

Mr. MILLS said there were several important features in this Bill which would require special attention. One was that relating to the powers given to the Lieut. Governor in Council. The Premier spoke of their having power to establish schools, build roads and bridges and do other works of a municipal character. It was extremely doubtful whether the Governor in Council could have any of these powers. It was proposed to furnish the money for these objects out of the Dominion Treasury then it might be done, but the Crown itself had no power to impose taxes upon any portion of the community, and of course could not delegate to any Lieut. Governor in Council powers which it did not itself possess. It could not authorize a Governor in Council to establish a municipal system and provide for the taxation of the people.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD—It can be done by statute.

Mr. MILLS—That is another matter. If it was intended, therefore, that these things should be done, it seemed to him provision must be made in the Bill for their being done by Parliament. There was another matter it seemed to him ought not to be disregarded; and that was the terms and conditions under which these people would ultimately be formed into a Province. It would be better that the people who settle that territory should know beforehand the terms and conditions under which they would become an organized part of the Dominion. He saw no objection, when the population became sufficiently large, to allowing that territory to be represented in the Dominion Parliament before it was organized into a Province. By and by we would be called upon, when Provinces came to be organized in that territory, to state what liabilities the Dominion should assume, and what revenues should be given to the Local Government, and it seemed to him it was just as well that this should be done at the beginning so that there would be no room for dispute or difficulty in the future. If some definite plan was adopted, the people would become accustomed to it, and no embarrassment or trouble would arise when it came to be carried into effect. Those who observed the American territorial system of government would notice that from the time the first government was organized under the ordinance enacted by Congress

*Mr. Mills.*

in 1787, till the establishment of the last territorial government, there was scarcely any difference in the plan of government, and they had never found it necessary to depart from the general principle laid down in the ordinance of 1787. It seemed to him we ought not to refuse to profit by the experience of others under similar circumstances to our own. In order to accomplish the object he had suggested, the Government should know what moneys they had expended on public buildings and works in these territories, which might afterwards become the property of the Local Government, and in that case it would only be fair that when the time came for the admission of the territory into the Union, the money so expended could be charged to it as a public debt. He saw no difficulty in this being done, but thought it should be embraced in the fundamental law. The hon. member for Northumberland had stated that Manitoba should have a sea-port town and its boundary ought to be extended to the shores of Lake Superior. If the hon. gentleman would look into the question, he would find Ontario had something to say on that matter, and he had no hesitation in saying—seeing that it was to be decided on judicial principles—he did not think it was competent for the Dominion Government to decide it otherwise than was proposed. Under the Quebec Act of 1774, the western limit of what now remained to us as the old Province of Quebec was fixed at the forks of the Saskatchewan, and the head waters of the Mississippi. By an Order in Council that was adopted in 1791, it was declared that the western limit of the western portion of Quebec, erected into Upper Canada, shall extend to what is known as the western limit of Canada under the French. That, he apprehended, would extend to the Rocky Mountains. That country was taken possession of by the French. They established forts at several points in the Red River territory and the most western fort was at the forks of the Saskatchewan. They had appointed Captain LA CORNE to govern the territory under a license from Quebec. The whole country was occupied by the French Government as part of Canada, and was made by the Order in Council of 1791, part of the present Province of Ontario. The late Government had organized the Province of