

possible steps within their power to meet the necessity, they have not exceeded their powers.

That is a very important thing. There is to my mind, as there is evidently to the minds of the whole assembly, a clear doubt whether, in adopting ordinances providing a *modus vivendi*, so to speak, they have not exceeded their powers; because they are to some extent in the position of an inferior assembly amending the legislation of this supreme Dominion Parliament. Besides, the memorial points out:

The present machinery does not admit of development, as for instance, in the direction of division into departments with responsible heads. The executive committee also has not the right to advise the Lieutenant-Governor in matters not contained in the ordinances, notably the appointment of justices of the peace, and the convening and dissolving of an assembly.

Now, what they suggest is, that the Parliament should amend the section of the North-west Territories Act of 1891 (54 and 55 Victoria) which is substituted for section 13 of the North-west Territories Act, chapter 50 of the Revised Statutes. That is the section which defines the powers of the assembly, and enumerates the various subjects on which it may legislate. They suggest that in that section this change should be made:

The legislative assembly shall exclusively have power to make ordinances for the government of the organized Territories in relation to the classes of subjects next hereinafter mentioned, that is to say.

While Parliament cannot divest itself of its paramount right of legislation in the Territories, it is desirable that it should not, as it often has done, unintentionally perhaps, by legislation partly or wholly repeal the powers given to the Territories under that section 13, as may easily be done under the law as it is at present.

Then they suggest that we should add a clause to the North-west Territories Act giving power to the assembly, notwithstanding anything in this Act or any other Act of the Parliament of Canada, to repeal the Territories Real Property Act. The object of that is this. You have given them the right over property and civil rights. They can legislate on subjects dealt with by this Real Property Act. They have already made ordinances on those subjects. I am not sure that you have not on your Table at the present moment a Bill dealing with matters of this kind. But it is palpable that, if their ordinances varies in the least from the legislation of this Parliament on that subject, it is *ultra vires*. So that what they ask for there is, I think, reasonable, and what the Government can hardly refuse, if it intends that the powers given them shall not be illusory.

Then, they suggest the repeal of section 17 of the North-west Territories Act of 1894, and to insert:

There shall be a council to aid and advise in the government of the Territories, to be styled the executive council of the Territories, and such council shall be composed of such persons and under such designations as the Lieutenant-Governor shall from time to time think fit.

It is palpable that this is a demand for responsible government pure and simple; and if you grant that request, the only difference between the Territories and the provinces would be that under clause 13 the assembly of the Territories would be deprived of the authority to legislate on one or two subjects, and one or two other powers which a provincial legislature has—for instance, the power to borrow money; but maugre these two or three subjects, you would give them responsible government if this third request were granted.

Then, they wish to have sub-clause C of subsection 7 of section 13 repealed—that which relates to insurance companies. They very properly say that there is no reason for depriving an assembly of men who are just as intelligent, enlightened and experienced as the men in any assembly of any province, of the power of giving a charter to an insurance company. It is palpable that that very elementary right of a civilized community should be within their power.

Then they wish to have inserted a clause in the North-west Territories Act giving to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council the power to appoint sheriffs, and so on. That is a mere detail, and I do not attach much importance to it. If the Government go as far as the Act, they will probably give them these powers.

Then, they suggest that, subject to conditions, the following subsection should be inserted:—

The establishment, maintenance and management of hospitals, charities and eleemosynary institutions in and for the Territories, and repeal sections 103, 104 and 105 of chapter 50, R.S.C., in so far as they are inconsistent with the powers asked for.

Now, you will see that in the Estimates brought down, on page 67, under the head of "Government of the North-west Territories," you have "Insane patients, Manitoba, \$30,000." What happens at present is this, that any insane patients we have are sent to Manitoba, and there is no reason whatever why we should not take charge of our own insane. Lunatics from the Territories are, under an agreement between the federal authorities and the province of Manitoba, which expires in 1898, sent to the asylums of that province, and at present there are in such asylums 74 persons costing one dollar per day. Surely the assembly is only rational in contending that they could perform such service as well and more cheaply than Manitoba. An insane man is found in some part of the Territories, and instead of sending him to an asylum in