

Fort Fraser and Fort George, all on the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. In this section there has been the greatest activity with reference to homesteading and also in purchasing. In that part of the Province we have now 2,300,000 acres of land, enough land for 15,000 settlers, surveyed and waiting. Our surveys are well ahead of the settlement and it is much easier for intending homesteaders to secure a filing; for the sum of \$2 he can get an exclusive option for a period of sixty days so as to make a personal inspection, and thus obviate the necessity of staking.

"In addition to these lands, we have also done considerable in the matter of opening land reserved pending survey, and lands formerly held under timber licenses. The total opened in 1914 was 115,000 acres of this class of land. Of these lands we have offered 979 pre-emption holdings, of which only 382 were taken, while the demand for logged-off lands in the vicinity of the Coast is greater than the supply. Of the 25,000 acres offered last year the entire acreage was reasonably close to large centres of population—such as Lund, Salmon River and Powell River.

"As to our plans for the ensuing year, we have made arrangements for opening in the Spring an almost equal area, that is: In East Kootenay, 13,000 acres; 6,500 on the Coast and small islands, and 2,000 acres on Nootka Island.

"Of the lands held in reserve pending survey we shall have 65,000 acres ready to open in the Spring, of which 55,000 acres are along the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, where Mr. Duncan Ross says there is not a quarter section available for pre-emption. We have also 8,700 acres on Canoe River, which will be more or less tributary to the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway. The balance of the area is on Malcolm Island, where, you will recollect, a reserve was placed many years ago in favor of a Finnish colony.

"The Coast lands will be divided into small holdings, where we shall find room for a number of people who prefer Coast climate and surroundings.

ORGANIZE NEW EFFORT

"Now I am about at an end of what I proposed to offer to the House this afternoon, and I wish it to be understood that I do not in any way resent criticism of the Land Department. I do not think it can be truthfully said we have done nothing—I think it must be admitted we have done a great deal. Perhaps we have not done all we might have done, but we have accomplished much. Intelligent criticism may be of great help in the future,