

ordinary public lands retained by Government within the limits of the railway grant, from \$1.25 to \$2.50 per acre. Congress was actually forced to raise the price of Government lands *at the bidding of the Railway Company*, which, of course, had no desire to see adjoining lands sold for half the price of the railway reserves. Similar, if not worse results will follow in the case of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The lands will be sold at a high figure, and in many instances on credit; they will be mortgaged to the Railway Corporation at high interest, and, the result in the majority of cases will be that the poor, struggling settler will insensibly drift into a state of bondage, while an odious system of feudalism will be inaugurated throughout the North-West.

Let any one enquire into the condition of the small farmers along the lines of railway in the United States, which have been subsidized by land grants, and it will be found that even in the best settled States of the west, a large number of the fairest farms are mortgaged beyond redemption to the grasping corporations which own and control the roads.

The unhappy effects of land monopolies must still be fresh in the memory of French Canadians. How were the townships between the St. Lawrence and the frontier depopulated? What caused the exodus of the flower of Canadian youth, when one-twentieth of the whole population of Lower Canada, some thirty years ago, went into exile, driven from their homes by a selfish land policy, to increase the population of Maine and Vermont? What was the testimony of the Abbé Ferland and many of the most respected Roman Catholic clergymen of Lower Canada, when questioned as to the causes of depopulation? And will the French Canadians of to-day suffer the repetition of such a policy of extinction and degradation of the French race in the North-West, of which their daring ancestors and self-denying priesthood have been the honoured pioneers and discoverers?

The Government is bound by every principle of justice to watch over and jealously guard Canada's heritage in the west. It is bound to see to the encouragement of the honest settlement of the country, and the only way to do this is to render the possession of extravagantly large estates burdensome to the owners, and to compel the occupation of the land by its proprietors. Any other land policy will bring about the most disastrous effects.