

water, and when they failed in that, these poor people had to haul water from the Saskatchewan river. The government gave them seed-grain the first year, but there was no rainfall; the seed failed, and there was no crop. Some of them left. Some remained there and the following year the government advanced them seed-grain again as well as provisions to keep them from starving. Very large sums of money were expended in this way. Some of them left again, and finally every single settler was forced to leave that district and not one was left to tell the tale. All that money was wasted. And, Sir, the result has an injurious effect to-day on the settlement of that country. The seed-grain mortgage rests on these homesteads to-day, and when we send a settler in there to take up one of them, he is met with a seed-grain mortgage of \$45 or \$50 which he does not want to pay, and so he gets out. I point out to the Minister of the Interior (Hon. Mr. Sifton) that this seed-grain mortgage will have to be wiped out. It is stopping the settlement of that district to-day, because men will not pay a debt which they did not incur. Now, Mr. Speaker, I will tell you where these immigrants went when they left the Medicine Hat district. This settlement took place in 1889 and 1890, and in 1895 the exodus from that country was so great that the people of Winnipeg became alarmed. I left Winnipeg with some members of the board of trade and drove out Portage avenue on the main road heading west, and in the space of four miles on that road, we met no less than twenty-nine wagons, prairie schooners as they are called, with a family loaded in on top of the few belongings, and the teams were hauling these people from the great Canadian west to the United States. That is where these immigrants went. A few went to Northern Alberta, but the great number left for the United States and became good American citizens. That was the result of the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite. That was the policy which they pursued not only with regard to farmers, but in regard to other classes of immigrants. What about the Crofter Colony? What about the great Imperial Colonization Company that settled at Yorkton, and about Churchbridge and about Saltecoats? Millions of money was spent by the Imperial government to settle these people there. It is true they spoke our language, but they did not know anything about farming, and whom do you think the Conservative government sent to teach them? They sent political party hacks who knew nothing about farming. These men said to the settlers: You have \$600 grant on your quarter section which is advanced by the Imperial Colonization Company; for that \$600 I will buy you a pair of oxen and I will buy you a plough and we deduct from that two years interest on the \$600. The stuff that was supplied these settlers was grossly over-

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charged, and was in many cases absolutely unsuitable. In fact some of these men told me: We did not understand it then, but the oxen actually never were hitched up at all, and some of them were both for the off-side or both for the nigh-side. The men who should have had the best implements, oxen and equipments were supplied with oxen and implements that were not suitable. The result is that there are just nine families of Crofters left in that district, and they are destitute. It is not their fault, but it is the fault of hon. gentlemen opposite for putting men in charge who did not understand their business, and who cheated the people. A few of those people can be found to-day around East Selkirk, and will give evidence to this effect. It is the same in other parts of the country. To-day the town of Yorkton is thriving, and the hon. gentleman from West York who is interested in the York Colonization Company has become almost a rich man through the efforts of this government to bring in immigrants and he should be thankful.

One hon. gentleman said a few moments ago that there has been no change in the policy adopted by this government which made it differ from that of the late government—that the Minister of the Interior has inaugurated nothing new. Well, the best evidence of a change is in the feelings of the people of the west and in the progress of the country. One evidence of the change is in the fact that in Manitoba last year, although we had a very poor crop, one of the worst since the grasshopper plague of 1875 and 1876, you could scarcely hear a farmer or a merchant murmuring. Why? Because they have got on their feet, and have confidence in the country, and they know that one year's failure cannot affect them as it would have done ten or fifteen years ago, when the failure of a crop caused many people to leave the country. They know that they have a government in power who are administering the affairs of the country in a business way.

Does the hon. gentleman want any more evidence of the wisdom of the policy pursued by this government as contrasted with that of their predecessors? Let him look at the city of Winnipeg itself. Stand on the post office corner, and within a distance of four or five hundred yards you will count more substantial warehouses which have been erected in the last four years than ever existed before that time. Take the case of Gault Bros., of Montreal, who a few years ago would not invest a dollar in brick and mortar in Winnipeg. Their confidence has become such that they have erected a \$50,000 warehouse in Winnipeg. Geo. D. Wood Co., R. J. Whitla, and others have done the same thing. In fact, thirty or forty warehouses averaging \$30,000 in value, have been erected in Winnipeg in the last four years. Last January, on the train going west, Mr. Gault said to me: 'I do not know