

which has been granted in past years, so as to catch up to some extent with the present requirements. Let me say that the manner in which the subsidy has been calculated in the past has been this. The territorial government made up an estimate of what was required. The Department of the Interior granted either that amount or as much less as it saw fit. The territorial government was compelled to keep within the amount voted. When the territorial government, next year, sent down an estimate for an increased amount, the department here, I suppose, argued: "Well, you got along with so much last year; you can certainly get on with the same amount this year." So the amount has been kept at about the same figure for the last five years. This, it appears to me, is putting the matter on a false basis, which is neither in the interest of the North-west, in the interest of this Dominion, nor in accord with the dignity of this Parliament in its dealings with the institution which itself has created.

In regard to the grant on account of the land, I would say a word or two. The province of Manitoba has been granted \$100,000 a year in consideration of its public lands having been administered by Parliament. In the Territories there is, I suppose, four or five times as much land as there is in the province of Manitoba; and, while it may be argued that the land is not profitable to the government, that the administration of it has not returned a financial profit to the Government, let me put the matter to you in this way. Parliament has seen fit in the past to grant off these lands to the Canadian Pacific Railway, which is a national work and not a North-western work simply, to the extent of 25,000,000 acres. I understand that that land has been bonded to the amount of \$1.25 an acre; so that its value stands, under these bonds, at something like \$31,000,000, which, at 4 per cent, is equivalent to a million and a quarter dollars a year. This is not any fancy calculation, but a calculation on the basis of actual cash. So that, when we say that the Territories are entitled to consideration on account of the amount of Government land there, we are not going beyond the mark when we say that we should be dealt with at least as favourably as the province of Manitoba, particularly when we call your attention to the fact that the province of Prince Edward Island has received a special grant of something like \$40,000 a year, in consideration of the fact that at the time of entering confederation it had not any public land at all; and that the province of British Columbia has been granted \$100,000 a year, in consideration of what is known as the railway belt, in which belt the province still holds the precious metals, which, I suppose, are really the most valuable part of the land. Now, a statement has been made by the local government, asking for a certain increase in the annual subsidy, based on actual requirements. Not

that they do not want a readjustment of grant on the basis of the provincial subsidies.

The papers I asked for are for the purpose of showing what is absolutely required for the carrying on of the government of the North-west Territories during the current fiscal year and not for the purpose of making a permanent arrangement. The government of the Territories, however, as will be shown by the papers, are prepared at any time to enter into an arrangement for a permanent subsidy on a provincial basis suitable to the special position and circumstances of the Territories.

Mr. DAVIN. I am glad my hon. friend has made this motion and brought the claims of the Territories before the House. I do not know whether I understood him to say that he was bringing these matters before the House for the first time.

Mr. OLIVER. I said that I understood that these papers have never been laid on the Table.

Mr. DAVIN. Well, I am exceedingly glad that my hon. friend has brought this matter before the House. As the House is well aware, I have annually brought before it the claims of the Territories, and made an argument in favour of an increased subsidy, somewhat in the line of that which my hon. friend has made. There cannot be any doubt that not merely now but, as I pointed out, either last session or the session before last, the North-west Territories were long ago entitled to far more money than was given them year after year, and in fact I think it was either last session or the session before last that I argued that there was something like a million dollars or more of arrears due the North-west Territories, bearing in mind what should have been paid, on the basis of the calculation made by my hon. friend in his able speech this afternoon and comparing that with the amount which has been given. In 1889, the legislative assembly of the North-west Territories submitted a memorandum to the then Minister of the Interior in which they submitted the argument that, with an estimated population of 150,000 as a basis to go on—and that was not too much even then, taking what had been done for Manitoba—the subsidy at the rate of 80 cents per head, which was allowed the provinces, would amount to \$120,000. They further submitted that on debt account the Territories are entitled to 5 per cent interest on \$27.77 per head on an actual population of 100,000, which would amount to \$138,850, and that the specific grant for governmental purposes should be at least as liberal as that made to Manitoba, that is to say, \$50,000. And they, further submitted that:

Owing to the vast area of the Territories and the widely scattered nature of the settlement, all the local business of the government is ren-