

tions has not been encouraging. This portion of the district is on the borderland between the humid and arid portions of the Territories, and while the soil is of an exceptionally fertile character, the liability to drought renders grain-growing precarious, and owing to scarcity of water supply irrigation cannot be resorted to as an aid to crop production in the manner practised in other parts of the plains region. The vast extent of territory in this part of Assinibola is broken in two places by marked ranges of hills which rise to a considerable height above the general elevation of the plains.

Now, Sir, for the moment, that is sufficient to read. But the hon. gentleman who is at the head of the Department of the Interior and who is familiar with the North-west Territories, must know that that is a most damaging as well as a most unjust representation of the country from the east of Qu'Appelle station to the west for something like forty miles, of Moose Jaw. Last year, as the hon. gentleman knows, was a dry year as compared with other years. The precipitation of rain last year was not as great as usual; yet what is the fact as regards north and south of Moose Jaw, north and south of Regina and north and south of Qu'Appelle station, and north and south of Balgonie? In the region specified by this misrepresentation in the hand-book of the Department of the Interior some of the best crops in the whole of Canada were grown. It is here said that the success attending farming operations has not been encouraging. Why, Sir, I venture to say that we have some of the most successful farmers in the North-west Territories around Moose Jaw, north of Pense, near Stoney Beach, north of Regina and north of Qu'Appelle, and around Balgonie. In that district immediately around Regina, the farmers last year, in addition to what they banked at their credit for the purpose of setting out loans, have placed in the Montreal savings bank \$100,000. I have here an account of the shipments from those points last year. We shipped from Balgonie, 131,214 bushels; from Moose Jaw, 220,233 bushels; from Regina, 135,177; from Qu'Appelle, 157,525—all in one year. I know as a fact that those farmers had not emptied their granaries when I got this report, which is that of the Canadian Pacific Railway. In addition to this amount of wheat you have the large amount that has gone to feed the people of those points. The shipments from those points amounted altogether to 644,383 bushels, of their own produce. Then, of general produce there were sent away from Balgonie, 77 tons; from Regina, 162; from Qu'Appelle, 174; total, 413 tons. It seems to me these facts demonstrate that this paragraph in the hand-book is a misrepresentation. Now, further, the writer of that paragraph is not aware evidently that the farmers in those regions had to learn how to farm. The system that is pursued in the east would not do

in that part of the country. We admit that as compared with portions of eastern Canada, the country is dry, but after an experience now of fifteen years, we entirely deny that that part of the country is too dry for successful arable farming. Now, what is the secret of farming successfully in that portion of the North-west? The secret is summer-fallowing. Perhaps that word would be misleading to intending settlers in the North-west. An incoming farmer into the North-west Territories, in order to farm successfully, has to have June fallowing. June fallowing accomplishes two things. In the first place, it prevents the weeds seeding; in the next place, it keeps the June rains in the ground. If the hon. gentleman who is at the head of the Department of the Interior would go over every bit of this district, referred to specially by me, which is here pronounced unfit for arable cultivation, he would find the finest wheat fields ever seen, and side by side with these wheat fields, only moderately rich crops of wheat. If he asked the farmer who would be accompanying him: How is it that this field is ready to give thirty to thirty-five bushels to the acre, and other fields alongside will not produce more than twelve or fifteen bushels? The answer invariably would be: At first they used to practice summer-fallowing, but after a while it was found that if they had summer-fallowing, fallowing right into the fall, the results were not the same as when the fallowing had been done in June or July. Our farmers had not learned, if I may use such a phrase, the trick of the country, but now they are doing better. Then you can to some extent produce the same results as the precipitation of rain by keeping the snow from drifting; that will have the same effect as rain moisture. If the snow is kept from drifting, when the spring sun comes, instead of the sun striking on the land, from which the wind has swept the snow away, it melts at least a portion of the snow, because it must be admitted that a considerable portion of the snow, lying sometimes two or three feet deep—some of that will evaporate, but some of it will melt, and this moisture will go into the ground. The frost in many parts goes deep into the ground, and the rain that falls in the autumn is actually kept by that frost in the ground, and when summer time comes the roots of the crop are moistened, not merely by the rainfalls of that summer, but by the moisture that is drawn from below up to the roots. Now, if that description is true given in the hand-book, the best thing that can be done is to abandon all this region; but I know that the description is misleading, I know that it is not correct. The success of the rural farmers, the Browns north of Regina, the Carsses in Qu'Appelle valley, and others who have put in fifteen years of labour, prove that description to be incorrect. The Cullums, north of