

And, Mr. Chairman, if you would like to know what were the main causes of this extraordinary stagnation and depopulation, I may say they were these three leading causes—the ill-advised railway policy by which if ever the end was sacrificed to the means, followed by a still worse land policy which appears to have been designed for the express purpose of preventing settlement and fostering speculation, while on top of it all we had a fiscal policy of all others the most ill-suited for the development of the Northwest.

From all which I am justified in making the deduction that Canada was extremely ill-governed during these fifteen years, and I repeat that I doubt if you can find any country with equal advantages presenting so had a record for an equal length of time.

IMPOSTORS' LIE NAILED

Now I do not say that unrestricted reciprocity is needed now, but when I hear these impostors talk of the thirty years' prosperity which Canada has enjoyed from 1878 to the present time, I nail the lie to the counter. Thirteen years' prosperity we have had, and had our policy been adopted in 1888, we would have had twenty-three. We would have gained many a million, and we would have been spared the loss of many thousands of our best and most enterprising citizens.

But after all, the main question for you to decide is not who were to blame for the twenty years of stagnation that I have referred to, but why Canada should not have a free exchange of natural products with the United States. Sir, it appears to me that in this case the onus is entirely on our opponents to say why Canada should not have it; to say why our farmers should not have two customers instead of one; why they should not obtain, if they could, better prices for their wheat, rye, oats, huckwheat, barley, peas, beans, cattle, potatoes, fruit, apples, eggs and poultry, and everything else they have to sell. Let them say why our fishermen should not obtain more for their fish or our lumbermen more for their lumber. And if they cannot give a satisfactory answer, let them now and forever hold their peace.

EDUCATE DEGENERATE SUCCESSORS

Mr. Chairman, I can well imagine the just scorn with which Sir John Macdonald, Sir Alexander Galt, Sir Francis Hincks, or even Sir Charles Tupper, in his better days, would have regarded their degenerate successors had they asked them such a question. Sir, they would have said at once, send these babes to school; let them be taught that Canada is a part of North America; that it borders the United States for 3,000 miles; that the United States surrounds Canada on the most thickly inhabited part of Canada on three sides; that a line drawn from the north-west angle of the Lake of the Woods to the north-east corner of the State of Maine, would pass just 300 miles north of Toronto. Let them be taught that with the exception of the Esquimaux we have no other neighbor than the United States nearer than 3,000 miles; that these United States contain 95,000,000 of people and a people among the most intelligent and progressive