

Reviewing all the foregoing considerations, I am satisfied that the efforts of the Government may continue to be devoted with every energy to the promotion of the settlement of the North-West Territories, in the full assurance that these efforts cannot fail to produce the happiness and welfare of all who may by their means be induced to settle in Canada.

I will now, with a short summing up, conclude my lecture. The land can be easily tilled, crops are abundant; the surface of the country is generally rolling, thus almost draining itself; groves and clumps of trees abound, the rivers are fringed with timber, good water can be found in sufficient quantities, minerals are placed by nature where men in future years will require them. These facts are surely enough to prove that the Canadian North-West is the land for the farmer, the dairyman, and others, and they are vouched for by a host of independent witnesses, men who have visited the country, and given their account of its actualities and possibilities, not to mention the settlers themselves, who are unanimous in their praise of a region that has raised so many of them from the abject position of feudal serfs to that of freemen. I will here quote from the report of the Canadian Minister of Agriculture, recently issued: "As affording facilities for immigrants settling in the North-West, it may be mentioned that the Canadian Pacific Railway is already open for passenger and freight traffic as far west as Brandon, and during the coming season of 1882 it is intended to construct 500 miles more from that point to the west, making altogether nearly 700 miles of railway west of Red River. Facilities for settlement which were previously unattainable are thus opened, and the expected almost immediate consequence will be the influx of a large population. The climate is as healthy as any in the world, while the soil is among the richest and the best. It is particularly fitted for the production of wheat. This grain has, in fact, been grown for many years in succession without the use of any fertilisers. This has been done within the small enclosures of the original Selkirk settlement, since their first colonisation over half a century ago, the soil showing no diminution of vigour. The quality of the wheat grown is also a special feature. It is particularly suited for the new patent flour process, so-called, and it commands a higher price in the eastern markets by at least 10 or 15 per cent. over other wheats which are grown further to the east or south. The weight of this wheat averages from 63lb. to 65lb.