

aries of Manitoba in the east. The present Bill would be applicable to the territory of the Dominion east of Manitoba as well as to that to the west and north. He might mention that application had been made on behalf of the Government of Manitoba for an enlargement of their territory. They proposed, in fact, to have it made something like nine or ten times larger than it was at present. But there were other proposals of that Government in connection with this matter which rendered necessary the postponement of action for the present until a conference can be had with the Local Government. It was proposed by this Bill to have a Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West territories who would be assisted by a Council. That Council would consist of five members appointed by the GOVERNOR GENERAL in Council; three stipendiary magistrates or judges, to be appointed in a similar manner who would be members of the Council *ex-officio*—and two others, perhaps the principal Indian Agent and some other person whose place of residence and occupation made it convenient for them to perform the duties that would be required of them. The first section of this Bill simply provided that the territories formerly known as "Rupert's Land, and the North-West territories," should continue to be styled and known as the North-West territories, and that there shall be a Lieutenant Governor appointed who shall hold office during the pleasure of the GOVERNOR GENERAL and receive instructions in the same way as Lieutenant Governors in the Provinces. The third section provides for the establishment of the Council, and the fourth that the seat of Government may from time to time be changed by the GOVERNOR GENERAL in Council. In the meantime the seat of Local Government for the territories shall be established at Fort Pelly, that being a convenient place to reach the Saskatchewan River and Fort Ellis, and other parts of the territories, and not beyond reach of the telegraph system about being established. The Government last season constructed buildings there for the North-West police force, sufficient to accommodate two hundred men, a commandant house, an hospital and other buildings; and these buildings could accommodate the officers connected with the North West Government without any serious expense. Last year there was expended on these build-

ings something like \$30,000. By section five it was proposed to pay the Lieut. Governor a salary not exceeding \$7,000, and each Stipendiary Magistrate or Judge a salary not exceeding \$3,000, and the other two members of the Council a salary not exceeding \$1,000; and to the Clerk of the Council who shall act as Secretary to the Lieut. Governor a salary not exceeding \$1,800. Sections six seven and eight simply provide for the consolidation of the laws and ordinances now in force in those territories, and the ninth section that no ordinance shall be passed by the Governor in Council or the Lieut. Governor inconsistent with any Act of the Dominion Parliament. This section restricts the jurisdiction of the Council practically to that now enjoyed by the Lieut. Governor of Manitoba acting as Governor of the North-West Territories, and his Council. The next few sections provide for popular Government so far as it could be established under the circumstances of the country. The eleventh section provides that so soon as the Lieut. Governor is satisfied by such proof as he may require that any portion of the territory not exceeding an area of one thousand square miles contains a population of not less than one thousand inhabitants such district may be erected into an electoral district which shall be entitled to elect a member of the Council or as it may be of the Legislative Assembly. The sub-sections provide the machinery for holding the elections. The fifth sub-section provides that as soon as the Lieut. Governor is satisfied that any electoral district contains a population of two thousand, exclusive of aliens and unfranchised Indians, he shall issue a writ for the election of a second member. The sixth sub-section provides that when the number of elective members amounts to twenty-one the council hereinbefore appointed shall cease and be determined, and the members so elected shall be constituted and designated as the Legislative Assembly of the North-West Territory, and the powers by this Act vested in the council shall thenceforth be vested and exercisable by such Legislative Assembly. One of the sub-sections provides that every *bona fide* resident and householder who shall have been in the district for twelve months may vote, and any person entitled to vote shall be eligible for election.