

Many of those areas have since been devoted to ordinary husbandry. Perhaps the fact that the areas in Saskatchewan were more suitable for immediate development as farm lands, once the railways were constructed, was the reason why those areas seemed at that time more attractive as subsidies to railway builders than lands in Alberta or Manitoba.

Another factor in this matter is that fortunately the Province of Alberta is magnificently endowed with minerals and has also a considerable amount of water-power. Though that water-power is partly in the park country at present, I suppose arrangements will be made that it will all be available for that province. The Province of Manitoba, while not containing coal in any remarkable quantity, as far as I know, is wonderfully endowed with water-power, which has been developed for years past. With cheap access to the power, Winnipeg is now becoming, and is bound to be in the near future, a great industrial centre. In the Province of Saskatchewan we have no water-power at present, and any small portion that may ever be developed away off in the Churchill River is too distant for economic transmission to the central or southern portion of that province.

It will be seen from what I have said that the conditions in Saskatchewan are not the same as those in Alberta and Manitoba, and for economic reasons, apart from any other, Saskatchewan might very properly refuse an offer that the other two provinces would be glad to accept. It is true that Saskatchewan hopes for mineral development of the pre-Cambrian area, which runs through the north-eastern portion of that province. Manitoba contains some of that area. I do not know that Alberta has any of that particular one, but it has very great mineral development in prospect, and has, immediately available, considerable resources from royalties on coal, from the possibility of water-power development, from ranch lands and from timber limits. We in the Province of Saskatchewan can hope for practically no immediate revenue from the turning over to us of the public lands. The Province of Manitoba, as the owner of water-powers, can derive considerable revenue not only through the private development of them, but probably also through development by the Province of Manitoba itself, and that revenue is bound to increase with the industrialization of the province. So I believe that the Province of Saskatchewan might well say that what would be suitable and agreeable to either of her sister provinces would not be equally suitable and agreeable to her. We should have at present no such revenues for carrying on provincial affairs as they would enjoy.

Speaking for myself, I have long entertained the opinion that we have an absolute right—this is not the time to discuss it in detail—a right to an accounting from 1870. If it be true that in 1870 it was contemplated that the Hudson Bay Territory and the Northwest Territories would enter Confederation, the Dominion Government should give such an accounting to the western provinces, particularly Saskatchewan and Alberta. I think the question cannot be settled by mutual arrangement between the Governments and we shall have to go to the final court, the Privy Council. If that court decides that the Dominion Government had at any time a right to alienate our lands, we must abide by the decision, for we shall have lost. But speaking as an individual, without having consulted with the Government of Saskatchewan on that aspect, I shall not be content until that right is either recognized or held not to exist, and that by a judgment of the ultimate court of the British Empire.

We have in the Speech from the Throne an allusion to the Pensions Act and the system that the Government proposes to put into force. I regret that that system was not adopted from the very beginning. Under the present system, if a man was conscripted and was passed by a medical doctor as fit for service, and later was invalidated home, and it was shown that his disability was due to something prior to his conscription, he is out of luck. What is promised now, and what I think should always have been the practice, is that the medical record made of the man when he was finally passed and became a soldier will be taken into consideration, and if subsequently a disability developed it will be considered to be properly attributable to the war. If a man was wounded, there was no difficulty; but frequently a man was affected psychologically and the results did not become apparent for years. This is not a party matter and I am not discussing it in a party sense. I think all parties have been generous with the soldiers. The leaders on all sides have realized their duty towards the soldiers and have tried to do the right thing by them. Nevertheless, most men in public life and many in private life have had ex-soldiers come to them, stating that their claims had been rejected on the ground that their disability was due to pre-war causes. This Bill will rectify that condition, and will do a justice that I think we all agree should be done.

The next topic to which I shall refer has reference to the appointment of women to the Senate. I have already congratulated the seconder of the Address on the very admirable speech that she made to the House in both French and English. The appointment of a