

PROFESSOR MACOUN'S LONG AND VALUABLE PUBLIC SERVICE.

Mr. DERBYSHIRE.—I beg to move, seconded by Mr. Wright (Renfrew): That the thanks of this committee be now tendered Mr. John Macoun, Naturalist to the Geological Survey Department of Canada, for the valuable information laid by him before the committee on the natural capabilities of that large section of Western Canada extending from Edmonton to Portage la Prairie, on the occasion of his appearance before us on this subject. The committee desires also to report its appreciation of the valuable services Professor Macoun has rendered to Canada in the past thirty years of his arduous and official services as a practical science officer of the Geological Survey of the Dominion, notably the following explorations of territory:—

Professor Macoun's first trip across the prairies was with Sir Sandford Fleming in 1872. His glowing report of the country traversed caused him to be sent again, in 1875, to explore the route that it was then intended the Canadian Pacific Railway would follow. When the present route was decided upon, the government sent him, in 1879, 1880, and 1881, to report upon the country that would be opened up by the railway. Optimistic as his reports and prophesies were, they have all proved true. To these are to be added Professor Macoun's explorations in the Canadian Yukon Territory, in 1903, which revealed for the first time that that far northern division of Canada also possesses agricultural resources of no mean order.

The motion was put and carried.

The CHAIRMAN.—I have much pleasure in presenting you, Mr. Macoun, with this motion of thanks from this committee for your valuable services, both past and present.

Professor MACOUN.—Gentlemen, I thank you very much for your kindness in passing this resolution. To an old man it seems like great appreciation.

Mr. LEWIS.—If Professor Macoun is not tired, I would like to have a word from him on the Peace River country.

Professor MACOUN.—I will answer any question that the members of the committee desire to put to me. I might say, that is the country from which I got the wheat, in 1875, that took the prize at the Centennial Exhibition, in Philadelphia.

By Mr. Thompson:

Q. What is the latitude?

A. That is in latitude 59°.

By Mr. Lewis:

Q. How far north of Edmonton?

A. Edmonton is in latitude 53° 53'. It would be at least 400 miles, in a straight line.

By Mr. Thompson:

Q. Where is Dunvegan?

A. Dunvegan is there (pointing to the map); that is Peace River Landing, and Vermilion is there. There is where the river divides, part going into Lake Athabaska and part into the Slave river. It was there that I got the wheat, in latitude 59° exactly. That point is 690 feet above the sea. Vermilion is 950 feet above the sea and in latitude 58° 24'. This is Peace River Landing here. It is in latitude 56° 15'. Down by the water it is 1,225 feet above the sea. The banks are 700 feet high.

Q. How early in the spring can seeding be done in the vicinity of Peace River Landing and Dunvegan?

A. Of course, I could not answer that personally, but I can say, in general terms, that it is not much later than on the prairie. Why do I say that? A hundred years