

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL—Very often.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE said he had no doubt whatever, that the arbitrators would discharge their duty to the best of their ability. Under the Imperial Act it was only by the joint legislative action of the Provinces affected, and of the Dominion that the boundaries, whatever they were, could be altered; therefore it was only an authoritative exposition of the law itself that would be obtained, and anything else would be merely suggestive. The task which the Ministry had set for itself was the most important it was possible to conceive. To found primary institutions under which we hope to see hundreds of thousands, and the more sanguine among us think millions of men and families settled and flourishing, was one of the noblest undertakings that could be entered upon by any legislative body, and it was no small indication of the power and true position of this Dominion that Parliament should be engaged to-day in that important task. He agreed with the hon. member for Kingston that the task was one that required time, consideration and deliberation, and they must take care that no false steps were made in such a work. He did not agree with that right hon. gentleman that the Government ought to repeal his errors. The right hon. gentleman had tried the institutions for the North-West territories which he now asked the House to frame, and for the same reason as he had given to-day—that it would be better for the Dominion Government to keep matters in their own hands and decide what was best for the future. He (Mr. BLAKE) believed that it was essential to our obtaining a large immigration to the North-West that we should tell the people beforehand what those rights were to be in the country in which we invited them to settle. It was interesting to the people to know that at the very earliest moment there was a sufficient aggregate of population within a reasonable distance, that aggregation would have a voice in the self-government of the territories, and he believed the Dominion Government was wise, (although the measure might be brought down very late this session and it might be found impossible to give it due consideration) in determining in advance of settlement what the character of the institutions of the country

should be in which we invite people to settle. He did not agree with the policy of asking people to settle in that western country, and tell them that a paternal Government would look after them, and would give them such institutions as the Government thought suitable. We had better let the people know their fate politically and otherwise before they settled there. The task to be discharged now, or at some future time, was one of considerable importance. And amongst the difficulties was the determining of what the range of power of the Council would be in the first place, assuming that its character would be that of a mixed nominative and elective council, as he understood it would be of the First Minister; the Council at a subsequent period assuming the position of a Legislative Assembly when the population was sufficient to entitle it to assume that position. He did not hear from the hon. First Minister any distinct enunciation of the powers committed to the Council and afterwards to the Assembly. Looking over the Bill hastily it seemed that the powers were too general, that the powers were those of the British North American Act with respect to peace, order and good government.

Sir JOHN MACDONALD—Too wide.

Hon. Mr. BLAKE—It gave the Council all the powers practically enjoyed by this Parliament and the Local Legislatures together; and it would be proper to restrict and define their powers in all matters connected with Municipal Government, and provision should be made at the earliest possible moment for municipal institutions, local taxation and improvements. He regarded it as essential under the circumstances of the country, and in view of the deliberation during the last few days that a general principle should be laid down in the Bill with respect to public instruction. He did believe that we ought not to introduce into that territory the heart burnings and difficulties with which certain other portions of this Dominion and other countries had been afflicted. It seemed to him, having regard to the fact that, as far as we could expect at present, the general character of that population would be somewhat analogous to the population of Ontario, that there should be some provision in the constitution by which they