

road would open up the country and the value of the land would be enhanced.

Mr. HAGGART. Does the hon. gentleman deny the statement I made that the Minister of the Interior made that statement?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. He said nothing of the kind.

Mr. TURRIFF. I did not deny any statement; I simply said that the statement made by the Minister of the Interior was that the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific would open up the country and that the enhanced value of the land opened up would be equal to what the road would cost.

Mr. HAGGART. He made a direct promise to the House that the land there could be disposed of for the purpose of recouping the country for the building of that road. However, while I am on my feet, let me draw attention to the return brought down by the Finance Minister. It simply gives the joint area of undisposed lands in the provisional district of Alberta as 38,190,964 acres, and of Saskatchewan at 51,832,246 acres. These lands may be included in the free lands and homesteads and when these are taken up there may be no land at all at the disposal of the government.

Mr. LAKE. I think the return which was brought down to which the Minister of Finance referred does give a considerable amount of information on this question which has been raised, although the return is couched in such a way that it is very difficult to get the information that it contains clearly into one's mind. What I would like to suggest is that although it is perfectly true that the basis of calculation is eliminated from the resolutions, still I think the only way in which we can arrive at a right understanding of what the calculation should be is by making a calculation based on a definite area of land and a definite value to be given to that area. It seems to me that is the only way in which we can arrive at anything like a safe calculation, and therefore I would like the Minister of Finance to give us some such calculation as that or to say whether he considers we ought to abide by the calculation which was made in the original resolution. I find that in this report which was brought down it is stated that there is a total of 277,931,790 acres of land still undisposed of in both provinces. I suppose for the purpose of rough calculation we may divide that into half, attributing one half to each province. That would mean nearly 139,000,000 acres of land in each province still undisposed of. Of course, I am quite willing to admit that it would be very difficult to make a close calculation as to the value of the whole of that land; but in that return we have the statement showing an estimate given by the Surveyor General as to the condition of these lands. He has

Mr. TURRIFF.

made a statement containing these various items: Lands suitable for grain growing; lands requiring irrigation; lands suitable for ranches and other descriptions of farming; and water. These are the figures at which he arrives:

	Saskatchewan. Alberta.	
	Sq. miles.	Sq. miles.
Lands suitable for grain growing.. . . .	86,000	80,000
Lands requiring irrigation.. . . .	32,000	41,000

Mr. BERGERON. How many acres?

Mr. LAKE. The figures in this part of the return are given in square miles and not in acres.

	Sq. miles. Sq. miles.	
Land suitable for ranches or other description of farming.. . . .	106,887	113,559
Water.. . . .	27,000	20,000

Take the case of Saskatchewan; and I presume there will be no objection to our discussing either one province or the other. Take Saskatchewan, there has been, according to this return, about 22,235,385 acres of land disposed of. Supposing the whole of this were wheat land, that would still leave 34,804,615 acres of wheat lands at the disposal of the government, and in addition a very large amount of land which would require irrigation, and an enormous tract fit for ranching, according to the estimate of the Surveyor General. I would like to have some calculation made of the value which should be put upon these lands. How have the government arrived at this capital sum of \$37,500,000, upon which they are going to distribute interest to the new provinces, according to population? What was the basis of that calculation? We find that wheat lands in the Northwest are selling at a far greater value than \$1.50 per acre. Take the sales by the Canadian Pacific Railway in January this year, the average price obtained for the land was \$4.10 per acre. I have looked through the report of the Department of the Interior for the years 1903, and 1904, and find there a statement of the lands disposed of by the various land companies in the Northwest—the Hudson Bay Company, the Canadian Pacific Railway and other companies—and I find that the average price obtained by the Hudson Bay Company for their lands was \$5.50 per acre, by the Canadian Pacific Railway \$3.50 per acre, and that the average price for the lands sold during the previous eleven years was about \$3.50 per acre. It turns out, on totalling up these figures, that the grand total of the lands sold by the land companies during those previous eleven years amounted to 10,512,349 acres, and that the sum for which they were sold totalled just about the sum which is to be allowed each of the new provinces as compensation for 25 million acres of land. That is to say, the amount received by the companies