

of these areas in both provinces; but right within a few townships you will find men who have made a splendid success of farming operations. Though it is patchy, they have been successful and have done as well perhaps as any settlers in the country, but there are other areas, sandy, and of a light nature, where it is a mistake entirely ever to break up the sod, and those are the areas where we are trying to have ranching done, and where inspectional work will be carried on very carefully, with a view to having those unsuitable areas that have been homesteaded turned back into ranching. It is not intended that any very light sandy soil will be permitted to be homesteaded by anybody.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I think the principle embodied in this bill is rather a good one, and I can quite see the reason for the nine-mile limitation. That is the limitation that is placed in the case of residential duties for the sons of farmers or of other men who own property, because in a ranching country a boy taking a homestead within nine miles of his father's homestead can do ranching work conjointly with his parents, and that is just about the outside distance at which that can be done. As far as I have seen, going through that country, and I am thankful to say that there is very little of that kind of land in my constituency, the minister is right in assuming that there are scattered homesteads that it would be well worth while taking up when the main occupation to be followed is ranching, and while it would be utterly useless to allow an outsider to come in and expect to make his whole living on that quarter section, it does provide an additional steading for the boy or brother or any relative of the family who is engaged in ranching with his father or brother or other relative. I have had many requests made of me that I should support anything of this nature. I am not supporting it because of the requests, but because I see there is good, sound sense underlying those requests, and with the safeguard that no entry will be permitted on manifestly unsuitable homesteads, I think the provision is a wise one and will be of value in trying to hold the boys of that district in the district, in the occupation which they are used to, and within reach of their father's home.

Mr. MORRISON: I wish to endorse what the hon. member for Red Reer has just said. In my constituency there are quite a number of farmers who have sons to whom this provision will be quite a benefit. Requests have also been made of me from time to time to

try and get a provision such as this put through whereby they can have access to those lands. I agree that lots of these lands are not of a quality to warrant a man taking them up and making his home there, but as the father is already farming in that part of the country and well established there, this provision will be a good help in maintaining the family and keeping them working together. While it is not for the benefit of outsiders, it is going to be of real help to many residents in that country.

Mr. EVANS: I believe thoroughly in the principle of the bill, but instead of limiting it to the boundary of township 16, I think the minister would have done well to extend this privilege over the whole of the old dry area as mapped out in the bill of 1906. I think this privilege might well be extended over the whole of that area, because the conditions that are spoken of in reference to this particular area prevail over other large parts of the province, and while there are a number of homesteads that I know of myself, which would never be worth while taking up as homesteads, they might be very useful for grazing purposes to those who are farming within say nine miles. I think this privilege should be extended to cover the whole of that dry area.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I hope my hon. friend will not raise that upon this occasion, because there is a good deal to be said with respect to the point raised by the right hon. leader of the opposition. It is a very difficult thing to administer special privileges, and this undoubtedly is a special privilege. I make no other claim for it, because we are shutting out outside competition, and that is a rather delicate thing to do. When we get into this thing we may have a controversy over a homestead, for instance. I want to try it out in this particular area first and see how I get along with it, and I would be just a little bit afraid of extending a special privilege of this kind over too wide an area to start with.

Mr. McTAGGART: I desire to endorse the principle of the bill. I think I made that clear the other evening. Permit me to say that I do not ask that this privilege be extended beyond the limit set here in the bill, but I would like to ask the minister if in regard to such parcels of land as come under this act, it will be necessary for these lands to pass inspection by officers of his department.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Oh yes.
Section agreed to.