

to present—that the placing of thousands of freeholders on small holdings would be more conducive to national strength and national growth than the gathering together of nabobs holding great landed estates. I think it would be better for the country to adopt a policy that would foster the creation of small freeholds, rather than enormous estates such as those which plan No. 2 is calculated to create. Then, Sir, another feature I have to refer to is the remissness of the Government in posting these regulations.

#### VACILLATING REGULATIONS.

We have, first of all, the fitful vacillating character of these regulations, and that feature has been condemned in no uncertain tones in the west by the people who understand best the operation of this policy. The policy of my hon. friend has been condemned, and will be universally condemned in the west by the men who go there to make for themselves homes, and who seek to identify themselves and their posterity with the growth of that country. Not a man of the millions who will ultimately people that country but will curse the policy which has brought such evils. The Government has also been remiss in informing the people of the changes in their regulations, and the agents knowing nothing about them the lands are withheld for sale. What for? I understand very well the advantage to the speculator of withholding these lands from sale and tiring out the actual settler, who is without means and who cannot afford to dance attendance for weeks and months on the agents and finally leaves in disgust. But the speculator with thousands at stake can afford to wait. He can enter into collusion with the authorities to procure delay and to drive from the country those who come there to settle, and who would interfere with his speculative investments. The true policy of the Government is to discourage speculation, to wash its hands of those men who seek to control tens of thousands of acres of the public domain for their own selfish purposes, who seek to get this land into their hands that they may charge the settler vastly more than they give the Government.

#### THE TRUE POLICY.

The Government should allow no middlemen to come between itself and the men who are to till the soil. It should consider that domain a sacred heritage and itself the trustee charged with the management of the estate for the benefit of its wards, the people of the country. Its policy should be the greatest good to the