

it is somewhat warmer in summer, perhaps, than in Toronto, and possibly somewhat colder in winter, but the weather is regular, not subject to such sudden changes as we find in the Province of Ontario. The hon. member for Niagara seems to think it would be an easy matter for the Dominion to construct a railway across the continent, since the United States had done so. But it must be remembered that the United States did not succeed in some of their undertakings. The Northern Pacific Railway has been a failure so far, notwithstanding all the resources of the Government, and of the great capitalists of the country, who have afforded it assistance. The failure of this scheme brought about the financial crisis in the country. They had only constructed a few hundred miles of that road when the crisis came, and the result was that there was a money panic throughout the whole country. If the United States, with all their resources, failed with their wealth and a population of fifty millions of people, how can we expect to complete a similar work, a work of greater magnitude, with a population of only four millions? The right hon. the Premier, I must say, made an extraordinary speech, and I consider that he travelled a little outside the record in replying to the speech of the hon. member for North Norfolk. My hon. friend from North Norfolk, spoke chiefly about the danger of creating monopolies in the great North-West, and I do not think he has been answered on that point, either by the hon. the Premier or by the hon. member for Niagara. They say there is plenty of land and they digress a little from the question, and talk about the expense of constructing the Pacific Railway. I think they are anticipating the future discussion on the Pacific Railway, for the purpose of producing some effect on the minds of hon. gentlemen in this House. But in reference to this Pacific Railway, not one I understand, not even the most eminent engineer, can give us an approximate idea of the magnitude of that undertaking. It is true, that for the first twelve hundred miles across the plains, until you arrive at the mountains of British Columbia, the railway may not be very expensive to construct, and the balance of the road through that

sea of mountains, all eminent engineers agree, must be very expensive. I have heard it stated, that it would cost \$50,000,000 to construct the road through British Columbia to the Pacific Ocean alone. At all events, that is nothing to do with the question before the House. The question is, whether the right and proper policy for the Government to pursue, is to sell large tracts of land to any one individual, or any company. I think I heard it stated, when I was in the North-West, that there was one gentleman in the city of Winnipeg in possession of 50,000 acres of land. The hon. the Premier said it was contrary to the law and land regulations that any one individual should hold more than one section—that is, 640 acres. I think it is possible for a person to get all the land he wants, if he has the money to pay for it. The land regulations are that one individual can only hold one section it is true, but, at the same time, he can take a dozen of his friends or associates into the land office with him. He could purchase land, 640 acres for each individual, and immediately after coming out of the office transfer it to himself. Any person could get any reasonable quantity of land in any section of the country in this manner. A few years ago a number of Mennonites settled in Manitoba. There were sixteen townships set apart for them in one settlement, and on fifteen of the sixteen townships there was not a single tree, and it is questionable, in my mind, whether a single inhabitant in Ontario or in any of the older Provinces would have settled on that tract of land. Now we find they have upwards of fifty little villages dotting the prairie. It is only a few years since a discussion took place in this chamber on the subject of encouraging Mennonite settlement, and many hon. gentlemen are here now who opposed the grant or loan, that was made to these Mennonites, of \$100,000; they only received \$85,000. It was not a grant, it was a loan, every cent of which will be honourably repaid. We find that these people, who went there without friends or a knowledge of the country, among strangers, destitute of means, have now 14,324 acres under cultivation; they raised last year 127,407 bushels of wheat, and that the total value of their crops is

Mr. Trow.