

not the courage to lay the failure at the door of those responsible for it. He attempted to lay it upon hon. members on this side, because of their unpatriotic speeches. We have heard enough of that. In the first place, we say to hon. gentlemen opposite that we deny the statements they make—when they make statements with reference to that country being decryd by the Opposition. We deny that. I have the right to ask hon. gentlemen opposite to come to the proof. Why do they rise, day after day, and venture to say—to make such statements, when they have been challenged for the proof, time and again, and do not offer any proof? Do they think that will redound to their credit? No; when they have been challenged, time and again, to produce proof as to the course they allege hon. gentlemen on this side have followed, let them, for the sake of their own honor, ever after hold their peace.

Mr. MITCHELL. I gave you a proof; I quoted your organ.

Mr. PATERSON. Was that the utterance of hon. gentlemen from this side?

Mr. MITCHELL. It is from your organ.

Mr. PATERSON. Did not the hon. gentleman state it was a descriptive letter, written by a certain gentleman and published in the newspaper?

Mr. MITCHELL. Published with display headings.

Mr. PATERSON. When the hon. member for Northumberland gave a fair description, I will not say a rosy description, of some of the States of the neighboring Union, did anyone charge him with running down his own country, or charge the paper that published the letter with that, because they saw fit to give to the public the letter written by that gentleman? He was giving impressions of the country as they were formed by him. Should hon. gentlemen opposite charge upon members of this side utterances of this kind in newspapers, if they can find them? We ask them to make good their statements, when they dare to say the course of the Opposition has been unpatriotic, that the Opposition have manifested a desire to retard the progress of the country. They will attempt that task in vain. If I may be allowed to point to newspaper utterances, if I might be allowed to allude to organs of the party, do you not think I could read utterances from the most recognised organ of hon. gentlemen opposite, in which expressions, stronger than any that have been used by hon. gentlemen opposite, are used, in the direction of praising up some of the States of the Union, and by comparison show our North-West not to be equal to them. Can I not do that? Do hon. gentlemen opposite hold themselves responsible for it? What did the *Toronto Mail* say, only a very few months ago? I do not like this; I do not hold that the Conservative party or the members opposite are to be charged with uttering sentiments that are contained in the *Toronto Mail*. If we are to talk about organs, I suppose the hon. gentlemen opposite will not dare to repudiate the *Toronto Mail* as their organ. It has made the political life of many hon. gentlemen opposite, and they will not dare to repudiate it. What did it say? In its issue of 27th February, 1885, is an article which is rather a mass of contradictions, for it is trying, like my hon. friends opposite, to lay the blame of the failure of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company upon the Opposition, and it tries to work in its censure among that, and yet it has to admit facts, or what it thinks are facts, in reference to it, and so it is rather a jumble, but I will read what it says:

"Thus, the decrease in settlement in these American territories was 39.56 per cent., and in the Canadian North-West 39.92 per cent. Considering the fact Minnesota and Dakota have had in the race, and the help they have received from the Opposition in the Dominion Parliament, and from the anti-immigration patriots in Manitoba, the wonder is not that our North-West should have suffered as much as they, but that it did not suffer more."

Mr. PATERSON (Brant).

Mr. MITCHELL. Are you not reading the wrong extract?

Mr. PATERSON. No.

"The effects of the boom—the headache after the debauch—must also be taken into account as a factor operating temporarily against Manitoba. Then, again, while the frost of September 7, 1883, did some damage throughout the American North-West, in Manitoba it wrought wholesale destruction."

That is from the *Toronto Mail*. Here is a little frost; it did some little damage in the north-western States, but in Manitoba it wrought wholesale destruction. Can the hon. gentleman point to a statement made in that direction in the article which he read, even from the *Globe*?

Mr. MITCHELL. The difference is this—in that case I suppose it was true; in the other case it was a lie.

Mr. PATERSON. Now the hon. member is running down his country. He is endorsing the statement that, when these people in Minnesota and Dakota have a frost it will do a little harm, and yet it will work wholesale destruction in our North-West.

Mr. MITCHELL. No one ever denies, I never denied, that there are frosts in the North-West. It is not a paradise, but it is a fine country.

Mr. PATERSON. He has said that this is a truth, that the frost which may work some little harm in Minnesota and Dakota will work wholesale destruction in our land, and I am not prepared to believe it, though the hon. gentleman says so. I believe the frost will affect them in Dakota to as great an extent as in our North-West; at least, I hope so, from a patriotic standpoint; but the hon. gentleman says so; he says that the *Mail* is correct, that our country is in that unhappy position, that a frost which will do some damage in the north-western States will work wholesale destruction even in Manitoba. Still further:

"And the panic that followed the cry that early frosts would always menace wheat inflicted grave injury on the country, which nothing but a series of good harvests can repair. These, in our opinion, are the true causes of the depression in the North-West. The Government, probably, did commit mistakes."

Is the article true in that respect, I wonder?

"Few men are infallible; but the marvellous energy they have displayed in developing that region, and the care they have taken in securing for the settler fair rates and free competition for his produce, stand out infinitely beyond the sum of their shortcomings. The *Globe* says, however, that the Ottawa people encouraged speculation, and instances the formation of hundreds of bubble colonisation companies, under the Dominion Land Act. No doubt, the colonisation companies have suffered. Many of them deserve to suffer. Their projectors attempted to make money without for working for it—an offence against the economies which is within a measurable distance of stealing. But the Government is in no way responsible for the collapse in that quarter."

Here is the colonisation company. My hon. friends saw great danger in the Bill of the hon. member for Bothwell; they said you would have land grabbed up by speculators without getting money for it. Here is a confession from their chief organ, that this Government chartered colonisation companies that got hold of immense tracts of land for the purposes of speculation, that never proposed to build a mile of railroad, that did not think of such a thing, but got the land for pure speculation; and, after they have chartered them, the chief organ of the Government is kind enough to say they were within a measurable distance of stealing; in other words, they were within a measurable distance of being thieves. Then we go further:

"It is only fair to add, however, that in all probability the Government now in power has taken too sanguine a view of the North-West development. It has been the habit, in making up calculations of future progress, to ignore the fact that Minnesota and Dakota offer to the poorer class of settlers advantages fully equal to those held out by Manitoba; while the western, south-western and southern States present to the well-to-do immigrant, who can afford to choose his climate, an infinite and incomparable variety of attractions."

There is the language of the *Mail* newspaper. You can do as well, Mr. intending immigrant, if you are a poor man,