

of the Government and that they are in possession of it. Let the hon. gentleman read that. I know he is an able lawyer,—let him fancy that we have given him a brief and put a large fee in his pocket and that he is to make out a case for us. Let him read it in that light and he will be perfectly astonished what a case he can make out for the Territories and against the lethargy of his own Government, because this is the second session, and, apparently, up to the present, they have done nothing.

An hon. MEMBER. Carried.

Mr. DAVIN. It will be carried in a short time. By the way, what mavis singing-bird was that I heard? Now, I have something to suggest that I think will be welcomed by every territorial statesman, I mean the members of the provincial assembly, and it will be welcomed by every man who has the interests of the Territories at heart. I doubt, Sir, if there is any arrangement that has been made by this Parliament that has worked more successfully and to better advantage than the arrangement that was made by the Parliament of Canada that we should have an Auditor General perfectly independent of the Government of the day. I think it has been a great advantage to the people, it has been in the interests of economy, and I believe it has been of advantage to the Government in the past, and is an advantage to the Government to-day, so far as they desire to act economically. Now, let us suppose that the Government intends to accede to the prayer of this memorial, and to give the North-west Territories the kind of government they demand; but even if they do not do that, what I am now about to suggest that they should do is to provide an auditor that will be appointed by the Government of Canada, and will be perfectly independent of the Government of the Territories. Of course, when the time comes that a full provincial government would be given to the Territories, that arrangement would cease, and we would expect that the Territorial Assembly, when it would take up its full manhood, would re-appoint that auditor, or at all events, appoint somebody in his place, and continue that very useful official; and also appoint him under an ordinance such as our Audit Act, that would make him independent of the executive of the day. I think that would be in the interests of the Territories. But at the present moment, we are bound, here in this Parliament, to see that such an auditor exists. We have no means at present of knowing how the money is spent that we vote to the Territories. That executive and that assembly are only a function of the Dominion Government as long as they do not get full provincial autonomy. At present they do not want full provincial autonomy, as I have already pointed out to my hon. friend when I quoted the memorial.

Mr. DAVIN.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Mr. Davies). A fuller measure of economy might involve the right and the duty of raising money by taxation; and they do not want that.

Mr. DAVIN. I do not think there will be any necessity for it, because they do raise money for taxation at present, that is, they raise a local fund of \$30,000.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. How?

Mr. DAVIN. By licenses; they have a local revenue of \$30,000—I think it is about that sum. But I would like to point out to my hon. friend that they say they do not wish to get full responsible government. This is their language:

The assembly is of opinion, that to remedy this undesirable state of affairs, it is not necessary to have recourse to granting the full provincial status.

They do not ask for it, and this memorial passed unanimously. The money they spend is money voted by this Parliament, and therefore it is logical that this Parliament should know how that money is spent. Some years ago we voted a specific sum for all the work that was done in these Territories, and the sums used to lapse. I was one of the persons, with Mr. Haultain and others, who went to the Government to get that done away with, and we got a system adopted whereby you now vote a block sum, such as we have here—a grant for schools, clerical assistance, printing, &c., to be paid half-yearly in advance, \$242,000. Now, I want to see a far larger sum voted, I want to see this House do justice to the Territories, and vote them a sum of \$500,000, which sum is the very least that will enable them to manage these Territories effectively. But whether we vote them that much or not, as we are voting money, we ought to have an audit independent of the executive, and an independent audit will be welcomed by the executive. If they do not welcome it, there is the more necessity for it; if they welcome it, then there is necessity for it, and it should be given at once. What we should have is a Dominion auditor, an officer up there paid out of the territorial fund, paid by the executive, but whose appointment would be independent of the executive. That would give us an account of how the moneys are spent that we now vote en bloc, and we have no account of how they are spent; whereas when we voted them in the manner I desired to see abolished, and which I was contributory to abolishing, we did know how the money was spent. As long as we vote the money, we ought to know how that money is spent. Now, it is well known that contracts for large sums have been given, and I believe that it has been done elsewhere also, within recent months—but contracts for considerable sums have been