

which case lands would no doubt be assigned to them in the same way as to white settlers. But beyond this they must not look to the Government for any special assistance in their farming operations.

8. The petitioners are in error in supposing that the Government has given seeds or farming implements to any other class of white settlers in the North-West.

Money has been advanced in some cases to certain settlers on the distinct understanding that it would be repaid to the Government by the parties to whom it was advanced. I may add that the result of this experiment has not been such as to induce the Government to repeat it.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,  
DAVID MILLS, *Minister of the Interior.*

His Honor the Lt.-Governor of the North-West Territories,  
Battleford, N.W.T.

CERTIFIED COPY of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Privy Council, approved by His Honor the Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General in Council on the 19th October, 1882.

On a memorandum, dated 14th October, 1882, from the Minister of the Interior, submitting that cases sometimes arise in his Department where, through delays attendant on investigation of claims preferred to homestead entry, the applicants, though decision may be ultimately in their favor, are placed at a disadvantage in that their occupation and cultivation of the land during the interval between the claim for entry and the decision does not count to them as any part of the term of residence required by law for their obtaining patent.

The Minister recommends, under the provisions of the 125th section of the Dominion Lands Act, that he be authorized, when finally according homestead entry in such cases, to antedate the entry in such manner as to cover the time after application and before giving entry, during which the applicant may have been a *bona fide* settler on the land.

The Committee submit the foregoing recommendation for approval.

JOHN J. MCGEE.

The Honorable the Minister of the Interior.

(*Memorandum.*)

OFFICE OF DOMINION LANDS, OTTAWA, 14th October, 1882.

The undersigned has the honor to report to Council that cases sometimes arise in his Department when, through delays attendant on investigation of claims preferred to homestead entry, the applicants, though decision may be ultimately in their favor, are placed at a disadvantage, in that their occupation and cultivation of the land during the interval between the claim for entry and the decision does not count to them as any part of the term of residence required by the law for their obtaining patent. These cases not being anywhere specially provided for in the Dominion Lands Act, he recommends that, under the provisions of the 125th section of that Act, he be authorized, when finally according homestead entry in such cases, to antedate the entry in such manner as to cover the time after application and before the giving entry during which the applicant may have been a *bona fide* settler on the land.

Respectfully submitted,  
JOHN A. MACDONALD, *Minister of the Interior.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OTTAWA, 17th July, 1883.

SIR,—I have the honor, by direction of the Minister of the Interior, to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, B. 1957, asking instructions whether the power to antedate homestead entries may be exercised when applications for