

in the past it has, on one or two occasions, done some useful work. I have no doubt that they will do some useful work in connection with this matter.

The motion was agreed to.

**SUBSIDY TO REPATRIATION SOCIETY.
INQUIRY.**

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN inquired of the government:

1. For how many years have the government granted an annual subsidy of \$4,000 to the Société de Colonisation et de Rapatriement de Montréal?
2. Since the present administration came into office has this annual subsidy been paid?
3. If not, why not?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—The answers to the hon. gentleman's questions are as follows:

1. For nine years.
2. No.
3. The matter is under consideration.

SALE OF SCHOOL LANDS IN WESTERN PROVINCES.

MOTION.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS moved:

That in view of the rapid increase in land values in the western provinces, this Senate is of the opinion that the school lands in these provinces should be withdrawn from sale, and leased only, until such time as they can be sold to the best advantage in the interest of the public schools of the provinces in which they are situated.

He said: I brought this question to the attention of the Senate three or four years ago and the government of the day did not see their way to accept my suggestion. As we have a new government in power, we may have new light, and I am prepared to present facts and figures which will convince this Chamber that we have adopted a wrong principle in disposing of these lands. In the early days the government took two sections out of each township as school lands. Taking the whole area of Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba it will be seen that it aggregates a very large amount of land.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—It is one-eighteenth of the whole thing.

Hon. Mr. POWER.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—Yes. I have a statement from the department of school lands which I will read, showing exactly what we have. The statement reads as follows:

Assuming the total area of Manitoba to be 41,169,280 acres, and assuming school sections to comprise one-eighteenth or two sections in every township, the approximate area of school lands in the province of Manitoba is 2,287,82 acres. On the same basis assuming the area of Saskatchewan to be 151,900,000 acres, the approximate area of school lands in that province is 8,438,888 acres, and, assuming the total area of the province of Alberta to be 155,400,000 acres, the area of school lands is approximately 8,633,333 acres.

The school lands disposed of by public auction in the province of Manitoba, and in the provisional districts of Assiniboia and Alberta in each year to the 1st of September, 1905, when the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta were established, and the average price per acre realized each year are as follows:—

Year.	Province or District.	Area sold in Acres.	Average price per acre.
1882-3, Manitoba	619 94	\$10 02
1882-3, Assiniboia	640 00	5 10
1883-4, Manitoba	2 00	30 25
1884-5,
1885-6,
1886-7, Manitoba	640 00	5 00
1886-7, Alberta	64 16	10 05
1887-8, Manitoba	20,435 46	7 28
1887-8, Alberta	546 00	62 19
1888-9, Manitoba	20 00	20 00
1888-9, Alberta	59 72	14 97
1890-1,
1891-2, Manitoba	52,992 88	7 95
1892-3, Manitoba	12,602 85	7 11
1893-4,
1894-5,
1895-6,
1896-7, Manitoba	4 00	7 00
1897-8,
1898-9,
1899-1900, Manitoba	189,983 38	8 11
1899-1900, Assiniboia	7,417 41	11 27
1900-1, Manitoba	954 94	14 16
1901-2, Manitoba	640 00	6 50
1902-3, Assiniboia	136,239 82	9 74
1903-4,
1904-5, Assiniboia	570 00	13 77

The area of the school lands in the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, sold in each year between the 1st of September, 1905, and the 1st of January, 1910, and the average price per acre realized in each year is as follows:—

1905-6, Manitoba	.. . . .	692 00	\$12 39
Saskatchewan	.. . . .	26,662 93	14 32
Alberta	.. . . .	127,705 66	11 68
1906-7, Manitoba	.. . . .	125,086 98	12 20
Saskatchewan	.. . . .	11,801 40	14 67
1907-8, Manitoba	.. . . .	102,761 50	10 35
Saskatchewan	.. . . .	806 00	15 21
1908-9, Alberta	.. . . .	640 00	12 00
1909-10, Manitoba	.. . . .	80,991 28	9 55
Saskatchewan	.. . . .	14,737 40	15 98
Alberta	.. . . .	234,862 20	10 94

The approximate area remaining unsold in each of the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta is as follows:—