

change may be made, because I think no change can be made that will not be an improvement on the present system. During the seven years that I occupied the position of Lieutenant Governor, I carried out the duties connected with that disagreeable portion of my office to the best of my ability; and in looking back over those years, I do not consider that if I had to perform those duties over again, I could perform them with greater justice or conscientiousness than I did. In regard to another important matter which has been referred to by my hon. friend from Saskatchewan (Mr. Macdowall), namely, the appeal made on behalf of the half-breeds, I may say that the Government are giving very serious attention to that matter, and I am sure that they feel inclined to do all they possibly can to carry out the views expressed by my hon. friends from the North West. With regard to the appeals also made on behalf of the scouts and the Mounted Police who were engaged during the rebellion, for scrip, that is a matter which it appears to me should receive the favorable consideration of the Government, and I shall exercise what little influence I have to bring about the wishes of my hon. friend. With regards to the remarks of the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), I may say that I do not agree with him in the views he has expressed with regard to our land laws. The hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Daly) spoke very freely on that subject, when I think my hon. friend from Norfolk was not in the House, stating that on several occasions he has differed from the hon. gentleman on the subject of our land laws as compared with those of the United States. He, as well as some other hon. members, consider our land laws as liberal if not more liberal than those of the United States. However, I am not as well acquainted with those laws as the hon. gentleman opposite; but it does appear to me very singular that hon. gentlemen should differ so much in that respect. One feature of the United States land regulations may be more liberal than ours, for while within the railway belt, some 50 to 80 miles on each side of the railway, what is known as the chequer-board system is adopted, outside this belt a settler can homestead on every quarter-section. That may be better than our policy, and I do not see how our policy can be improved except as suggested by the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Watson) by giving land grants to railways in alternate townships instead of in alternate sections. I agree with him in that entirely, and I may say that the Government in dealing with any application made to them are acting upon that view, and in future when any land grants are given, they will be given in that way. The hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) and several other members have diverged a good deal from what I expected would be the line of the debate. That hon. gentleman came loaded with figures which I was not quite able to follow, and which I am not able at present to controvert. I may say that I was also loaded up with figures, but unfortunately I have left my gun behind me. But I differ from the hon. gentleman in the conclusions he has arrived at, and I hope to take some other opportunity of giving a comparison as to the cost of management of the North-West under the present Government with the cost during the years the hon. gentleman's friends were in power. I can show him that our management has been infinitely more economical than theirs. Now the hon. member for South Norfolk stated that he thought that our policy had been wrong in not putting up to competition coal lands, pasture lands and timber lands. Well, we have a very large coal area, and I am not aware that there is any great demand or rush for those coal lands, and I do not think that if they were put up at auction we would derive more benefit from them than we do now. It requires very large capital to enter into the coal mining enterprise, and for that reason there is not a very great demand in that direction. Our coal area is of immense extent, and the coal is a very

valuable commodity, which should be carefully handled and protected, and in whatever we do our great aim should be to have it worked as economically as possible, and get it into the hands of the settlers at as cheap a rate as possible. I intend to take measures similar to those taken in the United States in order to prevent any monopoly of our coal deposits, and will bring in an amendment to this effect when dealing with our Lands Act. With regard to our rancho lands, I do not think, if they were put up at auction, we should derive any more financial benefit from them than we do. The policy, when leases were first established, was to induce ranchmen to bring capital into the country in order to start the cattle industry there. The price we have obtained for those leases has not been extravagant, but a great many of those who have leases are not paying their rent, and I do not think they intend paying it, as they do not consider the privileges they derive from their leases sufficient to induce them to pay their rent. I do not think if we were to put those ranches up at auction that we would get any greater benefit from them than we do. As regards timber limits, no doubt the hon. gentleman knows that for some years past they have been put up at competition. With regard to the land law generally, in which of late I have taken special interest, I feel very much in the same way as do my colleagues in the North-West. I am as anxious as they are that we should do all we can in the interest of the settlers. In all new countries, whether mining or agricultural, the early pioneer is the one who has to face the greatest difficulties, and the one we ought to protect and assist as much as possible. I was glad to hear from the hon. member from Marquette and others that the interview we had this morning in regard to matters generally in the North-West was satisfactory, and that some conclusions I had arrived at were satisfactory to those hon. gentlemen. I shall be always willing at any time to receive their suggestions and do my share in bringing about any changes which will be in the interests of the settlers. It is hardly the time for me to answer the hon. member from North Wellington. I may say that my impression is that the officials are not overpaid, and I may tell the hon. gentleman that I had this morning an appeal from the members of the west who waited upon me, and who certainly know what they are talking about, to increase the salaries of certain officials in the North-West Territories. I do not think I need detain the House longer except to thank my hon. friend from Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) for bringing this matter up, and giving me an opportunity of hearing the different views of hon. gentlemen, which will be of great assistance to the Government in coming to a conclusion on the subject under discussion.

Motion agreed to.

#### TRADE COMBINATIONS.

On the Order being called for second reading of Bill (No. 11) for the prevention and suppression of combinations formed in restraint of trade.—(Mr. Wallace.)

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I would ask the hon. gentleman to let that stand.

Mr. WALLACE. The Government proposes to take next Thursday as Government day, and I would like to have the assurance of the hon. gentleman that opportunity will be given me to bring the Bill before the House.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I have no hesitation in saying that an opportunity will be given to have the Bill read the second time.

Motion allowed to stand.