

that the squatters should select homesteads upon the public lands open to settlement; and that the Government would be asked to favourably consider their claim to have the period of actual residence and cultivation of the lands they occupied within the company's tract credited in regard to the lands selected. To this settlement the Government and the company agreed, and it has been accepted by all the squatters but one. I made a thorough inspection of the tract sold to the company, and found the crops in a forward and promising condition, and must add my testimony to that offered by all who have seen the farm, as to the illustration it affords of the wonderful grain-producing capacity of that section of the North-West. My objects were facilitated in every possible way by the manager, Major Bell.

INTERVIEW WITH MESSRS. FLEMING AND SIFTON, AT BRANDON.

I also stayed over for a day at Brandon, during which time, in addition to seeing and conversing with many of the people, I had a meeting, previously arranged for, with representatives of the Manitoba and North-West Farmers' Union, who submitted a memorandum, of which the following is a copy:—

“BRANDON, 15th July, 1884.

“DEAR SIR,—Being instructed to wait upon you by the Executive Council of the Manitoba and North-West Farmers' Union, in reference to the various questions presented by the laws relating to the Dominion Lands, we beg to call your attention to the following points as worthy of consideration :

“The numerous changes in the land laws of this Province have produced a want of confidence, a feeling of suspicion and discontent in the minds of the people who are anxious, as far as possible, to conform to all needful restrictions. By the confusion and uncertainty thereby created, the settlers are deprived of the advantage which would result from a definite system, thoroughly understood by them; and they are thus left subject, to a large extent, to the discretionary power of individuals, a power which we have reason to believe is too often abused.

“The delay in obtaining homestead entries, the uncertainty in the minds of the people as to the actual provisions of the law, and the conflicting construction placed upon the law by the various agents throughout the Province, and the Land Board at Winnipeg, have, to our certain knowledge, had a most disastrous effect in deterring persons who would have been desirable settlers from taking up land in accordance with their desires. There is no doubt that in the manner thus briefly indicated an enormous amount of harm has been done to the country at large, and it has become the conviction of many intending settlers that it is impossible to procure eligible homesteads.

“Having exceptional facilities for knowing the feeling of the people, we, on behalf of the farmers' organization, would suggest that, with a view to remedying the above evils, the following recommendation be made to the Minister of the Interior :

“That no change be made in the law relating to Dominion Lands, except by Acts of Parliament, and that the entire law be embodied therein.

“That the advice of persons resident in this Province, and known to be practically acquainted with the working of the land regulations, be heard before any changes are carried into effect.

“That the relative rights and the discretionary power of the Land Board and of local agents, respectively, be strictly limited and defined.

“If the above recommendations were accepted and acted upon, we are convinced that in a very short time the present dissatisfaction would wholly cease; the recent changes in the law having, we believe, been of great benefit, and if the same were defined and confirmed by legislation, would be still more advantageous. At the present time the dissatisfaction is principally caused by lack of information as to