

the origin of the Prohibition Law of the North-West. I may say, as I have said on other occasions, that perhaps in no other country is such a law less needed than in the North-West. There, nature herself has in a great measure prohibited the use of strong drinks. The climate gives a tone—there is a tonic in the air equal to the very best champagne. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) You feel very little desire for indulging in champagne, or even in Scotch whiskey. It is really felt by those who have taken a little occasionally, in England and in the Eastern Provinces of Canada, that when they go to the North-West they have not the same desire for it. You have heard about the crops of the country. Let me give you an example of what may be expected in the North-West. Some fourteen years ago, in the whole of the neighbouring State of Minnesota and the adjoining territory—not yet a State—of Dakota, lying between Manitoba and 100 miles north of St. Paul's, there was not a single bushel of wheat grown. Last year, besides a large quantity of Indian corn and a very large number of cattle, that country had a surplus of no less than 25 million bushels of wheat. (Hear, hear.) That is in a country which is certainly not superior, and which I believe is not equal, to the North-West. The climate is even better than that of Minnesota, the soil richer and more lasting in character. The question of education has been spoken of, and it must be satisfactory to intending settlers to know that the school system is such that immediately settlements are formed they are provided with good schools; and, further, I may mention that the University of Manitoba is open to all denominations of Christians. Associated with that institution you have the Church of England, Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, and others joining hand-in-hand to educate the people, and in their efforts to make the country more and more worthy of the Dominion of which it happily forms a part, and of this Old England of which none are more proud, and none love more fondly, than we Canadians. (Applause.)

Mr. SANDFORD FLEMING, C.M.G.: At this late hour I will not detain you with any remarks, but merely say with what pleasure I have listened to Mr. Begg's able and instructive Paper, and the interesting discussion that has followed.

Mr. J. G. COLMER: I also will not detain the meeting at this hour, after the many interesting speeches we have had, but I am very glad to have the opportunity of congratulating Mr. Begg publicly on his able and instructive Paper. I am sure I am expressing a general feeling when I say that we have spent a most pleasant hour in listening to his remarks. (Hear, hear.) It is not given to everyone to be able to speak from 17 years' experience of the great North-West—a circumstance which has added considerably to the value of the Paper, and you will agree with me that Mr. Begg has served up the dish in a bright and attractive way. We ought to be very grateful to those United States mosquitoes that they did not altogether demolish him on his first eventful journey to Fort Garry. (Laughter.) There are, I notice, some