

builds a house (and we will not be particular as to the size and quality), and has cultivated a reasonable portion of the soil, he gets his patent free, and will stand one of the freeholders of this great country of freeholders. (Cheering.) We are going to aid colonization companies who show they have the capital, that they mean business, and that they do not intend to become mere middlemen and to speculate at the expense of the immigrant by holding the lands at a high price. We will, I say, assist such companies who will give the necessary guarantees to the Government that they are in earnest, and that they mean to bring the immigrant and put him on the land. (Cheering.) Then, gentlemen, we are going to sell certain portions of that land, and fund the proceeds, and out of those proceeds we are going to pay the interest, and ultimately the principal, of every dollar that the Dominion of Canada has expended or will expend in building the railway and developing the country.

The following is a summary of Mr. Biggar's opinion of Manitoba :—

“As Manitoba is only the beginning of the immense extent of fertile country which extends to the foot of the Rocky Mountains, we can hardly do more than say that we have had our foot in the north-west. The British possessions in North America are larger than the whole of Europe, and larger than the United States, without Alaska; and as the wheat region through which the Canada Pacific Railway will pass is estimated to contain 160 million acres, the Canadians may well be enthusiastic over their possessions. None of the delegates went west of Rapid City, but the country south to the Assiniboine is reported good dry land, water good, and timber scarce. At Shoal Lake, forty miles north-west, the land is similar, and on to Fort Ellice and the Touchwood Hills. At Edmonton, 850 miles the land is said to be undulating and of the finest description, and those who have visited the Peace River describe it as the finest country of the whole, and say that notwithstanding its high latitude it grows wheat well, while, owing to its situation on the east slope of the Rocky Mountains, the climate is much milder than in much lower latitudes. But I may say that while it is in the same latitude as Scotland, the summer is similar to that of Belgium. The land is surveyed in sections of a mile square, or 640 acres; half of these sections, corresponding to the white squares of a draught board, are reserved as railway lands, and sold at fixed prices according to distance from the line of railway. The sections corresponding to the black squares are reserved as free grant lands, each settler receiving 160 acres on payment of a nominal sum, and with power to buy 160 more on easy terms, the price varying from \$1 to \$2½ per acre. On the whole, Mr. Biggar was favourably impressed with Manitoba. No one could doubt that there was a great future before the country.

