

By the bill respecting the District of Mackenzie, it is proposed to erect into a district, with a constitution based upon that of the District of Keewatin, the territory to the north of the new provinces and extending to the Arctic ocean.

The bill to amend the Keewatin act will add to the present district of Keewatin (1) those parts of the provisional districts of Saskatchewan and Athabaska which are not included in the province of Saskatchewan; (2) the corresponding strip of the present provisional district of Mackenzie which is not to be included in the new district; and (3) the territory lying to the east of the district of Keewatin as now constituted and extending to Hudson bay."

#### A Different Plan

Mr. Speaker, this means that if that portion of the northwest was attached to Keewatin it would come under the control, to certain extent, at all events, of Manitoba, the same as Keewatin has been for thirty years. However, this evidently was not going to suit the purpose of the minister of justice and he discovered a different plan, which he announced to the house of commons on June 26, 1885, in the following words:

"I wish to say that it is my intention to drop bill (No. 157) respecting the district of Mackenzie, and bill (No. 158) to amend the Keewatin act. I do not think these bills will be necessary in view of the amendments which I propose to make to the Northwest Territories act. I am making provision for another system of government than that which we had in contemplation at the time these bills were introduced for that portion of the Territories which remains undisposed of by the autonomy bills. The intention is practically to unite all the Territories, with the exception of Keewatin, under the administration of the governor-in-council. I move that these orders be discharged."

#### A Different Bill

You will observe that he told the house that he was bringing in another bill of a different sort providing for the government of this northwest territory other than that of connecting it with Keewatin. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, he distinctly made clear to the house that this Keewatin territory was to be exempt from the operation of this act, and further than that in his own act as passed and assented to on July 20, 1905, he makes it clear that the Keewatin district is to be exempt from the operation of this act, and let me, Mr. Speaker, quote the act itself in order that there may be no misunderstanding:

#### 4-5 Edward VII.

##### Chap. 27.

An Act to amend the Act Respecting the Northwest Territories.  
(Assented to 20th July, 1905.)

His majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the senate and house of commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

1. This act may be cited as the Northwest Territories Amendment act, 1905.

2. The expression "the said act" in this act shall mean the Northwest Territories act and all amendments thereto.

3. The Northwest Territories shall hereafter comprise the territories formerly known as Rupert's Land and the Northwestern Territory, except such portions thereof as form the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the district of Keewatin and the Yukon Territory, together with all British Territories and possessions in North America and all islands adjacent to any such territories or possessions except the colony of Newfoundland and its dependencies.

#### Double Dealing

Now, Mr. Speaker, I hope I have made it clear to this house and I trust clear to the people of this country, that in every statement, and even in the act itself, there was no doubt or uncertainty in so far as it could be made clear by Mr. Fitzpatrick by his own words or by legislation of the parliament of Canada, that the legislation he was introducing entirely exempted the district of Keewatin from its operation. Yet what do we find happens? And this is where I say that Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Fitzpatrick are guilty of the charge of the most serious double dealing that has ever been laid at the door of any public men in this Dominion of Canada. And what do you think, Mr. Speaker, they do? After all the evidence which I have presented to you, and the trouble to which they appear to have gone to make it clear to the house as I said before that the Keewatin district was exempt from the operation of Mr. Fitzpatrick's legislation, they undertook four days after the passing of the act which I have just quoted to issue a proclamation in the official organ, the Canada Gazette, under which they deliberately removed and took from our province of Manitoba all our rights and all our claims which we had to the Keewatin district as a result of our managing the affairs of that great territory for thirty long years.

#### How Is It Possible

Now, Mr. Speaker, you naturally ask how this could be possible. Well, sir, it was accomplished in this way: In the old act governing the Keewatin district the following clause appeared: