

entry be timber land, in lieu of cropping five acres and breaking and preparing for crop ten acres additional, he may substitute therefor cropping the three acres broken the previous year and clearing and fencing five acres in addition, making in all eight acres cleared and fenced, three of which shall also be cropped :

(d.) That he has erected a habitable house upon his homestead before the expiration of the second year after his homestead entry, and has *bonâ fide* resided therein and has cultivated the land for three years next prior to the date of his application for his patent :

(e.) That at the commencement of the third year after the date of his homestead entry, or previously, he commenced the residence on his homestead required by the next preceding paragraph of this section :

(f.) Proof of the residence and improvements required by this section and the two sections which immediately precede it shall be made by the claimant by affidavit, and shall be corroborated by the evidence on oath of two disinterested witnesses, resident in the vicinity of the land affected by their evidence, and accepted as sufficient by the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, or, in his absence, by a member of the Land Board ; such affidavit shall be sworn, and such testimony given before the local agent, or, in his absence, the senior clerk performing his duties, or some other person named for that purpose by the Minister of the Interior.

Sec. 25. Every person who has obtained a homestead entry, and who proposes to apply for a patent for such homestead, shall give six months' notice in writing to the agent of Dominion lands of his intention to make such application, and shall produce evidence to the officer who is authorized to receive the application that such notice has been duly given.

Sec. 26. (a.) In case it is proved to the satisfaction of the Minister of the Interior that a settler has not resided upon and cultivated his homestead, except as herein provided, for at least six months in any one year, or has failed to cultivate and crop the said land during the first two years after obtaining entry therefor, or to erect a habitable house before the expiration of the second year after such entry, and to *bonâ fide* reside therein and cultivate the land for three years next prior to the date of his application for patent, or has made any false statement in the affidavit in support of his application for entry, or if he fails, within the time provided for in these regulations to apply for patent for his homestead, and to pay for the said homestead the price specified in these regulations, the right to the land shall be forfeited and the entry therefor shall be cancelled, and the settler so forfeiting his entry shall not be eligible to obtain another entry, except in special cases, in the discretion of the Minister of the Interior :

(b.) Provided, that in any case of illness, vouched for by sufficient evidence, or in the case of immigrants requiring to return to their native land to bring out their families to their homesteads, or in other special cases, the Minister of the Interior may, in his discretion, grant an extension of time, during which a settler may be absent from his homestead without prejudice to his right therein ; but the extension of time so granted shall not count as residence.