

being impaired and settlement paralyzed because branches were not built. This is a discrepancy the hon. gentlemen can reconcile amongst themselves, as they please. (Hear, hear.) There is one branch line, however, which would be of vast importance to the country. Many settlers were induced to go into the southern part of Manitoba, that part south of the main line, in consequence of the hope that the Manitoba and Southwestern would be constructed; but that road having been suspended, for some cause or other, and the Canadian Pacific Railway having acquired its charter, I think it should be pushed forward as rapidly as possible, because there have been settlers there a longer time without railway facilities than in any other part of the country that I am aware of, and I think their claims should be well and carefully considered. (Hear, hear.) As to

THE FARMERS' DELEGATES,

the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Watson) denies that there was any political cabal in Manitoba, or that the movement originated for political purposes. Now, I chance to know something about that movement, as I happen to have some friends in the hon. gentleman's own town, as well as in Brandon and Winnipeg. If, as the hon. gentleman claims, that movement was strictly in the interests of the country, he should have been one of its leading spirits; but he says: No; I am afraid of my political position; I will not join in it at all, else somebody will find fault with me. The very fact of his absenting himself from the meetings under that pretext, and taking no part in the proceedings, is an evidence, to my mind, that he was satisfied of the dishonestly of the whole movement (Cheers.) As to the character of the men sent down here as delegates, I am going to give a little comparison in a professional way. If the medical profession were to hold a convention in their interests, in, say the province of Ontario, I am quite sure that they would not send carpenters or blacksmiths, or even lawyers, if you like, to represent them, but medical men. There is an association of farmers, so called, recently formed in that province, who send down here, as they claim, delegates to represent the farmers of that province and their interests. These men to be true representatives should be farmers, men fully understanding the situation. And the farmers' grievances, if they

have any—but no, not one of them—it is a question in my mind, if any one of them even cultivated one square rod of land. I doubt if either of them to-day knows peas from buckwheat; still, they come here to present the grievances of the farmers of Manitoba to the Dominion Parliament. The proposition is simply absurd. (Hear, hear.) In the neighbourhood of Brandon, there are two or three men, whom I happen to know, prominent and successful farmers, old residents, and notoriously political friends of the hon. gentleman, and I would ask him why did not such men as Mr. Sifton, Mr. Mackenzie, or Mr. Gier, and others of that character, come down on this delegation. But not one of them came; they were sensible, prudent men, who would have nothing to do with this little bit of political claptrap, which case was worked up in the *Globe* office, on King street, Toronto. This was the place where these bomb-shells were prepared, which were to burst upon the country, to the dismay of the present government.

SATISFIED AND DISSATISFIED SETTLERS.

Now, I travelled, as I said, on a buckboard. I took occasion when I met a farmer on his farm to ask him: "Well, neighbour, where did you come from?" "Well, I came from Carleton," or Leeds or Dundas as the case might be, I found a large number from Huron and Bruce. Well, I found that every man I met, I may say without a single exception, who was on his farm and went there to make the country his home, and a livelihood for himself and family by honest industry expressed himself as perfectly satisfied, and as having no wish to go back to Ontario. I did find a few growlers—where did I find them? About the piazzas, bar-rooms and reading-rooms of the hotels; and I will venture the wager that 95 per cent. of the growlers were this class of men. (Cheers.) True, my professional friend from Grey (Mr. Landerkin) the other night, gave an instance of one or two of the supporters of the hon. gentleman, now leading the government, going out to that country and not finding where to place their feet. They could not find a spot in all Manitoba, in which to-day there are more than 15,000,000 acres of unoccupied lands, while west of the boundary line of that province there is a country capable of supporting 25,000,000 or 30,000,000, without involving any denser population than we have in Ontario. And yet these informants of my hon. friend, these strange kind of Tories, could not