

Calgary, or Regina or Moose Jaw, or Medicine Hat—wherever the asylum might be—he is sent 300 or 400 miles further into Manitoba, and the clumsy expedient is used of charging the Territories with the cost, under the agreement by which the Manitoba institution takes charge.

As regards hospitals, the assembly already provides, as far as its means will allow, for the assistance of a hospital built and kept by private charity, and we have at Medicine Hat and at Calgary a magnificent hospital in each place. We have a hospital at Medicine Hat due to the enterprise and philanthropy, in the main, of John Niblock—a hospital which, I have no doubt, some of my friends on both sides of the House have visited and which all who have visited it must admit is not merely a credit to Mr. Niblock's energy and philanthropy, but to the philanthropy of the North-west Territories also and the passenger public, because there are wards in it that illustrate the benevolence of those who have visited it from time to time. And let me say, in passing, that I greatly regret, when I bring forward a subject of this kind, that we have not the Minister of the Interior in his place. There is a just claim on the part of this hospital, outstanding now for some years, against the Department of the Interior, and I have strong hopes that the Minister of the Interior will do it the justice of seeing that this claim is paid.

The assembly also wants the repeal of section 21 of the North-west Territories Act of 1894 and that an Act should be introduced respecting roads and road allowance of the North-west Territories, with similar provisions to those contained in chapter 49 of the Revised Statutes of Canada respecting roads and road allowance in Manitoba. The object of this is to do away with the uncertainties and difficulties connected with the laying out, improving and acquiring roads by expropriation and to give to the assembly the right to delegate such powers to municipalities.

Then they desire that a clause should be added giving the assembly the power to repeal, alter, vary or re-enact the provisions for the appointment of justices of the peace and their qualifications. That question, however, is one of detail which I am not going to discuss, because if the Government decide to do the large things asked for, that will follow, no doubt, as a matter of course.

The other large subject dealt with by this memorial of the assembly is the subject of finance. That has been from time to time placed before this House. It was ably placed before us last session by my hon. friend from Alberta (Mr. Oliver), and nothing new has since taken place that would add to the arguments which he put before this House. I shall just call attention to what the memorial contains on that subject. At present, if you look at the Estimates, you will find that the main grant is for

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schools, clerical assistance, printing, &c.; and as the hon. member for Alberta pointed out last session, the chief thing to be provided, out of that \$242,000 is schools. This is what the memorial says on that point:

Owing to the vast area of the Territories and the widely scattered nature of the settlement, all the business of the local government is rendered more expensive and proportionately to the population than in any province. As regards roads this is apparent, but with respect to schools it will be found equally true. By considering that, under the most favourable circumstances, less than half the area in each township is available for homesteading, and that, as a rule, only a small amount is taken up, it will not create surprise to see that in 1895 it took 341 schools, with 401 teachers, to educate 11,972 enrolled pupils, with a daily average attendance of 6,600, and that, out of these schools, 223 were only open during the summer months, with a daily average attendance of 11.

Let me call the special attention of the Government now to this argument on behalf of our claim for a larger subsidy:

In 1891, the population was 66,769; the number of schools in operation was 224. In 1892, the number of schools in operation was 237, and the parliamentary grant was \$208,700. In 1895, the number of schools was 341, being an increase in four years of over 52 per cent. In 1896, the population was 104,221, or 10 per cent per year added to the census of 1894, being the ratio of increase between 1891 and 1894, and the grant from Parliament was \$242,879, not including \$25,000 supplementary vote to recoup the assembly for relief expenditure undertaken for and on account of the Dominion Government, being an increase in five years in population of 56 per cent, and in annual grant during the last four years of 16 per cent.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Mr. Davies). What was the amount of the supplementary vote?

Mr. DAVIN. \$25,000. Thus while the population increased 56 per cent, the increase of the annual grant was only a little over one-quarter of that.

Now, in the Territories the conditions of the Government are somewhat analogous to those of Manitoba; and, therefore, a comparison between Manitoba and the Territories is a natural one. Nothing could be more natural than that we should ask, as we asked in 1887, as we asked in 1888, and in 1889, and in 1890, and in 1891, and every year including last year through my hon. friend from Alberta (Mr. Oliver), that we should be treated on precisely the same footing as Manitoba. Now, if we were so treated what would be the result? The population of the Territories in 1891 according to the census of that year, was 66,799. According to the census taken by the North-west Mounted Police in 1894, the population was 86,851. According to that ratio of increase, namely, 30 per cent, the population in 1897 is 112,906. Now, if we were treated on the same basis as Manitoba, according