

that the Liberal-Conservative party deserve considerable credit for the manner in which, in the face of determined opposition, they carried that project to a successful conclusion. Now, I believe these men were honest. They were mistaken beyond a doubt, but it seems to have been the policy of the Liberal party not to have very much faith in the western country until very recently. Now, if the House will have patience with me I propose to give hon. members a little information that may be of some value to them and to their sons who go out to that country, because, I am glad to say, that we have in the west the sons and daughters of Quebec and Ontario and of every other province in this Dominion and that there are no better settlers in the world than the people from this eastern country. But, Sir, what are the conditions to-day and what were they 25 years ago? As I have said Manitoba was the experimental farm. The farmers who went into that country knew that the country was fertile, but they did not know that the season was long enough to enable them to ripen wheat. They were afraid their labours would not receive very much return. By experiment it has been found that by cultivating and tilling the soil the prairie is changed from a non-conductor or reflector of heat, that the prairie will absorb and retain heat and that we are able to grow wheat and never think anything of frost. That is an experiment that the people of Manitoba have had to work out for the benefit of the whole western country. These are some obstacles which the farmers had to contend with. I speak from experience. After raising their crop they had to take it sometimes 50 miles with a yoke of oxen and sell it for 40 cents a bushel. That was done for a good many years and that will illustrate some of the hardships that the people had to go through. As to our schools, people were afraid to go into that western country because the country was so sparsely settled that it was almost impossible to have schools.

What would we do if we were obliged to have two kinds of schools? A great many gentlemen who have spoken on the other side of the House, and some on this, (and they may be honest in their opinions), have told us what they think is good for the west. But, Sir, the people of Quebec and the people of Ontario do not understand how different are the conditions in the west, from the conditions prevailing in the east. I may digress to refer to a trivial matter now, but if there is any one here who was in Manitoba in the early days he perhaps would not consider it very trivial. When we went into that country the mode of conveyance was the Red river cart rather than the Pullman car, and sleeping on the floor prevailed rather than on spring mattresses. We had the mosquito too, but he has degenerated since the early days when he was as big as a small grasshopper and

Mr. SCHAFFNER.

had a business end like a hornet's. We found out too that 40 below zero was cold, but you did not feel it. I point these out as some of the things the pioneers in that western country had to experience, in order to prove to the people of the east that Manitoba and the Territories were worth something. In view of what the people of Manitoba have suffered, is their province not deserving of better treatment at the hands of this government? I say here honestly, that this government did not consider the whole question before they decided that Manitoba could not be extended westward. One reason they have given for not extending Manitoba to the west is, that Manitoba has incurred a debt and that the man on one section of land is liable for a certain debt from which the man on the other side of the line is free. Let us look at that from a business standpoint. I admit that Manitoba has a heavier debt than the Northwest Territories, but Manitoba has assets to show for it. When a business man is considering his financial position he considers his assets as well as his liabilities, and if he has assets that more than balance his liabilities he thinks himself pretty well off. That is a sound business principle and it applies to the province of Manitoba. I wish my hon. friend from Lisgar (Mr. Greenway) were here because he would understand something of what I am speaking about. When Mr. Greenway was premier of Manitoba, he offered a very great sum of money if he could get a 10 cent rate on wheat from Winnipeg to Port Arthur. We were paying 14, 15 and 16 cents per hundred, on wheat from Winnipeg to Port Arthur, and a difference of even one cent per bushel means a great deal to the farmer. When the Roblin government came into power they got a ten cent rate and they got it without costing that country a cent. I want to compare the freight rates on the Canadian side, which have been secured by this business transaction of the Roblin government, with the wheat rates on the other side of the line, and then I will ask if there is not some reason why Manitoba should have a debt. If this government had investigated the matter and explained as they should have done to the people why Manitoba should be extended west, before five years had elapsed these people would have been entirely satisfied and we would have had two great provinces. Here are the freight rates on wheat. From Winnipeg to Port Arthur, 421 miles, the rates on wheat is 10 cents per 100 pounds or 6 cents per bushel. From Brainerd, Minnesota to Duluth, 119 miles, note the difference, the freight is 10 cents per 100 pounds. From Gretna to Port Arthur, 500 miles, the freight is 12 cents per 100 pounds, and from Pembina to Duluth, 414 miles, the rate is 15 cents. I could give many more examples of this, but one illustration is just as good