

drainage is made throughout the country, this land which is to-day not fit for settlement will much of it become fit for settlement. Who will make the improvements? The settlers. Whom do the settlers belong to? The province in which the lands are located, and if the province makes the improvements in those lands which are not settled to-day and increases them in value, will the province not claim to be entitled to the increased value resulting from its expenditure and labour? Will that not be regarded as a very important grievance in the future? I think it will be. The land for which we give these new provinces a return we estimate at the value of \$1.50 an acre. Much of this land, if held back, may increase to \$8, \$10 or \$12 an acre. Will the province be satisfied with the moiety of the return which they get to-day? I do not think they will. They will be applying for a larger subsidy in lieu of that land, or for the land which ought to belong to them; because the British North America Act, I submit, contemplated that every acre of public land in each province should belong to the province when it came into the confederation. The hon. gentleman says the present system is very satisfactory, but they have never been able to test any other system, because it is the only one that has been in effect.

How long will they remain satisfied when they are set apart as provinces of their own and have an opportunity of testing the other system, such as Manitoba has had for several years? Every year they will be coming back and complaining that while they were treated with apparent liberality, there was really no liberality at all and what belonged to them was withheld. They will point out to the increased value of these lands given to them by their labour, which increased value inures only to the benefit of the federal government, and they will continually be demanding a readjustment of the financial arrangement. We have heard some members of the Northwest say that the people are perfectly satisfied, but if so, why are they sending petitions and resolutions against these land clauses? Years ago I put myself on record with regard to this very question when I claimed that the province of Manitoba should be given its own land, and I take the same position to-day.

At six o'clock, committee took recess.

After Recess.

Committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. BLAIN. The discussion of clause No. 20 has brought out certain statements that, I think, do not do justice to the province of Ontario. The Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) has ventured to say that this province has not been spending a dollar

towards the location of settlers in the northern district. The hon. gentleman is not well informed on that point. If he will study the history of provincial government in Ontario, he will learn that year after year that government has been spending a considerable amount of money surveying new districts and locating settlers. I have here a report on the province prepared by the direction of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, and published in 1903, containing a great deal of valuable information, and showing that the government of the province have devoted a good deal of attention to settling our northern districts. This shows that the agricultural lands explored in the several districts of northern Ontario are as follows:

Agricultural lands explored.

	Acres.
Nipissing..	1,920,000
Algoma..	11,200,000
Thunder Bay..	2,560,000
Rainy River..	384,000

I do not say that all this land is suitable for agriculture, but if we are to believe this report—and I suppose it cannot be questioned—a considerable portion of it is farming land. We know that during the discussion on the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Bill in this House last session and the session before much stress was laid by hon. members on the other side of the House upon the fact that a large and valuable clay belt, heretofore unknown, existed in the northern part of Ontario comprising many millions of acres of valuable land. There have been located and sold in New Ontario, during 1901, according to the returns of the Crown land agents, farms of some 100 to 160 acres each to the number of 2,541, amounting to 330,000 acres, and representing a population of nearly 10,000 souls. These official figures, however, do not fully represent the total influx of people into New Ontario. Let me give a comparison of the increase of population in the northern part of this province:

	1891.	1901.	Increase
Muskoka and Parry Sound	6,919	45,356	38,437
Nipissing..	1,791	36,552	34,761
Algoma..	7,018	63,669	56,651
Total..	15,728	145,577	129,849

So my hon. friend will see that the province of Ontario has not altogether neglected the settlement of the northern districts. Then it is to be borne in mind that the provincial government are constructing a railway, largely at the cost of the province, from North Bay northward to the Timiskaming district, which will open up a large area for settlement. Concerning the Timiskaming country, let me read a short extract from this report:

The Timiskaming country forms the south-eastern extremity of the great clay belt, the existence of which was established by the extensive explorations undertaken by the provincial,