouragement of those industries which are the foundation of all possible prosperity in this country; and as soon as money became available their policy appeared. The items under the heading of Hospitals, Charities, and Public Health indicated policy—the policy of providing a large number of institutions which might constitute a sort of invitation to helpless classes. The item for Yukon expenses was connected with a very distinct policy in relation to the administration of the affairs of the Yukon,—a policy for which the Government claimed credit; it was a policy to assert the self governing rights of the people of the Territories and to resist the arbitrary attack of the Federal Government which attempted to take away certain of those self-governing rights. They had grappled with the difficulties of far-off conditions,—difficulties which, to judge by some of the critics of their policy, were extremely dangerous. But their policy shirked none of the responsibilities of self-government. They had assumed the role of opposition to his friend, the leader of the Opposition and his first lieutenant, it would devolve upon him to make some reply to the able delivery the House had listened to, and he felt quite unequal to the task. However, he had assumed the role of opposition to his friend, the leader of the Government. He recognized in Mr. Haultain an able leader,—the ablest man in the House and the best fitted to fulfil the duties of the position he occupied. But there was necessity for some opposition. It did not matter how good a Government was, there were bound to be some flaws in its acts, something to pick a hole in, and to which improvement might be suggested. 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