

doubt that the Council would be an efficient one, or at any rate he hoped that it would be, since so much depended upon the character of those appointed to it. He thought it was a wise provision not to at once extend legislative powers to the new territory. In the chief settlement, Prince Albert, there were not at present more than 500 inhabitants, but when they increased to 1,000 or more, and the other settlements had increased in the same ratio, he thought it would be right to give them local legislative powers. His objection to the North-West Council as at present constituted was that many of its members knew nothing more of the country than gentlemen on the floor of this House who had simply heard of the North-West as they had of other far distant countries. However, there were at least six of them who knew it intimately, but it would be a most invidious thing for these gentlemen to get up and tell their fellow-councillors that they knew nothing at all about it. It would be admitted that very frequently those who were the least acquainted with a subject were the most ready to give advice. He thought on the whole it was very much better that they should have the Council proposed in this Bill, and that those who formed the new Council should have an intimate local knowledge of the country, and be connected with its interests. The right hon. member for Kingston seemed to think that it would be an objection to have the Council at Fort Pelly, having in view the interests of the country eastward of Fort Garry. He was himself of opinion that the interests of that country for some time would be of such small importance that the location of the Council would not be a matter of such great consequence. With regard to the disputed boundary between Manitoba and Ontario, the people there would be very glad to find that a port on Lake Superior belonged to them by right, but he hoped that whether it did or not the people of Ontario would give it to them as a matter of grace. The point brought up by the hon. member for South Ontario was an important one, and he was glad to find that the First Minister intended to introduce a provision in Committee, dealing with the subject. He had not noticed from the explanations given that there was any intention to give a representative to the North-West at Ottawa. Without some such provision he

did not see how the North-West could have a voice in the legislation of this Dominion, and he strongly contended that there should be at least one member to represent its interests here. It would give a great deal of satisfaction in this country, and he thought it would be at least a matter of justice to the North-West. He hoped stringent measures would be taken to prevent the introduction of goods without payment of duty, as such practice was injurious to the honest merchants who paid the duties. At present the revenue laws were evaded by bringing in goods by way of British Columbia.

Mr. SCHULTZ said that those who were acquainted with the North-West Territory would agree with him that it was a most difficult matter to establish a proper and efficient system of Government there. He was very much pleased with the general features of the Bill. He dissented from the view of the hon. member for Kingston that the Lieut. Governor of Manitoba could efficiently administer the Government of the territories. That system had proved a failure, and though he was a member of the council he must frankly admit that it was impossible for them under the circumstances to efficiently carry out the laws in the territory. He believed with the member for South Bruce that we must have a strong Government in that territory. There was a moral power in the cocked hat of a Governor, and in the coat of a policeman. Large powers should be given to the proposed new council. It was not advisable in his opinion to give representative institutions to that territory just now. However, he would discuss the details of the measure at a future stage, and he hoped the Government would receive in a kindly spirit the suggestions of those who were familiar with the condition and wants of that country. With regard to the mounted police, he must say that under its present able commander it had proved a very efficient force. He regretted that the Government decided upon Fort Pelly as the seat of Government for the North-West, as in his opinion it possessed no recommendation except the fact that it would have telegraph communication. However, as there was a provision in the Bill for a change in the seat of Government, if it was deemed advisable he would raise no objection on that head.

*Mr. D. A. Smith.*