

up 100 or 200 acres, or a square mile, without any interruption whatever. There was a lot of sloughs, growths of poplar, and clumps of willow, but everywhere the soil was good. Then when we come to the Touchwood Hills, do you notice the bend there, on the road. Now, it is about 25 miles from Touchwood to that point, but there was, as you can see, a difference. The prairie commenced about there, a little over 20 miles west of the Touchwood post. In the Touchwood and in the Beaver Hills, the country is not very much elevated, and the hills are not high, but as you go west the country begins to flatten out as it were, that is, the hills are less high and less high, and soon they are quite low; the fires from the west long ago seem to have cleaned off the trees, and before you reach the prairie you come to a district where the little undulations are beginning to pass away, and then you strike the prairie without a bush or tree; so that 25 miles west of Touchwood you strike the prairie.

You notice the bend there. That bend means that the engineers had to make a diversion in passing over. From this point to Saskatoon the road is straight because the country is level. You can stand on the line of the road and look as far as you can see toward the west, and turn around and look as far as you can see to the east, and there is not a variation of a foot; that road runs perfectly straight from here to Saskatoon.

*By Mr. Martin (Queen's, P.E.I.):*

Q. What distance is that?

A. It is about 125 miles.

Q. All prairie?

A. It is all prairie, until you come near Saskatoon. About here (indicating on map) 25 miles east, it begins to show clumps of wood and some pretty large trees, but it is most excellent land.

Q. Is the soil sandy?

A. No, not sandy, as we know it, but there is sand in the soil. I have the notes here to just speak about that. This point here (indicating on the map) is Manitou lake, Little Manitou lake, and this point here is a lake called Boulder lake. There are about four miles of boulders, so that it is very rough there. Little Manitou lake has a line of rocks about it. It is in a basin sunk in the prairie and has very salt water. These two points that I am speaking of, and they do not consist of more than 6 miles altogether, are the only spots in 125 miles that would not grow first class wheat. There is not an acre on the line of the road from here to Saskatoon that it not first-class soil except for these two boulder spots that I am speaking of.

Saline creek, the discharge of Quill lake, had the finest wheat fields on it that you could imagine, and yet it was all alkaline soil. Everybody told me that the land we used to call alkaline land, and that terrified people, when it was broken up and cultivated, produced the finest wheat in the whole country.

*By Mr. Ross (Yale-Cariboo):*

Q. Who owned that land before it was taken up?

A. I could not tell you that, I know nothing about that. There is a great deal of land through here that is not settled at all, there are only a few scattered people to be found across it, only an occasional settler.

Q. You did not understand my question? Is that some of the land that was alienated for the railway grants?

A. I do not think so, for the reason that I do not think it was considered worth having.

Q. The railways would not have it?

A. They would not have it.

That puts me in mind of a point just here that I will mention. Here is Long lake (indicating on map), at the time of the Queen's death I was at the court here, the Exchequer court, I was going to give evidence that this land was good. That was not many years ago. The railway was going through this land, they would not have