

distributed. If one per cent. only of the funds now in the Savings Banks in the United Kingdom and Ireland were annually devoted to this purpose, it would require 27 years to occupy these lands. The emigrant would have to be conveyed to the District Agencies beyond Manitoba, and south of the North Saskatchewan, through the St. Lawrence Route, which would give a great impetus to the construction of that portion of the Pacific Railway which lies between Lake Superior and Red River and beyond, through the valley of the Assiniboine and Pipestone Creek.

The beautiful map published by the Department of the Interior in March, 1878, and bearing your name as Surveyor-General, contains the following estimates on the subject of available land in the North-West.

	Acres.
“Vast region, generally excellent soil with abundance of wood and water; proved to be admirably adapted to the growth of cereals, especially wheat.....	176,910,000
“Mixed prairie and timber land rather light, but produces fair crops, good grazing lands.....	80,000,000
Total of Agricultural land.....	256,910,000”

or, throwing off 910,000 acres, there are according to your estimate, about 400,000 square miles of available agricultural land in the North-West, with no inhabitants, or more than three times the area of the United Kingdom and Ireland, with thirty-four millions of inhabitants crowding one another, and a million of them crying for bread.

The area lying north of the Saskatchewan, watered by the Beaver River, the Athabasca and Peace Rivers, will probably be best reached ultimately by the Hudson's Bay and Nelson River Route.

Time will be required to open out this short cut to the Far West and across the continent.

Until that line of communication is opened, the St. Lawrence Valley will be the route followed.

It is evident that the principle and method outlined in the foregoing sketch can be applied in many different ways. Societies already existing, or formed for the purpose, duly recognized by the Canadian Government, might be empowered to grant nominations to farming lots on similar conditions, the Canadian Government always possessing and retaining the necessary security to prevent misappropriation, by holding the title of the land until one year or more after settlement.

Very truly yours,
HENRY Y. HIND.

OTTAWA, 4th November, 1878.

Colonel DENNIS,
Surveyor General, Dominion Lands,
Ottawa.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 30th October, asking for any information I might possess in reference to the navigation of Hudson's Bay, I can only say that it would afford me very great pleasure to be able to add in any way to the valuable testimony of Professor Hind, given during the last Session of Parliament. I am afraid, however, that I can throw no additional light upon this very important subject. Five years ago I published a little brochure upon the North-West, and at page 5 therein will be found some reference to the navigation of “James Bay.” I am