

were the causes that led up to the amendment in that year. I found that the Minister in charge, the Hon. F. J. Fulton, gave it as his reason that certain frauds had been attempted in connection with the securing of land by agents, that they had not staked the lands in accordance with the requirements of the Act, and the provision was inserted in the Act requiring the declaration that staking had been done. This was the reason given for the amendment in question, and the net result was that it did not change the practice from what it had been previously, but provided for a declaration from the man who had actually staked the lands that he had so staked them.

### LIBERAL CRITICISM

"You will recollect, in the year 1907 we had a very vigorous opposition in the House, numerically very strong, and with critical and intelligent ability very marked—we had Mr. Oliver and a great many others, and there was very keen criticism of anything that was done, or was proposed to be done, by the Government. This matter was fully debated, and our friend Mr. Oliver took the floor for the purpose of giving his views upon it immediately after the Chief Commissioner of Lands sat down. He is reported in two different ways in the two different local papers. The Colonist reports him as being in favor of the increase of the price from \$1 to \$2.50 per acre, which would clear the third-class classification out of the way. But the Times does not agree, and reports him as being against this increase of price or the withdrawal of the \$1 land from sale. There is no place in either report, and I recall the circumstance from my own memory, of his having drawn the attention of the House to the iniquities of this amendment in question. Nor do we find any statement from him in connection with this matter at any subsequent time, and I suppose we must conclude it has taken him eight years to make up his mind whether the practice is good or bad. Perhaps that accounts for the fact that he has been supplanted in this House by another, and in consequence our friend from the Delta has to reach the public by means of "open letters" in the press.

"Mr. Brewster, who also was very active in his criticisms, was here as a Member at that time, and we have no comment from him on record as showing the iniquities attached to this amendment. Chief Justice Macdonald is now out of the political arena, but it was well known that very little got past him when he was a leader of the opposition. Yet not one question was raised by him as to the merits or demerits of this proposed amendment.