

poor results, as they appear there to have very little information to give to parties seeking it, or they are very careless about giving what they do possess. There are large numbers of others involved in the same difficulty. We can procure any number of maps of Dakota, but we are unable to obtain even a fairly good map of our own North-West."

What that man writes to me, I have heard from hundreds of other quarters within the past eighteen months. The contrast with the United States in that particular is most lamentable, is most distressing. Whatever other faults the United States officers may have, they are zealous and most active in giving all possible information with respect to the lands and the opportunity offered for settlement in their own territory. It is very much to be regretted that a similar state of things cannot be made to prevail in the Department which is nominally administered by the Minister of the Interior. Sir, these things are known to all. We know from day to day, from quarter to quarter, and from half-year to half-year, that there has been one continuous change in the regulations affecting the important interests over which that hon. gentleman presides. First of all we have squatters warned off with the result, as I found when I was in that region, that about 1,000 Canadians made homestead entries in the adjoining Land Office of Dakota. Then there came a ukase limiting the settler to 80 acres, but that was repealed owing to the universal discontent which it aroused. Then the terms under which the right of pre-emption might be obtained were altered, and next we had an arrangement that the land should be sold at one-tenth of the nominal value paid down, and then, but not till after the mischief had been done, no land is to be sold except for cash in full. Then we have a budget of so-called colonization schemes with all the clauses in the regulations compelling actual settlement carefully struck out. Then we had an arrangement that the settler should have each alternate section. Now, I see that whole counties will be sold *en bloc* without any forfeiture clauses allowing any person to purchase who may choose to do so. Had these things occurred under the administration of my hon. friend the member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills), I can well understand how the House and the whole country would have rung with denunciations of his ignorance, his incompetence and his extravagance; and with the most unbridled accusations against him from one end of the Dominion to the other. I suppose, seeing that it is the hon. Minister of the Interior, who is responsible for the administration of the department, it is all right. But I tell him if he continues to be the head of the department that he cannot pretend to say from Ottawa what is best to be done for the settlers of the North-West, that neither he nor any other man, who has never visited the country nor has any personal knowledge of it can pretend to administer its important affairs in the interests of the people who are to settle it. There are departments and departments, Mr. Speaker, and I say that this is one of the departments which cannot be worked by shelving every troublesome question in pigeon-holes marked "masterly inactivity;" nor by telling good stories to people who come to interview the Minister on important matters of business. The proper administration requires more than that; and it is a misfortune of no ordinary character that its administration passed from the able and competent hands of the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills), into the hands of the right hon. Minister of the Interior. We see the result of the change in an expenditure double or nearly treble what it was; in the turning of the North-West into a gambling table; in the tens of thousands of honest settlers who have been driven away from the North-West to seek for homes on the American side of the border. If ever an impudent assertion was made on the floor of this House, if ever there was a case of effrontery in the world it was when that hon. gentleman rose in his place and dared to say that the Opposition were responsible for the fact that so many

Canadians had gone to Minnesota and Dakota in place of going to the Canadian North-West. This was due above all and beyond all to his own gross blunderings, and if the hon. member for Halton (Mr. McDougall), who I am sorry to see is not in his place, was able to say ten or eleven years ago, when he was afflicted with one of those periodical fits of truth-telling which sometimes attack him, when like Balaam he speaks sorely against his will—though I am bound to say that like Balaam he always takes an opportunity of recanting what he says on these rare occasions—I say, if that hon. gentleman spoke truly when he said that treason and imbecility reigned in every department, he might to-day, with infinitely greater reason, make the same declaration so far as the Department of the Interior is concerned. The plain fact of the matter is this: that the hon. gentleman has shown himself utterly unable to grasp the magnitude of the great interests involved in the present administration of this department. There is no one thing upon which the future of the Dominion more depends than upon the right conduct of that department, and the right administration of the great territory we have acquired; but the course of affairs since the right hon. gentleman undertook the charge of that department shows that he is treating it as nothing but a vast engine of political influence, and, I fear, a vast engine of political corruption. Now, Sir, although this is a subject on which, if time permitted, I could find a great deal more to say, I must pass on to the details of the administration of the hon. Minister of Finance; and I am bound to say that his administration will compare well with that of the colleague beside him, though even so I find it far from satisfactory. He laid great stress on the fact that large sums of money were coming into our hands on savings bank accounts, but he forgot to tell the country what the savings bank deposits cost and how he turned them to account. I find from returns brought down the other day, that while we are borrowing from the public with one hand something like \$13,000,000 for which we pay interest at about four per cent. and for which we pay in expenses of management nearly one per cent. more—making in all about five per cent.—we are with the other expending it in this way: We have about \$12,000,000 or thereabouts lying in the various banks, of which \$5,000,000 or so bear interest at rates varying from 3 to 4 per cent. Consequently the advantage we get from these large deposits is this: That while we are paying something like \$600,000 on these loans from the people, we receive in interest from the banks about \$170,000 or \$180,000, and so cost something like \$400,000. Now I fail to see that this can be called a proof of very good management or very good banking. I approve, myself, of giving all possible facilities to depositors of small amounts; I would gladly see the hon. gentleman copy the example of Mr. Fawcett in England, and allow, as they do in England and in France, small amounts of Government securities to be taken by small depositors; but I do not think it is wise or prudent, or that it can be called good management, to pay 30 or 40 per cent. more than this money is worth in the open market. In ordinary banks at this moment, you will hardly get 3 per cent. on the deposits you make, and it is well known that the cost of managing these deposits is small indeed, while here we are paying 5 per cent. and receiving about 1½ per cent. The hon. gentleman is exposed to two dangers. In the first place while money is plenty, he receives a great deal he is not able to use profitably, and in the next place if there is a contraction he will run a great risk that a large amount of this money will be called in when it will be inconvenient to repay it. It is a source of no profit now, and of great risk hereafter, and there is considerable loss to the public in the meantime. And remembering, as I do, what censures the hon. gentleman's friends passed on the late