

assure the hon. gentleman that he will be dealt with on the most liberal construction of the law. Looking at the tariff, I find that settlers effects are admitted, with the exception of cattle, but at the same time there is the privilege, under regulations to be made by the Minister of Customs, of allowing live stock to be admitted into Manitoba and the North-West Territories free of duty until otherwise ordered by the Governor in Council, so that the hon. gentleman may rely with certainty that his cattle will be admitted into that country on his declaration that they are taken into the country for no other purpose than those which have been stated.

Mr. BOULTBEE. As the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wiser) has stated his desire of opening a large ranch in the North-West, and as the leader of the Government states that they will be prepared to meet his wishes if possible, the matter is one of considerable gravity. The hon. member for South Grenville (Mr. Wiser) says that 1,000,000 acres of pasturage will be required for 25,000 cattle, but I think there must be something technically wrong in that estimate, else we are in danger of creating one of those monopolies of which we have heard so much. Surely forty acres is not required to pasture one cow or one steer. I should think that if one-quarter or one-eighth of that quantity of land per head is not sufficient it cannot be very fertile or of very much value.

Mr. WISER. The estimate per head in the grazing regions of the United States—Kansas, Nebraska, Montana, Wyoming, &c.,—is 360 acres per animal.

Mr. BOULTBEE. Why, the animal would run its legs off in getting the grass.

Mr. WISER. We do not expect that it all will be fit for grazing. It must be remembered, too, that there is a great liability to drought in which many cattle perish. In Montana and Nebraska the risk to cattle in that is from 15 per cent to 30 per cent., while it should not exceed 3 per cent. Unless sufficient allowance is made to guard against these drouths, the whole capital invested might be wiped out in one season.

Mr. BANNERMAN. I think the lands in the North-West are of so much better quality than those in Montana that one acre per animal would be a liberal allowance.

Mr. CHARLTON. I believe the losses to which the hon. member for South Grenville (Mr. Wiser) has referred as regards the cattle in Montana, etc., is due to the severity of some of the winters, for which provision is not made, and the consequence is that the cattle die of starvation. It strikes me that 360 acres per animal is an exceedingly liberal estimate, and that if we were to calculate on that basis the herds of the United States would be rather small in number. I think it will be found that even the poor bunch grass-lands of the Western States will support a much larger number than the hon. gentleman has stated.

Mr. BLAKE. I think it will be found that in the territories referred to by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wiser) the lands stretch back from the rivers, and that as the lands are almost valueless without the river the area at the disposal of some of these herdsmen is practically illimitable. According to the estimate of the hon. gentleman the whole Province of Manitoba would only support about 350,000 head; but I hope it will support a great many more cattle than that, even if it is largely devoted to other industries in the future. This, however, is only another proof of the importance of the Government ascertaining exactly what they have in that country before giving it away. Whether the provision for cattle raisers should be adequate, and the pasturage should be given by a tenure reasonably certain to accomplish the purposes in view, enormous domains should not be leased in the first instance until we know that they are necessary.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. My hon. friend is quite right. I think the hon. member for South Grenville (Mr. Wiser) was speaking of enormous spaces of country given up for pasturage and which are practically valueless for other purposes. But if we are at all correctly informed the Bow River country is a beautiful country, equal to any land in those Western States, and superior to a great deal of it; and the question is if it is so fine a country for grazing, whether it would not be suitable for arable purposes. It is for that reason that we have put in a clause providing that upon ten years notice being given, the land may be applied for the purposes of settlement as may be determined; so that if it is found that a man is occupying more land than he really requires, it may be withdrawn upon two years' notice being given. I think that is quite sufficient guarantee, as no Government would dare to deal harshly with a man who had large herds of cattle grazing and was occupying an area of country in that way. I can only repeat that the Government will permit to all reasonable extent facilities for the introduction of herds and the development of grazing.

Mr. MILLS. If Professor Macoun's report is correct, a great portion of that country is very different from Wyoming or the American Desert; it is so well adapted for agricultural purposes that very little of it will remain a grazing country. Of course, that country had better be occupied for grazing purposes than to be left a waste.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. As well be occupied by cattle as by buffalo.

Mr. MILLS. It is clear the Government could not dispose of a country for grazing purposes if actually fit for agricultural purposes, because it would be much less profitable that way than if occupied by settlers. It seems to me that before the Government could undertake to dispose of the country, or to make long leases, they ought to know the character of the country as nearly as possible.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I hope that during the course of the summer we shall have a report upon that country, with reference to the water and the river streams that supply that country, with a view to the best mode of laying out the different ranches.

Mr. BLAKE. Upon what principle will the rent be based?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I suppose the rent will be so much per 1,000 acres. It would be small at first. In the United States I believe there is no rental at all.

Mr. BLAKE. I do not think there is any title there. I think the parties procure a piece of land on the river; that becomes his own and the cattle go out on the public domain.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes; ranchmen make a sort of arrangement among themselves. I do not think that is a wholesome system for us to introduce.

Mr. BOULTBEE. In my remarks I did not wish to be understood as desiring to circumscribe the raising of cattle in that region. I only thought as the hon. member for South Grenville (Mr. Wiser) had been sitting so long behind his leaders and hearing them talk of the North-West, that he had formed an opinion of its capabilities similar to what we are told of the Eastern States, where they hold the lambs down by the tails to reach the blades of grass between the rocks.

On the 7th clause,

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Sub-section A is a re-enactment. Sub-section B provides for the settlement of Mennonites and Icelanders, to whom restricted privileges are given, also to immigrants of other nationalities, such as the Germans, etc. Sub-section C is to meet the wants of people removing from the older Provinces, and who desire to settle together for mutual aid and comfort. This is a