

the same contractor got the contract again, though I am not sure, and now they are building an indifferent sort of a station. Also, they engaged to build workshops for the railway where repairs could be made, and instead of putting the shops where the railroad comes in at Quebec, in the valley of the St. Lawrence where the railroad is, those shops were put in the valley of the St. Charles river, nowhere near the railway at all. I suppose some good friend had land there that he did not exactly know what to do with—the town-plot business having waned in Quebec as elsewhere—and the land was bought at a very good figure and the shops put there. What was to be done to connect the road and the shops? They have to go up the St. Lawrence 15 miles so as to get a grade to go down to the shops. The last Postmaster General, Hon. L. P. Pelletier, designed a scheme; he was going to find the heart of Quebec and was going to make a tunnel, and this tunnel was to join the valley of the St. Lawrence with the valley of the St. Charles River. Needless to say the tunnel was never started; therefore, I do not know what use those shops are to be, as they are erected to-day, because they are three or four or five miles away as the crow flies from the line. They will have to be connected by going fifteen miles up the St. Lawrence. In order to make connection they bought the line of another railway in order to have temporary access to those shops.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—Lots of graft.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—When first we discussed this question in this House many were more or less sceptical when I spoke of that clay belt—that wonderfully fertile plateau extending from lake Seul—extending west of Cochrane 400 miles and east of Cochrane about 200 miles. It was said there was nothing up there but muskeg, moss, rocks and so on. Although I had been there before, I had the advantage last June of going over that country in company with the premier of the province of Quebec, Sir Lomer Gouin, and the Hon. Honore Mercier, Minister of Colonization, Mines and Fisheries, and some of the officials of the department. We went to Cochrane—there was no other way of going, as the road was not in operation, and we had to go a roundabout way—and from Cochrane we travelled to Amos, passing the interprovincial line. There the Prime Minister expressed a desire of having some distinctive mark such as an arch, to show where Ontario

ends and Quebec begins. At Amos we saw an enterprising town with a town hall, a good sized church, several houses, a saw-mill, large stores, and a very prosperous population. That town is on the east bank of the Hurricana river, one of the most beautiful rivers I have ever had the opportunity of seeing. I would compare it, perhaps, to the Richelieu river above St. John, or the Richelieu immediately after it leaves lake Champlain. The shores are just about the same height, 13, 14 or perhaps 20 feet above the level of the river. We went up in the steamboat from the railway, up that river expanding in some places, and breaking out in beautiful, lovely lakes, and on each side settlers were clearing land with the greatest facility. The clearing is most easy in that part of the country, because the roots of the trees do not go deeply in the soil, but go just through the humus of the ground; when these roots come to the clay bottom they spread into what the French call "plaqué." When a fire has passed through, the roots are pretty well burned out, and clearing is most easy. I was told by settlers there that they could clear four acres of land as easily as they could clear one acre in the other parts of the province of Quebec.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—That indicates poor soil.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—I hear the voice of Manitoba; they are jealous because they envy the many thousands and millions of acres of good land we have up there. Now that immense plateau, with a length of say 600 miles and an average width of 100 miles, is a tremendous area; it would make no less than 1,700 townships. It may be interesting to note that we have to-day in the Northwest, actually surveyed and laid out, in the three provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, 8,000 townships. As a township is six miles square, it may be stated that in no other country, not even Argentina or the Steppes of Russia, has such an extensive system of survey been carried on as in these territories I have just mentioned. If those 8,000 townships were placed one after the other, they would go twice around the earth at the Equator; that is, there are 24,000 miles to go around at the equator, and it would take 4,000 townships to go once around, and the other 4,000 townships would make the other belt around; or it would make a belt 12 miles wide going once around the earth. All that area has been surveyed and occupied, hence 1,700 townships is not so very extensive, but