

dered more expensive proportionately to population than in any of the provinces.

For these reasons they asked a specific annual grant for the five years term of \$100,000, and claimed an aggregate sum of over \$400,000. Any man who has listened attentively to my hon. friend this afternoon will agree that with the population they then had, and proceeding on the ratio that had been dealt out to Manitoba in 1870, the North-west Territories in 1889—that is several years ago—were entitled to a grant of \$400,000. On the 27th February of that year, I made a motion in this House somewhat similar to that made by my hon. friend this afternoon. I moved for copies of all memorials addressed to the Government by the legislative assembly of the North-west Territories which had then sat recently at Regina, and I presented, as best I could, the claims of the North-west Territories, as set forth by the legislative assembly of which my hon. friend was then a member and had been for some time. As will be seen by reference to page 355 of the "Hansard" of 1889, I pointed out that the old council of 1887 petitioned for responsible government, and I stated what the memorial set forth, and I pressed for a subsidy very much larger than what had been given up to that time or than what has been given since. And I pointed out that we might take a leaf out of the book of the United States and follow the example set by that country in dealing with its territories. I pointed out that Minnesota, Wyoming, Dakota and Montana each got in lands, a large extent of territory for subsidizing branch lines. That is something which this Government has never contemplated doing for the government of the Territories, but I contend that the sooner we give the giant in the North-west its limbs the better. The sooner we give that North-west people, now far in excess of numbers of what Manitoba was in 1870, what it is entitled to, the better; and as anybody will see who visits the giant, as the hon. Prime Minister did, at the time when the legislative assembly was sitting, the representatives in that assembly will compare well with the representatives of any assembly in the provinces. What is the reason this Government should keep that giant in leading strings all these years? I appeal to the hon. Minister to cut those strings. He is fond of regarding himself as a breaker of manacles, let him break those manacles that are on the limbs of the North-west Territories, let him give the Territories provincial autonomy and the annual subsidy to which it is entitled by reason of its population, according to the calculation so ably set forth by my hon. friend this afternoon. I would go further than was done in the case of Manitoba, and would give the young man, so to speak, when I set him up in life, all the implements of manhood. I would give him the means of building his own railways. Here is what hap-

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pened in these Territories which have been very successful, as I need not say, below the line. Minnesota with 83,000 square miles (Assiniboia has 93,000 square miles) received land for subsidizing 1,800 miles of railway, and with the swamps, started in possession of one-third of the territory. What does that policy enable these Territories to do. I read from my speech seven years ago:

It gives them, while young, that nutriment and vital force, without which anything young cannot thrive. As the Right Hon. the Prime Minister is now acting Minister of Railways, I should like to call his attention to this fact. At this hour the government of Minnesota receives an income of \$600,000 a year, 3 per cent on the gross earnings of the lines of railway that it chartered and subsidized since 1849, when it was organized. But it may be said: "Ah, but those territories were very populous." Not at all. In 1849, when Minnesota was organized, it had only a population of 6,000—

I think my hon. friend said our population in 1894 was 84,000, and it is more to-day.

—and the aggregate population of all the four territories at the respective dates of their organization did not equal by five or six thousand the population of the North-west to-day. That is the point which I submit as well worthy of the consideration of the Government, because I think we may err on the side of keeping the strings too much in our hands here in Ottawa, and not giving sufficient scope for the young giant, for which I plead here to-day, to develop his limbs. Now, it will be said to us, no doubt, you have got the mounted police. So we have, and we are very glad to have them; but elsewhere you have batteries, militia, and military schools, and we pay for those just as well as you pay for the mounted police; and before you know where you are, I believe in the next five years, you will find we shall have a population in those Territories which will be subscribing to your military schools, and batteries, and militia just as much as you are subscribing to the North-west mounted police. And remember that in any case the cost of defence would fall on the Federal Government; so that you cannot fairly make anything of our having the mounted police.

Now what I point out there is of great importance—that the United States government, in dealing with territories is more generous than the Government of Canada. And as I repeat the argument, I repeat to the hon. gentleman opposite the appeal I made to the Government of Sir John Macdonald, and I say to him that not only will these facts justify him in complying with the demand made by my hon. friend (Mr. Oliver) this afternoon, but they will justify him in going further. They will justify him in giving to the Territories responsible government. They will justify him in giving the Territories not \$260,000 as a grant, but \$400,000 a year as a subsidy, and they will justify him in going still further—in giving them lands by which they will be able to build small local railways, so that in ten years from now, they may be in the position that Minnesota is found to be in to-day—drawing a large income from investments in these railways. My hon. friend very