

porting a large population if it were cultivated.

But Rev. Father Albel was not out for the purpose of exploring the country to ascertain its capabilities and possibilities in connection with railway construction; he was out on an evangelizing tour and was traversing a country hundreds of miles away from the route over which this road is to pass.

At page 205, another quotation is made from the record of that pioneer missionary:

I can assert that on the 15th of June there were wild roses here, as beautiful and fragrant as those at Quebec.

What does that prove? That it is a wise and judicious policy for us to construct this transcontinental road? No, it proves absolutely nothing; and the fact that the Prime Minister would resort to these quotations is in my humble judgment—and I say it with the greatest respect—the strongest possible evidence of the dearth of information at the hon. gentleman's disposal, and of his desire to take every fair advantage possible of any information respecting any part of that great northern country which he may be able to find to his hand. In speaking of the voyages of exploration, of the privations, of the heroism, of the fortitude, of these pioneer missionaries, I desire to do so with the greatest possible respect. The story of their voyages, of their travels, of their sufferings and heroism will always be read with intense interest by those who desire to make themselves acquainted with the early history of this country. But when the simple annal of a voyage of exploration from the Saguenay to Hudson's Bay is made to do duty in this discussion, I also feel at liberty to make further quotations from the same page and volume. The first quotation made by the Prime Minister was from page 181 of volume 56. On page 181 I find the following:

On the 19th we arrived at Makonamitik—that is 'the bears' fishing place.' It is a flat region with very shallow water, and also extremely rich in fish—small sturgeon, pike, and white fish having their haunts there. It is a pleasure to see the bears walking on the shores of this piece of water, and, as they go, catching with a paw now one fish and now another, with admirable dexterity.

Is this passage not as germane and as valuable to the inquirer respecting the territory through which this proposed Transcontinental Railway will pass as that quoted by the Prime Minister?

The next quotation used by the Premier was from page 205, and turning to that page I find:

I say nothing of the abundance of wild fowl in the region. On the island of Onabaskouk, if the savages are to be believed, they are so numerous that in one place, when the birds shed their feathers at molting time, any savages or deer coming to the spot are buried

in feathers over their heads, and are often unable to extricate themselves.

I appeal to you, Mr. Speaker, I appeal to any hon. gentleman that the fact that the Prime Minister makes quotations that are not germane to this subject and that have nothing whatever to do with the construction of this road, is beyond peradventure proof of the paucity of the information which the right hon. gentleman and his colleagues have to lay before the House and the country. If the hon. gentleman had quoted these additional paragraphs, and they are to be found in the same pages from which he did quote, we might have pointed to the fact that this new territory to be opened up by the Transcontinental Railway would be an ideal place for anglers, or for tourists who would like to have an opportunity of seeing bears catching fish now with one paw and again with another. Further, if it was intended to prove that the country was unsuitable for settlement, the hardy pioneers who would brave the rigours of that country might in some measure be consoled by the knowledge of the fact that there were mountains of feathers available for their use, so that after the toil of the long day they would be able to rest their weary limbs on beds of down. If any hon. gentleman desires to obtain an accurate estimate of the country through which the Rev. Father Albel and his associates passed in their journey from the Saguenay to the Hudson's Bay and of its value for settlement, he must read the whole story, and I am satisfied that every independent, fair-minded man who reads the story of that voyage will come to the conclusion that so long as there are within the four corners of this Dominion prairie lands available and awaiting occupation, no great body of settlers will be found willing to locate in the country far north towards Hudson's Bay.

Mr. Macoun, of the Geological Survey, gave evidence before the Committee on Agriculture and Colonization last year. He was sent up into that northern country in 1902, by the Minister of the Interior. He appeared before the committee on the 17th of April last. He made the statement to the committee that he had been sent up by direction of the Minister of the Interior to examine the Yukon country for the government, and he said further:

I would not go from here until late in June, for the reason that I had been in northern countries and I told our director, 'I am only going to waste my time by going so early, for nothing can be growing.' I did not leave until the latter part of June, and I reached Dawson on the 10th of July last year. Dawson is over 20 degrees north of where we sit, in latitude 64 degrees, 15 minutes. When I reached there I found red currants, blueberries and strawberries, perfectly ripe on the hillsides on the 10th of July. Well, of course, I was more than astonished. There is a rose that grows here, that we know as *rosa acicularis*, and on the 3rd