

of the Governor in Council," should or should not be struck off. His argument is in every way clear and unobjectionable, and I must say there is weight in it. But that is a different thing from the amendment moved by the hon. member for North Norfolk.

Mr. BLAKE. I understood the Chairman to rule that out of order; I thought he was quite right, and therefore I did not address myself to that.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). In that case I will move the clause as we passed it the other day. I do not know that any danger can arise from that.

Mr. MITCHELL. I am glad to hear the decision the Minister of the Interior has arrived at, because it is consistent with the action of other Departments. I remember, for instance, that the Minister of Customs, when passing his Customs Bill, would not take the power that this House was willing to give him, to deal with special cases of hardship, when false entries were made in good faith. I am not sure but he was right, contrary to my own idea at the time in providing in the Act that certain things must be done, and taking no responsibility to deal with cases himself; and I am not sure, looking at the experience we have had in the North-West, that the same rule should not be applied to the Department of the Interior.

Mr. BLAKE. Under these circumstances I will not prolong the discussion now, but will give notice that unless at a further stage the hon. gentleman is able to give us more reasons, or rather any reasons—for he has not given us any yet—for enacting this provision, I will move an amendment to this clause.

Mr. CHARLTON. Perhaps I may give notice that I intend to move my amendment as a new clause to the Bill.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). The third sub-section provides that the Minister of the Interior or the Dominion Land Board may, on a requisition signed by intending immigrants or other persons proposing to settle together, authorise any person they name to obtain homesteads and pre-emption entries for them before their arrival in the Province or Territory. I propose to extend this provision to ordinary settlers who, after their arrival, may depute one of their number or any one to make the entries for them, on condition, of course, that they settle on the lands personally within six months. Under the law at present, each of these intending settlers is obliged to make his entry in person. The clause, as altered, will read:

The Minister of the Interior or the Dominion Land Board, upon requisition, may authorise any person named therein to make a homestead entry or homestead and pre-emption entries on behalf of any person desiring to obtain such entry or entries.

Mr. WALLACE (York). The change is in the right direction. If several people go to the North-West and select their homesteads, by the law at present each one has to go to the land agent in person. The change will enable them to appoint one to make the entries in their names, and will thus save a great deal of trouble and expense to settlers.

Mr. BLAKE. But the trouble is that no precaution is taken to see that the person who makes a requisition to the Minister of the Interior or the Land Board to obtain homestead and pre-emption entries for others, who, he declares, have authorised him to act in their behalf, has really such authority, or merely does so for the purpose of preventing the land being taken up.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). That is an omission that can easily be rectified by altering the sub-section so as to require proof that the requisition is a *bona fide* one.

Mr. MILLS. I would suggest that, providing the agent is duly authorised by the party on whose behalf he acts, a

form should be provided, and then there would be no difficulty.

Mr. BLAKE. What difference will be effected by the proposal the hon. gentleman submits to the committee from the clause as it stands?

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). Under the law as it stands this is confined to persons who propose to settle together. This will make it wider; then the general form of the existing law makes it apply specially to immigrants, while this applies it to every person.

Mr. BLAKE. Certainly the law does apply very distinctly at present to others than immigrants unless you strike out the words "or other persons," which I do not suppose the hon. gentleman would feel authorised to do even if we gave him very considerable power in regard to the law. I understand, then, that the substantial reason is to apply it to the case of persons who do not propose to settle together?

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). Yes.

Mr. BLAKE. That, of course, is capable of very large application. Has it been found in practice that inconvenience has resulted from the present limitation?

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). Sometimes a person who desires to settle on land goes out to look at it, and it is remote from the agent's office. By this, he can get anyone who is going to the agent's office to make the entry instead of going one or two hundred miles himself.

Mr. BLAKE. That is, of course, perfectly legitimate. It would be covered by striking out the words "before their arrival in the Province or Territory," and the words "proposing to settle together," and leave the law as it stands.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). In the 4th sub-section I propose to strike out the words "or before the homestead inspectors." In the Bill, as originally drawn, the homestead inspector was allowed to take entries; but, on considering the matter, I thought that was open to serious objection, but the words were not struck out of this clause. In sub-section 7, I propose that the person making the entry shall prove to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, or the Dominion Land Board, instead of to the satisfaction of the Dominion Land Board only. If there should not be a majority of the board at Winnipeg at the time, it might be inconvenient.

Mr. MILLS. Why not strike out the word "satisfaction?" It is a surplusage.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). I think the word is necessary.

The CHAIRMAN. It is proposed to amend sub-section 7, clause 5 by inserting after the words "to the satisfaction of the" the words "the Commissioner of Dominion Lands or the Dominion Land Board."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. WATSON. I suggested the other day that it would be well to make some change in the provision for a person holding his title to pre-emption. There are provisions in this clause whereby a person is entitled to make an entry, to prove the entry, and to receive a patent. I find by the memorial presented by the North-West Council that the same feeling exists in the North-West as in Manitoba, to a large extent. Therefore, I wish to move:

That settlers who are entitled to homestead and pre-emption, and who are now, or may be hereafter, entitled to a patent for a homestead quarter section, be allowed to enter their pre-emption as a second homestead entry on the condition of additional three years homestead duties.

I find that the North-West Council go even further than that. They ask the Government to give homesteaders the privilege of making an entry of the pre-emption on condition of an additional three years' settlement. It was