

Government entered actions in the courts to secure judgment as to whether the term of exemption has not terminated. The Government has also guarded the interests of the settler with respect to railway matters, the grain business and in fact has lost no opportunities to make conditions in the West contribute to the happiness, comfort and prosperity of the people. Thus have people been attracted to the West and kept there.

CHANGES RE. DOMINION LANDS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The present Government have made certain changes in the regulations governing the disposal of lands in British Columbia, which very materially and advantageously affect the settlers living on Dominion Lands in that Province.

The land owned by the Dominion is known as the Railway Belt, and includes an area forty-two miles wide, through the centre of which the Canadian Pacific Railway is constructed. The regulation heretofore enforced with regard to settlers requires them before receiving their patent to reside on and cultivate their homestead for at least six months in each of three years, and also before patent can issue the payment of one dollar per acre for the homestead of one hundred and sixty acres.

The Government considered that the settler in British Columbia was at somewhat of a disadvantage in view of the fact that the clearing of the heavily timbered land in that Province was a slow and tedious, as well as expensive, operation, and that the building and maintenance of roads and bridges required a considerable outlay in time and money to the settler. In considering all these facts the Government decided to cancel that provision of the regulations which required the payment of \$160 for each homestead, and by an Order-in-Council dated the 17th April, 1900, practically threw open homestead lands in the Railway Belt to settlement upon the same conditions as apply to homesteads in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories. The Government provided that this exemption should apply equally to all lands in the Railway Belt already entered for, or for which payment has not been made, as well as lands hereafter entered for under homestead regulations. The Government also considered that this change was necessary in order to further encourage the taking up of lands by new settlers in that Province.

A further change, of great advantage to the settler in British Columbia, has been made by giving him the timber rights on his homestead. Heretofore, all the timber, in excess of 25 acres, on any lands entered for as homesteads, was reserved by the Government. An Order-in-Council carrying out this change was passed on the 5th of July, 1899. This entitles all persons having entry for lands within the Railway Belt to the timber, free of any dues.

The list of amendments made with respect to Dominion Lands is a long one. To see how they benefit and encourage the settler it is but necessary to read them. When it is remembered as well that the administration of these laws and all others affecting settlers has been carried on with the idea that the settler is a good friend of the country and not a victim to be exploited (as was the case under the Conservatives), it is easy to understand why the advent of the Liberals to power has been followed by a phenomenal development of the West.