

with the granting of autonomy to the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. And that is what I regard as a grave constitutional—I would almost say crime—that was committed—the great offence against the constitution of the country in passing over Mr. Haultain and calling upon Mr. Walter Scott to form a government in Saskatchewan. I had hoped from what occurred with regard to a former governor in British Columbia and the action of the government in removing that governor—an action almost on similar lines with that of the government of Sir John Macdonald in removing Lieutenant Governor Letellier in the province of Quebec—I had hoped that as our constitution would be worked out from year to year under different parties that we would not have any further complaints to make with regard to governors using their influence improperly or being held under the influence of the federal government. A painful impression has been created by this act that the governor of Saskatchewan was influenced from Ottawa by the federal government, and that he passed over the man above all others that was the most eligible and most in the minds of the people, who had enjoyed their confidence again and again—Mr. Haultain—and took Mr. Walter Scott from the federal arena and entrusted him with the duty of forming a government. In speaking on this subject in another place the Premier gives as a reason justifying this course the allegation that Mr. Haultain was not loyal to the constitution of the new province, and that on that account he was properly passed over. If hon. gentlemen will just think for a moment they will see that any man could be ostracised on similar grounds. What one man might consider to be loyalty to the constitution another man might regard as treason. To my mind Mr. Haultain's course was one of loyalty to the constitution of Canada, and I think on that account there is no reason whatever why Mr. Haultain should have been passed over. It forces the painful conclusion upon our minds that the whole thing was originated in and directed from Ottawa that Lieutenant-Governor Forget was influenced by the ministers here to pass over Mr. Haultain. In fact the cause of the action is not concealed, but is assigned by the Premier in

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another place, only a few hours ago, as being on account of the supposed hostility of Mr. Haultain to what he called the constitution of the new province or in other words to the policy of the Liberal party.

I notice that in the speech with which His Excellency has opened this session there are three paragraphs devoted to the Northwest and I am pleased to say that I agree with all of them.

His Excellency says in two of these:

The bountiful harvest with which we have been blessed in the past season, together with the continued development of our industries and transportation facilities, have so stimulated business in all parts of Canada and have given such an impetus to our exports and imports that the trade both with the United Kingdom and foreign countries for the current fiscal year gives promise of being the largest on record.

The flow of immigrants seeking homes in the three prairie provinces still continues, and from the present outlook the number will be in excess of any previous year, and it is gratifying to note the increasing proportion from the British Isles.

We are pleased to hear these statements. My attention was called in connection with this subject to a speech made by one of the most influential members of this government, the Minister of Finance some twenty years ago, with regard to the Northwest. In 1886, Mr. Fielding, speaking in support of his motion for a repeal of the union, said:

Immense expenditures of public money have been incurred for the construction of railroads in the far west, while the roads of the lower provinces remain practically undeveloped. One would think we were an old and finished country, in which nothing remained to be done in the way of public works and that our money could well afford to be spent in the far west. We know that this is not true, that the development of railroads is more needful to us than to the great provinces of the west, because the great provinces in the west are not needful to the confederation.

That was the deliberate opinion of the present Finance Minister in 1886 after the Canadian Pacific Railway was completed—that these great provinces were not needful to confederation. I know very well that the hon. gentleman who made this speech would rather almost meet his grandmother's ghost than the reproduction of such a speech as this at the present day, and that he now, like myself, regards the great Northwest as being the most important part of confederation and realizes the fact that it is in these great western provinces that the future of Canada to a large extent must lie.