

Mr. DOUCETT: For the whole territory?

Judge SISSONS: You can easily have your constituencies.

Mr. DOUCETT: The entire territory would be represented by elected representatives?

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. RHEAUME: I have a series of questions.

Mr. NIELSEN: Might I proceed on one point which is germane to Mr. Turner's questioning? In the text of "The Struggle for Responsible Government in the Northwest Territories" there is a description of the activities of a Mr. Haultain just before Manitoba became a province. It was largely through his efforts that a wholly elected legislative council was formed in what was to become Manitoba, with powers to introduce money bills and, in effect, with full legislative powers almost on all fours with the powers enjoyed under section 92 of the British North America Act by the provinces. Would you say we should be striving, in respect of the Northwest Territories, toward devising a formula similar to that which was devised just prior to the provincial status of Manitoba?

Judge SISSONS: Yes; I think we should. Provincial autonomy is what you have to develop. That is why I want some government now which would be a stepping stone toward provincial autonomy. This is the only way it can be done.

Mr. NIELSEN: At the time of Sir John A. Macdonald, when this legislation first was considered by the federal house, a formula was devised whereby if the population of the then territory of Assiniboine increased, so would the size of the wholly elected representative council. Would I be misinterpreting your view, Mr. Justice Sissons, if I say you would be in favour of developing such a formula now for the Northwest Territories so that by the time we reach a stage in population where a certain predetermined number of legislators is allowable under such a formula, let us say 21 as in Manitoba in those days, then at that point provincial status should come about.

Judge SISSONS: I do not want to enter that field because I would be getting away from the judicial field and into the political arena, and I might be offending on that. However, I want to see something which will be a stepping stone to provincial autonomy, and something which can move as rapidly as possible. The formula you mention may be the best. I do not wish to say whether it is or is not.

Mr. NIELSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. RHEAUME: Knowing Mr. Justice Sissons will refuse to comment on anything which he feels is getting into a controversial area, I would like to ask him these questions.

Judge SISSONS: I do not wish to step aside from controversy, but in this case I do not want to step into it deliberately. I am here in a peculiar situation. Usually I like a fight; but I kind of respect the company I am in.

Mr. RHEAUME: Would it be a fair statement of your belief, sir, that the proposed division of the Northwest Territories, as outlined in Bill C-83 and Bill C-84, would be a retrograde step?

Judge SISSONS: Decidedly retrograde. I might add, on the other hand, that I think the Yukon could make much more rapid progress toward autonomy than could the Northwest Territories.

Mr. RHEAUME: You mean the Mackenzie?

Judge SISSONS: No; the Yukon Territory. I think it has developed to such a degree now that it would be much more ready for provincial autonomy