

*Monahan* *Collected in Apr. 1914*

# THE DOMINION LAND POLICY

Speculators and Land Grabbers taken under the Protection of the Government.

## The Rights of the Settler Disregarded.

The Speculator can have Land at Half Price—The hardy Son of Toil to be handed over to his Tender Mercies.

The Heritage of the People to be bartered away for Political Influence; or bestowed as a Reward for Political Service.

When Canada became the owner of the North-West a most important step towards securing the material resources from which a popular and powerful state might be evolved was taken, for in that region we have a vast expanse of fertile soil fitted by nature to become the home of many millions of intelligent and prosperous people. The area of land in the North-West fit for settlement, including Manitoba, is roughly estimated at from 150,000,000 to 250,000,000 acres. The latter figure gives ten times the amount of land now under cultivation in the entire Dominion. The soil of the greater portion of this region is admirably adapted to the growth of wheat of excellent quality. The supply of coal is abundant, and the entire country from the boundary line to the Peace River Valley and from Red River to the base of the Rocky Mountains, offers no serious engineering obstacles to the construction of the railway lines necessary for bringing its productions to market. It is estimated that this region will easily afford the means of subsistence for 25,000,000 people. That the utmost care should be taken to devise and carry into effect

### A WISE AND LIBERAL POLICY

in the regulation, sale, and management of this great public domain requires no argument to prove. The bearing of its rapid settlement by an energetic and intelligent population upon the question of our national development is a most important one, and should command the best efforts and the most careful consideration of the Government. In fact no other question at the present time, demanding the attention of the Government, is of as great moment. The first and great requisite of the North-West is population. The mere possession of a vast wilderness adds nothing to the greatness of Canada. The millions of fertile acres are worthless till they are tilled. It is the actual settler alone who can produce the necessary change. When he goes in, the varied industries of prosperous communities will follow and towns will speedily grow up. Towards the actual development of the country the mere speculator will contribute very little, and the gains he may make in land speculations will merely represent the loss sustained by the farmers who are compelled to purchase his lands at a great advance upon Government price.