

(c.) Persons occupying land owned by them may obtain homestead entry for any contiguous land open to the same; but the whole extent of land, including that previously owned and occupied, must not exceed one quarter-section :

(d.) A person applying for such entry for contiguous land must, when making the affidavit prescribed for homestead entry, also describe therein the tract he owns and lives upon; and his residence upon and cultivation of the whole shall thereafter be of the kind and for the term required by the provisions of these regulations, in the case of ordinary homestead entry, before he shall be entitled to patent for the part so entered for: Provided, that such residence and cultivation may be upon either the land originally occupied by him or that for which homestead entry has been obtained, or both.

Sec. 20. In case a dispute arises between persons claiming the right to homestead entry for the same land the local agent or senior clerk, or any person thereto authorized by the Minister of the Interior, shall make investigation and obtain evidence respecting the facts, and his report thereon, together with the evidence taken, shall be referred to the Minister of the Interior for decision, or to the Dominion Lands Board, Commissioner of Dominion Lands, or such person as may be appointed by the Governor in Council to consider and decide in cases of such disputes:

(a.) Provided that when two or more persons have settled upon and seek to obtain homestead entry for the same land, the one who settled first thereon and has continued to reside upon and cultivate the land for which homestead entry is sought shall be entitled to such entry if the land be of the class open to homestead entry, and if it be not, in the opinion of the Minister of the Interior otherwise inexpedient, in the public interest, to entertain any application therefor:

(b.) Provided further, that where contending parties have valuable improvements on the lands in dispute the Minister of the Interior, if the application to acquire the land by homestead entry is entertained by him, may order a division thereof in such a manner as shall preserve to each of them, as far as practicable, his improvements; and the Minister may, at his discretion, direct that what the land so allotted to each of them may be deficient of a quarter-section shall be made up from unoccupied land adjoining, if there be any such of the class open to homestead entry.

Sec. 21. Any person who has obtained a homestead entry shall be allowed a period of six months from its date within which to perfect the entry, by taking in his own person possession of the land and beginning continuous residence thereon and cultivation thereof; and if the entry be not perfected within that period it shall be void, and the land shall be open to entry by another person, or to other disposition under these regulations by the Minister of the Interior:

Provided further, that in the case of immigrants from elsewhere than the North American Continent, the Governor in Council may extend the time for the perfecting of entry to twelve months from the date thereof.

Sec. 22. (a.) At the expiration of three years from the date of his perfecting his homestead entry, the settler, or in case of his death, his legal representatives, upon proving to the satisfaction of the local agent that he,