

erly by the district of Mackenzie is divided evenly into two, by a line running north and south. The new province of Alberta includes the old district of Alberta and the westerly half of the district of Athabasca. The new province of Saskatchewan includes the old districts of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan, and the easterly half of the district of Athabasca. The district of Keewatin is for the present to be left as it is, and the districts of Mackenzie and Yukon as well.

The main questions were dealt with by Sir Wilfrid Laurier under four heads:—

1. How many Provinces?
2. In whom should be vested the ownership of the public lands?
3. What should be the terms?
4. The question of the school system.

The first question he answered by dividing the territories into two natural divisions as to climate and productiveness, with the results given above.

The second was decided in favor of the Dominion. The crown lands are to remain the property of the Dominion. Sir John Macdonald refused in 1884 to give Manitoba her lands and there were still stronger reasons for refusing now to give these new Provinces their lands. But, and here Sir Wilfrid was very emphatic, they must be compensated generously.

This brought him to the terms. The population of each of the new Provinces is estimated at the present time to be 250,000 each. The original treatment of the old provinces at Confederation is to be applied to these new Provinces by allowing them an annual grant of 80c. a head. Setting aside for a moment, for the sake of clear information, the basis of the various items, the minimum revenue of the new Provinces will be as follows:—

For Civil Government....	\$ 50,000
The per head allowance....	200,000
For debt allowance.....	405,375
Compensation for lands....	375,000

Total..... 1,030,375

When the population exceeds 800,000 this amount will be increased to \$1,125,000, or at least when the population reaches 1,200,000. These terms are necessarily arbitrary

but no one can say that they are not liberal. In addition there is another allowance of \$65,000 a year for public buildings at the Capital. The Capital of Alberta is fixed at Edmonton, which is, perhaps, a return complement to Calgary for returning an opponent of the government last November. The Capital of the new Province which include Assiniboia remains of course at Regina.

The exemption from taxes of the C. P. R. continues, for the reason that Parliament is debarred by the rights of contract of 1882 for repealing it. Sir Wilfrid regretted this.

When the premier reached the last of his four points silence fell upon the chatters in the galleries and in the Chamber itself. Old timers saw at once that the premier was going to say something and say it with that old time vigor and eloquence which formerly made the House sit up. The government, he said, had been warned and threatened, and warned and threatened from both sides. Such a subject has always aroused passions and prejudices, and at such a solemn moment it behooves them to approach the matter in a spirit of charity and tolerance.

It would be idle to attempt to reproduce this portion of the speech. It was eloquent, historical, argumentative, fervid, appealing, forcible, national, and presented with a skill as keen as a rapier. The system of separate schools established in 1875 by the unanimous consent of the House of Commons is not disturbed by this Bill, because it is a part of the constitution of Canada and made for the protection of the rights of the minority and in the sixties a necessary preliminary to Confederation.

The Prime Minister spoke for two hours and a half, the longest speech he has made in the House since he took office. On resuming his seat his followers broke into loud and prolonged cheers, and certainly the performance well deserved the acknowledgment.

The leader of the Opposition postponed any remarks on the Bill itself until he had an opportunity of studying it, and at the moment had not even seen it. For half an hour he twitted the premier with inconsistency in declining to introduce such a bill a couple of years ago and agreeing to do so now.

Mr. Haultain, premier of the Territories, and Mr. Bulyea, one of his colleagues in the government, occupied seats on the floor of the House during the afternoon within a few feet of the prime minister's desk.