

date, Hon. Messrs. Rogers and Campbell have been appointed to confer with your government regarding extension of boundaries. They leave here tomorrow. Will reach Ottawa Thursday, Feb. 16. Kindly notify them at Russell house as to time and place for interview suitable to your own convenience."

Sir Wilfrid's reply, dated Feb. 16, was "Sir Wilfrid Laurier will be glad to receive you tomorrow at 12.30 in his office, privy council chamber. (Signed) Rudolphe Boudreau."

The outcome was that the attorney-general and myself went to Ottawa to plead the cause of the province with Sir Wilfrid Laurier, knowing that, above all others, he had the power vested in him and the government which he controlled, and in order that there should be no misunderstanding this statement was supplemented by us to the effect that the extension of the boundaries as asked for would carry with it no advantage or disadvantage to either political party in this matter. I ask my hon. friend, the leader of the opposition, what fairer statement of the position would it be possible for us to have made? We were of course, disappointed with the reply received from Sir Wilfrid Laurier. During our interview we asked, in the first place, that our boundaries should be extended west to Regina and north to Hudson bay, and I think in making this request we were carrying out the wishes of the legislature when that body unanimously instructed us to carry on the negotiations. We were at once told by Sir Wilfrid that there was no use in our talking about expansion west and to our amazement and disappointment he further told us that that portion of the territory lying immediately north of the province of Manitoba known as Saskatchewan, was to be included in the new province then to be formed.

Cash Stopped It

We at once said to Sir Wilfrid Laurier: "If these are your fixed views as to the boundaries of the province you are about to form our mission is at an end and we have nothing further to discuss," and I think in making this statement we would be endorsed by the people of the country. Sir Wilfrid then said, in respect to that territory north of Manitoba, that he would take the matter up with the representatives of the territory who were then in Ottawa, if we would be good enough to wait for four days. What happened? We waited six days, but we got no word from Sir Wilfrid. It is true that during this time we made it our business to find out who the northwest representative was, and it

turned out to be a Dr. Cash. We also made it our business to find out what objections Dr. Cash had to the extension of our boundaries. What do you think we were told? The only reason we heard was simply that Dr. Cash had secured a majority of votes over his opponent in that particular locality, and therefore the ambitions of Manitoba should not, and would not, be gratified in so far as the government at Ottawa was concerned.

Sir Wilfrid's View

That is not alone Dr. Cash's view, but it was a view sustained on the floor of parliament by Sir Wilfrid Laurier himself. I am anxious to bring to the attention of the house the position taken by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in order, Mr. Speaker, that you may see that we have nothing whatever to show that he has any intention of giving us that extra territory, even up to the present moment. On Feb. 21, 1905, Sir Wilfrid said in the house of commons: "But I understand that as to a certain portion of territory north of Lake Winnipegosis and Lake Manitoba, the Northwest legislature has declared that it has no pronounced views, and that that might be given to the province of Manitoba. But even this I am not prepared for my part to grant at this moment; because members representing that section today sit on the floor of this house, and they and their people have the right to be heard on that question; and if they do not agree to it, I do not think the parliament of Canada should make the grant against their wishes."

The only reason for that view, as far as we could learn, was that Dr. Cash had a majority over his opponent in this particular locality.

Pea-Nut Politics

This is a sample of the pea nut politics of the Liberal party to deprive the people of Manitoba of the ambition they possess to develop and increase their territory. Furthermore, I would like to quote Sir Wilfrid again. We had an election in the constituency of Mountain, and we were favored during the contest with a visit from a great statesman, a gentleman standing high in the ranks of the Liberal party. He came fresh from the seat of government at Ottawa, and with all the weight of authority which was expected to attach to his advent. He told the intelligent electors of Mountain that he had just arrived from Ottawa, and carried with him the good news that the settlement of the boundary question had been effected, and that we were going to get the extension north that we asked for.