

they would view things just as we view them if they were in our place.

Now, I want to say a word to my hon. friends from the West in regard to public lands and resources. This was discussed by some hon. gentlemen in this debate; and I heard one hon. member, I think my hon. friend from Marquette (Mr. Crerar), make the statement that when Nova Scotia and New Brunswick entered Confederation they insisted on retaining possession of their natural resources and their public lands. Ontario and Quebec, of course, did the same, but they did not get a subsidy in lieu thereof. They did not get a cash subsidy as well; they were satisfied with the possession of their natural resources. Now if I understand rightly, when the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta—particularly these two provinces—were formed, they were given their choice whether they would have their lands or a cash subsidy instead.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. HUGHES: They were not given that choice?

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. HUGHES: Well, they took the cash subsidy, anyhow. I am informed that they preferred the cash subsidy; but now, if my information is correct, they want both natural resources and cash subsidy. I put it to the hon. gentlemen themselves, would that be fair to the other provinces? I would refer to Prince Edward Island particularly, because that province has an especial claim. When Prince Edward Island entered Confederation we had no lands. We never had any lands, because they were given away by the King to some favourites in England many long years ago, which gave rise to a great agitation against the absentee landlords, who were finally bought out. We were given a cash subsidy in lieu of public lands, because we were in an inferior position as compared with the other provinces of Confederation at that time. We were allowed a lump sum of \$45,000, or about 50 cents per head of population. Manitoba came in a year after, I think, and in lieu of public lands was given the exact amount we were receiving, namely \$45,000. Since then Manitoba's revenue has been increased two or three times, and the subsidy in lieu of lands has advanced proportionately. Our subsidy for the same purpose, on the other hand has never been touched. When Saskatchewan and Alberta come in

some years later they were given a large subsidy in lieu of public lands, I believe about \$1.50 per head of population, besides other payments as well for the erection of public buildings and for other purposes. Prince Edward Island, however, was left in the position she had held in this regard since Confederation. I may mention that the arrangement with Saskatchewan and Alberta was that the subsidy would increase as the population of the provinces increased; but our subsidy was fixed, so that we never had an increase. Have we not therefore a particular claim? I think so. I think it has only to be mentioned to be admitted by every member of the House and by every citizen in Canada. Manitoba's subsidy was afterwards increased to bring it to the level of that received by Saskatchewan and Alberta. But we stand where we have always been. We have an especial claim, I say, and I want to put it to the fairminded men from the West whether that claim does not deserve every consideration. I have only to state the case, I believe, and its fairness will be conceded. We want to be heard when these adjustments are made, whether in this House or in some other place.

Mr. CAMPBELL: Did not the Dominion Government assume a large indebtedness in connection with the Prince Edward Island railway?

Mr. HUGHES: I am glad indeed that my hon. friend has asked that question, because I was forgetting it. When we entered Confederation we were charged with every cent that the railway cost. We built our own railway. It has since been added to by the Dominion Government, but at the time we entered Confederation we had a large mileage that was charged to us in the debt against the province. I am very glad that the hon. member has asked this question. Now, with regard to the western provinces, I understand that they, and particularly British Columbia, became liable for immense sums of money to the Canadian Northern Railway for lines of railway through those provinces—liabilities that were enough to put those provinces into financial difficulties. The federal government relieved them of all that burden, took over all the railway indebtedness and relieved them of all bonds, guarantees and provincial obligations in that regard, and it is a part of the public debt of Canada upon which the people, including those of Prince Edward Island,