

land, they got \$33,586 in scrip, they were allowed a rebate on account of 143 settlers of \$22,880 and on account of expenses, \$33,792.65. That is the kind of dealing that our friends opposite were meting out to these companies and their claiming to be working so much in the public interest. Hundreds of thousands of acres were thus tied up for five years. They were held by those incapables, who got from this country, not 250,000 acres of land but 438,000 acres and \$375,518 in scrip. Yet all the settlers they could bring in and place on these lands amounted to but 1243.

Mr. GUNN. Has the hon. gentleman dealt with the colonization company of which the late Honourable Alex. Mackenzie was such a conspicuous member?

Mr. CRAWFORD. I shall possibly be able to deal with that later on. I have here the contract which I am not aware was given to the House up to the present—the contract made with that Saskatchewan Valley Land Company we have heard so much about. Here is the contract made with an individual on behalf of his associates, a good, business, square proposition backed up by good guaranty, and I might just say that it is the only immigration contract which has been faithfully carried out by any company in connection with the settlement of our western lands. Here is the order in council dated May 24, 1902. I need not read the whole of it but will just read this portion:

On a report dated 9th May, 1902, from the Minister of the Interior, submitting that he had received the proposition of Mr. A. D. Davidson, of Duluth, Minnesota, on behalf of himself and his associates, Messrs. G. F. Piper, A. L. Warner, Geo. C. Howe, D. H. McDonald, and A. J. Adamson, for the purchase at the rate of \$1 an acre of the even-numbered sections in a tract of land situated along the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Railway, on condition of placing a certain number of settlers on lands in each of the townships affected.

The minister states that the commissioner of immigration and the general colonization agent have very strongly recommended the proposition of the favourable consideration of the department, particularly in view of the fact that the lands applied for have hitherto been entirely passed over by incoming settlers as not being of a sufficiently desirable quality to induce their taking them up for settlement purposes.

This contract deals with the same lands as were controlled by those companies to which I have previously referred and which, during five years, placed no settlers at all on them. This contract is dealing with the same lands.

The minister recommends, after giving the matter very careful consideration, that the proposition of Mr. Davidson and his associates be complied with to the following extent:

Here the townships are given from which

the lands are to be selected, but I shall dispense with reading that. Then the report goes on to say:

The area to be disposed of to the company is not to exceed in all 250,000 acres and the price is to be \$1 an acre.

That the purchasers shall deposit with the government the sum of \$50,000 as security for the carrying out of the conditions of the sale; the said amount to be retained by the government until all the lands have been earned, then this money shall be applied in payment of the last 50,000 acres of land.

It is agreed that the purchasers shall place twenty settlers on free homestead lands in each township, and twelve settlers on lands which may be sold by the purchasers before they shall be entitled to the remaining even-numbered sections; in other words, they shall be in each township twenty quarter sections to be settled on by homesteaders and twelve by the company on other sections which the settler may purchase to entitle the purchasers to buy from the department the balance of the even-numbered sections at the disposal of the Department of the Interior.

The department agrees that as soon as certain townships have been settled in accordance with this agreement, the purchasers may receive the balance of the lands to which they will be entitled in such townships under the agreement at \$1 per acre, with interest at four per cent beginning two years from this date to the date of such payment. No interest shall be allowed the purchasers by the department on the deposit of \$50,000.

The minister recommends, Mr. Davidson having signified his consent on behalf of himself and his associates to accept the above terms, and having duly deposited the stipulated sum of \$50,000 in scrip, that he be authorized to carry out the arrangement on the terms and conditions above set forth.

Here we have a clear cut business transaction, and it has proved a most successful one for that western country. There can be no question that, on entering into that contract, those people took hold of the work and did more to bring settlement into that country and create confidence in it than anything ever done before. That whole territory, which was held so many years by the friends of the Conservative party and not settled, became in a few short years, by virtue of this business transaction, completely settled and is sending out thousands of bushels of wheat every year. This scheme, Sir, has proved one of the most successful immigration schemes ever carried out in this country. In fact it is the only successful one in so far as immigration is concerned.

But to go a little further into the management of our western country under Conservative rule, let me refer to the first arrangement which that party put into definite shape in connection with the Northwest lands. Let me draw attention to the very first order in council, passed in 1879, when the Conservative government decided on a policy with regard to the lands of the terri-