

Again:

"The proceeds of the sale of the lands will meet our engagements as the work progresses, including claims for interest."

The hon. member for Cardwell, (Mr. White), in an amendment to the motion of the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), in the same Session, moved, and the House resolved, at his instance:

"That the policy of the Government for the disposal of the public land in Manitoba and the North-West, is well calculated to promote the rapid settlement of that region, and to raise the moneys required for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway without further burdening the people, and that it deserves the support and approval of this House."

Well, Sir, in the same Session the First Minister declared that we would sell, from 1880 to 1885 inclusive, 28,000 pre-emptions, and for the year 1885, 6,250; that we would make other sales, from 1880 to 1885, 14,000 in number, and in the year 1885, 3,125 in number. The results have been: Pre-emptions from 1880 to 1885, 15,275, of which I am afraid a great many will be cancelled or abandoned, instead of 28,000; and for the year 1885, 663 instead of 6,250. There were sales from 1880 to 1885, 9,634, instead of 14,000; and for the year 1885, 785 instead of 3,125. He estimated in the years 1885 to 1889, 40,625 pre-emptions and 20,313 sales. What are the estimates to-day, I wonder? *We have settled just 138 homesteaders up to the 31st December, on 400 miles of the forty-eight mile belt of the Canadian Pacific Railway.*

In the same year, 1880, the First Minister estimated the cash proceeds of the lands actually to be received from that year to 1890 inclusive, at \$88,600,000. The amount which was to be then due but not payable, but still a mortgage on the lands, and as good as cash, bearing interest, was to be \$32,700,000, or an aggregate of received and due of \$71,300,000. He estimated the cost of survey and the administration of those lands at \$2,400,000, and he brought down a handsome balance of net results of \$68,300,000 before the year 1890.

* * * I declared then that these calculations were wholly visionary, and I begged the House not to enter into large engagements upon such calculations. A few months later came the bargain with the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Government then promised that the sales of land would recoup all our expenditures, and they persuaded the House and the country to agree to the bargain upon that specific pledge. Well, Sir, we then declared that that pledge would be broken; we declared that the country would not be recouped out of those lands for the money which it was expending, and was called upon to expend. You have, to-day, the statement of the Finance Minister, from which you can judge whether our forecasts or those of gentlemen opposite were the more correct.

* The delusions upon which hon. gentlemen opposite invited the House and the country to agree to their policy were kept up by them for years.

* On 10th February, 1882,

The First Minister made this statement:

"We have not forgotten the promise made by the Government that they would make the land in that country recoup to the Dominion the \$25,000,000 that we have promised the Syndicate, and what the Dominion has already spent, or is spending, on the Canadian Pacific Railway. There is no reason in the world, as I have urged again and again, why the people of the older Provinces should put their hands in their pockets and settle that country and improve it, and build railways at their expense. That country, which is going to reap the advantage of those railways should provide the cost of the improvements, and the North-West, I am happy to say, is so rich, and will be so sought for, that what was a reasonable proposition at the beginning is now a certainty, namely, that it will be able to sell sufficient land, that while preserving the homesteading right, it would be able to repay to those who have contributed to the taxes necessary in connection with building the road the money with interest added."

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There I have the statement of the hon. gentleman that it was upon the promise

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