

perfectly compact. It is a silicious brick. It is a crude glass, impervious to water, and almost indestructible by atmospheric influence. I found blocks in the Saskatchewan and in the Bow River, and north in the Red Deer River, which must have lain there, perhaps, for a thousand years, where they had fallen off, by the action of water and weather, into the rivers. Taking them up and breaking them with my hatchet, I found they were perfectly dry inside. Taking up ordinary limestone pebbles and smashing them, I could see evidence of porosity and moisture there, convincing me that that brick was more impervious to water than our blue limestone. I found, where they had drifted down the river for many miles, they were as smooth as any slate I ever saw having been polished by the action of the water. So much with reference to the building material. There is a scarcity of wood, it is true, and transport will cost something, but in that country you find the clay almost everywhere overlying the material for converting it into brick—the coal beds—you find it over the whole country. This clay may be moulded into any form required for the construction of beautiful and substantial edifices, pillars, corners, lintels, mouldings, &c., and converted into indestructible brick on the spot by the coal that is always found underlying these clay deposits. There is another feature, that, when burnt, this brick may be polished, because it is so compact, and I saw thousands of evidences of its capability of being polished from the action of the water, as I mentioned before. That is not all, but these clay beds vary from 25 to 50 feet, which were deposited at several spaces of time, and are of different colours, the colour having been given, no doubt, by the character of the vegetable growth of the country at the time the deposit was made, and the colour fixed by the silic acid in the sand, which, I think the hon. the minister of finance, from his knowledge of chemistry, knows this is the acid that fixes all vegetable dyes. There you find, in one stratum, a clay which makes a beautiful garnet red brick; in the next, a nice brown; then a beautiful golden yellow; and, at the top, a snow white. (Hear, hear.) There is the material and the character and the profuseness of this supply. I am satisfied that when the country comes to be settled, the towns and villages there will be the handsomest, the most durable, and

the cheapest that were ever constructed on this continent, and that we will have ornamental buildings of material much more beautiful, because it takes a better polish, as indestructible as the New York brown stone, and at much less cost to the producer than the ordinary limestone rubble wall of Ottawa. So much as to the building material.

VEGETABLE PRODUCTIONS.

I have given my view of the water and the fuel, and have stated my opinion as to the soil and building material. I visited the Indian and other farms and saw the results in wheat, barley, pease and oats. Let me detain you a moment longer. The barley of the Northwest region will be the select barley of this continent. During the time of its grain maturation, the atmosphere is dry and clear, and such a thing as a bug of brown barley will never be produced. And, if my friends from Quebec will not take offence, I will say that, as for pease, the region is unsurpassed on this continent. I plucked pease, whole bundles of them, six miles south of Calgary, when I could count the pease in the pod 20 feet from the fence I was standing at. I forget to mention as to the vegetables. I myself plucked and pulled cabbages, carrots, turnips and beets on the 7th August, seven miles south of Calgary, took them on the buckboard to my tent, had them cooked and ate them, and can thus speak for the quality of them. I found one garden which would astonish some hon. gentlemen here, containing 15,000 heads of cabbage, and there is not a head in this house as large as any of them. (Laughter.)

THE RESOLUTIONS BEFORE THE HOUSE.

Just one word in conclusion as to the resolutions. As having had the honour of a seat in the house for a number of years, I think I am able to read between the lines, and to understand the cause of the opposition to these resolutions. If my memory serves me aright, and I think it does, I have heard it stated by hon. gentlemen opposite in this house—or if not in the house, in the vicinity of it—that all the money capacity of 4,500,000 Canadians, backed by the endorsement of Great Britain, could not build that road in the ten years specified in the original contract. Now, we have almost indubitable evidence that within half the specified time the road will be constructed. And by whom? Under whose auspices? By the conservative party. Hence the feeling of antipathy. Is that