

St. John. In discussing this and every other measure before Parliament, Sir, we shall exercise our right, our undoubted right, in perfect freedom to criticise with just as much severity as we think proper, every part of the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite, and they might as well refrain, in future, from these lectures of which we have had such an abundance to-night.

MR. McLENNAN: The hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Mackenzie) does not lecture, he scolds; and not only this House but the country. Perhaps he may have reason from his point of view. He has lately made several appeals to Ontario, but the farmers of Ontario have got away from him and beyond him; they have ceased to follow that Chinese lantern—the daily *Globe*: they have taken up the torn book of political experience; they know their own minds; their determination is fixed; they are sound to the core, and that's what is the matter. But, though the hon. member will not admit the principle of protection in the National Policy, he is full of that self-sufficiency which is the protection of narrow minds, and so he scolds this House and the country. The hon. member says we have got away from the question; no one has done so more widely than himself. I do not quite agree with my hon. friend from East York (Mr. Boulton), that the hon. member from Huntingdon (Mr. Seriver), has given no reason why emigrants should go to Minnesota and Dakota; he has given a good reason—the facility of access by railways to those States. It suggests a good reason for the use of all diligence on our part to reach our lands in the same way. We should have had that access now but for the halting policy of hon. gentlemen opposite, who went about constructing the two ends of the route between Thunder Bay and Red River, leaving a great gap of mud and water in the middle. The question of the land policy was opened, in a fair and temperate manner, by the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), and I think he was fairly and fully answered by the right hon. the First Minister. I think the statement in reply had the full approval of the House. With regard to speculation in the lands of the North-West, Sir, you cannot keep the speculator out, he will have his hand in land as in

everything that forms the subject of human enterprise or human cupidity; but the speculators are not a separate and hostile class; you hardly meet a settler who is not a speculator; he has preempted a lot adjoining his homestead in the name of his son or his daughter or perhaps some mythical member of his family, and holds it for sale to the next settler who comes along. Speculation is practiced by the poor man as well as by the richer man. Wherever there is much land there will be speculation. But I am glad to say that in the North-West there is land for all, and no danger that the speculator will monopolise it. The hon. member for Perth (Mr. Trow) complains that for forty miles beyond Winnipeg the land is taken up. Does he not know that it is taken up by the native half-breeds, and I presume with the approval of both the Governments that have dealt with the country. Then he says that the farmers beyond that (at Poplar Point and High Bluff) are so far from Winnipeg as to have no market for their grain. Well, I can tell him that now there are buyers of grain at the Portage, with a warehouse and all the modern appliances, and a steamer plying on the Assiniboine to carry away any surplus; but in fact the farmers of that locality—and there are fine farms and good farmers there—have this year got very good prices for their grain: 90c. for wheat, and 55c. for oats—a very high price for the great yield of their fields. I am glad to hear the hon. gentleman say that he does not wish to depreciate his own country; from his manner of comparison of our own lands with the lands of Minnesota and Dakota, I should have inferred that he intended to do so.

MR. SMITH (Selkirk): I have not had the advantage of hearing what has been said by most of the hon. gentlemen who have spoken, and do not intend to trespass much on the time of the House; but I would like to say a few words before voting, on this subject. With regard to these land regulations, I think, myself, that it was a very great misfortune that they appeared as they did in the first instance. I admit with pleasure, that they are much better, as they now stand than when they first came out. Still, they might, and I think ought to be very greatly improved.

MR. MACKENZIE.