

fundamental laws which they themselves have declared necessary and which have been enacted at their suggestion.

The government is then happy to assure us that the lands in Manitoba and the North-west are being taken up by settlers, and they say that this

affords conclusive evidence of the success which has attended the efforts of my government to promote immigration, and I have no doubt that the greatly increased production of the west will henceforth add materially to the growth of the whole Dominion.

I think that is a claim which cannot be successfully upheld. Evidence before a judge or court of justice would have to be far more pertinent before it would be conclusive. I think that Manitoba and the North-west has a history with regard to this question of settlement. I think that Manitoba and the North-west would never have had a settler had it not been opened to the markets of the people of the world. And I think that, struggling against all odds and taking their political lives in their hands, time and again the Liberal-Conservative party, in a hand-to-hand contest with hon. gentlemen opposite, opened up the North-west and Manitoba and made it a place for the settler. And when hon. gentlemen opposite in the thick of the fight, one of their strongest men, who was in parliament when the Canadian Pacific Railway Bill was before this House and a subsidy was being asked for, said :

I venture to say that from one end of the Dominion to the other, no more joyful news could be spread than the tidings that the telegraph would flash from the Atlantic to the Pacific saying that this contract was abandoned and saying that Canada was emancipated from the terrible consequences likely to flow from it.

Who said that? Mr. G. W. Ross, one of their foremost advocates in this House, and now Premier of the province of Ontario. But a new light has come, and the other day Mr. Ross made this public declaration :

I remember when the Canadian Pacific Railway was constructed, we thought Sir John Macdonald was undertaking a herculean enterprise, one which would crush the country. I think, perhaps, he was right, and we were wrong. I think, perhaps, he builded more wisely than he knew. No one will say to-day that the building of the railway was a mistake. Canada to-day would be a very small country, would be weaker in the councils of the empire, would scarcely be a confederated Dominion, as it is, were it not for the Pacific Railway.

I think, Sir, that the historic policy of the past, which, in the first place, acquired these great Territories, which submitted to the bond of their union, to wit, the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the determination which carried out that policy in dark and troublous times when Canada's future hung in the balance, as hon. members of this House well know, and which

did that in spite of hon. gentlemen opposite—that historic policy and that determination had something to do with the opening up of that country and attracting to it a body of settlers. Remember that the first days in this work of settlement are always the most difficult. Checks to a country's growth are most severely felt in the early years. In that country frosts and dry winds were more rife in the first years of settlement. Through all difficulties the people struggled on, until the time came when, with improved methods of cultivation and the extension of settlement, even the climate to a certain extent changed. Good crops repaid the farmers' toil and good prices for those crops were realized. And so went out throughout Europe and throughout the world the fame of the Canadian North-west as a grain-growing and cattle-raising country. That had something to do with this influx of settlers. And if we take this policy of immigration, the very plan of despatching throughout the world information with regard to Canada, is a policy borrowed from the old Liberal-Conservative government. The very plan of going into the United States and getting the best class of farmers we could—repatriated Canadians and frontier farmers—into the North-west, was a policy introduced by my friend Mr. Daly and successfully carried out by him. That policy is being carried out by the government of to-day. But the hon. gentleman who has charge of that department may well revise his opinion with regard to some elements of immigration that he has brought into that country. I had the pleasure of being in Manitoba not many weeks ago, and, so far as I could gather, the opinions and feelings of the settlers and the people of that country is they have, certainly to say the least of it, enough Doukhobors and Galicians. They have enough of them. They want no more of them; they do not wish that class of immigrants to be located in blocks over that country. They will treat well those that are there now. Not one of them will be allowed to suffer if the open-handed, generous inhabitant of the North-west can get relief to him. There is no spirit of animosity against them. But the people there simply say: We do not want any more of that class; we want a different class; better producers, people more in unison with the life and spirit of our civilization, and of our political and constitutional history.

But, Sir, if this speech is eloquent in these points in which ministers have made statements, it is equally eloquent in what it does not touch. These gentlemen are coming up to the end of their existence. The pangs of death have already caught hold of them. They have seen the thunderbolt flashing in the sky. They are coming up to the end of their political five years existence. Looking behind, they watch