

was no wood within 35 miles. There is not a bush in this country at all, only a few willows along a salt lake, that we call White Shore lake on the map. The whole of the waters here are more or less salt. This is a pretty dry country. We passed through quite a large section here of first-class land. The soil is first-class, but it gets drier as you go west. You would think it was pretty hard where there is no water and wood is scarce, and yet the American settlers have no difficulty whatever in establishing themselves in this country. Why? Because they have been accustomed to this kind of thing on the other side. The American comes in, and the first thing he does, he looks around and he says: 'I guess we will see if we cannot get water.' He hunts for a well, and if he gets water, he builds a house. And how does he get his house? He gets into a little hollow and, after satisfying himself as to the situation, he cuts the sod about three inches deep, turns it over and divides it in sections and builds a sod house. These sod houses throughout the West are first class. Men of this kind establish themselves in no time by going right about it. That is the whole question. I said to a gentleman: 'Could you not use the sod here for fuel?' He said: 'Of course, we do.' I thought I was going to enlighten him, but he would not be enlightened on that point, he had been enlightened before. There is no difficulty about settling in a place where there are five or six inches of sod and breaking it up, turning it up to the sun and letting it dry and having first-class fires. Anybody could do it, if they would. The whole question, gentlemen, is between capacity and incapacity. The men coming from the United States are capable people. Some of the Ontario settlers, but not all, are also capable people.

By Mr. Wilson (Lennox and Addington):

Q. Are there many native Americans coming in?

A. A great number. It is a curious fact, though, that many of them were formerly Canadians.

Q. Is there a large foreign element coming in from the United States?

A. I never saw a foreigner at all. They were all English-speaking people, and apparently native Americans, or had been, as some one told me, resident in the United States for twenty-five or thirty years.

Q. Were there any Germans?

A. No, I saw no Germans.

By Mr. Jackson (Selkirk):

Q. What about the Galicians?

A. I have not time to speak about the Galicians this morning. I would say this, however, that the Galicians are a hard-working people, but they cannot talk to you. It is a difficult thing in a new country, where there are no roads, when you run up against a foreigner, and you say to him: 'Is this the way?' and he answers 'Yes.' You follow it, and you discover it is not the way. The Galicians, as workers, are all right and are a decent, civilized people.

COMPARATIVE ELEVATIONS.

Here is the most difficult section in the whole country. This is what is called Big Manitou lake. This creek that you see runs into Manitou lake. And here I may say, speaking of the land, that it slopes to the north, that when we talk about going up we are really going down, and when you are thinking about Prince Albert being away up above Regina you will understand it is 487 feet lower than that place; that when you are thinking about Moosejaw and Saskatoon that Moosejaw is over 1,767 feet above the sea, Saskatoon a little over 1,574 feet above the sea and Prince Albert 1,398 feet. You are going up all the time which is really down. And, gentlemen, that is one of the strong points that I wish to impress upon you to-day, and that is as you go north and the altitude keeps going lower that the boundary of the wheat-growing country that we have got goes farther north all the time. After I am dead and gone