

is going to make a great deal of money by selling the railway lands, because he is selling to speculators a large quantity of cheap lands on which the purchasers are paying only ten or twenty cents an acre; but the real and solid returns to Government from railway lands will be what settlers will ultimately pay. Those from buyers on speculation will be but insignificant. What the settlers will pay is the measure of the true value of those lands to us; and you are deliberately marring the chances of developing that country, when you place in the hands of speculators, upon the payment of 10c. or 20c. an acre, the choicest part of the railway lands; leaving it to them to determine, at their good pleasure, how soon and what prices the intending emigrant may take them, and begin to make them valuable and productive to himself and the country. For the sake of making a false show of selling fast, you are throwing away the best chances of an effective and useful disposition of these lands. Then it is pretended that the pre-emptors will, at the end of three years, pay in bulk four-tenths of their pre-emption price with the interest. The hon. gentleman seriously suggests that 3,000 homesteaders, who go in 1880, will, in 1883, pay in \$696,000, or \$232 a piece, on account of their preemptions; that the next lot will pay \$928,000; the third, \$1,000,000, and so on, until 1890, when the sums to be paid in by the pre-emptors will be \$1,576,000. I quite agree with the hon. gentleman that the free-grant settlers will, as a rule, take up their preemptions. No doubt they will enter for them, and proceed to improve them, but there is equally little doubt that when the end of the third year comes round, the hon. gentleman's coffers will not be much fuller, by reason of the payments for preemptions then falling due. I do not mean to say he will not ultimately realise a considerable sum; but, I am talking of his calculation, that he will build this Railway in ten years practically out of receipts from these lands. I say that all the experience of all Governments with reference to sales of public lands is that the settler is slow to pay. Is the hon. gentleman going to tell these men, who have been straining every nerve to culti-

vate and improve these lands during their first three years, that unless they then pay up their preemption money, they shall forfeit their preemption? Is he going to use the landlord policy with reference to these settlers? Is he going to evict them? No; he has no intention of doing that. He will not even threaten them with eviction or forfeiture. I do not hear much talk of threatening even the speculators in case of default. Depend on it, there will be no such talk to the settlers. Judging from all past experience, the result will be, that settlers will feel secure—will feel that it is not necessary for them to pay promptly; and, indeed, to create a feeling of insecurity, by threats or harsh methods, would be most detrimental to the settlement of the country. Consequently, the calculations based upon the punctual receipts of revenue from these lands will be wholly falsified, even if all the other calculations should turn out true. The hon. gentleman expects to receive, in the fourth year, \$1,870,000; in the following year, \$2,622,000; in the next year, \$3,230,000; in the next year, \$4,112,090; in the next year, \$5,058,000; in the next year \$5,833,000; in the next year, \$6,877,000; while the last year of this series of rapid progression is to yield \$7,562,000, to be received in cash from the sales of North-West lands—an aggregate of \$38,593,000, apart from the sums not yet due of \$32,712,000. Now, I venture to say, if every one of the other calculations be realised, if the hon. gentleman gets into that country the amount of emigration he expects, and at the time he expects, if he makes sales to the numbers and at the prices he expects, these calculations as to the dates and amounts of his receipts will, under no circumstances, be realised. Under no circumstances will he receive these sums, or anything like them, at these times or anything like them. Let the fourth and subsequent years be the test. The receipts from settlers in all the earlier period will be relatively small; and not before these settlers, who can pay only out of their surplus profits after improving their lands and maintaining their families, achieve prosperity and become able to pay, will you find the lands becoming, as they ought to be, a source of revenue to the country. Even according to the cor-