

travelling through or residing in the North-West, and thus contributed so much to make the Report and the evidence what it is, and as it is said that "He is a benefactor who shall cause two blades of grass to grow where but one has grown before," in this I know that I express the feelings of the members of the Committee, by saying that they will be satisfied with the result of their work for some weeks past, if the information obtained, and the conclusions arrived at, are even in a small way, an advantage to the great region which has occupied their attention, to this hon. House and to the Dominion at large.

HON. MR. GIRARD—In seconding the motion, I think I express the opinion of the House when I say that the hon. gentleman from Winnipeg is entitled to the gratitude of the country at large for his services to the public. He was one of the first, I think, under the new regime to use his best efforts to promote the greatness and prosperity of the North-West, and I hope that he will live long enough to see the success of the work with which he has been so closely identified. I am sure that the House will concur in the opinion expressed by the Committee in their report as to the great value of these North-West Territories to the Dominion, and will concur in the conclusion at which they have arrived, that nowhere has nature showered blessings with a more bountiful hand than in the Canadian North-West. This may be denied by some members of this honorable body, but I do not think that the report states more than is due to that great country. It must be borne in mind that what is to be seen at this day in the North-West is the work of about 10 years, yet you will see a great deal there that will compare favorably with the results of 300 years work in the eastern provinces. What may we not expect from the development of that country in the future, when so much has been accomplished in ten years? The hon. member from Winnipeg, in proposing the committee, has done a good work which will remove a great deal of the prejudice that prevails as to the North-West and which leads some people to believe that we are rather a burden

than a benefit to the Dominion. If our progress and development are not arrested, the Dominion will possess in its North-West Territories one of the finest countries in the world. Anyone who will read the report carefully will observe that the products and resources of the great North-West are so vast and varied that we have all the elements within our own borders necessary to maintain ourselves. One great source of food supply has disappeared with the buffalo. Twice in the year the Indians went to hunt the buffalo. Often in a couple of weeks they could make ample provision to supply them for half the year; but that time is gone and the Indians must either submit to civilization or go the same way as the buffalo. I think that the policy which has been pursued towards the Indians will yet be regarded as a bad one. It will be found before long that we must change our system and bring them more speedily into civilization. For some hundreds of years we have been trying to civilize the Indians of old Canada, and though some of them have made progress, I think it will be found that, generally speaking, they are no more advanced to day than they were when the country was first discovered. They cannot remain long in that condition, and the sooner they can be brought to the same plane as the rest of the population the better it will be for the people of the Dominion, and for the Indians themselves. They have been long enough kept in a state of tutelage; they should be now regarded as men. I think in some cases they are prepared to accept civilization. As will be seen by some of the evidence taken before the Committee, where schools have been established and education has been diffused amongst them, the Indians are law-abiding and are more provident and industrious. The House will learn with pleasure that there is a prospect that our responsibilities in connection with the support of the Indians will diminish, and suggestions will be found in this report which will lead to the saving of a good deal of the public money. One suggestion is made which I think, if acted upon, will prove a great advantage to Manitoba and the entire country—that is the introduction