

APPENDIX No. 4

Q. That is pretty nearly north is it not?

A. Yes.

There is another point mentioned to me by a gentleman which is something extraordinary. At Fort Simpson, on the Mackenzie, potatoes form their balls as they did long ago and at the government experimental farm they have some of those balls growing—or at least they had potatoes growing from those balls and they are trying to raise new varieties. This year the government sent one or two of our men out to the northern country and one of them went here. This is Cedar lake. He went as far as Split lake and then he turned southwesterly. Now Split lake is 440 feet above the sea and he went southwesterly until he came into a country that he tells me is 100 miles in breadth and 200 long and consists of first-class soil.

By an Hon. Member:

Q. Is it level?

A. Level and well suited for agriculture. It was a revelation to me.

By Mr. Jackson (Selkirk):

Q. Is that on the road to Prince Albert?

A. No, on the Canadian Northern route to Fort Churchill.

Q. That would be just north of Lake Winnipeg then?

A. More to the east.

Q. To the east?

A. To the west, I mean. All this land in here is first-class land. I know it to be first-class.

By Mr. Martin (Queen's, P.E.I.):

Q. Have you any opinion about Great Slave lake?

A. Yes. When you get in from Great Slave lake, away from the water, the land is all right. This point is Green lake, and that is where I got potatoes. On the 30th September the tops were green. It is 300 miles north of here.

By Mr. Jackson (Selkirk):

Q. North of Battleford?

A. North of Battleford.

Q. They raise good potatoes?

A. First-class potatoes and what is more, they have a mill for grinding wheat there—a tread-mill for making flour. I found that out 31 years ago.

Q. Who is settled there?

A. It is the Roman Catholic Mission.

By Mr. Ross (Yale-Cariboo):

Q. That was not during a recent trip?

A. Oh, no. Just to show you the fallacious ideas that were formerly held, I may say that I went to the Minister of the Interior a long time ago, and he maintained that the Northern Saskatchewan country was no good. I said to him, 'Do you think that the heat stops there?'

By Mr. Bergeron:

Q. Do you mean to say they can grow potatoes there?

A. Why of course they can. And is there anything to interfere with their growing wheat? None whatever. It is not the summer frosts that is the trouble, but the local frosts caused by the peculiar conditions which we had in Ontario forty or fifty years ago. It is the local conditions that have got to be changed.

By Mr. Lewis:

Q. How far north of Battleford do the barren lands begin?