

The spurious scientific and official emanations of Bell and Macoun, who are still officers of the Geological Survey of Canada, have been spread throughout England to an enormous extent in Emigration Pamphlets to allure and decoy, or are otherwise diffused. I observe that you refer to Macoun's "Manitoba and the Great North-West" in your recent report to the Minister of the Interior. Sir Alexander Galt has known about them for nearly two years, and has used them largely. He has used them as a swindler uses his false information.

I believe that no one will regret more than yourself, that the famed legacy of Sir William Logan,—the Geological Survey of Canada,—of which you are now the responsible head, should have become venally subservient to the interests of unscrupulous men, through the faithlessness of the officers under your charge. I am certain that all true Canadians will be pained that a Great and Royal Society in England should have had its records sullied by the fraudulent misrepresentations of your Assistant Director,—it is to be feared, under corrupting influence,—for vile purposes.

Although the financial injustice to investors in North-West speculative enterprises, based upon the misleading statements of these officers of the Government Geological Survey of Canada, is no special concern of mine, yet the unfeeling injuries which are pressed upon uninstructed, unprepared and poor European Immigrants, who may be inveigled by the literature based upon the same misstatements, as circulated by the Department of Agriculture, is of personal interest and moment to every man, and can not be overlooked by those in authority, without fatal injury to Canada, and distress or ruin to many individuals.

I am sorry to say that the good repute of the Geological Survey is temporarily wrecked by the misrepresentations adverted to. Canadian interests of a certain class, in all the Provinces, as sustained by English capital, apart from those belonging to the North-West, will suffer from and be jeopardized by the official license and encouraged scientific fraud I have outlined, unless speedily and publicly arrested in its course.

The organ of the Government, *The Toronto Mail*, under date April 4th, reports that Dr. Bell recently testified before the "Colonization and Immigration Committee" that:—

"In regard to the climate, the district to the south and south-west of James Bay (in Hudson's Bay) lay in the same latitude as Cornwall, Devonshire, and the south of England, and there were no peculiarities of situation which ought to make the climate more severe than in these districts."

Can you, as Director of the Survey, sit quietly by and read these reported wicked travesties of your Assistant Director, Dr. Bell, knowing the object for which they are promulgated and their amazing falseness?

It may do for politicians to

"Lip a Winton, and suppose her chaste,"

But it will not do for you, a responsible "Director" and F. R. S. You must be truthful and human.

The Immigration and Colonization Committee are reported to have "thanked" Dr. Bell for the repetition of some of his frauds. (10) Thanked him for what? Supplying fuel for the WRECKERS FIRE?

Still, you will agree with me, all pecuniary consequences become insignificant when compared with the human suffering which must be created in increasing ratio, as long as poor and uninstructed immigrants are permitted to be inveigled by the unrepressed impostures specified, which are broadly scattered under high authority.

Every one has a right to ask why these faithless servants of the Geological Survey should be permitted to continue their work, enjoy the fruits of past malfeasance, and be sustained in the very face of unanswerable disproof of the various statements they have officially made for dishonourable purposes. You will see from a perusal of the details I have sent to you, and have further elaborated for the information of the Committee on Immigration and Colonization, when called for, that it is quite impossible to state in what other particulars any of the information conveyed by these two "Explorers" is worthy of belief.

Is it under compulsion that men thus "lug their chains," or do they gain by it?

THE DEPUTY OF THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

I much regret to be compelled to add that the authoritative statements of certain other Canadian officials, directly connected with the officers of the Geological Survey, concerning physical features of the North-West Territories are, year by year, becoming more misleading and corrupt. It appears that the impression prevails that official announcements can establish physical and geographical "facts," in opposition to evidence and the exercise of common-sense. These official announcements are used for the support of money making schemes and speculative enterprises generally. They are the promoters and the touters stand-by.

The most melancholy illustration of this pernicious progress is to be found in the last report from the DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, which embodies your own preliminary contribution. The Chief Inspector of Surveys in the North-West, Mr. E. Deville, and Mr. Lindsay Russell, the Deputy of the Minister of the Interior, part of whose annual duty is to review and comment on your work, furnish examples of this progressive depravity.

On pages 8 and 9 of the recent Report of the CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SURVEYS (11) you may read the following paragraphs, which I mark (1) and (2).

"(1)—The Tract of land extending from Moose Jaw Creek to Bow River was, at one time, shown on the maps as 'the northern extension of the American Desert.' Now that the country has been examined, it is easy to see the cause of such notions. The main travelled trail from Winnipeg to the Rocky Mountains, after it has left Moose Jaw Creek, enters the Missouri Coteau, which is very rough and broken, and, after crossing Swift Current Creek, follows a range of Sand Hills broken by alkali flats and marshes and extending about one hundred miles in a westerly direction. It is an uninviting country, and we need not wonder that early explorers described it as a desert. But this is only a local feature, and a few miles on the north side of the sand hills good land is to be found."

"(2)—As an instance of a similar mistake, I may point out the section traversed by the Canadian Pacific Railway from the western boundary of Manitoba to Moose Jaw Creek. This was known at one time as the "Barren Plains of the Souris," still during the last year, this part of the country has received an enormous influx of Settlers who seem to be all well pleased with their new homes."

Now, you know, as well as Mr. Deville, the 'Chief Inspector of Surveys,' and every other person familiar with the country, or with maps of the country, that the Canadian Pacific Railway after leaving the western boundary of Manitoba (Long. 101.30) only touches the headwaters of two or three small tributaries to the Souris, rising not far from the Assiniboine, and throughout every other portion of its length, within the limits named, it traverses the valley of the Qu'Appelle. Further, that the so-called "Barren Plains of the Souris" lie to the south, south-west and west of Moose Mountain, and the Canadian Pacific Railway never approaches this vast arid and "frost-cracked plain

(10) See Montreal Witness, April 8th.

(11) See Report of the Department of the Interior for 1882. Part I.