

Earlier than that time, a little over six years ago, Calgary had no existence—it was merely Fort Calgary; Medicine Hat had no existence, Moose Jaw had no existence, and none of the flourishing little towns that stretch across the prairie now, had any existence. The prairie itself was practically virgin of the plough. Now it produces millions of bushels of grain, and we exported such quantities of grain the year before last, as to almost embarrass the Canadian Pacific Railway. Not only so, but coal mines have come into existence, sawmills, flour mills, cheese factories, dairies. Ranching and horse raising are carried on to a very large extent, and the day is at hand when we shall have smelting and reducing works there, and there is no reason why, at this moment, we should not have tanneries flourishing in Regina, Moose Jaw and Calgary. Every year at Calgary you have 10,000 hides, and 3,000 sheep-skins, so tanning could be carried forward successfully. The council has, within a short time, owing to the action of Parliament last year, grown into a Legislative Assembly. That Assembly sat last year, and I am only echoing the language of persons who visited it from the east, when it was in session, in stating that that Assembly need not fear comparison with any Provincial Assembly in the Dominion in the *personnel* of its members, in their intelligence, and in the zeal with which they give themselves to legislation. During that time the Minister of Interior presided over the destinies of that country, and took a deep interest in its welfare, and it is due to him to say, that the educational progress we have made has been largely due to the great interest he took in education in the Territories. I ask without fear the attention of members of this House for that portion of the Dominion, because I think this House is now sensible that in that vast and fertile region we have the solution of the difficulty in the way of Canada becoming one day, however distant, a self-contained nation. As regards the settlers who are in that prairie region, I will say this for them, that there are not in the whole Empire men more calculated by reason of their intelligence, morality and business qualities to lay the foundations of a great and prosperous community. They are all energetic, most of them are reading men, some are cultured men, and there is no doubt whatever, that the free and independent bearing which characterises the men in the North-West is due in part, possibly wholly, to their free surroundings. It may be that even the associations of the North-West have some influence on them. The associations connected with the North-West are of the most inspiring kind, for though a new land, it is a land which has historical associations of which people can never read or think of without enthusiasm. Some 150 years ago Pierre Gauthier de Varennes traversed those very regions, and Forts Du Pas, Fort du Grande Rapide, at the Rapids of the Saskatchewan, Fort La Corne, and other places familiar to North-West travellers, are among their footmarks that are living yet. That prairie region alone contains 123,000 square miles, reaching up from the arid plateau of the Missouri to the forests of the Saskatchewan and stretching away from Manitoba to the foot of the Rocky Mountains. That whole region maybe described as one vast wheat mine. There can be no doubt in the mind of any man who knows that country that it is destined to be the great wheat-producing region of the future. My hon. friends from Hamilton visited the country last year. Both of them went north and south and saw what sort of a country was there. The correspondent of the *Empire*, Professor Dawson, visited the country, and probably some hon. members have read his letters about the country; but my hon. friends from Hamilton, with visitors from Ontario, at an earlier period, saw with wonder the extraordinary crops produced. It is not merely, as I have already stated, a wheat-producing country. We have farmers in every part of the North-West who are also engaged in stock raising. If you go north of Regina or

Moose Jaw, you will find farmers who came in there without \$100, as they will tell you, owning herds with nearly their whole homestead cultivated. In the Qu'Appelle valley you will find several herds increasing at an almost mathematical ratio every year, and horse ranching south of Regina is most successful. I have here a pamphlet just issued by the Regina board of trade. I will not trouble the House with the details contained in this pamphlet.

Mr. MITCHELL. Read it.

Mr. DAVIN. I will not read it, even though that desire be expressed by the Third Party without a single dissenting voice, but I will give the House some idea of the character of the pamphlet. On page 13, there is the testimony of Robert Green, who came to the country without very much money, and who is now a prosperous man. He says:

"This year (1888) I had eighty acres cropped as follows: Wheat—29 acres, yielding 30 bushels per acre, which will grade No. 1. Oats—48 acres, yielding 60 bushels per acre, first-class quality and weighing 42 lbs. per bushel. Potatoes (Early Rose)—3 acres, yielding 350 bushels per acre. The binding of the grain averaged 3 lbs. of binding twine per acre. I have also a garden consisting of one acre of land on which I raised cabbage, cauliflower, turnips, beets, mangolds, &c., which for size and quality may be equalled but not excelled in any agricultural district in the world."

Then there is the testimony of Charles Martin to the same effect. Then there is the testimony of Walter Simpson, who spoke in a like manner. Adam Traynor, who spoke in a similar strain, said:

"I broke 100 acres here in 1886 with a gang plow drawn by four to seven oxen, the driest season we have had since the place was settled, and backset 70 acres of the same, besides doing what other work I had to do. Good days I broke 3½ acres per day, but my average during the month of June was about 3 acres per day; in backsetting about seven to eight inches deep, with six to seven oxen, I averaged about 2½ acres per day, on half mile furrows. I have my homestead all broke but about three-quarters of an acre where my house and granary stand, and nearly finished backsetting."

He goes on to give like testimony to the fruitfulness of the soil. J. W. Reynolds, eighteen miles north of Regina, advises young men to go to the country. He says:

"Yes; I like the country, climate good, health ditto; going to have school house right on my farm; Regina and Long Lake Railway runs across corner of my land. Have oxen, ten head of cattle, farm implements, good frame house. Just threshed, wheat gone over thirty bushels to the acre, No. 1 hard at that, and no frost. I think this is the country for good practical farmers, would like to see every half section taken up, and have no hesitation in advising energetic young men to come here."

Neil Martin gives similar testimony. Then we have the testimony of a Crofter, Donald McFayden, a hardy Scotchman of 57 years, who makes the following statement:

"I came to the Regina district on July 15th, 1887. I am located on Section 34, Township 20, Range 19. I have a wife and five children; built a good log house 19x15 last year; put in ten acres this spring on breaking; it is a beautiful crop. We have a good school house and a Scotch minister in our midst. When I landed in the country from Scotland I had no money. I like the country well, have good health, and I can in good conscience advise all in my native country who are not doing well to come to this country. All the Crofters in this section are doing well and like the country very much."

James Bole tells us:

"This year, 1888, I had 105 acres under crop (eighty acres wheat, twenty oats and five barley, potatoes and rye). The wheat on new land yielded thirty-five bushels to the acre, and took four lbs. of binding twine per acre. The oats were the finest I ever saw, standing nearly five feet high all over the field, and yielded eighty bushels to the acre,—this was fourteen acres on old land, part of which was cropped three years and part five years in succession. I had six acres of oats harrowed in on stubble *without ploughing*. This is a style of farming I do not approve of, but the spring was very late and I thought I would try it and grow green fodder if nothing else, but to my surprise it came on as thick and looked as well as any of the crop in the district; the field is not yet threshed, but I feel confident the six acres will yield 500 bushels. Mr. Ira Morgan, president of the Ontario Agricultural and Arts Association, who saw this field while standing, and Mr. McDonald, editor *Mark Lane Express*, who saw it in the sheaf, can testify to the correctness of this statement. My wheat this year grades No. 1 hard, and I have already sold 600 bushels to Regina dealers from \$1.06 to \$1.11 per bushel.

"At the present time I have seven horses and a small start in thoroughbred cattle; seven hogs ready for pork by Christmas, a binder,