

The Assembly does not seem to be aware that in 1887 the late Minister of the Interior did away with the eighty acre homesteads and the eighty acre pre-emptions. What they do pray for, and what many contend should be done, is that those who have got the eighty acres homestead, and the eighty acres pre-emption, and have paid for the eighty acres pre-emption, should have the money returned, but since 1887 there have been no eighty acre pre-emptions or homesteads, the smallest being 160 acres.

"That, whereas in the years 1884, 1885 and 1886 persons entering for lands that had been cancelled, were charged, in addition to an extra fee for inspection, besides value for improvements that had been made, also an additional price for pre-emptions, varying from 25 cents to \$1 per acre, which additional price was demanded at the time of making entry ;

"And, whereas there was no good reason, in the greater value of such lands, for the additional charge per acre ;

"Therefore, the prices of such pre-emptions should be reduced to the prices charged for uncanceled lands in the same districts ; and moneys paid thereon should be applied to the payment of such pre-emptions at the said reduced price.

"That, whereas it has been proved that, for the success of the settler, it is necessary for him to engage in both grain and stock raising, and it has been demonstrated that for this purpose the settler requires not less than 320 acres of land ;

"And whereas from the fact that many settlers have been unable to pay for their pre-emptions, it has been shown that the prices for pre-emptions have been placed at too high a figure, thus practically depriving many homesteaders of the benefit of pre-emptions, which are essential for success in mixed farming ;

"That, in cases where pre-emptions have been cancelled during the past three years, because settlers were unable to pay for the same, these lands should not be held open for homesteading until the whole matter regarding pre-emptions has been further considered.

"Therefore, it is advisable that the prices of pre-emptions be reduced to the following figures, viz. : For lands within twenty miles of an operated railway, two dollars per acre, and for lands at a greater distance from an operated railway, one dollar per acre.

"That, in the interests of the Territories, specially of the prairie districts, it is desirable that every possible encouragement should be given to tree-culture ;

"Therefore, it is desirable that arrangements should be made, whereby tree planting, with continued and successful cultivation, should be permitted to stand in the place of grain cultivation, acre for acre, as fulfilment of homestead duties ;

"That, in paying for pre-emption, tree planting be allowed to count at the rate of five cents for each tree planted by the settlers and found growing on their homestead or pre-emption for two years next preceding such payment.

"That the present system of having odd-numbered sections withdrawn for homesteading is pernicious ; that it is an injury to settlers, inasmuch as, preventing close settlement, it throws additional burdens on them for carrying on schools and for necessary improvements.

"Above all, because the settlement of the land is of more value, and will bring more revenue into the Treasury, than the possible sale of lands thus withheld from settlement will, and because the throwing open of these sections for homesteading would be further inducement for emigrants to come to these Territories, seeing they would then be able to enjoy the advantages of close neighborhood to other settlers.