

probable that this great petroleum field will assume an enormous value in the near future, and will reckon among the chief assets comprised in the Crown domain of the Dominion.

"That there is a coal formation covering an area of 100,000 square miles, and that the lakes and rivers abound in fish and large and small game in enormous numbers,

"That the climate is remarkably healthy, many of the witnesses describing it as one of the finest in the world.

"That upon a map of similar projection and scale, the region in question occupies an area greater than the Australian Continent, or two-thirds of Europe, covering part of the British Islands, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, and Austria, and part of France and Russia; and that the Committee have reason to believe that a comparison of the capabilities of this extent of country on our continent exceeds in extent of navigation, area of arable and pastoral lands, valuable fresh water fisheries, forests and mines, and in capacity to support population, the continental part of Europe to which we have referred."

RAILWAYS AND NAVIGATION.

The Canadian Pacific Railway, starting from the head of Atlantic navigation at Montreal, reaches Winnipeg by a distance of 1,421 miles. From Winnipeg, running through the fertile belt for 920 miles, it is fed by thirteen branches, extending north and south, and aggregating about 1,500 miles, all centring in Winnipeg. From Winnipeg, coming east, the head of lake navigation is reached by a single line of railway of 423 miles. Two other outlets are afforded through North Dacotah and Minnesota, in the United States to Duluth and St. Paul, etc., etc. Fort William and Duluth are about equi-distant by lake, river and canal navigation to Montreal and New York, the distance by water to Montreal being about 1,800 miles, and to New York 2,000 miles. The all-rail route from Winnipeg to New York is 1,779 miles, and to Montreal 1,421 miles. The average cost of the carriage of wheat from Winnipeg to the seaboard, whether at Montreal, Portland, or New York, is about 20 cents per bushel, or 20s. per ton; in addition to this heavy charge, the present outlets are inadequate to move the