

this country from the harvest of this year; and I submit as a basis of calculation that it is safe to estimate that the increase in the acreage to be placed under wheat crops this year will be 25 per cent. greater than in 1889.

The area under cultivation has increased at the rate of 25 per cent. in each of the two past years, and from all reports received of the new land broken last summer we may expect that the same rate of progress was made in 1889; we may therefore safely assume the area of land under wheat crop for 1890 at 775,000 acres; which should give, with an average yield, not less than 15,000,000 bushels of wheat for export. Then the reduction of 3 cents per 100 lbs. on this quantity of wheat would be a saving of \$270,000.00 to the farmers of this country. This may seem a trivial matter to the one or two Hon. members who adversely criticised the maximum rate, but will be considered by the thrifty Manitoba farmer as a very material saving in the Provincial household. In this calculation I have not included the millions of bushels of Oats, Barley and other grains similarly affected by the reduced rates, which if included would swell the total amount to a very large sum saved to the Province by this first fruit of the railway competition secured by the N. P. & M. R. contract.

The Honorable member for Cypress is reported as having stated to the House a few days ago, that even on the basis of the 1887 crop the entrance of the N. P. & M. R. would not have effected a saving of \$20,000.00 to the farmers of this Province. It is well known that in that year we exported from this Province 10,500,000 bushels of wheat which at the reduction of 3 cents per 100 lbs. guaranteed us by the N. P. & M. R. contract would mean a saving to the farmers of fully \$189,000.00! And I am very much surprised that the Hon. gentleman should make statements so evidently at variance with facts on a matter of such simple calculation, and would suggest to the Hon. gentleman that he would not impair his influence with this Legislature if he would spend more time in verifying his statistics and less time on his feet on the floor of the House while it is in Session.

The saving we will effect this year (by the reduction in freight rates) on the crop I have just estimated, will pay the bonus to the N. P. & M. R. for eight years to come, and such a saving repeated for three years would more than pay the entire bonus.