

discontented with their lot? God forbid that I should ever be the means of causing anyone to break up an established home or sever old and dear ties. But to those who, after deep and careful consideration, decide that it will be better for them to seek some other land, I say, look beyond the sea to this land of promise. Who can tell the future of the great Canadian North-West? Who, a quarter of a century ago, could have predicted the present flourishing condition of the Western States of the Union—with their cities containing hundreds of thousands of people, their immense network of railways, their wonderful institutions, their stupendous trade, and the almost miraculous development of their vast resources? Yet we have in the Canadian North-West a country of equal extent and resources. Why, then, should there not be the same development in the Canadian North-West as there has been during the last twenty-five years in the western territories of the United States?

THE DISCUSSION.

The following is a full Report of the Discussion which followed the reading of the Paper:—

The CHAIRMAN (Lieut.-General R. W. Lowry, C.B.): After the deeply interesting Paper which we have just heard read, it becomes my duty to submit the names of those who have kindly undertaken to take part in the discussion. On looking over those names, since I have been privileged to take this chair, I find that most of them are to me "familiar as household words," and all of them are gentlemen well calculated to interest and enlighten us on the subject on which they have promised to address us. The first is the name of a gentleman deeply honoured in my time in British North America, and which has been increasingly honoured since I left it. I refer to the Hon. Adams G. Archibald. (Applause.)

The Hon. ADAMS G. ARCHIBALD, C.M.G., Q.C.: I do not know that I have very much to say, but I will trouble you with a few remarks on the most interesting and valuable Paper we have heard on the subject of the great North-West. My acquaintance with the district began not quite so early as that of Mr. Begg, but it began very soon afterwards. My first knowledge of the country was acquired when we took over from the Hudson's Bay Company, in 1869, the territory which forms the North-West. Mr. Begg has given a graphic description of this oasis of the desert, and I think very few people apprehend the complete isolation in which the country was placed up to the time it was taken over by the Canadian Government. It lay in the very heart of the continent, separated from the United States, the first barrier of civilisation, by a journey of over 500 miles, and separated from Canada by 800 miles of lakes and swamps. In the far west was the range of the Rocky Mountains, and to the north was the North Pole.