

\$134,483; the value of their stock was \$204,200; and the value of their buildings on the farms, \$134,200. Now, if these sixteen townships had been taken up by non-residents, the value of that land would not have been increased, but by the surrounding developments. They probably could have purchased that land for 30c. to 40c. per acre, which now is worth from \$3 to \$4 per acre. The 1,400,000 acres which were set apart as a reservation for the half-breeds, is yet barren of settlement, a perfect waste. It strikes me forcibly that this reservation should have been retained, and under no circumstances should any transfer from a minor be tolerated or acknowledged by the Government. They should not have been given script, because that was disposed of to unscrupulous land-sharks and speculators, for absolutely nothing in many instances. The children of half-breeds disposed of their lands, and their parents went security that the contract would be carried out when they became of age, because a minor could not give a title to property. The result is that they received little or nothing, in many cases, for their portion of land, and all that tract of country is now unsettled—a total barren waste. The Hudson's Bay Company have very extensive limits. In the first place they received 50,000 acres in the most selected parts of Manitoba and the North-West; at the confluence of rivers or in locations where railways will likely be constructed; they have also two sections in each township, numbers eleven and twenty-nine, or the twentieth part of the whole territory. And the agreement is that they should make their selections in these municipalities at any time within ten years after the survey is made. The right hon. Premier made a very remarkable calculation in reference to the proceeds, which he expects to receive from the sale of lands, and the enormous, fabulous amounts he anticipated receiving from the *bona fide* settler. The whole proceeds, according to his calculation, was to be derived from the poor honest settler. I do not think he made any calculation in regard to the speculator. He stated that so many settlers would come in this year and so many next year, and they would purchase their land, for which they would pay on an average

\$3 per acre. They would also have the right to preempt 160 acres adjoining their homesteads, and the result was that a very large amount of money would be realised in a few years—some \$30,000,000 or \$40,000,000 by 1890. I would like to know what he expects to realise from the sale of lands to non-residents. I presume that the hon. the Premier concludes that the whole of that country is arable. I know there are gentlemen in this country who have issued pamphlets descriptive of that great country, and that those pamphlets have been purchased by the Department by tens of thousands. Many of those who wrote or compiled those pamphlets infer that the whole of the lands in the North-West are arable and adapted for settlement. I have travelled very extensively in that country, and I know some of those gentlemen who have issued pamphlets and written glowing descriptions of the great North-West know, comparatively speaking, nothing about it. There is one pamphlet which I know has been freely circulated, and which was written by a gentleman who had only travelled sixty-three miles in the country, but as a matter of course, must know a great deal about the fertility of that country for 1,500 or 1,600 miles distant. There are four or five pamphlets now in circulation, and I am prepared to state, that not one of the writers of these pamphlets has ever travelled a hundred miles west of the city of Winnipeg. I think we should not decry our own country. There is room for happy homes for millions of people in the North-West; but at the same time, there are millions of acres in that country, described in these pamphlets to be arable, which are totally unfit for settlement, absolutely worthless. We have certainly a great heritage in the North-West, and I hope the Government will adopt some reasonable policy to attract emigration to that country. I am not prepared to state what the policy of the United States Government is in reference to the disposal of its lands, but I know that I have frequently read and heard that their uniform price was \$1.25 an acre, and if that land remained in the market for five years, it was reduced 25 per cent. if for ten years, a further reduction of 25 per cent., etc., etc.