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To The Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Sir:

WHEREAS the Settlers in this District under the Dominion Land Settlement Scheme find themselves in a deplorable financial condition, owing to the deflation in prices of land, live-stock and farm produce generally:

AND WHEREAS this state of affairs has been brought about by the Board and the Settler himself as follows: The Board invited the Settler to find a location suitable to him, and they then sent so-called Experts over the land to value it; it being generally admitted that the Settler, being a new comer into the District, was unaware of actual land values:

AND WHEREAS the Settlers who have remained on their places have already suffered serious financial loss, having worked these places for four or five years--improved them, and spent some of the best years of their lives in what now proves to be a hopeless endeavor to become the owners of these farms:

AND WHEREAS, in the District of Comox, which is only a small portion of the Comox-Alberni Electoral District, upwards of forty Settlers have abandoned their farms:

AND WHEREAS the Board has offered these farms for sale at a price being the original cost of the land, plus amounts spent on permanent improvements, thus showing a loss of all sums paid for Stock and Equipment and interest due, but only one or two of them have been sold, which goes to show that the price asked was in excess of their true value:

AND WHEREAS the Board is now bringing over Empire Settlers, and giving them options to purchase many of these farms at an approximate 50% deduction from the amount owing by the original Settler, as in the case of Lot 2, Subdivision of District Lot 38 and 39, originally purchased for H. R. Treherne at a price of \$3240 plus a Permanent Improvement loan of \$1500 and Stock & Equipment loan of \$1000, and also plus four years interest at \$300 per year, making a total amount due on the property of \$6940.00. This place is at present occupied by an Empire Settler by the name of J. A. Terris, who has an option to purchase the property for \$3004.00. Many other cases can be quoted giving figures, if they should be required:

AND WHEREAS H. R. Treherne was given notice to leave his place unless he made his payments, which he was unable to do:

AND WHEREAS, with regard to the case above cited, an original Settler, C. E. Yockney, a Member of this Committee, occupies the adjoining place, which is of the same acreage, and for which approximately the same amount was paid, but he is faced with a total loan of \$7000.00:

AND WHEREAS, in one instance, the Board has seen fit to sell to a German, who fought in the German army, Lot 197, Comox District, for a price of \$2800.00, whereas the

MEIGHEN PAPERS, Series 3 (M.G. 26, I, Volume 137)

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