

a million in that time, and I cannot for a moment imagine we shall receive that large amount of money from the sale of the lands. I think our first aim should be to settle the country, by giving every possible assistance to the colonists, or actual settlers, not, however, restricting them to 160 acres or thereabouts, as some propose. There should be a guarantee given, that all to whom lands are sold should be actual settlers. In several parts of the United States, a great advantage is given those who take up lands for settlement. For instance, they are allowed a rebate of one-half the price, even when not exorbitant, \$5 or so an acre, for each acre broken up and cultivated within three years. Some encouragement of the same kind might very well be extended to the settlers in our North-West.

MR. WHITE (Cardwell): Only one railway company gives that rebate.

MR. SMITH (Selkirk): I know one, at any rate, gives it, and that company finds it very greatly to its advantage. What may profitably be done by this company, will no doubt be followed by others, and should be done by a great Government like that of the Dominion. Everything should be done to assist railways in the North-West. Nor need we be afraid of their competition with the Canada Pacific. It will be some years before it crosses the Rocky Mountains; and meantime, parallel lines within thirty or forty miles of it would all greatly assist in the opening up and settlement of the country. It is found in other districts, whose lands are not better than those of Manitoba or the North-West, that a space of some twenty or thirty miles on either side of a railway, is amply sufficient for its maintenance; that is, apart from the working expenses, a very fair profit can be made out of the railway. That is not the experience of one, but of many districts and railways passing through such a country as the North-West. In Manitoba and the North-West, we have very unfavourable land upon which to make ordinary wagon roads. While the weather is dry, nothing can be better than the roads, but it is well known that during the wet weather the roads are almost impassable, so that for the short distance of sixty miles between Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie, it some-

times takes three or four days to make the journey. It is therefore especially necessary in that country that assistance should be afforded in the construction of railways, not that the Government should build them, but there should be power given to those who are willing and prepared to do it. When we find people willing to build railways there, and to complete them within a reasonably short space of time, and this should be made a stringent condition of ever charter, we ought to give them every assistance. The hon. member for Perth (Mr. Trow) has remarked that, after all a great deal is not gained by emigration into the North-West from the older Provinces. I cannot agree with my hon. friend in that view, I believe that the more eligible people who can be got to go from the old Provinces to the North-West the better, as their places will be quickly filled by those from the other side of the Atlantic. While in England, a short time back, I had quite a number of applications from people who proposed to emigrate, and certainly in most instances they preferred making their homes in a country already settled instead of, as they said, going into the backwoods or on to the prairie. They preferred beginning their farming life in the older Provinces and purchasing improved farms there. So we may look, for a reasonable emigration into the old Provinces in the near future. In my humble opinion the Government have made a mistake in making so many reserves for particular nationalities. The Mennonites are an excellent and industrious people, and they have done wonders since they have been in the North-West, but I believe if they had been distributed, as is done in other portions of the continent amongst the other settlers, it would have been much better. And so with regard to the Icelanders, there can be but one opinion as to their desirableness as inhabitants, but it would have been much better for themselves as well as for the country generally, if they had not been placed in those isolated settlements, but had been encouraged to scatter themselves over the Province. No Government has been wise in this matter, but each successive Government ought to act upon the experience of its predecessors, and not fall into the same mistakes. I looked upon it

MR. SMITH.