

soil, but the remarkable part of it is, that this was produced under precisely the same conditions. We know that this land was produced in the bottom of a great lake caused by an ice barrier. Our geologists know that lakes Winnipeg and Winnipegosis are remnants of this great lake, and that actually this land is covered by a stratum of first-class soil produced from the silt deposited in this great lake.

When I wrote that book (pointing to it), 'Manitoba and the Great Northwest,' twenty-six years ago, I wrote in it that the land on the Carrot river was the finest land in the whole Northwest, that its depth was wonderful; but when I wrote about Carrot river, I meant the land near its source, about latitude 52°. The Carrot river flows northeasterly and enters the Saskatchewan above the Pas. The land on the Carrot river is first-class all the way to its discharge into the Saskatchewan. In the lower part of its course the land is low and wet, owing to backing up of its waters by the Saskatchewan. All the lakes shown on the map, and others that are not shown on this map are caused by the backing of the water near the mouth of the Saskatchewan. The country around Cedar lake is almost completely covered with water, but the country is just as rich as the other land, the soil is the same, and before many of you are dead, they will do what I am going to speak of now, and you will see it for yourselves. The day must come when the government will set apart a sum of money for the purpose. This is Cedar lake here, and these are the rapids of the Saskatchewan (indicating on map). Now, Cedar lake is receiving the waters that come down the great Saskatchewan river, and the watercourse is being filled up. Behind Cedar lake is this large tract of country I am speaking about, and when the government decides to cut a channel in order to allow the waters of the Saskatchewan to flow freely out of Cedar lake, that country will be drained, and there will be an immense area of first-class soil added to the public domain that we now have, that is good wheat land.

*By Mr. McCraney:*

Q. How long a cutting would be required?

A. That is just a question I have been thinking about, and I would say that it is the duty of parliament to send, in the future—I will not say, in the near future—but to send an engineer there and have the lake properly examined. I have been asked why the floods are caused, and I say, by silt gathering at the head of the rapids, but I have not learned whether it is rock boulder, or a mud barrier that gathers there.

*By Mr. Lewis:*

Q. Have you any idea of the fall from Cedar lake to Lake Winnipeg?

A. It is quite considerable, about 118 feet.

*By Mr. McCraney:*

Q. About how many acres of land would be rendered available for agriculture, if this were done?

A. There would be really an immense area, but I have no knowledge of the exact number of square miles.

I mentioned that we know wheat will grow up to latitude 56° northwest of Lake Winnipeg. We know also, that during the past year wheat grew and ripened in an extraordinarily short period of time at Fort Simpson on the Mackenzie river in latitude 61°.

Mr. Stewart, Commissioner of Forestry, was down at Fort Simpson this year and saw wheat in the milk on the 15th of July last. It was reported to him by a man who passed up the river later on, that wheat was cut very early in August; if not before the end of July. As I say, this was in latitude 61° at about 850 miles north of the international boundary. You see this book which I have here; I wrote it 26 years ago and called it 'The Great Northwest.' I gathered all the information that I possibly could to back up my statements, and the remarkable thing is, that none of those statements have been proved to be incorrect. Instead of being too optimistic as it was said then that I was, we know that I did not know it all, although like many a young