

In case it is proved to the satisfaction of the Minister of the Interior that the settler has voluntarily relinquished his claim, or has been absent from the land entered by him for more than *six months* in any one year without leave of absence from the Minister of the Interior, then the right to such land shall be liable to forfeiture, and may be cancelled by the said Minister; and the settler so relinquishing or abandoning his claim shall not be permitted to make more than a second entry.

Any person who has availed himself of the foregoing provisions may, before the expiration of the three years, obtain a patent for the land entered upon by him, including the wood lot, if any, appertaining to the same as hereinafter provided, on paying the Government price thereof, at the date of entry, and making proof of settlement and cultivation for not less than twelve months from the date of entry.

Proof of actual settlement and cultivation shall be made by affidavit of the claimant before the Local Agent, corroborated on oath by two credible witnesses.

The Minister of the Interior may at any time order an inspection of any homestead or homesteads in reference to which there may be reason to believe the foregoing provisions, as regards settlement and cultivation, have not been or are not being carried out, and may, on a report of the facts cancel the entry of such Homestead or Homesteads; and in the case of a cancelled Homestead, with or without improvements thereon, the same shall not be considered as of right open for fresh entry, but may be held for sale of the land and of the improvements, or of the improvements thereon, in connection with a fresh Homestead entry thereof, at the discretion of the Minister of the Interior.

All assignments and transfers of Homestead rights before the issue of the patent shall be null and void, but shall be deemed evidence of abandonment of the right; and the person so assigning or transferring shall not be permitted to make a second entry.

Any person who may have obtained a Homestead entry shall be considered, unless and until such entry be cancelled, as having an exclusive right to the land so entered as against any other person or persons whomsoever, and may bring and maintain action for trespass committed on the said land or any part thereof.

The provisions relating to Homesteads shall only apply to agricultural lands; that is to say, they shall not be held to apply to lands set apart as timber limits, or as hay lands, or to lands valuable for stone or marble quarries, or to those having water-power thereon which may be useful for driving machinery.

Any Homestead claimant who, previous to the issue of the patent, shall sell any of the timber on his claim or on the wood lot appertaining to his claim; to saw mill proprietors or to any other than settlers for their own private use, shall be guilty of trespass, and may be prosecuted therefor before a Justice of the Peace; and upon conviction thereof shall be subject to a fine or imprisonment, or both; and further, such person shall forfeit his claim absolutely.

If any person or persons undertake to settle any of the public lands of the Dominion free of expense to the Government, in the proportion of one