# DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

(Continued from Second Page.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

OTTAWA, April 5. The Speaker took the chair at 3 p.m. THE DOMINION LANDS. Mr. CHARLTON moved that the House cive itself into Committee of the consider the following resolutions :-

1. That in the opinion of this House the property policy with reference to the disposition of the public lands of Canada should be, so far as practicable, to sell such lands to actual settlers only, on reasonable conditions of settlement, and in lots or quantics limited to the area which can be reasonably occupied by a settler, and that the sale of public lands to speculators free from conditions of settler.

He said, in opening his remarks, his first roposition was that it was desirable to proposition was that it was desirable to secure the most rapid settlement possible of our public lands. In the settlement of these lands, we had a powerful rival in the United States, and if we wished to contend successfully with that country for good classes of settlers, we should offer as really at independent of the settlement as excellent inducements for settlement as were offered by the United States. Did we offer as good inducements? In his opinion, we did not. Our homestead settlement was mere limited than that of the tlement was mere limited than that of the United States. A large portion of our public domain was held at higher prices than the public domain of the United States. This was caused by the Government Dominion Lands regulations, which prohibited settlement on certain lands and put high prices on other lands. So evident was it that the regulations issued dent was it that the regulations issued soen after the close of last session were preventing settlement that the Govern-ment was within two months compelled to modify them. Still the regulations were severe. They obliged settlers to settle in alternate blocks, thus isolating the settle-ments, detracting from the advantages of the country and compelling intending settlers, owing to the absence of all means of social communication, to look also where social communication, to look elsewhere for homes. He dwelt upon the deairability of furthering the settlement of the North-West, and instancing the mode in which the United States had dealt with its North-West, suggested that the recom-mendation of a committee of the United States Congress be adopted, setting forth the desirability of absolutely reserving the arable lands for homesteads, of abolishing the system of pre-emptions, and of grant-ing permission to form colonies to settle upon the public lands. The 100,000,000 acres set apart for the Canada Pacific was out of proportion to any grant ever made by the United States for railway conmade by the United States for railway construction. The highest grant ever given by the United States for one railway was 47,000,000 acres for the Northern Pacific, only 15,000,000 acres of which were anable land. Then the Government, by the instalment plan of paying for lands which it had adopted, had given speculators great advantages, the payment down being small, and the instalments extending ever large periods of time. Already three hon, mem-bers of this House had applied for incor-Company, the capital of which was to be \$1,000,000, and the object of which was to be the purchasing of Government land, and the holding of it for future settlement. Another Company, called the Scottish Another Company, called the Soc Ontario and Manitoba Land Comp with a capital of £500,000 sterling, commenced operations, taking up large quantities of land and holding them on quantities of land and holding them on small payments to the Government until the districts were more fully developed and the land was of vastly increased value. The result of these arrangements was that a vast proportion of the railway lands would pass into the hands of speculators. It would be argued that the thing would cure itself by the taxation imposed on the lands. The introduction of such a system sapped political morality. It would be better to keep out non-resident landholders, than to afterwards attempt to remedy the state of things by subsequent action. The time would arrive when these combined speculators would bring pressure to bear on the Government for re-

pressure to bear on the Government for re-invation of the amount due. The specula-tor possessed advantages over the settler in tor possessed advantages ever the settler in purchasing lands, and was thus able to secure the most desirable sections thrown into the market. The settlement of the country would thus be seriously retarded. In view of the construction of the Pacific Railway, it was not desirable that it should In view of the construction of the Pacific Railway, it was not desirable that it should run through a wilderness, and so important was it to secure settlers, that it was desirable, if necessary, to give away land. We did not want in the country a large tenant class, and it was unwise to initiate a policy which would tend in that direction. Such might be desirable in a monarchy, but in a country like Canada a free holding class was desirable. It was not desirable here to have classes such as that of the Fellah, in Egypt. It was not even desirable to have such a state of things as prevailed in England, where the cultivator cannot, to any extent, obtain possession of it. The Government should affirm the policy that the public domain is the people's heritage, the home of the free man rather than the stock-in-trade of speculators and land sharks. The motto should be the greatest good of the greatest number. In dealing with this land question, Parliament should treat it unblased by party considerations and should treat it in the interest of the mass of the people. Let them forget the bickerings and animosities engendered by party ambition, and rise superior to the chicanery and devicus ways of modern political methods.

Sir JOHN MACDONALD—Mr. Speaket, I have listened with great pleasure to the speech of my hon, friend, and, I have no

Sir JOHN MACDONALD—Mr. Speaker,
I have listened with great pleasure to the
speech of my hon friend, and, I have ne
doubt, that all who have heard him, admire the lofty and patriotic sentiments
which he has offered with so much force. I
shall not attempt, as it is out of my line
altogether, to use as much elequence as
my hon friend, but I shall, at all events,
endeavour to use as much sommer sense. my hon. friend, but I shall, at all events, endeavour to use as much common sense. (Laughter and applause.) The chief difficulty that meets me at the outset is this, that I cannot learn exactly from my hon. friend's speech what his views are as to the proper mode of disposing of the great domain we have in the West. (Hear, hear.) In the first place, he says he thinks we should do better than we use doing by giving the lands away free to the actual settlers. Then he says our terms are so severe they will prevent immigrants from coming into the Dominion, and in the third place, he says that we are making a missevere they will prevent immigrants from coming into the Dominion, and in the third place, he says that we are making a mistake in giving the land as liberally as we do, thereby opening the way to speculation. (Laughter and applause.) He does not point out what course he would take himself, whether he wishes us to give away the land altogether to settlers, or if he wishes us to sell it, and, if so, on what terms. He has said that our regulations are both severe and liberal—(hear, hear)—and, altogether, I really cannot learn which of the three methods of disposing of the lands he has mentioned is, in his opinion, the most desirable. Now, sir, in considering the complex question, I shall endeavour in the remarks I intend to make, not to enter prematurely into the discussion of the Pacific railway policy. The discussion on that point will arise more properly later on. It cannot be

THE WEEKLY MAIL TORONTO FRIDAY. APRIL 5, 1864.

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