

the province, that he has not dealt courageously with this whole question, that it should not be treated in the double-faced manner in which it has been treated, that, sooner or later, he, or some one following him, will have to face the difficulty, and if it has to be faced it might as well be faced and fought out in the first place as in the last, and that the people of Manitoba will not be satisfied before they can see the provisions of a Bill submitted to parliament and passed upon by the representatives of the people in this House.

Mr. W. D. STAPLES (Macdonald). Mr. Speaker, I am sure that hon. gentlemen on both sides of this House will join with me in extending their heartiest congratulations to the right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) upon the rapid strides that he has made towards extending the boundaries of Manitoba. Just think of it; he has led the government for twelve years and in the twelfth year and in the eighth month of a long and tedious session, he has had the courage to introduce a harmless resolution for the extension of the boundaries of Manitoba. During these twelve years the right hon. gentleman has been besieged by delegations, resolutions and memorials from the province of Manitoba urging him to take some action. Here are we to-day with a resolution which practically provides for nothing in my opinion. There was a time when the boundaries of Manitoba should have been dealt with, should have been extended and that time was on the 21st February, 1905, when the right hon. gentleman introduced the Bill for the creation of the new provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. That was the time when action should have been taken for the extension of the boundaries of Manitoba. The same reason prevails to-day for action not being taken as that which prevailed in 1905. Where did you find the Liberal contingent from Manitoba on that day? If the hon. gentlemen who sit behind the right hon. Prime Minister had done their duty in 1905 when the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta were being created, the boundaries of Manitoba would have been extended, not only eastward and northward, but westward as well. If the hon. members for Lisgar (Mr. Greenway), Dauphin (Mr. Burrows), Selkirk (Mr. Jackson), and Portage la Prairie (Mr. Crawford), all supporters of the old Greenway government, gentlemen who sat in the local legislature for years and were parties to the petitions and resolutions that were sent down here asking for the extension of the boundaries of Manitoba, had taken action at that time, had stood out for the rights of Manitoba, we would have had our boundaries extended and have had all the consideration that the province of Manitoba is entitled to.

Mr. W. J. ROCHE.

It is true that at that time the hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Sifton) thumped his desk and flurried around for a while, but he soon came back to the Liberal fold quite satisfied that things should go on as they were. I trust the Liberal members from the province of Manitoba will now rise in their seats in this House and protest against the procrastination displayed by the government towards the province of Manitoba. It is their duty to insist on the Prime Minister, even at this late hour, bringing down a Bill. It is true that we have been here for eight months, and it has been a long and tedious session, but as one of the representatives of Manitoba, I am prepared to stay here in the interests of the people until we crystalize into legislation that which the people of Manitoba are entitled to. I say to the right hon. gentleman, the Prime Minister: Bring on your Bill. If that Bill proposes to give us our lands, well and good; if it proposes to give us a monetary consideration in lieu of lands, let us know it.

Mr. BURROWS. Does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Staples) want the government to submit to parliament an arbitrary measure and force it on the governments of the different provinces without consulting them?

Mr. STAPLES. The Prime Minister knows right well what the people of Manitoba want, for he has it before him by memorial and resolution. I can tell this House that nothing will be gained by delay, because neither the present government of Manitoba, nor any Liberal government that may succeed it, will be satisfied unless justice is done the province, and delay will not remove the points of contention. We might just as well deal with the question now as in the future. But what the right hon. gentleman wants is to have this resolution dangled before the eyes of the people as a subterfuge until after the next election, and I presume his followers from Manitoba are satisfied with that. The right hon. gentleman has told us that the province of Manitoba has changed its point of view, and that while formerly they insisted on having their lands now they do not so insist. The right hon. gentleman knows very well that the province of Manitoba has taken this action because he has time after time announced that he could not give the lands to the province, and so they ask, for the present, at all events, that they shall be treated as the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta have been treated. As to what may be the attitude of Manitoba when there is a government in power at Ottawa disposed to do justice to that province I am not prepared to say now. For the present we ask that we shall be treated at least as favourably as Alberta and Saskatchewan. And, even though the Prime Minister has announced