

companies, or either of them, or shall, at the request of the contractors, assign to contractors, or to whom they may appoint the claim and demand of the province of Manitoba as against the said railway companies, or either of them in this clause mentioned and any security held in respect thereof, and it is hereby agreed that as to the part of the company's lines beyond the said eighty miles, the guarantee in this contract provided for shall not, if so decided by the government, come into force, until the companies have satisfied the government that by the construction of the line of railway hereby agreed to be added such land grant shall be earned, and that the company shall be in such a position on said line being built to assign and transfer the same as aforesaid mentioned.

We observe, Mr. Speaker, that the agreement provides that such land when transferred to the government shall be accepted by the government in satisfaction of any claim. It was impossible for us to get a transfer until the same was surveyed. We undertook as best we could to secure a title. When we came into office we found that before we could get a title it was necessary to have the lands surveyed. Our late lamented J. A. Davidson, provincial treasurer, and minister of the public lands department, went to a great deal of trouble. He went twice to Ottawa and interviewed the minister of the interior. I went with him in the winter of 1902, and we had an interview with the minister of the interior, and we pleaded for a survey as soon as possible in order to get a title to the acreage named in the agreement. Our request was promised favorable consideration, but we waited until 1902 and 1903 and 1904 there was no sign of a single solitary surveyor going out. It would take at the rate the government is making surveys, at least fifty years before it was possible to secure a title to the land in question.

Outside the Fact

Therefore when any member of this house undertakes to tell the people of the country that we have sold land at \$1.50 per acre they make a statement that is not in accordance with fact. (Applause.) We have not been able to get the land for the simple reason that we could not get it surveyed, and that is the reason we were obliged to make the arrangement we did with respect to the Hudson Bay lands. For example, during the very best year that ever was it has been apparently impossible for the Dominion government to even survey one acre of swamp land for this province. My friend went on to deal with the Manitoba and

Northwestern lands, and we felt here that there was some little comment for the policy of the government of which he was a member. My friend, the provincial treasurer was generous enough to give some credit in this regard. It is true that we are going to come out of this transaction without any loss, and I hope with some profit. Let me ask my friend if this condition of affairs is due to the administration of the government of which he was a member. Why, then Mr. Greenway made the bargain with the Manitoba and Northwest railway he had a scheme, as he called it, of his own. What was he going to do with it? He was going to advertise the land in the United States and Eastern Canada, and I understand also that he was going to employ auctioneers to sell at the upset price of three dollars per acre.

Sales by Auctioneers

We had some experience about that time with sales of land in this province by auctioneers. Unfortunately for the province the Dominion government selected certain auctioneers to go out and sell some school lands of ours. What was done? As a result of the sales what did we find out of our own finding, but of the finding of the friends of the gentlemen opposite who were so ashamed of themselves that they appointed a commission to investigate the sales? The report that was brought in went to show that MANY THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN PAID TO THE CREDIT OF THE SCHOOL LAND FUND OF MANITOBA WERE SQUANDERED AND GIVEN BACK TO POLITICAL FRIENDS AS A RESULT OF THE CROOKED SALES EFFECTED. Do you mean to tell me that if a policy of this kind had been carried out in this regard that we would have the magnificent showing which the provincial treasurer is able to show today with respect to the sale and administration of the northwest lands?

A Generous Statement

There is more than this. My friend the provincial treasurer was so generous in his statement that he overlooked to tell the house and the leader of the opposition that when we came into power we found this bargain as made by Mr. Greenway with respect to the Manitoba and Northwest lands in the shape that we did not hold a single acre. We could not get a title until we had paid the Dominion government 10 cents per acre for the survey, which amounted to some \$54,000, and in addition to this, as a result of the bargain, the Greenway government undertook to relieve the company from taxation until the