

means to secure the best terms for the land, and should adopt the course best calculated to give general satisfaction.

It cannot be said that the course heretofore followed in selling the lands, has given general satisfaction in Canada, and I have grave fears that it is not calculated to give satisfaction *ultimately* in England.

The lands have heretofore been disposed of by private sale. Fortunately they have brought good prices, and the proprietors for the moment are satisfied. It does not follow, however, that the lands have brought the highest prices obtainable, and I am very decidedly of opinion that a course should be followed which would leave no doubt in the minds of any one on this point. It is obviously in the interest of the Officer in charge of the sales that he should be directed to carry out a policy which will not expose him to charges of favoritism, or unjust suspicions, or baseless accusations of any sort. It is clearly in the interest of the Company that the property should be sold on correct business principles, and that a course should generally be followed which is perfectly defensible, and which, if need be, may easily be defended at any future time.

I do not propose to inquire into past transactions. I am perfectly willing to assume that the best has been done under the circumstances. I acknowledge very heartily that the sales of land in Winnipeg have surprised me. The prices obtained in that quarter have greatly exceeded my expectation, and the expectation of the most sanguine. I am quite prepared to accord full credit to the Land Commissioner for all that he has done there and elsewhere, and, at the same time, to overlook mistakes which I may think he has committed. While I admit all this I must, with equal frankness, say to my colleagues on the Board, that if any mistakes have been made by our Officer in