

This year the area in wheat amounted to 2,500,000 acres in Manitoba and 750,000 acres in the Territories, and we expect to reap from this land a crop of over 60,000,000 bushels.

As I have said, that country is absolutely dependent on railway communication. It has no natural outlet to the sea. For all the productions of that vast region of 250,000,000 acres of wheat land, we must provide transportation by rail, and if we are going to keep up with the procession, we must provide it pretty fast!

### Mr. T. O. Davis (Saskatchewan).

The revenue of the people of the West last year was \$50,000,000, and the most of that \$50,000,000 was spent in your industries down here and went to pay your artisans, and Canada and Canadians got the benefit of it. Would any sane man advocate that all this Western trade should go south of the boundary line?

If we did not build this line and build it at once, the result would be that the Grand Trunk Railway or some other road would build from Chicago to the plains and all our Western trade would go through United States channels.

I have pointed out that we pay freight rates twice or three times as high as the freight rates that are paid in the East. . . . Do you mean to tell me that we can get immigrants to go into the country and to stay in it, while such a difference in freight rates exists?

Only last autumn the Canadian Pacific road was unable to take out all the stock we had in that country. Our ranchers had to drive the cattle 300 miles into the United States and there take advantage of the bonding powers to send the cattle through to an ocean port. And after they had driven them 300 miles over the prairie they saved \$3 a head on the cattle by doing that.

The only people that can build this road into the West and make it pay are the Grand Trunk Railway people. They are in touch with all the industries of the older Provinces and they will bring the people of the East and the people of the West together.

Now is the time to build this transcontinental line, and if any blame is to be attached to the Government at all, it is that they did not build it long ago.

### Mr. W. F. McCreary (Selkirk).

If I go down to Montreal I can see out of the car window another train running alongside of me for quite a distance. Are you in the East any better than we in the West, that you should have railways one mile apart, and that we should be compelled to have them 50 miles apart?

The people of the West are crying out for competing railways, so that they may have competition in freight rates.