

Survey and de- n your rs, and e Geo- fent to hat all ed by or file eading the un- be in- s, is of ary to ations from scien- stified n the which stant some human to be con- dis- rural ation tion

nearer than from 36 to 40 miles, (12) and the "Barren Plains of the Souris" have not received many settlers, if any. With respect to the first paragraph quoted, I must remind Mr. Deville that the new route of the Canada Pacific Railway from Moose Jaw to Medicine Hat, as shown on Mr. Lindsay Russell's recent large map, takes the line to the South of the great Sand Hills and near the foot of the Cypress Hills. (13) Mr. Deville's good land must therefore lie wholly to the north of the extensive Sand Hill ranges he describes stretching for about 100 miles westerly, part of which are shown on the map referred to. This "uninviting country" covers an enormous area.

But what does Mr. King, the "Inspector of Surveys," say about the country to the north and the summer's work there.

The "Inspector of Surveys" writes as follows to the "Chief Inspector of Surveys:—(page 16)—"The total amount of mileage completed by the block and outline surveyors during last summer (1882) was not as great as had been anticipated, owing to various causes, the principal of which were—the great delay in Winnipeg in the spring; the great number of crossings which had to be made on the Saskatchewan, Bow and Red Deer Rivers; and the unfavourable country, much of it almost destitute of water, (14) and much of it having been burned over last summer by the prairie fires which prevailed along the railway line."

This is the "Good Land" to the north, of the "Chief Inspector of Surveys." There is no other of any considerable extent for many a weary mile. This fact even the filtered reports of the Surveyors disclose, and they show the aridity of an immense area of country; the absence of sufficient rain in summer, and its dewless character. Read the foot-notes. (14) What those Reports disclosed before they passed through Mr. Lindsay Russell's filtering hands you may imagine. And now I will show you how the Surveyor General lights his Wreckers Fires.

#### THE SUMMING UP OF THE EVIDENCE.—THE WRECKERS FIRES.

This is the summing up by the Deputy of the Minister of the Interior, and Surveyor General, Lindsay Russell. He says:—

"These surveys have established, beyond doubt, that from the western boundary of Manitoba to the Moose Jaw Creek, heretofore called "The Barren Plains of the Souris," there is to be found some of the finest agricultural land in the world—indeed the bulk of the settlement of last summer was in this very region;—while from the Moose Jaw Creek to the Bow River, shown on our earlier maps as the northern extension of the Great American Desert, it is now definitely established that but a comparatively small proportion of the land is unfit for cultivation." (*Official Report of the Department of the Interior for 1882, page x.*)

These astounding and wholly unwarrantable conclusions, from the Inspector's Reports, at which the Deputy of the Minister of the Interior has arrived by a process of very objectionable evolution, would be too contemptible and transparent to notice, were they not certain to be seized upon by venal promoters and touters. (15)

They might be thrown on one side, like any other "cloth," did there not stand expectant behind Mr. Lindsay Russell's "official" statements, millions of capital hanging upon a "Good Report" of the country, with eager speculators and politicians watching with hated breath the result of the "official" panders' outburst; while hundreds of thousands of unconscious "Immigrants" are waiting to be decoyed by the glazing tongue of the "agent," with "official" report in hand. I trust that certain emigration schemes spoken of, do not refer to this part of the country.

Here is a miniature of the whole matter. Inspector of Surveys, King, on page 16 of the Report of the Department of the Interior, describes the "unfavourable country, much of it destitute of water," and the details furnished by the surveyors confirm this view. Chief Inspector of Surveys, Deville, on page 8, merely says, after describing sandy wastes of very considerable extent, "a few miles on the north side of the Sand Hills good land is to be found." He does not say how much good land, or notice the character of the country to the South of the C. P. R.

From these adverse elements the Deputy of the Minister of the Interior, Russell, evolves the mirage on page x, that "it is now definitely established that but a comparatively small proportion of the land is unfit for cultivation."

Again:—Chief Inspector of Surveys, Deville, announces an absurdity he has invented that the Canadian Pacific Railway, passing from the valley of the Assiniboine directly into the valley of the Qu'apelle, traverses the "BARREN PLAINS OF THE SOURIS," a name elaborated for a purpose and applied to an area no one ever thought of associating with the C. P. R. remote from it.

The Deputy of the Minister of the Interior, Russell, improves the occasion and says that on the area "heretofore called the 'Barren Plains of the Souris,' there is to be found some of the finest agricultural land in the world—indeed the bulk of the settlement of last summer was in this very region."

In this manner, by a disgraceful trick of transmutation, the "Deputy of the Minister of the Interior" and "Surveyor General," "boonies" the "Barren Plains of the Souris" and the dreary, dewless waste through which the Canadian Pacific Railway passes after leaving longitude 107°, for many hundred miles, until it approaches the humid region of the Rocky Mountains. They are shocking frauds in a responsible public officer, which no court or jury would for an instant sustain. They are Wreckers Fires, officially lit and fed.

But is it not a most shameful and degrading proceeding for officials invested with descriptive authority which may lead to the expenditure of millions of money, to place such fictitious advantages within the reach of promoters, touters and emigrant agents. These gentry have only to say "Here is the official descriptive statement, what do you want more?"—and how can emigrants or investors dispute this official declaration of the Deputy of the Minister of the Interior, until they find out by sad experience that the "Barren Plains of the Souris" are forty or fifty miles or more, south of the Valley of the Qu'apelle which the C. P. R. traverses, and that they are largely clay-cracked and arid wastes. Will not the revelations of the "Report of the Department of the Interior for 1882" open people's eyes now, and point to the dangers of living in a fool's paradise, or sitting unmoved, by the Wreckers Fire.

The proper termination to all this roguesy of Bell, Macoun and Russell is easily seen. The consequences of further protection will be to Canada incalculable harm; to human suffering, appalling; and to a few individuals, a fleeting triumph with questionable results.

The Minister of the Interior doubtless relies upon you for the veracity, integrity and competency of your assistants. He will attend to his "Deputy" himself. Therefore, let me ask you to join with me in sending copies of this and the following letter to all the leading scientific and public bodies in Europe and America, and to leading bankers, as well as to the public press. Let us do this in the interests of SCIENCE, and to arrest the further progress of imposition on thousands of our fellow creatures, and a vast expenditure of capital in "wild-cat" enterprises, doated under the influence and glamour of fraudulent "scientific" and concocted "official" reports.

Very truly yours,

HENRY YOUNG HIND,

Formerly in charge of the Assiniboine and Saskatchewan Exploring Expedition.

Windsor, Nova Scotia, April 13th, 1883.

(12) I never saw the words "Barren Plains of the Souris" on any Canadian authorized map. I have seen the words "Great Plain of the Souris." These Plains are "arid" and "deserted permanently with drought in many places. The fissures Bell says are the result of "drying," Macoun of "frost."

(13) See Mr. Lindsay Russell's official map, dated 31st Dec., 1882.

(14) The Reports of the Surveyors (following Mr. King's Report) should be read carefully and with a map. The important features of the country they disclose relate not so much to the soil as to the aridity of the climate, a fact well known before, from the absence of brooks, the presence of "alkali," saline ponds and arid vegetation. But the Surveyors notice the very small amount of dew which fell; also the exceedingly small rainfall, besides the parched land and general absence of wind—Mr. Ogilvie recorded only 3.4 inches of rain from 12th July to 20th September—not half enough for agricultural purposes. On the 18th Sept. the thermometer fell to 32° F.

Mr. T. Drummond says, "Another drawback to the country which applies especially to that part of the country to the east of Bow River is the want of rain or moisture of any kind." Mr. Drummond says, "There is very little dew." He gives the total rainfall from July 7th to Sept. 20th as amounting to 1.24 inches. (page 43) He mentions "showery" weather, but the quantity of rain so small as "not worth taking into account. What could agriculturists do under such circumstances? Mr. Lewis Bolton, speaking of a more westerly part of the country near the line of the C. P. R. says, "Very seldom you would find the grass damp with dew in Sept and Oct."

The reason why the route of the Governor General was altered in 1881, and diverted towards the great humid arc which skirts the arid plains of the South Branch, is now practically proclaimed.

(15) See new map of the C. P. R. Route by Mr. Lindsay Russell, Surveyor General, dated February 20th, 1885.