

sales in this area from the beginning, some forty years ago, amount to 32,156 acres. No sales were permitted by the Government for a period of two years prior to the incorporation of the railway company, as can be seen by the Gazette of August, 1908, and April, 1909. The surveyed lands in this belt aggregate 192,000 acres, of which 63,000 acres are held by 360 pre-emption holdings, while another 30,000 acres are surveyed and available for pre-emptors.

"In addition to this there is a further area, now held by timber licenses, which will be thrown open as soon as the timber has been removed.

"I think you will agree with me, that whatever else these figures may demonstrate, they show that the policy of land sales pursued by this Government has not hampered or hindered settlement in any degree.

"I have told you that the total sales of land has been 5,222,000 acres; deducting from that the total sales in the three railway belts—847,000 acres—there is a balance left of 4,375,000 acres, representing lands sold outside of the six-mile belt in connection with any of these lines of railway, and this latter area is not land that is contiguous to the lines of railway in question. I ask you, did the purchasers of this land voluntarily elect to go at least three miles from the railway, or were they forced to do so by virtue of the policy of reserves created by this Government? It is in the comparatively inaccessible parts of this Province that the 'speculator is taking his chance,' to use a phrase which has become more or less familiar, where he is taking the certain chance of having to pay taxes and to hold on to his investment until the development of the Province, assisted by his own efforts, will put sufficient into his holdings to enable him to sell at a price sufficient to pay him for the moneys he has launched in his speculation.

EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS

"I think we have made progress, because a few years ago the Government might as a matter of policy have given away a grant of 5,000,000 acres of land as a railway subsidy without exciting any comment, and we have progressed so far that the sales of this quantity of land carried through ten years of administration, with advances in prices aggregating 400 per cent., although eighty per cent. of the land lies more than three miles from any railway constructed or in course of construction, meets with condemnation in some quarters.

"I believe the total cash payments received from land sales during the ten-year period amounted to \$12,000,000. If we assume