

7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

A. The barren lands are largely due to the absence of soil. There is nothing but rocks and moss, but in the hollows have been discovered spruce trees over a foot in diameter. This year Mr. Stewart was down at the mouth of the Mackenzie in latitude 68° and found some very fine trees growing there, and within the Arctic circle they are actually raising potatoes.

By Mr. Jackson (Selkirk):

Q. Where will we find your report of 31 years ago?

A. It is in the Geological Survey report.

Q. I mean of your trip to the country 300 miles north of Battleford?

A. It is in the Geological Survey report.

Q. You were never there since?

A. I was never there since. But, gentlemen, let me say this to you as a last word. I am trying to create interest in that North land, and I am speaking on this subject because I am getting to be an old man, and when I am dead and many of you are dead, the people of Canada will begin to discover that that North land is to Canada precisely what Germany was to the Romans. It was hyperborean climate and supposedly unfit for mortal beings to live in, and yet to-day Germany is one of the strongest nations in the world. That is going to be the outcome of Canada. We have more than half a continent, and if we can raise first-class wheat and first-class women, certainly we ought to raise first-class men.

The Committee adjourned.

JOHN MACOUN,
*Naturalist, and Assistant Director
Geological Department.*