

Territories was done by them. They have done a great deal in the Territories, and from time to time, at my instance, they did advance the bounds of the powers of the North-west Territories, and they did other things for us, not merely at my instance in regard to these other things, but at the instance of myself and my colleagues, and those of us who went to wait on the Government as petitioners. But, Mr. Speaker, it was on the floor of this House that we accomplished the giving to the North-west Territories of what was properly described in this House last session by the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver), and as described in this memorial passed by the legislative assembly: as practically responsible government. In 1887 the Lieutenant-Governor of these Territories was a Czar, and the assembly had practically no power whatever; but in 1887 the Territories were represented in this House, and from that moment the members of this Parliament moved in the direction of giving responsible government to the Territories. One of these members from the North-west Territories had a Bill on the paper providing that full responsible government be given to the Territories, and thereupon, Sir John Macdonald brought down a Bill under which he gave us what was called an advisory council. That advisory council was found not to work well, nor did it give such power as should have been given to the Territories, and so we subsequently got what was called an executive committee. That executive committee had most of the powers of the government of a province, but the means of getting it into existence is awkward, and the means of continuing it, if one of its members should be destroyed by death or resign, is also awkward. You have not, properly speaking, a responsible government there, although you have all the powers, with two or three exceptions, that are given to the provinces. For instance, under the present system I do not think you could possibly have party government. I do not think you could raise party issues under the present conditions, if it were found desirable to do so; because these four men are not a government chosen by one man who is asked to construct a government for the Lieutenant-Governor, but they are chosen by the assembly, and although there is one first among them called the chairman of the executive committee, nevertheless, he has not at all the power of a Prime Minister. I may tell you that the memorial passed unanimously in the assembly, and I wish to call the attention of the Government here to what it says:

The assembly is of the opinion that to remedy this undesirable state of things—

Which I have just now described.

—it is not necessary to have recourse to granting a full provincial status.

You will observe, Mr. Speaker, that the

Mr. DAVIN.

assembly does not want to have the full provincial status given to them. I am not going to discuss that. Probably I do not know why they do not want it; perhaps I cannot gather from the debates why they do not want it. I myself now hold the same opinion which I held in 1887: that the best thing that could be done for these Territories would be to give them full responsible government. That is my opinion, but when you have the whole assembly of the North-west Territories stating that they do not want full responsible government, it would be very improper on the part of a member of this House, and very improper even if this whole House were unanimous, to force full responsible government upon them. Therefore, although I have not changed my own opinion, I am not here to-day to ask for anything more than the people of the Territories have themselves asked for. I shall point out later on the very important consequences that follow from their not asking for full responsible government. When the change was made by the late Government shortly before it went out of power, whereby the amount of money placed at the disposal of the North-west Territories Assembly was given en bloc, and not voted as a specific vote, a course should then have been taken by legislation to devise a safeguard which no longer exists in consequence of that change. It is, of course, necessary to have certain safeguards—for instance, over the expenditure of money; because the Government of the North-west Territories has its pupil-like character of which it has no wish to divest itself; and we, in voting the money, must be in a position to ask this Government to show us how every farthing of the money has been spent, and whether it has been properly and judiciously expended; that is, of course, speaking broadly.

Now, they want two things—they want a change in the powers they exercise, and they want a larger subsidy.

They are of opinion that the time has come that their executive government should be put on a firmer basis, by substituting for the executive committee an executive council.

I have described what they have at present, and of that the memorial says:

It is evident that the assembly, having the power to vote money for distinct services, should have the right to control the proper carrying out of its intentions.

As in the present more developed state of the country, which has as much or more need for an intelligent and permanent administration and supervision of its resources and requirements as any other part of Canada, it is impossible for the assembly to act as an executive council; they have been obliged to make provision in their several ordinances to entrust the administering of their laws to the Lieutenant-Governor, acting by and with the advice and consent of the committee created by federal law for the purpose of advising with relation to expenditure only. They cannot, however, be sure that in taking the only