

tario. The Ontario legislature agreed unanimously that it should go to the province of Manitoba. Now, I would point out that the Privy Council not only decided the western boundary of Ontario, but its northern boundary as well. I think that anybody who will read the resolution and the despatches that passed between the government of Ontario and the Secretary of State of the Dominion, and the Bill passed by the imperial government, will see that the northern boundary of Ontario was Lac Seul, Lake Joseph and the Albany river—all south of that line was to be in the province of Ontario. In 1901 a resolution was passed unanimously by the Manitoba legislature, moved by the present Judge Myers, then a representative of the constituency in which I reside, and seconded by the member for Dauphin. In 1902, the present leader of the Manitoba government moved a resolution seconded by the then member for Dauphin, the present member for Dauphin in this House (Mr. Burrows) that the boundaries of Manitoba shall be extended northward to Hudson bay and also to include a portion of Assiniboia. Following that there was action taken in the sessions of 1905, 1906 and 1907, all asking for much the same thing, at any rate asking for the extension of the boundaries of Manitoba. And up to this time, not one inkling had the people of Manitoba or of Canada that the province of Ontario laid any claim to territory in Keewatin not given them by the decision of the Privy Council in 1884. Up to the time of the introduction of the Autonomy Bills introduced in 1895, no claim was made by any public man or by the legislature of Ontario by any resolution upon one acre of land in what was known as the undisputed territory. On the contrary a resolution had been passed as I have said, by the legislature of Ontario, declaring that they welcomed the addition of this area in what was known as the undisputed territory to the province of Manitoba. It was only this 39,000 square miles adjudicated upon by the Privy Council and handed over to the province of Ontario that Ontario claimed, and that province appeared to be perfectly satisfied, and stated in so many words that that boundary was established now and forever. I do not blame the premier of Ontario for the action he has taken. No public man occupying the position of premier of so important a province as Ontario could ignore the invitation practically extended to him by the Prime Minister of Canada to claim a portion of this territory which formerly the legislature of Ontario had declared to belong to the province of Manitoba.

Now the Prime Minister, when he was introducing his Autonomy Bill, stated that this territory was a very important portion of the Dominion of Canada, that Ontario had something to say, that Manitoba had something to say, that even Saskatchewan should be consulted, nay, he even went fur-

ther, and said that the province of Quebec was entitled to take part in the disposition of the territory of Keewatin. Now what on earth has Quebec got to do with Keewatin? The hon. gentleman himself recognized the absurdity of calling in the province of Quebec as to the disposition of this portion of Keewatin, and he afterwards withdrew from that ground, properly taking into consideration that in the year 1898, not 1896 as stated by the Prime Minister, a Bill passed this parliament, agreed to by the province of Quebec, interfered with by no other province, giving a portion of Ungava to the province of Quebec. Manitoba was not asked to a conference with regard to the division of Ungava and an addition to Quebec, Ontario was not invited, and by an arrangement made between this parliament and the parliament of Quebec, an Act was passed by this government in the year 1898, giving Ungava to Quebec. The Prime Minister does not seem to agree with that.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The resolution was passed on July 6, 1896.

Mr. W. J. ROCHE (Marquette). But it was in 1898 that the Bill was passed introduced by the then Minister of the Interior. But the point I desired to make was that no person was invited to the conference, no other province at that time. Why should Quebec be asked as to the disposition of Keewatin, as the Prime Minister suggested in 1905? However, he retraced his steps so far as that province is concerned, and he did call a conference of the premiers of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. Of the result of that conference and of the policy of the government, we have been left in entire ignorance up to this moment, up to the time the Prime Minister made his speech to-day, and he divulged but very little, even of the proceedings of that conference, in his speech to-day. I think it would have been an act of courtesy to the premiers of those provinces who came here and sat in solemn conclave with the Prime Minister and his colleagues, that the Prime Minister and his colleagues should have notified them what decision the government had come to as a result of that conference. The Prime Minister of Saskatchewan, I believe, has been interviewed, and has stated that he knew nothing of the result of that conference, that he had received no intimation. Certainly the Prime Minister of Manitoba has publicly stated the same, and so has the Prime Minister of Ontario. But that conference was held, and as a result the Prime Minister comes down to-day with a resolution, not a Bill. We do not know when a Bill will be produced before this House. But in my opinion the government, seeing some embarrassment in store had a Bill been presented to parliament, desire to place themselves in a position that they may make a double-faced appeal to the country. This resolution provides for no speci-