

tain and Mr. Ross, and they have had interviews with the Government, in which they have pressed very strongly the claims they have made. But it is obviously impossible at the present moment to have an intelligent discussion, much less to form an intelligent conclusion, until the papers are in the hands of hon. members. There is no objection to the hon. gentleman's motion passing, but I will call his attention to the fact that while he elaborated the importance of an audit in the North-west, he has ignored the fact that there is an exhaustive audit of the vote of this House for the North-west, made by the Auditor General of the Dominion, and contained in his Annual Report. If the hon. gentleman will turn to that report he will see, from page H 15 to page H 40, the details of the expenditure which this House voted in a lump sum. But in addition to that audit by our auditor, there is the audit of the North-west legislative assembly on their own behalf; and if the hon. gentleman examines the account for last year, he will find that something like \$2,200 was expended for their audit office. So that the hon. gentleman may rest assured that, whether the sum voted is sufficient or insufficient, there is an ample check by the Dominion audit and the North-west audit to insure the proper expenditure of the money. In addition to the memorial which has been presented to the Government, and which has been supported ably by oral statements and arguments by Mr. Haultain and Mr. Ross, the Government have had the advantage of having the claims of the North-west presented to it by the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver) and other members of this House who support the Government. There is no danger, therefore, of these claims being lost sight of. Whether any legislation on the subject can be carried through this session or not will depend largely, I suppose, on the length of the session. We have to carry our Estimates and our tariff, which will occupy a great deal of time; and if hon. gentlemen find it desirable to shorten the session so as to enable prominent members on both sides to attend the Queen's Jubilee, it may be that we shall not be able to carry through many measures that we would like to bring down. I am not able to give the hon. gentleman any definite assurance at the present moment, because the matter is being and has for some time past been carefully considered by a committee of the Government here; but the papers he asks for will be brought down as early as may be, and I shall be glad to have them thoroughly discussed in this House, because I recognize the importance of the question. The hon. gentleman will remember that an autonomy almost equal to provincial autonomy has already been conceded to the North-west Territories. With the exception,

I think, of the power to legislate on railways and one other item given to the provinces under section 92 of the British North America Act, we have conceded to them every power which a province now possesses. But they do desire some change with reference to the executive powers which have been conferred upon them, and there is no doubt that the process of legislative evolution is going on there, a constitutional evolution which this House will, at the proper time, I have no doubt, recognize by granting the fullest statutory powers to enable it to be brought to a successful completion.

With regard to the matter in point, the subsidy which was voted by this House to the North-west Territories, that is also being considered in great detail by the Government. The custom heretofore which has prevailed, and which has been objected to by gentlemen from the North-west, was this. The North-west executive presented in detail their claim for a subsidy, but an arbitrary sum frequently was deducted from the amount of that claim, and they then had, out of the smaller sum granted, to rearrange and appropriate amounts for the specific purposes as they best could. An improvement, I hope, will be obtained in this regard, and while we must and will recognize fully the claims of the North-west to generous treatment, we must also recognize that there are limits to which that treatment can extend. The whole subject is now, and has been for weeks past, receiving consideration at the hands of a committee of the Government.

Mr. CASEY. The hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) has for a long time been a perennial spring of joy and amusement to this House. His humour has always borne that peculiar stamp which distinguishes the humour of Irishmen from that of even the most talented men of all other countries, and perhaps the most remarkable instance of this is the fact that the hon. gentleman poses constantly as the representative of the North-west Territories. When we remember that at present his majority, as representing one of these great North-west Territories constituencies, is a unit, and that the unit which returned him to Parliament was the vote of a partisan returning officer, we must recognize that his claim is a very Irish one indeed to represent the North-west Territories. Still, we have enjoyed for many years his attempt to be a westerner. He has been wild enough perhaps, but he can hardly be classed as western or as woolly, and in attempting to represent the wild and woolly west he has only afforded amusement to the House. This was all very well while his friends were in power, because at that time the coruscations of his humour were under some restraint, but now, since, unfortunately for him, he is sitting on the wrong side of the House, those corusca-