

to read this report carefully, and you will see the work that he is doing there and his view as to the settlement of that country. My honorable friend says get settlers on the best class of land. This is just what we are doing, and what was not done in former years when his friends were in power. The member for Manitoulin and I preached that gospel for years before this Government came into power. Now, before we open townships for settlement we make the most careful inquiry not only to make sure that the lands are good agricultural lands, but that they are the best available, and I am heartily in accord with my honorable friend's view in that matter. Now bear with me while I read Mr. Whitson's report on this point: —

"I am glad to be able to report that the work of the season of 1912 appears to have given very much encouragement to the incoming settlers, and this last year has witnessed more bona fide work on the land by the settlers than I have previously observed for many years. I refer more particularly to the country in the vicinity of the town of Cochrane and along the line of the Timiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway from Cochrane south to Englehart and Earleton, and along the Charlton Branch to Charlton. Large clearings, with good substantial farm buildings, are to be met with almost everywhere.

"Along the roads constructed in 1912 most of the lots have been settled upon and small clearings made, and I have every reason to believe that if the work, as it is now being carried on, is continued for a few years there will be found in the Clay Belt along the Timiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway and Grand Trunk Pacific Railway settlements as prosperous as are to be found in the district of Rainy River, or in the country in the vicinity of Haileybury and New Liskeard.

"From my experience during the last two seasons in the construction of roads north of Englehart and over the height of land, I am the more fully confirmed in my opinion, and have not the smallest doubt of a successful future from an agricultural standpoint for that district, provided that, as at present, settlement for the next few years is confined as far as practicable to the most promising areas so as to ensure large clearings whereby the climatic conditions may be improved. Little or no diffi-