

Mr. ROBB: Does that mean that you will accept those ten or twenty year terms and nothing short of them?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I would not recommend anything shorter than ten years. The price would be affected adversely if we did. School lands are selling on a ten year term. There is considerable agitation to make it more than ten years but there is no question but that the school land fund is to-day at a much higher figure than it would be if a shorter term were fixed.

Mr. MURPHY: Could sales not be made for cash under the clause?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Cash could be paid and a man could get title but I would not be empowered to offer land for sale by auction. I would not be prepared to make the term cash. On the other hand, if a man purchased land and afterwards desired to pay cash he could do so. But, according to the terms, a man will not be asked to come in and bid at auction against another man who is able to pay cash.

Mr. MURPHY: What is the practical application under this last section?

Mr. MEIGHEN: For example, John Smith buys a section of land at auction on the 20-year amortization plan. Then the minister is empowered to allow John Smith to pay the whole thing right off or any part of it at any time.

Mr. McMASTER: The last paragraph of the section says:

The Minister may give such privileges of prepayment of instalments as he may deem fit.

Would that go so far as to allow the minister to give a heavy discount on prepayment?

Mr. MEIGHEN: No. I would never give any discount at all. I do not think I would be empowered to do so.

Section agreed to.

On section 5—application to Dominion lands in Manitoba:

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): What legislation is contemplated by the province of Manitoba?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I would not like to say than any legislation is contemplated. That would be for the government of that province to say. But if they pass any legislation it should be legislation under which we could undertake works of this kind.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): That is what is called "the necessary legislation" in this clause?

Mr. MEIGHEN: It means legislation similar to the reclamation Acts of Saskatchewan and Alberta—any legislation under which we could operate.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): Do the swamp lands in Manitoba belong to the Dominion?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Guysborough): My recollection is that they once belonged to Manitoba, that we bought them back and paid a very large sum of money for them. Now, we propose to drain them at the expense of the Dominion.

Mr. MEIGHEN: They belong to the Dominion. We cannot under this Bill, unless they pass an Act, do anything in the way of drainage. There were representations made to myself that it would be well to investigate the possibility of draining one of the larger lakes of the province.

An hon. MEMBER: Lake Manitoba?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Lake Manitoba. We have not seriously considered it as yet, because there is no Act in force in that province under which we could operate. The opinion is also held that there are other surface waters in that province that should be drained first, and that it would pay us to undertake inasmuch as the lands are ours.

Mr. CAMPBELL: The minister referred yesterday to the added territory of Manitoba. I did not quite catch the connection in which the reference was made, and I was wondering if that part of Manitoba was affected differently from the rest of the province?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I did draw a distinction between the jurisdiction of the Dominion in respect of the older part of Manitoba and the added territory, and the distinction is this: Under the Irrigation Act, passed in 1894, the Dominion asserted control over the surface waters of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and the territories now embraced within the added district of Manitoba. That control the Dominion asserted and now has in respect of those territories. The Dominion also has control of the Crown lands in the old portion of Manitoba, but none over the surface waters. We could, however, do reclamation work in the old portion of Manitoba if there were adequate provincial laws under which we could operate. The only difficulty is that the old Irrigation Act does not apply to the old portion of Manitoba.