

# MR. CHARLTON'S SPEECH

ON THE

## GOVERNMENT LAND POLICY IN THE NORTH-WEST.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS,

WEDNESDAY, 12th April, 1882.

Mr. CHARLTON. Before you leave the Chair, Mr. Speaker, I wish to submit to the House a resolution on the Government land policy in the North-West. I may say that I regret that circumstances compel me to move in the way I am about to do to-day. At an early date in the Session, returns were called for with reference to the land question. The information sought in these returns was necessary to an intelligent discussion of the question I am about to lay before the House. It was found it would be impossible to get these returns in full, and an attempt was then made to get the information in a summarized form. This information was promised from time to time, and fragmentary portions of it have been received, but owing to the delay in receiving it, the time has passed for putting a notice on the notice paper in the usual manner, and proceeding to the discussion of this question on that motion, and I am reduced to the necessity of moving, as I do to-day, in amendment to a motion for Committee of Supply. The question under discussion is one of very great importance to this country. We have in the North-West

### A VAST REGION,

the capabilities of which are just beginning to be fairly understood. We have in that country, Sir, a region of probably seven or eight hundred miles long by four or five hundred miles in width adapted for settlement and cultivation. It embraces two of the great river systems of this country, the Mackenzie River and the system flowing through Lake Winnipeg into Hudson's Bay. It has a chain of lakes almost equal in size and importance to the great chain of lakes upon our borders