

	Acres.
Manitoba..	1,698,755
Saskatchewan..	8,240,014
Alberta..	8,258,879

I may say there would be a larger amount of school lands, because the extension of the boundaries of Manitoba has taken in a vast territory, a great deal of which is very good agricultural land, coming down towards the shore of Hudson bay, and a great deal of it may contain minerals. This statement which I read to the House three years ago showed the amount of land that was sold at that time and the average price received for it. I want to show that in the three years, as the increase is going on, we are disposing of more land, and I do not see that we need the money. I have a table here showing the lands disposed of in these three years, and the amounts received, as follows:

Province.	Area sold. Acres.	Amount realized.	Average. per ac.
Manitoba.	65,530.55	\$ 732,293 85	\$11 17
Saskatchewan	411,031.13	6,611,096 41	16 18
Alberta	185,243.32	2,334,661 53	12 60
	661,805.00	\$9,708,051 79	

Last year in Saskatchewan the average price realized was \$17.95 per acre. Taking off what has been sold in the last three years, we find there has been left in Manitoba—without taking in the extension of the boundaries, because we have no record of that—1,633,225.55, and there is left in Saskatchewan 7,828,983, and left in Alberta 18,073,636. We received for the sale of these lands in these provinces \$9,708,351.79.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—What have they done with the money?

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—That is the point. The money has not been paid. Any business man would say that it was a clear case of foolishness for us to dispose of lands to parties, when we have to pay all the expenses of examination and sale, and then receive about 10 per cent down and the balance in annual instalments at 5 per cent. Why should we sell the land and receive 5 per cent interest on the price of the land in the next nine years when the land is increasing in value 20 per cent? Is that good business?

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—It is robbery.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—This statement will go to show this land is increasing over 20 per cent. The total area of school lands disposed of in the province of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, to the 31st December, 1909, the total principal of the purchase money therefor, and the average price per acre, are as follows:

Total area sold, acres,	1,161,757.76
Amount realized	\$11,955,878.93

Average price per acre realized \$10.29

I will give the House one illustration of the development of the West. The town of Saskatoon practically stands on school lands sold by the government. Parts of it are worth \$2,000 a foot at the present time. Just think of the millions we would have received for it instead of a few paltry dollars. Look at the vast amount of property the religious bodies, churches and so forth own all over the country, and the vast amount of money which it is worth. They got it when it was worth little or nothing. They bought lots for two or three hundred dollars and they could sell the same lots now for a hundred thousand dollars. When we do not need the money I do not see the sense of disposing of these lands at the present time. If we get 10 per cent down, which goes to pay the expense of examination and sale, we are actually getting no money at all. We are selling the whole thing on time—about nine years time—and getting 5 per cent on it. We are not getting the money. Would it not be much better to lease the lands? They can be leased readily. If a man leases a property he will cultivate it and get a return from it. The speculator does not buy land for cultivation, but for the sake of holding it and making a lot of money out of it. If a speculator can make money out of the land, it is good business for the state to make that money and not give it to the speculator. It is no benefit to the country to have the land all tied up in the hands of speculators and none of it under cultivation. When land is leased you can collect your rent from year to year, and I submit that if you adopted a policy of leasing the lands you would get more money than you are receiving now, and forty years hence this country would have an asset in the