

the probable increase in the settlement of the North-West, as to the probable profits that might be made out of the sale of lands in the North-West, in consequence of that settlement, and very naturally told us that that prophecy had been very far indeed from being fulfilled. Well, Sir John is not the only statesman who has prophesied with regard to our proceedings in the North-West. Other prominent statesmen have prophesied about the Canadian Pacific Railway—one gentleman indulged in remarkable predictions—I do not remember the figures, but they were so large that they were almost beyond the power of man to conceive, certainly beyond the power of man to count—as to the time which would be required for the construction of a railway across the continent, and the amount of money that would be spent in building it. I suppose great statesmen are fallible, like everybody else, and the prophecy which my hon. friends opposite have been criticising has been answered in this way—whether truly or not, I do not know; my hon. friends will say, no doubt, not correctly—that one of the great and most effectual causes which has prevented the settlement of the North-West has been the fault which some of our own people have been in the habit of finding with the prospects of emigrants who should go to the North-West. This proposition has been put before the House on former occasions. We discussed it at considerable length last Session. I do not wish to provoke a discussion on it now; I merely wish to state, as my hon. friends have raised it, in a few words, my position, and the position of our friends on that point. My hon. friends opposite say that the settlement of the North-West is progressing very slowly, that it does not come up to Sir John's prophecy, or to our expectations by any means. Whose fault is it? Who tells the world generally that there is some monopoly in the North-West which would prevent any man making a living there? Then, our land laws were said to be so bad that settlers would not go there, and the people were told that they were worse than the land laws in the States on the other side of the line. It was something like a man who prophesies and goes to work to fulfil his prophecy. In this instance my hon. friends opposite controverted the prophecy of Sir John Macdonald, and then went to work to prevent its realization. That is our

view of it. My hon. friends also made some other statements about this question. One hon. gentleman said: "Look at Dakota! Look at those north-western States, how rapid their progress has been compared with ours!" I have no hesitation in saying that it is so: they have made greater progress of late years than we have. They have some advantages.

HON. MR. PERLEY—Half of them are starving to death now.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—In the first place there were no men or body of men who occupied themselves in presenting the disadvantages of taking up land in Dakota. I have not found that it has been the characteristic of any body of men in the United States to find fault with their own country, or try to prevent the prosperity or settlement of any portion of it, whether from a desire to destroy the Government, for instance, or from any motive whatever. No such policy has been developed by any party in the United States. There is another reason, also, which is perhaps stronger than the one I have stated, though the one I have mentioned no doubt has had great influence, and that is that these States are filled by the surplus population of a community of 60,000,000 of people *plus* what emigration may go to those North-West Territories, and which is distributed more or less all over it. Our settlements in the North-West are formed by the surplus population of a people of 5,000,000 *plus* the immigration we are able to obtain. I am happy to say, and the census will prove it, that the increase in the population of Manitoba and the North-West has been greater than those two causes could produce—I mean to say, immigration from Europe; because it has been largely increased by immigration from the south side of the line, and that is going on in a greater degree now than it has ever before, because those who found fault with our country and recommended Montana and Dakota as places of settlement by preference over the North-West, because of monopoly, bad land laws and the like—those people who went there on these representations are now coming back to the North-West and settling there, where they find that the expense of carriage and transport is not so great as in their own country, and where they find that the land