

whole boundary between Newfoundland and Canada ?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. It is in respect of the whole boundary.

Mr. FOSTER. Not simply Quebec ?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. No. But my hon. friend remembers that the lower part of the territory belongs to Quebec and the upper part to Canada, so that Quebec and the Dominion are both interested. In a matter of this kind, Canada would have the right of eminent domain and might dispense with the consent of Quebec. But, as Quebec would be brought into the dispute, she should be given the opportunity to do the best possible for her own interest. My hon. friend from Macdonald (Mr. Staples) says that we should have brought in a concrete Bill. But, even though we had brought in a Bill and it had been passed by King, Lords and Commons, or, as we would say, by the Governor General, the Senate and the House of Commons, nobody would be more bound than by this resolution. A Bill passed by this parliament upon this matter would not be binding upon Manitoba. We must have the consent of Manitoba to anything we do here in order to make it effective. We propose here certain boundaries for the province of Manitoba. These may be, or may be not, satisfactory to that province; if that province does not accept the Bill, the Bill is null and void.

Mr. STAPLES. Then, why did not the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) open negotiations four months ago with the government of Manitoba in order that we might arrive at a conclusion ?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Well, we have done a good many things in the last four months. And I must say I was taken by surprise when I saw the last memorial of the province of Manitoba, altogether going back on what was understood to be her contention. They were understood to claim that they should be given land instead of money, but now they propose a money consideration. We had to look into that and it involved a good deal of work. We had to go into the whole history of the financial transactions of this government with the government of Manitoba, and they are pretty voluminous. I think that no less than seven or eight times during the time that Manitoba has been in confederation, the financial terms of the province have been altered. So, we have some anxious work to do in order to reach a conclusion. I find that in 1870, in 1873, in 1876, in 1879, in 1882, in 1884 and 1885, the financial arrangements of Manitoba were altered and that on every occasion Manitoba was given better terms. We had to look into all these things so that we could see whether the present proposition of Manitoba could be

entertained. At last we concluded that it would be safer to negotiate with Manitoba. We could have got nothing by a Bill, and therefore we have taken the best course by thus calling attention to their claim and asking what should be given. We have to deal with the province on its claims and satisfy those claims, as we hope we shall be able to do. When this is done the subject will be ready for legislation. But now the discussion has taken another turn in the position which has been taken by hon. gentlemen from the maritime provinces. My hon. friend from Kings and Albert (Mr. Fowler) has taken the position that the policy we have adopted is unfair to the maritime provinces, and that they are entitled to some compensation, because the territories which were acquired in 1869 in the Hudson Bay district were paid for by the Dominion of Canada, and that if we dispose of them, we should give some compensation to the maritime provinces. Well, the question is not new, it has been raised before, and it has received no solution such as the hon. gentleman now desires. Those territories were acquired in 1869, and in the year following, the parliament of Canada carved out of them a certain domain for the province of Manitoba. But no compensation was asked by the maritime provinces. Later on when we appropriated a certain portion of that domain for the new provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, we made the same disposition.

Mr. FOWLER. Would not the right hon. gentleman see a distinction between the carving out of this territory a new province and adding out of this territory to the provinces forming part of confederation when Nova Scotia and New Brunswick came in ?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Does the hon. gentleman believe it makes any difference? The basis of our national life is a federative system. This country is covered by provinces, that is the idea which we have always had before us. That has been the case in the United States. The United States purchased territory from France, Louisiana and from other countries. Since that time her policy has been to turn those territories into states, forming now the American Union. This is the object we aim at. For my part, I regret that the climatic conditions are such in this new territory that it cannot be created into new provinces. I wish we could form a new province on the Hudson bay, I wish we could form a new province out of the Mackenzie river territory, I wish we could form a new province of Ungava. But while it is a wish I devoutly entertain, every man must see that such a thing is impossible. No man, I am sure, from the maritime provinces pretends that we could form new provinces out of that territory. If, then, that terri-