

*The Address*

up in any way with any claims that other provinces have upon the Dominion. I do not think the Western provinces ought to be asked to assume the status of colonies toward the other provinces. A study of this question will show that it is a mistaken idea that the Hudson's Bay Company ever owned as large an area of that great Northwest as they have claimed. In fact, I think there is substantial evidence to show that when the Hudson's Bay Company received their charter in 1670 from King Charles II, most of this Northwest belonged to the King of France. In view of that condition; having regard to the fact that all the other provinces have control of their natural resources and that in all other cases the various sections of the countries making up the British Empire exercise a similar control, it is only fair and just that the Government hand over to those Western provinces their natural resources as soon as possible.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

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After Recess

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The House resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. KENNEDY (Edmonton) (resuming): Mr. Speaker, when the House rose at six o'clock I was talking on the question of the return of their natural resources to the Western provinces. I said that this question ought to be dealt with on its merits, and that it should not be entangled with the question of the rights of any other province. I believe there is evidence to show that the Hudson's Bay Company, when it ceded its charter, upon receiving payment of millions of acres of fertile lands in Western Canada in consideration of the surrender of that charter, received the first real title that it ever had to any part of what we know to-day as Western Canada.

I now wish to occupy the attention of the House for a short time in order to draw attention to another matter. This question is one that concerns a certain number of people in northern Alberta and probably in other parts of the country—I refer to the question of half-breed scrip. I think it is a matter in respect to which the late government is deserving of criticism. With the permission of the House I shall read a letter addressed to "All Canadians who believe that our national honour, our national integrity and our national good name should

[Mr. D. M. Kennedy.]

at all times be kept sweet and clean to all the world and to ourselves," and which is worded as follows:

On May 27th, 1921, the Honourable Sir James Lougheed introduced in the Senate of Canada Bill No. 138, being a Bill for the amendment of the Criminal Code. It had its first reading on that date as appears by Hansard reports No. 50, page 676. The second reading was had on May 30th. See Hansard reports No. 51, page 699. On June 1st, according to the Hansard reports of the Senate Debates, No. 53, first page, on motion of Sir James Lougheed the Senate went into Committee on Bill No. 138:

"The Honourable the Chairman:

It is moved that the following be inserted after Section 24 as 24a, paragraph 'a' of Section 1140 of the Act is amended by adding thereto the following sub-paragraph:

"(iv) any offence relating to or arising out of the location of land which was paid for in whole or in part by scrip, or was granted upon certificates issued to half-breeds in connection with the extinguishment of Indian titles.

Hon. Mr. LYNCH-STANTON: What does all that mean?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: The intention is that if a prosecution for an offence is not brought within three years of the date of its commission, then it is proscribed. There is no provision for that in the Code at present.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: From the reading of the clause I did not grasp what the offence really is.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: This brings it into Section 1140 in the Code, which deals with the limitation of actions. There have been one or two cases brought, going back twenty years, claiming that fraud was committed. Of course, the evidence in connection with them would have disappeared long ago. Section 24a was agreed to.

The enclosed correspondence will show that I first wrote to the Hon. Arthur Meighen, Prime Minister of Canada, on August 2, 1921. The Premier apparently was in ignorance of the amendment and the latter was forwarded to Sir James Lougheed. On August 22nd, I again wrote the Premier enclosing a copy of my former letter. In answer to a telegram from me of September 13th the Premier writes that he cannot do more than refer the matter to the Department of Justice, the Minister of which handled the legislation.

The fact of the matter is that while the Minister of Justice, the Hon. Mr. Doherty, did handle the Bill in the House of Commons, it originated in the Senate and was fathered by Sir James Lougheed. Notwithstanding this we find the Prime Minister letting out Mr. Doherty and making Sir James Lougheed Minister of the Interior and appointed as Minister of Justice Sir James Lougheed's law partner, Mr. R. B. Bennett. The Prime Minister being, as he says, ignorant of the Bill in its effect, must have been deceived by his present Minister of the Interior.

The enactment of this particular piece of iniquitous legislation has the effect of protecting a number of reputed millionaires, the foundation of whose present wealth was built upon scandalous frauds committed against the half-breeds to whom land scrip had been issued