

east we stopped off at Regina, the capital of the Territories; on invitation of the Mayor and citizens we visited the common and high schools, also the Indian industrial school, and expressed our admiration of them and the noble work they are doing. We examined this district thoroughly; no richer soil than here. North and south of here are fine stock sections, stock living out almost the entire year. We hear nothing of hard times here. From here we went north 250 miles, over a first-class railroad, to Prince Albert, in the Saskatchewan valley. We examined (as far as our time would permit) this district very carefully; we found here plenty of timber for all purposes, water in abundance, rivers, lakes, and well-water of first-class quality, at depths of from 10 to 50 feet. Rich, mellow soil, producing a luxuriant growth of grasses of the most nutritious kinds—in short, a first-class country for mixed farming, having now good railway facilities, and where good prices are had for stock and all kinds of farm products. There is plenty of free homestead land here. We wish to lay stress on this fact, that we met farmers all over Manitoba and the North-West that came here poor ten years ago and are now rich, while the very reverse of this has been the case of the farmers of South Dakota."

Wherever we drove, every hour or two, we met men on buckboards, all bent on locating themselves in that district. Many had driven across from North Dakota, and of whom we have no means of keeping a record. We can only keep an account of those who are transported on the railway. We found from conversation with those people that they had simply driven across and got on as best they could. Thousands of copies of the reports of those men have been printed and circulated. When taking their departure from Winnipeg they said: "Webster, when you come down we will give you a month each one of us, driving you over the country in which we live, for the treatment we have received at the hands of the railway officials and citizens generally. We feel ourselves under that much obligation, and will leave nothing undone, as far as our personal influence is concerned, to get our neighbours into this country." The colony I have referred to, the South Dakota colony, at what we call Lake Sheho, contains to-day about 155 souls. Two weeks ago I received a letter from Winnipeg stating that five families had arrived with their effects from Aberdeen on the way to Yorkton, and the tide of immigration is now setting in. I may say we have now 257 in that colony. They had journeyed from Aberdeen, having lived in the counties of Macpherson, Brown and Marshall, in the district styled by the local papers "The Garden of the Earth." We hope that with the evidence we have now and the influence of the colonists already settled in Canada that the number of emigrants who will leave Dakota during the next year will be surprising. I was just going to tell the Committee that the day before I left Winnipeg I went to Mr. Eden, of the Manitoba and North-Western Railway, and Mr. Hamilton, Dominion Land Commissioner, and said: "I would like to know from you before going down east how many emigrants have passed through. I know only from the point of shipping at Aberdeen we have 257." They were both positive, they stated, that over a thousand had come over this spring up to that time—that is, from South Dakota.

By Mr. DAVIN.—Into Manitoba and the North-West?—A. Yes. There is one very gratifying thing, Mr. Chairman, and that is that every man we brought over as a delegate has made his home in Manitoba or is going to. There are the Chutes, the McCallums, the Hoovers, Lonsberry, Petit, Williams, the Kettles and Hansen. Jack Hansen is a Norwegian, well known in South Dakota, and supposed to control a township called the Township of Willow. When Hansen was on the point of leaving there, this last spring, they persecuted him in every possible way. When I asked one of the citizens the reason of this, he said that "if Jack pulled out, the others would follow, and there would be nobody left." When I was down there we undertook to give assistance to many people who were in debt, and but for the assistance rendered by the Canada Homestead and North-West Land Company, we could not have moved many of them out. They were in this position: The land had no value and they could not sell it. I can buy 50 quarter-sections with pretty fair buildings on them, in South Dakota, which I could sell to any member of this Committee for \$25. It was the same with their stock and farming implements. Chattels