

"That, should it be found necessary in future to withhold public lands from homesteading for railway purposes, it would be well to provide that alternate quarter-sections be granted instead of alternate sections.

"Therefore, it is advisable that arrangements be made, where possible, to throw open all odd-numbered sections for homesteading, seeing that this would be in the true interests of the Territories, and also therefore of the Dominion.

"That, as the large portion of the Dominion lands is in the Territories, it is most desirable, in the interest of the settler, the Territories and the Dominion, that a Dominion Land Board should be established at some central and convenient point in the Territories.

"That His Honor the Lieutenant Governor will be pleased to transmit a memorial embodying this report to the proper authorities at Ottawa, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General in Council."

I have troubled the House with reading this long document to them, but it is so important, and deals with matters which are so important for the settlers, that I may be excused. Remember, it is the voice of an Assembly elected by a suffrage practically extending to every man over twenty-one years of age in the North-West Territories, and, as you have really the administration of our affairs in your hands, it is only right and proper that I should bring the views of these people before you. One of the main questions dealt with there is the second homesteading, and that question has two aspects. The first aspect is this: Men who come in under the Dominion Lands Act of 1883 came in with the right under that Act, when they got their patent, to get a second homestead. In 1886, on the 2nd of June, assent was given to an Act which took away this right that these people came in under. I consider that it was a most monstrous thing to do. It must have been done thoughtlessly, but it was a monstrous thing to do. In 1887, when I came down here, I put a little Bill on the paper, making some amendments to the Dominion Lands Act, and, amongst others, this relating to the second homestead. We saw my late lamented friend, the Hon. Thomas White, several times on that subject, my colleagues, the hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Macdowall), the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Davis), and the late member for Eastern Assiniboia (Mr. Perley), who has gone to another place.

An hon. MEMBER. Carried.

Mr. DAVIN. Who says "Carried?" I hope there is not a gentleman in this House, either on the Reform or the Conservative side, who is so little aware of what his duties in this House are, and of what his duties as a member of Parliament are, as to hesitate to give whatever time is necessary to that great territory which you administer here. We saw the Hon. Thomas White several times,