

The official rate of interest has been reduced from six to five per cent. All charges for inspection and cancellation have been abolished.

Where a homestead entry is obtained for 80 acres or less, the entry fee is reduced to \$5, instead of \$10, as in ordinary cases.

Where a settler, who is entitled to a pre-emption takes it as a second homestead, the provision requiring 40 acres of cultivation has been abolished, and the ordinary duties are now accepted.

Cancelled time-sales have been made available for settlement, and are held exclusively for homestead entry, or if the applicant is not entitled to a homestead, he may purchase the land at \$1.00 per acre, subject to homestead conditions.

This action was taken with a view of making available for settlement a large area of land which had been sold between 1880 and 1883, upon which only one or two payments had been made by purchasers, and the Government had taken no action towards compelling payment. These lands, were, of course, simply held for speculation. Many of them have now been taken up by actual settlers who have become homesteaders. Under the law one person is entitled to one homestead only, and it was found that a number of people in the district where these lands were situated had exhausted thier right to homestead by having a previous entry, and for various reasons had lost their homesteads, who desired to settle on other lands. Such persons were given the right to purchase the lands at the minimum price of \$1.00 per acre, subject to homestead conditions, practically placing them in the same position as homesteaders and bringing the land under cultivation. The policy adopted did not permit the sale of these lands to persons other than such settlers who intended to build houses and establish their homes on the lands. The result of this action has been the settlement of a large area of land which otherwise would have been vacant.

Homestead patents are no longer withheld until the seed grain liability is paid, but are issued after the registration with the local registrar of a certificate of the indebtedness, thus permitting the settler, if he so desires, to get his certificate of ownership subject to the seed grain liability.

### SEED GRAIN LIABILITY.

Legislation was passed on the suggestion of the Hon. Clifford Sifton to relieve the bondsmen in the case of the seed grain advances which were made to many settlers in the Northwest Territories since 1885.

When the grants of seed grain were made the Conservative Government not only took the personal security of the applicant for seed, but also compelled him to furnish two bondsmen as security. These liens were at once made a charge against the lands, not only of the person who got the seed, but also of those who acted as bondsmen, and have been for years a source of great inconvenience to the bondsmen from the fact that they have been unable to get the patents for their lands without first paying the seed grain indebtedness of the neighbors for whom they were surety. The result of the change is that only the lands of those who secured the seed are to be held for the debt, the land of the bondsmen being relieved in all cases. By this action hundreds of settlers will be relieved of a charge against their lands and will be in a position