

(a.) The Minister of the Interior or the Dominion Lands Board, upon requisition, may authorize any person named therein to make a homestead entry on behalf of any person signing such requisition and desiring to obtain such entry:

(b.) The person so authorized shall, in order to obtain such entry, make application in the Form E in the Schedule to these regulations, on behalf of each of those whom he represents, and shall make an affidavit before the local agent, or, in his absence, the senior clerk performing his duties, according to Form F, G or H, in the Schedule to these regulations, as the circumstances of the case require, and shall pay for each homestead entry the office fee of ten dollars hereinbefore prescribed for such entry, and shall receive for each fee so paid a receipt in the Form J in the Schedule hereto:

(c.) Persons occupying land owned by them may obtain homestead entry for any contiguous land open to the same; but the whole extent of land, including that previously owned and occupied, must not exceed one quarter-section:

(d.) A person applying for such entry for contiguous land must, when making the affidavit prescribed for homestead entry, also describe therein the tract he owns and lives upon; and his residence upon and cultivation of the whole shall thereafter be of the kind and for the term required by the provisions of these regulations in the case of ordinary homestead entry before he shall be entitled to patent for the part so entered for: Provided, that such residence and cultivation may be upon either the land originally occupied by him or that for which homestead entry has been obtained, or both.

**Sec. 20.** In case a dispute arises between persons claiming the right to homestead entry for the same land the local agent or senior clerk, or any person thereto authorized by the Minister of the Interior, shall make investigation and obtain evidence respecting the facts, and his report thereon, together with the evidence taken, shall be referred to the Minister of the Interior for decision, or to the Dominion Lands Board, Commissioner of Dominion Lands, or such person as may be appointed by the Governor in Council to consider and decide in cases of such disputes:

(a.) Provided that when two or more persons have settled upon and seek to obtain homestead entry for the same land, the one who settled first thereon and has continued to reside upon and cultivate the land for which homestead entry is sought shall be entitled to such entry if the land be of the class open to homestead entry, and if it be not, in the opinion of the Minister of the Interior, otherwise inexpedient in the public interest to entertain any application therefor:

(b.) Provided further, that where contending parties have valuable improvements on the lands in dispute the Minister of the Interior, if the application to acquire the land by homestead entry is entertained by him, may order a division thereof in such a manner as shall preserve to each of them, as far as practicable, his improvements; and the Minister may, at his discretion, direct that what the land so allotted to each of them may be deficient of a quarter-section shall be made up from unoccupied land adjoining, if there be any such of the class open to homestead entry.