

of 1887 was appointed for the purpose of ascertaining the possibility of development in the growth of food products in the whole Northwest but collected valuable information about the country north of the Saskatchewan watershed. The Committee of 1888 was appointed for the special purpose of collecting evidence from every available source on the Great Mackenzie Basin.

Though the information contained in the Reports of these two Committees as to the possibilities of development in this then little-known portion of Canada was most striking, the fact that there were then and for many years afterwards immense areas of fertile prairie land available for settlement in the country along and contiguous to the Canadian Pacific Railway main line and its branches prevented public attention being drawn to the more remote territory referred to. The reports of these two Committees were about a year ago republished by this Branch of your Department in a convenient form for public information under the title "The Great Mackenzie Basin," and the demand for copies has been so great as to demonstrate the very general interest at present in the subject of Canada's undeveloped hinterland.

In the year 1905 I had the honour of drawing to your attention statements and maps I had prepared showing that the tide of immigration into the prairie west South of the Saskatchewan River then reaching quite large proportions, and which has been very much augmented in each succeeding year since that time, would at no distant date exhaust the available land for free homesteads. It therefore appeared advisable to endeavour to obtain as full and up-to-date information as possible of the north country with a view to undertaking exploration of those portions most likely to be attractive to settlement. I had also a map prepared which I had the honour of submitting to your attention showing all then available information about the north country. It was in consequence of these representations that the motion for a Select Committee was made by the Hon. T. O. Davis in the Senate, and that the Committee was appointed under his chairmanship in the year 1907. The result of this Committee's work has become widely known mainly through the publication by this Department of its report in a special edition with maps under the title "Canada's Fertile Northland."

Copies of this publication are now to be found in leading libraries in every civilized country and upwards of 10,000 copies have been distributed to individual applicants. A new edition under the title "The New Northwest" and with the sub-title "The Senate Report of 1907" is now in press to meet the demand for copies which continues unabated.

This report of Mr. Cream's explorations is also proposed to be published under the same title and with the sub-title "Report of Explorations by Frank J. P. Cream C.E."

I have the honour; to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. E. YOUNG,

Chief Geographer and Superintendent
Railway Lands