

can make the entry. They have to make the entry and the affidavit themselves. Provision is made that others than those desiring to occupy the lands may make the entry. There is also a further provision that the person making the entry under the present Act has to take possession of his land within two months. It has been found in the older provinces that it is extremely difficult for a person to go out there and select his land, return here for his family and take possession of his land in two months, and the period is extended by this Bill to six months to persons in any part of the Dominion. Provision is also made by this Bill that parties living in other countries, Great Britain and Ireland, for instance, will have twelve months after making their entry to go on and occupy the land, but not a longer period.

Hon. Mr. REESOR — Will the rights of parties who have squatted on the Mennonite reserve be recognized, or will their lands be sold in common with that which has not been occupied?

Hon. Mr. AIKINS — With regard to that, I would say if they went on in violation of the law the only thing they can reasonably claim is this: they will have the right to purchase it at the same rate that land in the same neighborhood would be sold for. They will get a preference, but that is all they can expect.

The clause was adopted.

On clause 6.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS — By the present law all those who take up homesteads have to settle upon them; now, in that country the population must necessarily be very thin, and it has been found advisable to give those who are going out there an opportunity of settling in villages or communities. Provision is taken whereby the Governor in Council may make exception in the case of parties who come from the older portions of the Dominion, where, if 20 heads of families make application to the Minister of the Interior, he may grant them power to settle in villages or hamlets, but the homesteads have to be cultivated by them, although they are not compelled to live on them. In that case, by settling close together, they can have the advan-

tage of schools, mills, churches and conveniences of that kind. It is thought that such a policy will conduce to the settlement of that country. There is a further provision on behalf of those who are emigrants from other countries — those who come from the older countries of Europe. The privilege given to them does not go to our own people in this respect, and it grows out of the usages of the old country, where people settle in villages; they can settle in villages but they are compelled to cultivate their homesteads.

Hon. Mr. DEBOUCHERVILLE — Supposing they settle in a village, can they have a homestead within 20 miles of it?

Hon. Mr. AIKINS — They could not cultivate it if it was that distance from the villages, and they would naturally take up homesteads adjacent to the places where they reside.

Hon. Mr. DEBOUCHERVILLE — Is it provided that they shall take the land within a certain limit?

Hon. Mr. AIKINS — That will be provided for by Order in Council. The reason is this: our own people are not gregarious in the same sense as the people of other countries; for instance, the Mennonites, who have everything together, and work in common. Our own people are not accustomed to that kind of thing, and this provision is for the purpose of meeting the peculiar condition of the emigrants from Europe.

The clause was adopted.

On the 8th clause,

Hon. Mr. AIKINS — This clause refers to grazing lands. Under the provisions of the present Act when the lease is made of grazing land, that lease cannot be cancelled unless the land is required for the purpose of sale or settlement. Under the provisions of this clause, the lease may be cancelled for any reason which may commend itself to the Governor in Council, by giving two years' notice.

Hon. Mr. CORNWALL — I suppose as long as such a lease runs there will be no actual survey of the land that is leased?

*Hon. Mr. Aikins.*