

connected with the company determined they should carry it out manfully and honestly, that they should go to it with heart and hand, and fulfil as far as it was within their power to accomplish the just expectations of the Canadian people. (Loud cheers.) I presume it is customary, as well here as in other parts of the world, that people look somewhat to the main chance. (Laughter.) They look on business with a practical eye, but at the same time I am very sure that my associates in the Canadian Pacific Railway did not regard it solely in that light. They considered that it would be an honour and privilege to them, and a matter that they could look back upon with great gratification (great cheering), that they had been instrumental in opening up this great North-West country. (Renewed cheering.) To those who know some of these gentlemen I need hardly say that they are practical business men, such as Mr. Stephen, his colleagues in this country, and Messrs. Morton, Rose & Co., and others of high standing in England and on the continent of Europe. But as the hour is very nearly at hand which his Excellency had determined on for leaving us (His Excellency—"No! no! go on! go on!") I will not detain you further than a very few minutes. What you desire to know is the progress already made with the railway and what are the prospects in the immediate future. Well, I have learnt from those who have the conduct of affairs here that at this moment they have 150 miles, that is, some eight miles beyond Brandon, completed, of which they have actually constructed 120 miles, and that before the close of this season there will be at least 200 miles completed and in running order. (Tremendous applause.) Besides some 150 miles of branch line there will be this present year an additional 200 miles of the main line graded, and arrangements have been made for going on as far as possible throughout the winter with the work. (Great applause.) So far as regards the future during the next year the hope, the expectation, indeed, is that something between 500 and 600 miles, and more likely upwards of 600 miles, will have been laid and if possible in running order, and from this you will see it will not take a very long time to reach the Rocky Mountains, of which we have heard so eloquently from His Excellency. (Great applause.) Now, with reference to the land department: I have heard from the land commissioner who so ably represents the company—and I may here be permitted to say that the gentlemen who represent the other departments also do so with much ability—that up to this time there have been applications for at least a million acres of land for intending settlers (great cheers), of which already a considerable portion has passed into their hands; and that, further, there have been many persons—parties of gentlemen from England—who have come to request that one, two and three townships should be reserved till next spring, so that they might make arrangements in Europe for sending out settlers, and, I may add, settlers of the very best class. And then of the