

as a step in the right direction, when the Government decided to turn the line of railway from the north of Lake Manitoba, to the south, as the settlements were almost wholly in the latter direction; but at the same time I must say, that in my belief, the land on the north of Lake Manitoba has been greatly depreciated, and it would not surprise me to find substantial men coming forward at an early session and asking Parliament to give them a charter for a colonisation railway over the greatly decried northern route, along which I fully believe a great deal of excellent farming land will be found. Now that this road has been definitely located, I trust it will be proceeded with as fast as possible. If it had been in the hands of private individuals we would have had the railway built already fifty miles to the west. I would impress upon the Government the necessity of using every effort to get colonization roads into that country. A comparatively small portion of the millions that have been spent in surveys through portions of the country where there will certainly be no settlers for many years to come, had it been used in opening up the prairies to cultivation, it would have ensured to us now a much larger population than we have at the present moment. The resolutions of the hon. member for Norfolk ought to commend themselves to every member of this House, and I, for one, have great pleasure in supporting them.

MR. MACDOUGALL: Though the House is impatient to vote, I desire briefly to state the difficulty in which I find myself in consequence of the amendment that has been proposed by the hon. member for Cardwell (Mr. White). The hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) has proposed that this House shall affirm, as a rule for the disposal of public lands, that they shall be sold to the actual settler, on the best terms practicable; in other words, that the lands shall be treated, not as a source of revenue, but as a means of providing for the speedy settlement of the country. He has condemned, in his second resolution, the practice of selling the lands to speculators, as he calls them. I suppose that includes everyone who purchases lands without settling upon them. Now, if we were dealing with the question *ab initio*, I have no doubt many members of this House, from the ex-

perience we have had in the old Province of Canada, would be disposed to agree that, in the interests of the country, it would be better to deal with the public lands in the manner proposed. But we are not in that position. Unfortunately, we have adopted a revenue policy, with regard to the disposal of the public lands in the North-West. This House affirmed, last year, the propriety of setting apart 100,000,000 acres of land in that country, for the construction of a great public work, and directed the Government not to dispose of them for less than \$2 per acre. I objected to that proposition, as I find in the *Hansard* report; I expressed the views which I then entertained, and which I still entertain, with regard to those resolutions. I thought they were not adapted to the circumstances of the country; that they would not be found to work advantageously, even for the purpose of revenue, and it was with some satisfaction that I heard, a few months afterwards, that the Government had decided, in consequence—if the hon. member for Lambton has correctly understood the remarks of the hon. the Premier—of the remonstrances and attacks of the *Globe* newspaper, to change the policy that had been affirmed by this House, and adopt a new one. I trust that it was not from that motive altogether; and I am confirmed in the opinion that the Government must have been influenced by a belief that free grants could not be dispensed, when the hon. member for Cardwell proposes now, with their approval, to say that the revised regulations are the wisest and best the Government could have adopted under the circumstances. I am not quite convinced that the House ought to take that course. The hon. member for North Norfolk moves his resolutions, an hon. member proposes to proceed to the Orders of the Day, and the hon. member for Cardwell moves an amendment to the amendment, calling upon the House to declare that the policy of the Government with respect to the public lands in the North-West is the true policy, both as regards settlement and the construction of the Pacific Railway. Is the House prepared to commit itself to such a proposition, by way of amendment to the motion of a private member? I think