

sections in a township were open for homestead entry, while in the United States all public lands were open. In belt C settlers were to pay \$2.50 per acre for pre-emptions and \$3.50 per acre for all public lands not reserved for homestead and preemption. In the United States public lands situated the same distance from railway lines were sold to the actual settler at \$1.25 per acre. In belt D settlers were to pay \$2 per acre for pre-emptions and other public lands, or 75 cents per acre more than was charged for lands of similar situation in the United States. In belt E lands were sold at \$1 per acre, and in this belt only—situated 60 miles from a railway line—could settlers procure land as cheaply as in the United States. Under these regulations speculation was encouraged by offering lands for sale upon a payment of one tenth down and the balance in nine annual instalments, and the law was violated by permitting sales of more than 640 acres to one person.

#### A POLICY THAT LASTED SEVENTY-FIVE DAYS.

The regulations of July 9th were permitted to remain in force from August 1st, 1879, to October 14th, 1879, and were then replaced by new regulations which made a change in the conditions of homestead grants and pre-emption entries by permitting grants and entries of 160 acres. In this respect alone were our regulations made as liberal as those of the United States. Restrictions as to lands the settler could enter and the evils of credit sales were continued, and in belts B, C, and D the prices charged the actual settler continued to be from 75 cents to \$2.25 per acre higher than prices charged to actual settlers in the United States for lands similarly situated. Under these regulations speculators, with their command of capital and superior means of information, were enabled to forestall the settler, and vast tracts of land were bought at \$1 and \$2 per acre, much of which has since been sold to the actual settler at from \$5 to \$10 per acre. These regulations remained in force something over a year and a half, and it was natural that the illiberal terms to settlers as compared with those of the

United States, and the discrimination in favor of the speculators, should have sent almost if not quite two-thirds of the Canadians who were seeking homes west of Ontario to Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and other American States.

#### THE THIRD SERIES OF REGULATIONS.

On May 25th the third series of regulations were issued by the Department of the Interior. Under these regulations credit sales ceased, but the same conditions were continued as to lands open to homestead and pre-emption entry. The price of pre-emption claims and public lands within railway belts 24 miles in width on each side of projected railway lines was fixed at \$2.50 per acre. The price of pre-emption claims and public lands outside of railway belts was fixed at \$2 per acre, or 75 cents per acre higher than lands of similar situation in the United States. As under the previous regulations, 8 sections were reserved for homesteads and 8 sections for pre-emption claims in each township, which took all the lands within the railway belts except the railway grant, the school lands, and the Hudson's Bay reserves. The right of the settler to the homestead and pre-emption reserves rested, however, upon the insecure tenure of the Government's pleasure, and these lands by Order-in-Council could at any time be withdrawn and the land sold at auction. These regulations, however, will be chiefly remembered in consequence of the invention of a new and more perfect plan to

#### DEFRAUD THE POOR AND FAVOR THE RICH.

Under the provisions of this plan it was provided that individuals or corporations might obtain the consent of the Government to the purchase in blocks of townships all the Government odd-numbered sections outside of the railway belts amounting to 10,240 acres in each township, at half price, or \$1 per acre, upon the condition of placing two settlers on each odd numbered section, and a settler upon each homestead within three years, with the right to take a mortgage upon each homestead