

of those two provinces ; for all time to come the older provinces will have to tax themselves practically for eleven-twelfths of that sum in order that we may have lands to give away to people who go into that western country. Now what return are we going to get for it ? I am not sure but there will be a grievance in the older provinces as well as in the new. They will say, what benefit is it to us ? We are told we are going to get an immense revenue from that western country, that people will come in, and every man that comes in will be worth so much, and will contribute to the revenues of the country and make good what we tax ourselves to pay. Now I would not rely very much upon that. If the Minister of Finance is going to increase the revenues in this country so as to get money to buy this immense territory of 3,000,000 acres, he will be obliged to cripple every industry in this country by reducing taxation down to a revenue basis in order to get money to do it ; and the result will be that the old provinces of the country where industrial pursuits are carried on, will be handicapped for all time to come, and the next Minister of Finance will not be able to give this country a policy which will carry it on successfully, and give us that prosperity which we all hope will continue for many years to come. Now this is a big question. It is not simply to be looked at from the little picayune idea of whether it will be the Liberal party or the Conservative party that is going to control the vote in the Northwest, whether we are going to be able, through the land agents of the Dominion government, to go to the electors who have not yet secured patents for their lands, and tell them: Now, if you vote right you will get your patent, if you do not, dear knows when you will. Now that is a mighty small consideration if it is going to cripple the commercial industry of this country for all time to come. I think we had better broaden out our ideas ; and I hope that the Minister of the Interior, now that he occupies this high and honourable position, will throw away these picayune politics and take hold of this matter as a statesman, and be guided by statesmanship rather than by politics in dealing with the affairs of that great country.

Mr. FIELDING. I think it is understood by agreement that this clause is not to be pressed to a vote to-night, and as we have been told that an amendment is likely to be moved, I propose that we proceed to consider the clause respecting the Hudson Bay Company, which was held over the other night, but which I believe is not likely to be further debated.

Mr. SPROULE. That was the agreement.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Section 22 is struck out, and the following is substituted therefor :

22. Nothing in this Act shall in any way prejudice or affect the rights or properties of the Hudson Bay Company as contained in the conditions under which that company surrendered Rupert's Land to the Crown, and all rights, privileges and properties conferred on the Canadian government by the said conditions shall, in so far as they relate to matters within the legislative authority of the province, belong to and be vested in the government of the said province.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. What are these rights of the Hudson Bay Company which you wish to protect ?

Mr. FIELDING. If there is any further information desired, we will have to postpone this discussion.

Mr. HENDERSON. Will the lands of the Hudson Bay Company be subject to taxation by the local government ?

Mr. FIELDING. I am advised they are subject to taxation now.

Progress reported.

On motion of Mr. Fielding, House adjourned at 11.30 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, May 16, 1905.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES REPRESENTATION.

Hon. CHARLES FITZPATRICK (Minister of Justice) moved for leave to introduce a Bill (No. 156) to amend the Northwest Territories Representation Act. He said : I promised to introduce a Bill at the request of the hon. member for Calgary (Mr. M. S. McCarthy) to amend the Representation Act. It is based practically upon the lines of the Bill introduced last year by Mr. Casgrain, then member for Montmorency. In this Bill I have added a provision to cover a difficulty that the member for Calgary pointed out with respect to the question of the residence of a voter in the polling subdivision in which he is supposed to vote.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

VACANCY IN NORTH OXFORD.

Mr. SPEAKER. My attention having been called by the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), in his place, to the fact of the demise of the Hon. James Sutherland, member for the electoral district of North Oxford, I have, in accordance with section 8, chapter 13, of the Revised Statutes of Canada, issued my warrant to the Clerk of the