



TWINS!

—Montreal Star

Province of Alberta, and east will be Saskatchewan. That portion of Saskatchewan north of Manitoba is reserved, and will probably be added eventually to that province which has been disappointed in not securing an extension westward.

The geographical apportionment has been the simplest part of the matter, the financial terms and the school question having been recognized from the first as more serious problems. The Dominion Government will retain control of the Crown lands and will pay therefor a compensation of \$37,500,000. Interest on \$8,000,000 debt will also be paid by the Dominion, and a subsidy of eighty cents per head of population, to be increased until the census shows 800,000 people. These and other details of the bill passed in the House unchallenged, but a storm of disapproval there and throughout the country at once arose over the educational clause.

The bill, as first introduced, provided for the maintenance of Separate Schools in the new provinces, Sir Wilfrid Laurier holding that only a continuance of existing rights was intended. Mr. Sifton, Minister of the Interior, took the ground, however, that the bill would virtually establish a dual sys-

tem of schools, and disapproving of such a course, he resigned his portfolio. It is an old controversy, as between sectarian and public schools, and the simplest way out of the difficulty would seem to have been to have left it with the new provinces to settle for themselves.

The Two Provinces

ALBERTA and Saskatchewan will begin their provincehood with an estimated population of about 250,000 each. In area the former will have some 246,000 square miles and the latter 260,000, allowing for the section of the present territory that has been reserved. The resources of both provinces are magnificent. The southern part of Saskatchewan, or what is now the territory of Assiniboia, has finer wheat land than Manitoba, and is being rapidly settled. Alberta has not only wheat lands, but important ranching, forest, and mineral resources. Further north, as pointed out in an article elsewhere in this issue, are industrial possibilities that as yet can hardly be estimated.

As to the capitals of the new provinces, Regina will continue the political headquarters of Saskatchewan, and Edmonton has been named as the provisional capital of Alberta. Each province will have a legislature of twenty-five members, and in the Dominion House will be represented as at present until another election. Mr. Haultain will, in all likelihood, be premier of one of the provinces.

The Spirit of the West

IT sounds well, but what does it mean? One often hears it or reads it, and perhaps without quite comprehending the expression, lays it away among his mental treasures as something worth thinking about: the chances are that he will *not* think about it again, but will repeat it, nevertheless, himself. There's a reason for it, too. Undoubtedly there is something about the West and Western life that gives it distinctiveness and that creates a certain peculiar temperament; and for lack of a more definite term we call that something the "spirit of the West."