

port of this House and of the country. The Dauphin district is one of the most fruitful in Manitoba, and it is, I am informed by those who have lived there, a portion of the country which has the good fortune to escape the early frosts from which some other portions suffer. It is in this respect very like the district immediately round Portage la Prairie, and I believe that this is caused by the north winds being moderated as they pass over those great bodies of water, Lakes Winnipegosis and Manitoba. Whatever the cause may be, it is a fact that the farmers in that country have hitherto escaped the fall frosts which have, in other portions, caused disaster. Such being the case, you will not be surprised to learn that immigrants have flocked in there at a very rapid rate, and the settlers there find themselves not only inconvenienced, but actually impoverished, by not being able to get the grain they grow to market. Consequently, I will gladly support the resolution of the Minister of the Interior to grant this aid to the road in question, more particularly so as, when completed, I hope it will be the first step in a complete railway from Winnipeg to Hudson Bay, which will give the farmers of Manitoba a short line to the European markets, and that is of very great consequence to them, as every cent they can save in freight is just so much more in their pockets. I would ask the members of this House from every province to consider this resolution coolly and apart from all party feeling, and if they do so, and if they inform themselves on the state of the country, I feel sure that they will be found voting for the resolution which is now under discussion.

Resolution reported.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 118) respecting the Citizens' Insurance Company (from the Senate).—Mr. Desjardins, (Hochelaga.)

PAPASHASE INDIAN RESERVE.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN moved the adjournment of the House,

Mr. WATSON. Before the motion is adopted I desire to call the attention of the House to a matter of special importance. It was my intention to have brought it forward last Friday, and I have not had an opportunity to do so since. It is important that it should be brought before the House now. I find by advertisements that an Indian reserve is about to be sold by public sale, the Papashase reserve lying immediately south of Edmonton. It is to be sold on 2nd July. The notice given has been very short, and this is a matter for the consideration of the House. It is not in the best interests of Canada, and it is certainly not in the interests of the North-West, that large tracts of land should be locked up in the hands of speculators. It appears to me from the notices given of the sale that there is a big job on deck. The block of land advertized to be sold covers 25,000 acres, and it is situated in a region of country which is represented to be very valuable. Accompanying the advertisement a map is sent, together with a description of the land. The description of the land is furnished without the signature of the engineer who made the report

Mr. MACDONALD (Winnipeg).

or the Dominion land surveyor, and I must say that, judging from the description given in the pamphlet, I do not think any person who knows anything about the country, or about a prairie country, would not be willing to give a dollar an acre for the land. It has been represented to me by gentlemen who know the section and the district that these lands are valuable—they are good lands. They are situated almost immediately at the terminus of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway, a road which is under construction and which will be completed this fall. I hold that these lands should not be sold until the public have had an opportunity of seeing them and having facilities for getting there by railway. I am satisfied the lands will be enhanced in value by the construction of the road, and a much larger price will be obtained for them if sold after the railway is completed in that section of the country than if they are sold to-day. I believe these lands have not been occupied by the Indians for two or three years, and it might be interesting to know what particular demands have been made on the department for the sale of the lands at this particular date. The lands cover 40 square miles, or 25,600 acres, and would accommodate 160 settlers with their families, with 160 acres each. It is a great mistake to dispose of these lands at so short and limited a notice, for I find that, outside of the hand bills, advertisements have only been inserted in the following papers: *Free Press*, Winnipeg, 6th June; *Calgary Herald*, 9th June; *Regina Journal*, 9th June; *Regina Leader*, 9th June. The advertisements have not appeared in the Prince Albert and Saskatchewan papers. The lands are to be sold at Calgary, 200 miles from the reserve, and from the information furnished to me it appears that some speculator interested in purchasing the lands must have succeeded in getting the Government to advertize the lands for sale before the public have a chance of inspecting them, before the railway is completed, and before the public, wishing to obtain lands in that vicinity, can visit the country. For that reason I bring this matter before the House. Hon. members must know from our past history, and members of the North-West know, that the system of disposing of large tracts to speculators has been antagonistic to the country, and for that reason I have thought fit to draw the attention of the House to this matter, which I consider one of great importance, for it means a very great loss to the Dominion treasury. I desire the Minister of the Interior to state what particular demand has been made for the sale of these lands, and what is the object of now selling the lands through which the railway will be completed in a very few months? It cannot be to the interest of the department to do so, because it would receive a very much larger sum for the land after the railway is completed than it could possibly receive at the present day.

Mr. DEWDNEY. I think the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Watson) has found a mare's nest. Two or three days ago the hon. gentleman met me in the corridor, and made a statement to me, which I did not take in a very serious manner, to this effect: He asked: What are you doing with the Indian lands near Edmonton, selling them? I replied, yes. The hon. gentleman answered that the description from the survey did not appear to