

THE EXPLOITER A BANE TO THE COUNTRY.

Now, I would not recommend, and never did recommend any person to go west to make a fortune. But the man who wants to make a home, who wants to get a farm and get out of penury and trouble, and away from day labour, I say to him: You are the man to go. We do not want exploiters in our Northwest; that has been the bane of the Northwest, the 'exploiter' who goes in for a great farm and a big crop of wheat, and then gets out. We do not want that kind of man at all; we want *bona fide* settlers, the men who will work, and the Scandinavian and the Doukhobors are just as good workers as you can get anywhere. That is what they do—they 'work'. But I will tell you what I have never seen them do: they never, not one of them, no matter how long they have been in the country, have one-half their land broken up. They have never been accustomed to the expansionist idea; they like to have a few fields well cultivated, and they are satisfied with them. But the exploiter that comes in and breaks up 100 acres or a whole section, a square mile, and if he succeeds, well and good, but if he does not, somebody loses money. I want to say that in all my travelling, I never saw anything to equal the section of country south of Beaver Hill lake

By Mr. Ross (Yale-Cariboo):

Q. How far is that from Edmonton?

A. It is 45 miles from there to Edmonton, according to the way we went. There is a road, the only road I saw in the country west of Carberry. From the lake there is a road 45 miles long to Edmonton. But here is a picture, a lake 14 miles long and about 8 miles wide, in a basin, without banks, no matter where you are. It slopes back some 5 or 6 miles, and no matter where you are, as you look towards it, there is that lovely lake lying before you and some of the finest land in the world. There are plenty of settlers there, in fact the only village we saw from the time we left Yorkton except Saskatoon, was there, and we call it Tufield. The land slopes down towards the water, and it is all rich and good.

By Mr. Staples:

Q. How deep is the water?

A. I do not know the depth, but it contains an abundance of fish. At any rate that is where we camped. If I had seen that lake ten years ago, before the settlers came in—it has only been settled within ten years—I would have recommended some of my friends to go there, because it is the most beautiful place I know of in the whole country. It is a most lovely region, and everybody apparently is doing well, and there is a good region all around it. I met a man there named Phillips who bought the land at \$5 per acre two years ago from a man who had bought the year before that from the Canadian Pacific Railway for \$3.50 per acre. He told me that now it was worth \$25, and I do not think he would take that if it was offered him.

By Mr. Smith (Wentworth):

Q. What about that big country between the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Pacific Railway; there is a great block in there without any railway?

A. Yes, in here (indicating on map). You see this is the Saskatchewan river, this is the Red Deer river running up there, and this is the South Saskatchewan coming in here (indicating on map). I passed from there, that is the Elbow of the Saskatchewan, 150 odd miles over to here (indicating on map)—that is the Hand Hills there. I passed from here to Battleford, and there is no wood through there. Do you notice all these little ponds that are there? Well, some of those are fresh water and some of them are not.

Q. What is the land like?

A. The land is good, the soil is good. In some places it is perfectly level and at other times it is rolling hills. There is occasionally a belt of sandy hills which may be a mile or more across, or there may only be a ridge or two.