

3,000 to 10,000 animals, I shall use them. But I must have security that I can obtain and hold the necessary land for a sufficient length of time. I should not want a million, but 5,000 or 10,000 acres that would be mine, and enough land besides to graze, perhaps, 20,000 head of cattle. The drove of Texas cattle, 267,000 head, is already begun, and these animals will soon reach Kansas on the way north. A great many are already sold, and I learn from letters from Kansas that if any of these cattle are to be got this year, they must be purchased within 30 days. I am prepared to purchase from 3,000 to 10,000 head as an experiment, if I can obtain the necessary grazing land. I could not put them at the foot of the Rocky Mountains or in the vicinity of Wood Mountain this year; but I can drive them to the Yellowstone or Poplar River and there winter them. It would take another year to take them to the feeding ground I desire. Another question I would like answered—will Canadian graziers and stock-raisers be allowed to import their cattle from the United States, where the greater portion must be obtained, free of duty? If not, that ends the business, as we cannot compete against the Americans and pay duty. I desire immediately to start between 3,000 and 5,000 cows on the road for the Canadian North-West; and if I can obtain the necessary lands by purchase or lease with a reasonable assurance that I can keep them till I mature and develop my stock, I am ready to enter into the business.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I am sure the Committee are very glad to hear the announcement made by my hon. friend. I had understood that he intended investing some of his superabundant capital in the North-West, in forming a grazing and cattle feeding establishment. I can only assure him that, so far as the Government are concerned, they will be only too glad to meet his wishes in every possible way. A gentleman in the other branch of the Legislature, Senator Cochrane, is about to go into the same kind of business. He has applied for a large tract of land in the vicinity of Bow River, which is likely to be a beautiful grazing country. Like the hon. gentleman opposite, he says he hopes this summer to put on the land a large quantity of cattle, for which he requires a large tract of land. He also wants to be at liberty to purchase a certain quantity of land for the purpose of barns and other buildings required for supporting and cultivating stock. He applied for the right to purchase 11,000 acres, which we thought a quantity too large. Perhaps half that quantity would be quite sufficient; but we, of course, recognized the fact that, in a prairie grazing country a considerable tract might be sold for a homestead, sheds, barns, stables and dividing lines, for the stock, and that the lease of a tract of land should be given, to be increased from time to time according to the size of the herd. The hon. gentleman, if going to commence with a considerable herd, should get a lease for a tract of land quite sufficient. It would be absurd to limit him in that regard. The more of those grazing farms we have in this North-West country the better. There will be an influx of immigrants into that country within the next few years, and their first requirement will be cattle. There will be no danger of too large tracts being given because of the inducements offered to settlement. Leases will be given which can be terminated by the Government on giving two years' notice. No difficulty, I think, will arise with respect to the danger of such leases being terminated for an insufficient reason. People confide in the Government every day. Timber licenses extend only from year to year, yet the holders erected mills, knowing that so long as they worked them their licenses would be renewed for ever. So it would be with respect to grazing farms. The privilege might be abused by those who obtained large tracts for a certain number of years, who might change their minds, sub-let the land, and act quite contrary to the idea on which the original lease was

Mr. WISER.

granted. The provision in the Bill is quite sufficient for that purpose. As regards the duties on cattle. All the stock used for the first herds in the North-West must come from the Western States of the Union, and for all the stock of the Eastern Province, we can find a market in England. Mr. Cochrane went to the Minister of Customs on the subject, and the latter showed the former an affidavit to bring in stock, and asked him if he could make an asseveration of that kind, and he said he would have no difficulty in doing so. If that be so, the American cattle can be taken in. Mr. Cochrane was about to establish a stock-raising farm there, and if there should prove to be, after a careful examination, some defects in the law, no doubt Parliament would take off the duty on cattle for the purpose of grazing farms.

Mr. WISER. The leases should run for a term of ten or twenty years, and the notice given should exceed two years. Parties occupying the territory should have the first right to buy the land when it is placed in the market, at an upset price of perhaps a dollar an acre. One million acres are required to feed a herd of 25,000 or 30,000 cattle. I am now joining with a party in Kansas to purchase a tract of land thirty miles wide on a river, and if we buy it, the quantity will be 40,000 acres. The land can be bought at forty cents per acre, and there is a herd of 10,000 head on the ranche. That purchase will not interfere with my affairs in the North-West. On the Kansas property there is a stream in the centre and we buy the stream. The cattle feed fifteen miles from it. Some other owner of a ranche will have cattle running fifteen miles on the other side, and the stream is called the Divide in the cattle-grazing countries. This is the plan on which the large cattle-grazing ranches of the United States are conducted. I do not know the character of the North-West country, but I propose to go and see it, and if it is entirely suitable for grazing, or for both agricultural and grazing, we must, if we put our cattle there, have the assurance of occupancy during a certain number of years. After a herd of cattle has been placed on a ranche, four or five years will elapse before they begin to give returns. Then there will be a large herd there which cannot be marketed in a day or a year, and the land should be let on leases of from ten to twenty years, terminable on three or four years' notice. This is not a political question, but one affecting the interest of the whole country. We are building railways, sending in immigrants and assisting the Indians with food supplies. For these purposes cattle were brought from the United States, but if grazing farms were established in the North-West, the supplies might be furnished by our own people. I have intended all my life, when I found myself in a position to do so, to enter into the cattle business, and I think I am now in a position to do so. I intend to start in this business in two months. My preference is for Canada, and if the Government will afford me the facilities, I will carry the business on in Canada; if not, I must go to the United States.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I do not know whether the hon. gentleman will be able to persuade the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) to agree to his proposition. The hon. member for South Grenville (Mr. Wisser) is going to be a wholesale purchaser of land, one of the landed aristocracy of whom the hon. member for Bothwell is so frightened. Notwithstanding the strong conscientious objections which that hon. gentleman will make, the Government will endeavor to meet the views of the hon. member for South Grenville by giving the widest construction of the law for the purpose of inducing him to remain in Canada with his herds instead of going and establishing large herds in the United States. The Act gives power to the Government to grant lands on such conditions as they thought proper, and that might be a matter for settlement between the hon. gentleman and the Government. I can