

difficulties with regard to our food. The point I want to bring out to you is, what was the alternative? It was not to look to our own dominions, it was not to draw attention to the fertile lands waiting for cultivation by English hands, but the alternative proposition to get us out of our difficulties was that we should persuade Egypt to grow wheat. I think it would be advantageous if this Institute would look into these questions, and consider a little more what are our own necessities in these islands, coupled with the fact that, with a rapidly increasing population, there are 800,000 acres less under cultivation in England now than there were twenty years ago. The population is increasing, and it is well to bear in mind that, taking the inhabitants of these islands at 93,000,000, 15,000,000 in these islands are wholly and solely dependent for their food upon what we can get across the sea. If we are to be self-reliant and self-supporting, it does appear to me that the development of the lands in our hands is a question not concerning a particular district, but the Empire, and particularly the people of this kingdom. (Applause.)

The PRESIDENT, in summing up the proceedings, said: I should like to remark upon what Captain French said. I have no doubt he spoke sincerely and truly in what he observed, but I should hope that he was not fortunate in the season in which he made those observations, because I agree with Sir Henry Lefroy that Mr. Sandford Fleming's character and manner impress one most strongly with the conviction of the truth of what he says and the soundness of his opinions. (Hear, hear.) He has been very cautious, I should say, in the statement he has made, and I should think he never made a statement without being justified in making it, and that he did so without any exaggeration whatever. (Hear, hear.) You will have noticed, probably, in the paper read—and he has mentioned the facts with perhaps greater detail in "Ocean to Ocean," a book describing his journeys across the Continent, and I am quite sure that he has good and sufficient grounds for what he has stated—in speaking of the country which he travelled over, between Lake Superior and the Rocky Mountains, he said there were 300 million acres of land, about 150 millions of which were profitable for farming, tillage, or grazing. Of that, 80 millions was fit for tillage; and he remarks that 47 million acres is the extent of the United Kingdom, including water and land of all sorts—47 million acres being very little more than half of what is supposed to be fit for tillage in this district. As to the climate, I think from what I have heard of it—I have not experienced a Canadian winter, but I have always heard from everybody who