

this railway have been completed and are in operation between Michipicoten Harbor and the Helen mine. Forty miles to a connection with the Canadian Pacific are under construction. Twenty-five miles of the main line from Sault Ste. Marie northwest are in operation, and 50 miles are partly completed. The total expenditures on account of this construction have already exceeded three millions of dollars and the sum necessary to complete the road will probably exceed five millions of dollars. This investment of eight millions of dollars involves an annual interest charge of about five hundred thousand dollars, and this amount of net profit annually must be derived from the lands granted by the government, since no other business for the traffic of the road now exists in the region. To cause the land grant to realize this profit the railway company must people the land and establish various manufactories for the use of forest products, build furnaces and reduction works to utilize the ores and establish thousands of farmers to till the soil. All of these undertakings must be originated by the railway company to secure the necessary income. To do this will require additional investments of large sums and untiring energy in inducing people to come to this raw country as permanent settlers. I estimate that it will take the labors of 25,000 people contributing solely to the traffic of the Algoma Central railway to earn interest on the cost of its construction. Twenty-five thousand laborers will support a population of 100,000, and when these 25,000 laborers have become scattered in different industries between Sault Ste. Marie and the northern limit of the Algoma Central, the very efforts of this large population, installed at the private expense of the railway company, will have made the lands of the government equal in value to those of the railway company and will thus make valuable an asset of the people otherwise worthless. Who will say this is not the wisest course for the government to pursue in seeking to accomplish the population of the country and the development of its resources? I believe that no party can remain in power and that no party can take power who will oppose measures so plainly in the public interest. Ask the