

Regina, made a clear profit last year of \$10,000. These men are thus making money, their properties are to be seen with comfortable houses, with stables as fine as are to be found on the Model Farm. These same Cullums have as fine stables as are to be found in any part of the country. Now, such a description is depreciatory of the property of these people, and I bring it to the attention of the Minister of the Interior in order that it may be corrected. Whoever wrote that pamphlet was, in my opinion, quite misinformed. Then, there is the report of Mr. Dennis, in the blue-book of 1897. I have the highest opinion of Mr. Dennis as an engineer, and any one reporting as he does here as an engineer, would not controvert the position he is taking up, that is to say, he is writing as an engineer, as a scientific man, and is not supposed to take account of the agricultural conditions, because that was not his business. His business was, I suppose, to speak about the rainfall. That was his principal topic in a paper on irrigation. I want to point out, however, that this, too, is misleading and will have to be corrected, and it is not only misleading as regards these parts of the country to which I am referring, but it is misleading in regard to a large portion of Alberta. However, what I am chiefly concerned with is the hand-book, which has been circulated broadcast. I see that Lord Strathcona, our High Commissioner, refers to the fact of the book having been largely circulated in England and elsewhere, and I think this is the gravamen of the fault that the Department of the Interior has committed. I will call attention to what is in the blue-book. On page 24 we read :

Commencing at the intersection of the International boundary with the second initial meridian (longitude 102°) and running thence north-westerly, following very closely the line marking the westerly limit of the bluff country and the eastern limit of the great plains proper until the South Saskatchewan River is reached about the north boundary of Township 33. From thence the boundary is deflected rather more to the north, crossing the north branch of the Saskatchewan River in Range 14 west of the 3rd meridian, and extending as far north as Township 50.

From thence the boundary runs about thirty miles to the west, and thence turning to the south-west, runs in that direction to the north boundary of Township 30, in Range 27 west of the 4th meridian and from thence west to the Rocky Mountains.

This appears under the head "Boundaries of the Arid Region"; and within those boundaries both the Government and the Canadian Pacific Railway have been selling lands, and the Government have allowed people to take up homesteads there, where the land, of course, by implication, is considered to be fit for cultivation as homesteads. The report continues :

This portion of the Territories comprises an area of 101,340 square miles, and its relation to

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the remaining portion of the Territories and the boundaries of the region will be more readily understood from the map covering this report.

Here is the map accompanying the report. I showed the map to a gentleman who is largely interested in the North-west, and he was perfectly amazed that such a map, without any qualification whatever, should be sent out from the Department of the Interior. The arid area is made to run up, as I have described, to east of Qu'Appelle it goes north into the Saskatchewan, and then comes right down a little north of Calgary. That is calculated to do a great deal of harm, and I think I have only to bring it to the attention of the hon. Minister to lead him to take steps to have the wrong done to the portion of the territory in his charge alluded to and the wrong done to the property owners, the settlers, in that region, corrected. I may say, in passing, in regard to the irrigation reported on here, that I am very glad to see that work is being done in this direction ; and I am the more glad because as will be seen by "Hansard," when I first proposed that steps should be taken to irrigate certain portions of the North-west, I was told from an official source at that time in this House that I was depreciating the country. The truth of the proposition laid down, that irrigation would be useful in certain parts of the territory, has already been proved, and I am very glad to see that the Government are going on still further with the work. This is a very different matter from characterizing portions of the territory, which have proved fruitful, where men have got rich in farming, and could not be induced to remove so satisfied are they with their prosperity, as being within the arid region, including the four great centres of Regina, Moose Jaw, Balgonie and Qu'Appelle. I beg to move the adjournment of the House.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). I presume the House without argument will acquit me of any desire to disparage any part of Canada ; and the House will also at once acknowledge, I think, the difficulty of preparing a descriptive hand-book of Canada which will be accurate and at the same time satisfy the desire of the inhabitants of various portions of the country. It would be a comparatively easy matter to issue a hand-book of indiscriminate praise for every portion of the country ; it is when an attempt is made to describe the country and tell the truth, which is the most necessary element in connection with immigration and an immigration policy, and convince the people that the information supplied is the truth, that difficulty arises. The greatest possible care has been taken in the preparation of the book to which the hon. gentleman refers, and he has indicated in his own speech that the information which is displayed here is the result of inquiries and studies