

will produce wheat. This line would be as short and of easier construction than the projected one. Of course, I wish it to be distinctly understood that I happened to be out there as an Imperial officer temporarily employed, and I have no particular interest one way or the other, but I think it is well when men are in entirely independent positions that they should make plain statements on matters of such general interest to the public. (Hear, hear.) I do not think anything has been mentioned about the grasshopper and mosquito, which I regard as the greatest plagues of the country. This grasshopper plague was so bad in 1874 in the southern section, where settled, that many persons left the country altogether, but at the same time I think that cultivation and turning down the sod and destroying the eggs in every way will rapidly decrease that plague. The mosquitoes, for the same reason, missing the long prairie grass which was their natural cover, will also disappear. That has been the experience of the Western States; at the present time it is a terrible plague. I do not think it is well for me to worry you with further remarks, but I should like, as Professor Macoun's name has been mentioned, to quote his remarks upon the country traversed by the Canadian Pacific Railroad to the west of Lake Manitoba. I take it from Mr. Fleming's report, page 315: "The greater part of the country between the Duck, Porcupine, and Riding Mountains on the west, and Lakes Winnepegosis and Manitoba on the east, is very *wet and marshy*. This may be said to be the cause of *summer frosts* in that region." From what I have stated, and from this official extract, it may be inferred how unsuitable for settlement is the greater portion of the land adjoining the *located* line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, between the Red River and the Saskatchewan. There are now no settlers near *that* line, though along the southern route which I have indicated it is thickly settled for the first 100 miles from Winnipeg, and numbers of farmers were taking up land in 1876 nearly 200 miles west of Winnipeg. As an independent man, I must state if the northern route is persevered in, it will be a great calamity for Canada.

Lieut.-General Sir H. LEFROY, K.C.M.G.: My lord duke, ladies, and gentlemen,—When I heard the gallant officer who has just addressed the meeting, I could not but recall sentiments very much indeed to the same effect which it fell to my lot to express, I think, at this Society several years ago, and which I know met with universal reprobation. They were not believed, and I felt myself in a somewhat uncomfortable position for venturing to say in the face of the enthusiasm which greeted the proposal for a trans-