

That is where we stand as Progressives to-day—equal rights to every man, special privileges to none.

The question of returning their natural resources to our Prairie provinces is of vital importance to those provinces. We heard yesterday something about the justice that should be accorded the Maritime provinces in dealing with those natural resources, and we also heard the views of hon. members on this side. I want to say, Sir, that in regard to the return of our natural resources, we of the Prairie provinces only ask for our rights. We believe that those natural resources belong to us, and that the Dominion in 1870 did a great wrong to the province of Manitoba in retaining its resources. We further believe that this wrong was accentuated when the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan were created. A study of the constitutional practice of the British Empire will disclose that in every instance where the people have developed to the extent of being able to rule themselves and receive a measure of self-government the control of their natural resources has accompanied autonomy. The four provinces that entered into Confederation in 1867 had strenuously demanded from the British Government the right to control their natural resources. While replying to the right hon. leader of the Opposition, the hon. leader of the Government stated that Canada had equal rights with the other members of the great British Commonwealth and he did not believe in taking second place or asking for privileges from the British Government. I concur in his judgment that we are one of the great self-governing nations of the British Commonwealth. But, Sir, what he advocates in respect to the Dominion, I claim, applies in equal measure to the three Prairie provinces. We are members of Confederation, we have been granted autonomy, but we are the one glaring exception throughout the British Commonwealth to-day in that we are denied control of our natural resources. In 1871, when British Columbia entered Confederation, her lands were immediately given to her. But some of those lands had already been exploited by the Canadian government as one of the conditions of building the Canadian Pacific railway. What was the result? The Canadian government immediately compensated the government of British Columbia for all lands which were retained specifically for Dominion purposes. When, however,

[Mr. Lewis.]

Manitoba came into Confederation her natural resources were denied her. But in 1873, before Prince Edward Island became a member of Confederation, her natural resources had already been dissipated, and as an inducement she was invited to enter into Confederation on the same basis of equality as Ontario, Quebec, and the other provinces, and was immediately granted a sum of money in lieu of her natural resources.

Therefore, Sir, I see no reason why we need enter into a long discussion on this matter. It is our right to control our natural resources. The subject has been a political football for both parties in the past, and it is time that the Government of the day, with the aid of the Progressives, take that political football and kick it into the net so that we may get our rights and be members of Confederation on the same basis as our sister provinces. An hon. member this afternoon said that we were in the position of a colony. I do not think he over-stated the fact, but it is time that we enjoyed equality with all the other provinces. Of course, the argument is raised that Canada as a whole paid for these natural resources. But how? The £300,000 so paid was borrowed in Great Britain, and the Canadian people as a whole became responsible for the loan. But, Sir, we find on examination that the rights granted to the Hudson's Bay Company were granted by the British Crown, and when this £300,000 was paid over the Hudson's Bay Company surrendered those rights to the British Crown and in turn they were transferred to Canada. When the Northwest became settled and the Prairie provinces were created, those provinces were to enjoy the same privileges as if they had entered into Confederation in 1867. But they amended the British North America Act and I think, Sir, that if it went to the highest court of the land that amendment would be found to be ultra vires. Be that as it may, we in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba believe that we have a right to these lands; that we should be enabled to enjoy the privileges accorded to others under similar conditions. When Ontario's boundary was extended, no great cry went up among the Canadian people that we had an interest in these lands. When the boundary of Quebec was extended to James Bay, no great cry went over the Dominion that we had an interest in those lands. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, as a result of their isolated position and in-