

connection with the acquisition of the North-West Territories in order that we may see precisely what the hon. gentleman had marked out and expected to accomplish. There was in the first place the payment of \$1,460,000 to the Hudson's Bay Company; there are the surveys and the management of lands, \$4,000,000; the expense annually upon Indians in the North-West in the extinguishment of the Indian title that, under the management of the hon. gentleman, represents a capitalised sum of \$25,000,000; the first rebellion, \$1,000,000; the second rebellion, \$4,750,000, the millions that might be charged to the North-West in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway, representing altogether an annual charge something in excess of \$4,000,000; and up to this moment the hon. gentleman by his management, by the policy he has pursued in the North-West Territories, has succeeded during eight years in securing a net sum of \$500,000. The First Minister told us in 1880 that the lands were a sacred trust, that the Government intended to economise the resources of the North-West Territories, and to apply the funds derived from the sale of those lands to the extinguishment of the Canadian Pacific Railway debt and for the obliteration of those burdens that were incurred in connection with the acquisition of that territory. Well, let us ask how far the expectations of the First Minister have been realised. He, in fact, said to the people four or five years ago: In the North-West you have a great estate; put the management of that estate in our hands, give us a large sum of money to expend upon it, place \$100,000,000—for that is what he has practically asked—at our disposal for the improvement of that estate, and we will manage it in such a way that in fifteen years we will wipe out the whole of the burden that has been incurred. In fact, the hon. gentleman assured us that there was to be no permanent burden incurred in connection with the acquisition of the North-West Territory. I wish to call the attention of the House to this fact—and I have briefly stated some of the more prominent points connected with the policy of the hon. gentleman—how large a portion of this expenditure has been altogether unnecessary. In fact, the greater portion of it is due to the mismanagement of the North-West affairs. Take, for instance, the case of surveys. The hon. gentleman has expended at least \$3,000,000 more than was necessary for that purpose. If the rebellions are due to the misconduct, the mismanagement, the maladministration of public affairs, then there has been upwards of \$5,000,000 upon that; and there has been, through the carelessness and indifference in the conduct of Indian affairs, an addition of \$15,000,000 actually to the capitalised sum of that extent when fairly considered. Now, if we look at the surveys and at the sale of public lands, we will see how much out of all proportion the surveys have been to the actual requirements of the public service. Down to 1873, there were surveyed 4,700,000 acres, and there were disposed of as homesteads, by sale and pre-emption, 212,000 acres. In 1874, 4,000,000 acres were surveyed, and 3,400,000 acres disposed of. In 1875, the surveys were 665,000 acres, and the sale 156,000 acres. In 1876, the surveys were 420,000 acres, and the sales 132,000 acres. In 1877, the surveys were 231,000 acres, and the sales 423,000 acres. In 1878, 306,000 acres were surveyed, and the sales were 709,000 acres. In 1879, 1,130,000 acres were surveyed, and the sales were 1,096,000 acres. In 1880, the hon. gentleman surveyed 4,472,000 acres, and sold 682,000 acres. In 1881, he surveyed upwards of 9,000,000 acres, and sold 1,000,000 acres. In 1882, he surveyed 9,460,000 acres, and sold 2,600,000 acres. In 1883, he surveyed 27,000,000 acres, and sold 1,831,000 acres. In 1884, he surveyed 6,400,000 acres and sold 1,000,000 acres. In 1885 he surveyed 39,000 acres and sold 481,000 acres. So that the hon. gentleman, up to the close of last year, surveyed, with what was surveyed during the

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period of his predecessors, nearly 70,000,000 acres, and he nominally disposed of less than 11,000,000 acres. When I say 11,000,000, that represents a very much larger area than the actual sales, for the hon. gentleman knows that there are a large number of homesteads taken up every year that are cancelled, and in fact the number of cancelled homesteads became so great that the hon. gentleman ceased to give those as portion of the report from the Department of the Interior. I find that, according to the reports from the Department of the Interior, the homesteads taken up cover an area of 5,193,000 acres, and yet it is no exaggeration to say, looking at the reports that have actually come to us in the few years in which reports of the cancellations were given, that 30 per cent. of this area at least has been cancelled. What are the facts? The hon. gentleman has surveyed a larger area of country than at the present rate of settlement would be occupied for the next sixty years. What I wish to call the attention of the House to is that this was altogether unnecessary, that the expense need not have been incurred; that the hon. gentleman, when he came into office, changed the whole plan of surveying the North-West Territories, and not only produced serious dissatisfaction amongst the settlers by the adoption of the policy he entered upon, but incurred a needless expenditure, and surveyed large areas of the country that will be required to be surveyed again before the country is settled. In fact, the interest upon the money spent on surveying will exceed the principal sum itself before those lands are occupied. The policy that was adopted by the hon. gentleman's predecessors in office, which was begun by Mr. Laird, was a system of triangulation and astronomical survey to fix the latitude and longitude, to establish the principle of meridian lines and base lines, and the various scattered settlements over the North-West Territories. If time would permit me, I could point out that in 1878 this work was done, that for the whole of the settlements upon the Saskatchewan River the latitude and longitude were settled in those two years, that traverse surveys were made, that plans of the settlement were sent to the Department as well as plans of survey, and that it was possible to survey, during the year 1879 and the year 1880, every foot of land that was in the possession of any squatter in the North-West Territories. I need only mention the fact that in 1877 this special survey was pressed on to Prince Albert, and the whole of that settlement was surveyed in accordance with that plan. The lots were made as wide as the convenience of the squatters required, and were made two miles in depth. In 1878 the St. Laurent settlement was surveyed, and the survey extended, according to the report of the surveyors, for twenty miles along the South Saskatchewan. It was begun by Mr. Aldous in September, 1878. Nine miles of that settlement was surveyed upon the plan of making the lots ten chains wide and two miles in depth. The remainder of that land was not surveyed that season, as there was not time to complete it, and the hon. gentleman, when he came in, applied the rectangular system to a great portion of the plans which gave rise to serious difficulties between the settlers on the banks of the Saskatchewan. If I had time I could read a report made by the same special surveying party who were engaged in 1877-78, and I could show beyond controversy that in every case the plan of survey was subordinate to the plan of settlement. Where the plan was with a view to river fronts, with lots of considerable depths and narrow frontage, this system was strictly adhered to. Sir, this plan of survey was adopted, and this work that was done enabled these hon. gentlemen, when they came into office, to complete the survey of all the settlements in the North-West Territory, which for years were neglected. In fact, if the hon. gentleman had carried out the plan of surveying the settlement under the special survey plan, half a million acres of land