

to the amount of \$500 for advances to the homestead settler. If at the expiration of three years the individual or company had failed to place the requisite number of settlers upon its lands the Government could either resume possession of the same, or exact the remaining \$1 per acre, in which case the individual or company would have the advantage of three years' credit upon one-half of the purchase money without interest. Under this plan it was also provided that an individual or a company might, with the consent of the Government, purchase in the townships within the railway belts the lands reserved for pre-emption claims, amounting to 5,120 acres in each township, at \$1.25 cents per acre, being one-half the price charged the actual settler; and the condition that 32 settlers should be placed upon homesteads and 32 settlers upon the lands of the individual or company within three years of the date of agreement, the individual or company making the purchase being allowed to take a \$500 mortgage upon each homestead for advances or loans. There was no condition as to the amount of land that should be sold by the company to each of the settlers; and if 32 tenants were placed upon their lands, the conditions of settlement would be fulfilled. Under this plan all the land in townships within the railway belts devoted to pre-emption could be sold to speculators at half price, and if at the expiration of three years the settlement conditions had not been complied with the purchaser, upon obtaining the consent of the Government, could pay \$1.25 per acre more, without interest, and take out the deed. Under this so-called colonization scheme corrupt influences might easily be brought into play in securing allotments, and in getting the permission of the Government to waive the forfeiture clause at the end of three years and accept payment of the regular price if conditions of settlement had not been complied with, as both matters were determined by the Minister of the Interior.

#### THE FOURTH SERIES OF REGULATIONS.

On the 23rd December, 1881, the fourth series of Land Regulations were

issued, to come into effect on January 1st, 1882. These provide that the public lands of the North West shall be classified and designated as follows:

**Class A**—Embracing all lands within 24 miles on either side of the Canada Pacific Railway or its branches.

**Class B**—Embracing all lands within 12 miles on either side of any projected line of railway, other than the Canada Pacific Railway, approved by Order-in-Council published in the Canada Gazette.

**Class C**—Embracing all lands south of the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway not included in classes A and B.

**Class D**—All lands other than those in classes A, B and C.

Under these regulations homesteads and pre-emptions are restricted as before to 16 sections in each township; pre-emptions and public lands are held in class C at double the price of public lands in the United States similarly situated outside of railway belts, while pre-emptions and public lands in class D are 75 cents per acre higher.

#### AT THE MERCY OF THE MINISTER.

Under these regulations homestead and pre-emption settlers have no security that their privileges will be continued or their rights regarded. They are placed at the mercy of any whim or caprice of the Minister of the Interior, who may at his sovereign pleasure make the homestead provisions of the Dominion Land Act a dead letter. Sub-section C of section 2 of the regulations gives him power to withdraw homestead and pre-emption lands from settlement and offer them for sale in such townships as he may choose, at public auction. A part of section 24 of the Dominion Land Act of 1882 contains the following:

"Provided also that, except in special cases, where otherwise ordered by the Governor-in-Council, no sale to one person shall exceed a section, or six hundred and forty acres."

Under this innocent looking paragraph the Government assumes the power to sell at its pleasure, to companies or individuals, unlimited quantities of public lands, including the homestead and pre-emption reserves in class D.