

APPENDIX No. 4

and many of you also, this northern country will be a glorious country filled with happy people growing enormous quantities of wheat and other products. That is just as true as that the sun is shining to-day; there is not the slightest doubt about it. It is our wrong impression that is causing all our trouble. I am getting out of my wrong impressions, and I want you, gentlemen, if you have any, to get out of yours also. Now take this point here (indicating on the map). After you get a little west of Lake Manitou you are just on the boundary between Alberta and Saskatchewan. At this point there was an engineer's camp, at which we stopped. From this point to Edmonton, there is no more bad land.

When I say bad, I mean there is no more land that is what I would call too dry to raise crops at present. Just there where my pointer is (indicating on the map) is Tramping lake, which was the only point where we found poor crops in the whole summer. The people told me that they were perfectly satisfied, that they had a fair amount of rain, but they said, 'We got in late and did not put in the oats until late in June; it stayed green, however, and would be fit to cut for fodder.' It was the only place in the whole country, as I said before, where the crops were poor, yet the people who were there, chiefly Americans, were quite satisfied, and said that although they came in late the land was good, and their prospects were good and everything was satisfactory.

By Mr. Jackson (Selkirk):

Q. You could not get a crop here if you sowed it in June?

A. No, and you would not attempt it now. We camped at this point, near Thomas lake, and met a Scotchman named Downey.

Q. I guess he was Irish?

A. He said he was Scotch, and he talked like one, too. He said he came out from Scotland a couple of years ago and went over to British Columbia and worked around Vancouver, taking out some of the big stumps there—some of the gentlemen from that side know what they are like—he cleared up a lot of ground quickly and got well paid for it and decided to settle upon the prairie. He came to Edmonton and was told by the agent there to work out in this direction. He reached the land upon which he settled on the 26th of April. We were there on the 19th August, and he had first-class oats, excellent potatoes, first-class barley, and had dug a fine well, he had put up a stable for a span of horses, and had a very good log house. He was a bachelor, he had no wife, and, of course, I recommended him, as I do all bachelors, to marry, because I do not think it is a proper condition, especially in the Northwest, for a man to be without a wife. Mr. Downey said, 'I have done this this year,' and I wrote in my notes that in no other place than the Northwest could the like of that be done in one year. That is absolutely the case. He had an excellent crop of good dry potatoes and a good crop of hay, oats and barley.

By Mr. Staples:

Q. How much per acre was the yield?

A. I never asked after the yield of the crops.

Q. You would not like to recommend any person to go in and settle under those conditions, with the expectation of being able to produce a good crop in the first year?

A. There are settlers, and settlers. When I left Ireland for my own good, and perhaps for my country's good—I do not know about that—but when I left Ireland for my own good, I came out to Ontario and I worked for the magnificent sum of \$7 per month and my board.

By Mr. MacLaren (Perth):

Q. How long ago was that?

A. It is nearly sixty years ago, and we settled on land and paid \$6 per acre for the privilege of cutting trees off it.