

made to the North West Territories of this country in the past summer. His Excellency undertook the very arduous duty of seeing for himself whether that great fertile plain lying to the north-west of the older provinces of Canada really merited the extraordinary representations that were made concerning it by the persons who had visited it, and had described it as being such a wheat producing and grain producing country. His Excellency has given us the benefit of his observations in a speech which he delivered on his return from the trip, in Winnipeg, in September or October last. The effect of His Excellency's observations given to the public in the manner in which they were, has no doubt had an excellent influence on the future of this country. We know that emigration agents are always suspected; they speak from an interested stand-point; they are anxious to shew the Government of the country that they have been zealous, and that their efforts are attended with good results. Consequently their utterances are always regarded with a good deal of suspicion; but the testimony of His Excellency the Governor General, given in the disinterested manner that it has, will no doubt redound to the very great benefit of the Dominion. We have seen that his speech was taken up by the *London Times*, and other journals that rarely had a good word to say for Canada on former occasions, and which did not hesitate to recommend the United States as a more favorable field for emigration as compared with Canada, and that they seconded the views of His Excellency, and began to point out, though late, that there was a vast area on this continent where the British people at all events might find a more congenial home than by settling in the neighboring republic. Therefore I think the thanks of the country are due to His Excellency for the trouble he has taken in visiting that country, and traveling over 8,000 miles, and publishing to the world his own convictions, and the deductions he was enabled to draw of its fertility, and its adaptability for settlement.

In reference to what was said as to the Indian policy, I am one of those who have always recognized the fact that we have not done as much for the Indians as we might. It is quite true that it is a considerable burden on the revenues of this country to pay so

large a sum every year as the result of our various treaties with the Indian tribes, but even from a financial point of view, it is more economical than if we had not treated them liberally. Our policy as compared with that of the United States, apart from the financial aspect of it, is the humane one. This vast country at one time belonged to the Indian tribes. It is quite true that various explorers took possession of portions of it in the names of their respective sovereigns, but it was really the country of those Indian tribes, and the true policy has been that pursued by the British people in fairly satisfying the Indians at all events for the land they surrendered. The amount we give to the various tribes is comparatively small, and it is diminishing every year in the older Provinces. Unfortunately contact with the white race has not always tended to the improvement of the red man, and the readiness with which whiskey can be obtained, is destroying the Indian tribes. The policy adopted a few years ago, and which I hope will be perpetuated in the North-West, will I believe, tend to elevate the red man and afford an opportunity to see whether he can be brought up to the plane of the other residents of the country. I myself have very little doubt that if we only persevere in the policy which has been inaugurated, of keeping spirituous liquors out of the great North-West, that it will be attended with success. I trust that in the Bill which my hon. friends promise, to divide up that country into several provisional territories, the regulations as to the sale of spirituous liquors will be preserved. I should have very much greater faith in the future of that country, if the principles on which we have already acted with reference to the keeping out of stimulants will be continued to be observed.

Reference has been made to the census of last year, and the probable re-distribution of the territorial boundaries of the constituencies of the House of Commons. I assume, as we have not a note of congratulation, that the Government are unable to say that the population of Canada has increased during the last ten years as rapidly as one would have hoped it would; otherwise, no doubt we would be treated to the usual congratulatory phrase—that Canada had made great progress.