

THE SPECULATOR MADE LORD OF THE NORTH WEST.

These regulations are remarkable for having introduced under the names of colonization plans 1 and 2, the most complete and villainous scheme ever devised in America for making the hardy pioneer and settler the prey of that natural enemy of all new communities—the land-grabber. Under plan No. 1 agreements may be made with any company or persons, to be called “the party,” for the sale of the public lands in class D not open to homestead and pre-emption, amounting to 10,240 acres in each township and without restriction as to extent, at \$2 per acre, payable one-fifth down and the balance in four equal annual instalments without interest, except upon past due instalments.

PLAYING INTO THE HANDS OF “THE PARTY.”

If at the expiration of five years “the party” places 32 settlers upon the 32 homesteads in a township, and 32 settlers upon its own lands, it is to be entitled to a rebate of one-half the price of the land and receives its tract at \$1 per acre. It may also advance to each homestead settler \$500 and take a mortgage upon his 160 acres for that amount. In each year a rebate of \$120 is granted for each *bona fide* settler placed on the tract during that year; and at the expiration of the five years, if the whole number of 32 homestead and 32 other settlers have not been placed in a township, “the party” is entitled to receive a rebate of \$160 for each settler so placed. If the homestead settler does not take entry for the pre-emption lot to which he is entitled, “the party” or company may, within three months after the settler’s right has elapsed, purchase the same. The regulations also provide that, if “the party” or company fail to perform the conditions of the agreement, the Governor-in-Council may cancel the sale of the land and deal with “the party” as may seem meet under the circumstances. This so-called plan No. 1 is

CONCEIVED IN THE INTEREST OF SPECULATORS

and is calculated to perpetrate a cruel

wrong upon the actual settler. When put into operation it will be found open to the following objections:

1. It enables the speculator to obtain control of immense tracts of land upon credit purchase by making a cash payment of 40 cents per acre, while the actual settler must pay \$2 per acre for lands of the same character in cash.

2. It allows the speculator to obtain his tract at half price by allowing certain rebates upon the performance of certain easy conditions, while the actual settler can obtain no rebate but must pay in full.

3. It enables the speculator to seize upon the pre-emption claims reserved for the actual settler if the latter allows three months to elapse before availing himself of his right.

4. It not only permits, but invites, corrupt practices in the sale of influence for procuring grants, and in placing power in the hands of the Minister of the Interior of a nature to be likely to subject him to the temptation of having valuable consideration offered for his decision in favor of applicants.

THE PREMIER OUTRAGE.

Although plan No. 1 is sure to work most mischievous and disastrous consequences, plan No. 2 is capable of working a still greater degree of mischief. Under this plan *all* the public lands, *all* the homestead lands, and *all* the pre-emption lands in blocks of township in class D, to be limited only in the discretion of the Government, may be sold to speculators at \$2 per acre, with a provision for the rebate of \$1 per acre at the expiration of five years if 128 settlers have been placed in each township, a portion of which rebate, at the rate of \$120 for each settler placed during the year, is to be paid back annually. Under this plan the homestead and pre-emption reserve in each township is swept away, and the actual settler is left at the mercy of great land holders. The speculator may purchase *all* the land in each township except the two school sections and the Hudson Bay sections, or 20,480 acres in each township out of a total of 23,040 acres. There is no condition as to the amount of land that must be sold to a settler, and the 128 who are to be introduced