

have aided the Grand Trunk, the Pacific, Occidental, and all the main lines. We have the Intercolonial connecting us with the Maritime Provinces; and now, having arranged for the completion of the main trunk lines, we help just the branches which will feed them. In this way only can our railway system be made complete. The hon. member for West Middlesex alluded to, in a somewhat sneering manner, the sparseness of the inhabitants in the county of Ottawa. Well, I can correct him also on that point. It is quite true that the county could afford land for millions of settlers instead of the thousands who now inhabit it. But the hon. gentlemen should recollect that we have spent many millions, and must still spend more millions, to reach British Columbia, a Province that is inhabited by 20,000 white people. I do not underrate that splendid Province on that account. I recognize its importance to the Dominion, and, on all occasions, I have done my best to aid every proposal which would contribute to its development. We are giving millions in aid of enterprises which will benefit that Province. The county of Ottawa has a population nearly approaching 50,000, which is more than twice the entire population of British Columbia; I think, therefore, that my hon. friend must admit that we are not unreasonable in asking for some aid to our railway enterprises. The county of Ottawa has contributed more than any other county in the Dominion to the resources of the Dominion, by means of lumber dues, and has received less in return. The small subsidy which the Government proposes to give is well deserved, and I only regret that it is not larger. I forwarded a memorial to the Government, signed by more than a hundred members of this House, praying that the Government would give \$6,000 per mile to the Gatineau Valley Railway, and the Colonization Railway from Buckingham. I regret very much that no grant has been made for the Buckingham branch; the construction of this line would give a vast impetus to the development of the magnificent mineral resources of that region. I must hope that the desired aid will be afforded next Session. The mineral resources of that phosphate region are somewhat marvellous. I am delighted to learn that some arrangement will soon be made by which the iron pyrites of the Eastern Townships, and the phosphates of the county of Ottawa, will be brought into contact, so that that most valuable fertilizer will be manufactured in that county, instead of phosphates being taken over the sea. The construction of those railways will practically add another Province to the Dominion. I said to a member of the Government the other day, in discussing the general railway policy of the Government in connection with the North-West and its ultimate development, that under the very shadow of the Parliament buildings, lying at our very door, was an immense and unknown territory, teeming with mineral and all other kinds of wealth. I also told him that it is only a railroad system which can secure for this its appropriate development. The county of Ottawa extends far into the interior, the Gatineau River runs some 400 miles into this region, and takes its rise in the vicinity of the great affluents of the Saguenay and the St. Maurice. The country lying between these rivers is the one which we are trying to open up, it is literally a *terra incognita*. This country possesses great mineral, lumbering and agricultural resources. The splendid eulogium passed on this region by the hon. Minister of Railways was well deserved. Its colors were very gorgeous and brilliant, but were not overdrawn, he literally held the mirror up to Nature. Any one who travels on the Occidental Railway must notice a wealth of phosphate; for miles along the line of that railway. We can hardly realize what the effect will be when scientific skill and railway enterprise come to the aid of the hardy miners. The construction of these railways will aid the settlement of the country, and will prove invaluable feeders to the great Dominion railway system; will develop the mineral, agricultural and all other resources of this region.

I am assured that far up in that Gatineau region there is much good land, on which millions of Canadian people could find happy homes. The Lacustrine system of this country is one of the finest in the world. The whole country is dotted with lakes, teeming with trout, and filled with all the fish which abound in our Canadian waters. The construction of this railroad will enable large forests of maple, beech, and other hardwoods, to be utilized for the purpose of supplying the cities of Ottawa, Toronto, and Quebec with valuable fuel. Owing to the number of falls on the Gatineau river, only certain kinds of timber can be brought down it, and consequently much of the timber remains there. I have been assured that immense forests of oak, birch, maple, and all other hardwoods which exist in Canada, still remain there, and cannot be utilized except by means of a railway. It is intended to construct this railway to the River Desert, ultimately to James' Bay. It will pass for a hundred miles through a country somewhat rough, but settled by a prosperous, active, and intelligent people. The way traffic alone would justify the construction of the road. The Gatineau River is a series of water-powers which would drive the spindles of the world. If manufactories could be started in that region, if these water-powers can be used in promoting the development of our mineral, agricultural and other resources, the advantage to the Dominion and the Province of Quebec would be incalculable. Every year we have a great fair at the Pickanock, a place in the township of Wright, which it is proposed to touch with this railway. I attend this fair every year, and I am much pleased with the exhibition. Some of the finest cattle in the Dominion can be seen; chosen specimens from the herds of Senator Cochrane attract attention; the display of cereals is very fine, and the root crops equal, if they do not exceed, those of Manitoba. Mr. Ellard tells me that his Gatineau wheat is used by agents to lure emigrants to Manitoba. Taken altogether the display in that exhibition would reflect credit on any part of Canada. Some of the farmers in that Gatineau country would astonish those who think it to be a poor country. Those of the Messrs. Hall, G. Hamilton, Gilmore and Ellard would be regarded as model farms anywhere. Some years ago I visited Maniwaki, a settlement away near the confluence of the River Desert with the Gatineau. I found this a thriving settlement with a people full of life, energy and activity. I was assured that the future of that section depended on the construction of a railway; as the timber was cut off, the market of the inhabitants receded, and railway communication with the outer world was indispensable to their existence. It was there I met the Rev. Mr. Deleage, the worthy successor of those grand French missionaries who did so much to illustrate the early history of this country. For forty years this priest has resided in the wilderness. For forty years he has devoted himself to the services of the savage tribes who inhabited the Upper Gatineau. He built a splendid church of crystalline limestone, which stood like a beacon light to point the way from the darkness of the forest to the light of Christianity and civilization. He built grist and saw mills, and devoted himself to the temporal, as well as the spiritual, wants of the people. He was beloved and respected by both the Protestant and Catholic. It was from this worthy man that I derived my information concerning this region. He assured me that in that region there was good land on which millions of Canadian people could find happy homes. He described the fertility of the soil, telling me that on one occasion he had reaped sixty bushels of wheat from one bushel which he had sown, and that in all respects the country was a most desirable one. I am much pleased to find in these resolutions a subsidy to Father Labelle's road from St. Jerome to the River Desert; it is desirable that this road should be encouraged in every possible manner. Father Labelle is engaged in a great work of repatriation and colonization. He has already, I am assured, settled