

LAND READY FOR ALL

I want to say, Sir, before closing, that we never had a Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines in the Province of Ontario who pretended to keep himself in touch with the North country like the present Minister. (Applause.) Why, Sir, he has gone all over that country from one end to the other time and again, meeting the people in every department of life—the lumberman, the settler, the miner, the farmer—and has obtained at first-hand knowledge of all the requirements of that vast North country. He has had parts of it explored and is having sections of it surveyed and made ready to put in the market. We have got more land ready for the settler in that North country, where we believe the land to be good, than we could possibly fill up with settlement during the next four or five years. By reason of the foresight of the present Minister of Lands and Mines when the railway that the Government owns reaches the Grand Trunk Pacific, there will be tributary to the railway township after township to take care of all the settlers that we can place in them for years to come.

ALIVE TO ALL INTERESTS

The settlers know that the Minister is alive to the interests of the North country. They know it well. The Minister realizes all the difficulties there are in dealing with that vast domain. He has given his time as no Minister has ever given it to settle the disputes arising in that North country, and has practically given his health to ensure the proper working out of the regulations affecting his Department. As soon as it has been possible to bring in new regulations he has done so. At every session we have had something from the Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines which meant the proper adjustment and proper settlement of some of the many difficulties the Government found on coming into power. I need not say, Sir, that during the last three or four years of the Liberal Administration there was no serious attempt made to grapple or deal with matters affecting that North country. I think, perhaps, the present member for North York is responsible to some extent for that, for he kept the then Minister of Crown Lands so busy getting elected that he never had much time to devote to the North country. And when I say that the Liberal Government practically did nothing for Greater Ontario during the last three or four years of their administration, I do not mean to say that all the Liberals did nothing—not at all. There is no doubt some of the Liberals tried to grapple with the affairs of that North country. They tried to work out a policy of mining and a policy of timber and a policy in the interest of the settlers. But they did not understand; they did not have a man in charge of the Department who ever pretended to understand the Department as the present Minister of Lands