

made by the scientific officers of the department. I will not for a moment dispute what the hon. gentleman states when he says that from his personal knowledge the account given of western Assinibola is not as favourable as it should be, in order to be in accordance with the facts. No one is more delighted to hear the hon. gentleman's testimony as to that fact than I am. I will endeavour before the second edition goes to press to secure accurate information in detail and correct the text in any portion of the hand-book which appears to be incorrect.

Motion to adjourn negatived.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

On the Order,

That for the remainder of the session the House shall hold two sittings on each day, one from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., and the second from 3 p.m. until the hour of adjournment, and at each such sitting Government Orders shall have precedence.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I do not propose to move this motion to-day; I think I will leave it to the next sitting of the House, on Wednesday. My reason is that the House is entitled to a declaration from the Government of the business which it proposes to bring down and proceed with. Unfortunately on account of my absence from my usual duties, and being confined to my house for the last few days, I am unable to make the declaration to-day, but I will do so on Wednesday.

Mr. SPEAKER. The Order stands.

DOMINION LANDS ACT.

Bill (No. 130) further to amend the Dominion Lands Act (Mr. Sifton) was read the second time, and House resolved itself into committee.

(In the Committee.)

On section 3,

Mr. DAVIN. What class of immigrants does this provide for?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. The demand for this legislation has been made by a number of farmers now residing in Manitoba, who desire to move into the Territories and work upon the co-operative plan. The application was made last year, but I left the matter over, and after giving it a good deal of consideration, I think it is possibly worth while to try it. It will do no harm, and we will make an attempt to see if it can be worked out in this case.

Mr. DAVIN. It is to meet the case of settlers who have been for some time in Manitoba?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Yes.

Mr. DAVIN. Are they the Gallicians?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. No; they are Canadian farmers. It is not intended specially to apply to new settlers but of course it may do so.

On section 6,

Mr. DAVIN. Why is the Minister of the Interior making this change with regard to the second homestead?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. The old clause found in section of the Act of last session to amend the Dominion Lands Act combined the two cases of the settler who had procured his patent for his first homestead and then entry for his second homestead, and the son of such a settler. It has been found that the combination of the two cases in the one clause makes it almost impossible to interpret the section intelligently in a variety of cases that arise. The section as amended by this Bill practically gives the son the privilege of earning his patent by living with his parent, so long as the parent is a farmer living upon a farm in the vicinity.

On section 7,

Mr. DAVIN. Why is the hon. gentleman changing the wording here?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I have to move that section 7 be amended to read as follows:—

Subclause 10 of the said clause 38, as amended by section 4 of chapter 29, of the Statutes of 1897, is hereby amended by striking out the words "or has a pre-emption" in the third line thereof, and by substituting for paragraph (a) thereof the following:—

(a) That he has fulfilled three years' residence within the meaning of this clause.

The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) introduced a Bill last session the principle of which I proposed to adopt, and the law clerk of my department adopted practically the wording of my hon. friend's (Mr. Davin's) Bill, but I found that it gave rise to some difficulty in the interpretation. This amendment I think will remove the difficulty and will carry out what my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) meant.

On section 8,

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. This clause has been suggested by the board of examiners to provide for the case of provincial land surveyors of British Columbia, who are desirous of becoming land surveyors of the Dominion. The board say that under the law they are compelled to undergo an examination which is more onerous than the board consider necessary, and they have drafted this section.

On section 9,

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I move that in the first blank, being line