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from Ottawa. If the Government of Manitoba had power to dispose of and generally to deal with the Crown lands within the boundaries of the Province, Ontario's annual half million would soon be surpassed. But it is an assured fact that no Ottawa administration will ever be able to deal with the same lands to any such advantage. It would pay the Dominion to make the transfer and let our Government administer the lands rather than to be obliged by force of circumstances to aid this Province in carrying on its local affairs by special grants only obtained by continuous solicitation. The author of these letters puts the case very neatly when he says: "It just amounts to this, if the Dominion will insist upon administering the lands in this country, and deriving any benefit from their sale, then the federal treasury will have to accept the responsibility of providing means for our self government. If they choose, however, to enter into an arrangement by which we will obtain means from the sale of our lands to meet our expenses, they will be freed from such responsibility, and it will then remain with us to husband our resources to the best advantage." With the swift growth of our population will necessarily come the growth of our expenditure. If the Dominion Government accept the responsibility of providing us a Provincial revenue, they must expect it to increase every year. What bickering would ensue, what blunders would be made, what irritations between the Federal and Local authorities would certainly arise, need not be described. They are patent, and the certainty is the strongest argument for the adoption of the alternative—the transfer of the administration of the lands of this Province into the hands of our Local Government. This alone can grave difficulties and serious embarrassments in the near future be avoided. The Dominion Government is therefore called upon to face this question at once, and to solve it upon the one equitable principle of giving to Manitoba

the powers exercised by the other Provinces of the Dominion.

There is another phase of the land question to which attention may fittingly be directed. The lands set apart for the school purposes of Manitoba are still retained under the control of the Dominion Government. This is another anomaly which ought to be, and must be, eradicated. We have had one specimen of how much the Ottawa authorities know about certain peculiar circumstances connected with school lands in this Province. Had the chosen representatives of our people in our Local Legislature possessed the power of administering these lands, does anybody suppose that such trouble and turmoil would ever have ensued as followed a lately threatened movement of the Dominion Government? Besides, it is exclusively for the purpose of aiding in the education of children born or resident in Manitoba that these lands have been set apart. Can that purpose be better advanced by absentee landlordism at Ottawa than by resident proprietorship in Manitoba? And when a definite object is to be accomplished, why should the Dominion hesitate to place the means of its consummation in the possession of those who are not only best fitted to achieve the most desirable results, but are also deeply interested in the advancement of the cause for whose benefit these lands were destined? There is no reason why Manitoba should not control her own school lands, as well as the unsold and unappropriated lands within her limits; and we can scarcely believe that the Dominion authorities will venture much longer to withhold from this Province rights which should never have been denied. The questions presented in these letters demand immediate attention and speedy solution. There is no time to be lost either by this Province in pressing their importance upon the Dominion Government, or by the latter in devising and offering a proper settlement.