

other lands, or something of that kind. The quantity being established it would prevent any difficulty in the future, and the Dominion Government would only be exposed to giving a few hundred or a few thousand acres of other land, which would not be a matter so much to be regretted, as any difficulty or misunderstanding as to what swamp lands are.

HON. MR. VIDAL—I do not think that this anticipated difficulty is at all likely to arise. As an old land surveyor I know that it is not such a difficult matter to say what are swamp lands and what are not. Moreover, I think in the Bill we have happily the final decision as to them provided for. These swamp lands are to be proved to be such to the satisfaction of the Dominion Government. What more is wanted? That constitutes the final appeal, and the Government decide what to accept or reject as swamp lands. In the first place it is not at all likely that the local government would make a claim on the Dominion for any other than recognized swamp land. Then the provincial government and legislature have shown their acceptance of this Bill and their willingness to abide by the decision of the Government as to what are swamp lands, and we have here in the Departmental offices very full and complete surveys with field notes on which to base such decisions; I believe that here in Ottawa without any other assistance than those maps and field notes I could sit down and tell whether any lands that have been surveyed are swamp lands or not.

HON. MR. TRUDEL—Then why not fix them?

HON. MR. VIDAL—Because it would be utterly impossible to designate every lot in detail in any statute. There are considerable quantities of such land which without extensive drainage are unavailable for cultivation. The Dominion Government say that these lands are to be handed over to the Province of Manitoba, and they at their own expense will drain them, and derive a revenue from the sale of them. I do not know anything more simple or satisfactory than an arrangement of this kind, and I apprehend no

difficulty between the two governments in determining and specifying the lands that are to be included under the term "swamp lands."

HON. MR. GIRARD—The present Bill should be, as we say in the preamble, a final settlement of all difficulties between the Province of Manitoba and the Dominion. But I do not know that it will be so. It seems to me that such a Bill should be well received by the Dominion Government, and I expect that it will give general satisfaction in the Province of Manitoba. Transactions with reference to land are not always satisfactory to every one. It is understood by a portion of our population in Manitoba that those public lands belong to the Province and not to the Dominion, but for my part I consider there has been such a large expenditure incurred in the surveying and development of the country, that there should be no dissatisfaction on that point. The Government have, to a certain extent, recognized the right of the Local Legislature to the possession of these lands, because on one occasion \$45,000 was given to the Province in lieu of their lands, and that sum was augmented on another occasion to \$100,000, with the same understanding that it was in lieu of lands. For a time this Bill will give satisfaction, I have no doubt, but I anticipate there will be renewed applications to the Dominion Government until all the public lands in the Province belong to the local authorities, and there will not be general satisfaction there until that is accomplished. These swamp lands are not a great source of wealth in a country where real estate has not a high value. I understand swamp lands to be those which are covered all the time by water. To render them fit for cultivation the local government will be obliged to make large expenditures in constructing drains and otherwise—certainly a larger amount than the present value of the lands. I am sure the grant which is made to the University of Manitoba will receive the approval of every hon. gentleman in this House. It is an exceptional institution, at which Catholics and Protestants can receive degrees and where there is every indication of prosperity and progress. It occupies quite an exceptional position in the