

purpose. Mr. Davis referred to the large influx of settlers into the district through which the Ontario and Rainy River Railway passed, and the benefits following the construction of the railway from the development and opening up the rich mineral and forestal resources. He predicted that the large fertile area tapped by the Rainy River would be largely settled within the next three or four years. So far as the department over which he presides was concerned, plans were being laid for every possible effort being made to turn the tide of settlement into the Rainy River District. He was glad to be able to say a word in praise of the enterprise shown by Messrs. Mackenzie and Mann who had given the good assurance that they would give to bona fide settlers perhaps the best and most favorable terms ever given by any railway company in Canada. He said the country owed much to Mackenzie and Mann to whom he paid a tribute as Canadian boys, brought up in our own land, men who had to hew their own way in the world and had displayed great enterprise and public spirit. In conclusion, Mr. Davis conveyed to the gathering a message of regret from Honorable Geo. W. Ross, who was prevented from being present by the pressure of business, preparatory to the Session of the Legislature.

The President of the Road.

Mr. William Mackenzie said he desired to speak as one who had encountered many difficulties in seeing the project in hand brought to a satisfactory conclusion. The firm of Mackenzie and Mann had, he said, met with great difficulty in getting the road started. The bonus originally granted was insufficient to enable them to get capital to carry on the enterprise but by the help of the people of that section of the country, and of the legislature, they had at last succeeded in getting such aid as enabled them to commence work with confidence in their ability to finish it. In this connection he desired also to refer to the presence of a gentleman representing one of the largest financial institutions in the country, Mr. Byron E. Walker, and to express appreciation of the great pluck and enterprise shown by him and his institution in assuming a share of the responsibility of opening up and developing the country by backing up the Canadian Northern. Their help was of material assistance in the expedition of the undertaking and early completion of the work. Mr. Mackenzie expressed the hope that the future would show that the confidence his partners and himself had shown in the property would be realized, that it would be of great service to the people in answering their needs and the purpose for which it was constructed, and that it would continue to be in reality what it had been called in Winnipeg last winter, "The People's Railway."