

taken out his patent to say : I will give up this homestead and enter again. It would lead men, the moment they had a whimsical desire to go elsewhere to make an excuse of saying that their land was no good. I would not ask the hon. gentleman to go so far. I think he is right in allowing a man who has entered but who has not taken out his patent and finds he cannot make a living on the land he has chosen, to re-enter.

On section 13,

Mr. DAVIN. Is not this rather going back on the liberal spirit of our legislation in regard to settlement ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. No : I will explain. In the early days, particularly in the province of Manitoba, a large quantity of land was sold to private parties. These sales are known in the Department of the Interior as "old time sales." The land was sold on very favourable terms, and men bought a quarter or half section, sometimes even two or three, and made one payment. The Government has been a very indulgent creditor, and these sales have stood for years with very little paid. In a great many cases, it is perfectly evident that the people have no intention of carrying out the sale in a bona fide way. I have waited about two years before taking decisive action, and I have come to the conclusion that, in a great majority of cases, these sales must be cancelled, and this land again thrown open for settlement. I do not think it would be in the public interest to allow the land to be simply sold again to speculators who would undoubtedly be the purchasers if the land were put upon the market. I wish to have it disposed of on settlement condition, so that it shall get into the hands of parties who are prepared to live on it and cultivate it. At the same time there are choice pieces of this land, near to the towns, within easy reach of the conveniences of civilization, and it seems to me that, in some cases at least, there ought to be a price of a dollar or two an acre put on the land in addition to the settlement duties. I have no doubt it will be quickly taken up if such a price is fixed. I cannot say I have come to a very positive conclusion as to the price, but I think I ought to have power to require a payment, even if not a large payment in some of these cases, particularly where the land is specially valuable, and to do that, such legislation is required as is provided in this clause.

Mr. DAVIN. I understand that what the Minister aims at is that it shall depend on his own judgment whether this payment shall be made a condition or not.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. It will depend on my judgment, as in the case of all Dominion land. The Minister of the Interior has power to put a price upon

Dominion lands within certain limits. In that way, I have power to fix the price for these lands under the existing law and do not require any additional legislation for that purpose. But I wish the power to bring this land under the homestead conditions, so that when I sell the lands I may at the same time make the sale conditional upon settlement. This clause is not to give me greater power with regard to the price of the land, but to enable me to require settlement duties.

Mr. DAVIN. There is only this point—that the great thing is to get in good settlers. I have long been of opinion that the view taken in regard to the incoming of the settler, that the Government should make money out of him, is a mistake.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I quite agree with the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin).

Mr. DAVIN. The real way for the country to make money out of the settler is to bring in the settler, to get the taxes he pays and the benefit of the enrichment consequent upon his labour.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. These lands will be taken up almost altogether by people in that country who know where they are, people, who, in many cases, have been watching these lands for years.

On section 14,

Mr. DAVIN. What squatters are these that this clause aims at ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. The provision now in the Act with regard to the removal of persons who are unlawfully in possession of Dominion lands is not satisfactory. Of course the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) understands that the Government ought to have proper means of ejecting people who are in possession of Dominion lands if they deem it necessary to do so. There are occasionally cases in which persons take possession of Dominion lands and refuse to vacate. This simply provides a summary method of procedure against them if it is deemed desirable to eject them.

Mr. DAVIN. What does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) intend to put in the blank in line 40 ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. "Thirty days."

Mr. DAVIN. I would like to know from the hon. gentleman whether this is aimed at settlers who happen to take up land before survey ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. No ; the Act expressly recognizes them. This is only for the purpose of being used in case some person is wrongfully in possession of Dominion lands, and, though noti-