

Mr. Charlton moved in amendment, that Mr Speaker do not now leave the chair, but that it be

Resolved,—That the present Land Regulations provide that odd-numbered sections in the Canadian North-West, outside of the Canadian Pacific Railway Belt, shall be open to sale without conditions of settlement.

That the so-called Colonization Plan No. 1, provides that parties may purchase large tracts of land on credit at \$2 per acre, with a proviso for the rebate of one-half of the price on certain conditions, thus reducing the cost to \$1 per acre; or one-half the price charged to individual settlers for their pre-emptions, or other purchases in odd sections.

That the so-called Colonization Plan No. 2, provides that parties may purchase large tracts embracing all the Government lands within their area (from which homestead and pre-emption settlers are thus to be excluded), paying \$2 per acre, without any express conditions of forfeiture in case of non-settlement, and with the additional advantages of a large rebate, amounting under certain conditions to \$1 per acre from the price, in case the purchasers choose to effect a so-called settlement within each township, but without any provision as to the acreage to be given, or the interest to be secured to each so-called settler.

That these regulations are calculated injuriously to affect the future of the country by facilitating the creation of large landed estates, by placing extended areas of the choicest lands in the hands of speculators, who have favorable opportunities of securing them in anticipation of the settler, and who may hold them for a large advance to be paid by the ultimate settler, whereby the country will gain nothing in price, and will lose through the diminished ability of the settler to contribute to the public revenues.

That in the opinion of this House, our aim should be to people the agricultural regions of the North-West with independent freeholders, each cultivating his own farm, and paying therefor no more than the public treasury receives; and that, save in the case of town plots, or other exceptional cases, the sale of North-West agricultural lands should, as a rule, be made to actual settlers only, on reasonable conditions of settlement, and in quantities limited to the area which can be reasonably occupied by a settler.

The motion was lost on a strictly party vote. Yeas (Liberals), 47; Nays (Tories), 112.