

is sold on stringent conditions of settlement, and they are prevented by the minute referred to from securing land from the Company in a legitimate way.

I am informed that the minute was intended to apply mainly to those engaged in connection with the Land Department. Under the present system such a rule may be considered necessary if it could be put in force. The Land Commissioner, I believe, thinks it will be evaded. I am satisfied it will be practically inoperative and will completely fail in its objects. The rule will have a demoralizing effect, as those who want to buy land will be tempted to acquire it in an underhand manner. Far better, in my judgment, that all should be allowed to purchase openly and above board. Under the new system recommended, I see no object in preventing any person from purchasing a moderate quantity of land if he has the means to pay for it. With full information published to the world an Officer of the Company, even an Officer in the Land Department, would be in no better position than the general public, and I know of no reason why he should be placed in a worse position than those outside the Company's service. I am disposed to have faith in the wise law laid down many years ago—"Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn."