

THE DOMINION LAND ACT.

FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.

The following is the full text of the amendments proposed to the Land Act by Sir John A. Macdonald:

The term "pre-emption entry" means the entering on the books of a local agent of a preferential claim to acquire by purchase, in connection with a homestead entry, and on becoming entitled to a patent for the homestead, of a quarter of a section of land contiguous to such homestead; and the term "pre-emption right" means the right of obtaining a patent for such quarter section on the said conditions on payment of the price fixed by the Governor in Council at the time of entry in the class of lands in which such pre-emption entry is comprised, in respect of land subject to pre-emption entry, such payment being made in the manner and subject to the requirements of the Order in Council fixing the price.

CREATION OF A DOMINION LANDS BOARD.

The Governor in Council may appoint an officer to be styled "the Commissioner of Dominion Lands," and an officer to be styled "the Inspector of Dominion Lands Agencies," and such officers shall respectively have the powers not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, and perform the duties that may be from time to time conferred upon and assigned to them by order of the Governor General in Council; the Governor in Council may also establish a "Dominion Lands Board," to investigate and settle all disputed questions arising out of the duties imposed upon the Commissioner of Dominion Lands and the Inspector of Dominion Lands Agencies, and all matters connected with the administration of the Dominion lands system in Manitoba and the North-West Territories; and such Dominion Lands Boards shall be composed of such persons, and shall have such powers and authority, not inconsistent with this Act, and shall perform such duties as shall from time to time be prescribed by order of the Governor in Council.

THE RIGHT OF PRE-EMPTION.

And if, in connection with the homestead entry, the settler has obtained a pre-emption entry in accordance with the provisions of this Act, he shall, on becoming entitled to a patent for his homestead be also entitled to a patent for the land included in such pre-emption entry, on payment of the price fixed in accordance with the provisions of this Act by the Governor in Council; but such pre-emption right, if not exercised within six months after the settler shall have become entitled to claim a patent under his homestead entry, shall be forfeited.

THE PROTECTION OF LOAN COMPANIES.

If an immigrant to whom an advance has been made, as in this clause provided, and by whom or for whom a homestead entry, or homestead and pre-emption entry, has been obtained, forfeits such entry or entries under the provisions of this Act, the Minister of the Interior may, in his discretion, treat the person by whom such advance was made as if he were the person who had obtained such entry or entries, or as his legal representative, and as if, up to the time of his being so treated, no forfeiture of the entry had taken place; and if, under like circumstances, the immigrant, by or for whom a homestead entry or homestead and pre-emption entry has been obtained, has acquired a right to receive a patent for the land forming the subject for such entry or entries, and does not apply for the issue of the same, the person or persons by whom the advance was made may obtain such patent in the name of the person so entitled to obtain: the

same, or of his legal representatives, and thereupon the advance made shall be a statutory mortgage on such homestead.

DISCONTINUANCE OF PRE-EMPTIONS.

The privilege of pre-emption, in connection with a homestead entry, may be discontinued by order of the Governor in Council; such Order in Council shall be published for at least six months in the *Canada Gazette*, and shall come into force and take effect on the expiration of six months from the first publication thereof.

MINING AND MINING LANDS.

It is hereby declared and enacted that no grant from the crown of lands in freehold or for any less estate has operated or will operate as a conveyance of the gold or silver mines therein, unless the same are expressly conveyed in such grant.

PATENTS.

And every patent for land and every lease and license issued under the provisions of this Act shall be prepared in the Department of the Interior and shall be signed by the Minister of the Interior, or his deputy, or by some other person thereunto specially authorized by order of the Governor General in Council, and when so signed shall be transmitted to the Secretary of State of Canada, by whom, or by the Under Secretary of State, the same shall be countersigned, and the Great Seal of Canada thereto caused to be affixed: Provided that every patent for land shall be signed by the Governor or Deputy Governor, as hereinbefore provided.

EXAMINING WITNESSES UNDER OATH.

The Dominion Lands Board, Commissioner of Dominion Lands, or Inspector of Dominion Land Agencies, and any person specially authorized to that effect by the Governor in Council shall have power to summon before him any person by subpoena issued by him, to examine such person under oath and to compel the production of papers and writings before him, and—if any person duly summoned neglect or refuse to appear at the time and place specified in the subpoena upon him legally served, or refuse to give evidence or to produce the papers or writings demanded of him—may by warrant, under their or his hands or hand, cause such persons so neglecting or refusing, to be taken in custody and to be imprisoned in the nearest common gaol, as for contempt of court, for a period not exceeding fourteen days,

EXAMINATION OF SURVEYORS.

Should it be found expedient, local boards of examiners may be established under order-in-council for the Provinces of Manitoba, British Columbia, or the North-West Territories, such boards to consist of not less than three and not more than six members each, and to hold their meetings at such time and place as the Minister of the Interior may, from time to time, direct.

The Surveyor-General shall require every Dominion land or topographical surveyor, in addition to the oath by this Act required to be administered to him on receiving his commission as such, to take and subscribe an affirmation, on the return of his surveys of Dominion lands, that the same have been faithfully and correctly executed according to law and the instructions of the Surveyor-General; and if it is proved on satisfactory evidence before any court of competent jurisdiction that such surveys or any part thereof have not been so executed, the surveyor taking such oath or making such false affirmation shall be deemed guilty of perjury, and shall be punishable accordingly; and thereupon her Majesty's Attorney-General for Canada shall, upon the application of the Surveyor-General, immediately institute a suit upon the bond of such surveyor, and the institution

of such suit shall act as a lien on any property owned or held by such surveyor, or his surties, at the time the suit is instituted.

MANITOBA WHEAT ABROAD.

WHAT THE LONDON "STANDARD" SAYS ABOUT IT.

The American consul at Winnipeg has just forwarded to this country four samples of wheat grown in the northern section of the Canadian North-West, which are of more than ordinary interest, for they completely dispose of the belief that has hitherto prevailed in many quarters that in the vast district just mentioned successful wheat growing is practically out of the question. The best specimen of flour is a sample of Scotch Fyfe wheat, from Fort Dunvegan, a post of the Hudson's Bay Company on the Peace River, in lat. 56°, long. 118°, and no less than 1,200 miles North-West of Winnipeg. It was sown on May 1st and harvested on August 20th last year by the officer in charge of the post, Mr. James McDougall, who, it may be mentioned, has never failed with his crops of wheat, barley, oats, and vegetables during the five years he has had charge of the post. The second sample is of spring wheat, variety unknown, grown at Fort Saskatchewan, near Edmonton, some 1,000 miles North-West of Winnipeg. This, though a very good wheat, is not so fine as the first specimen, produced 200 miles further north. The third sample of white Russian wheat from Battleford, in lat. 53°, long. 109°, or 700 miles North-West of Winnipeg; and the fourth is of white Scotch Fyfe, grown on an Indian Government farm near Fort Pelly, 800 miles North-West of Winnipeg. As already intimated the samples vary somewhat in quality, but they all reach a standard of excellence which abundantly shows that the wheat-growing capabilities of the immense area constituting the more northerly section of the Canadian North-West have been greatly under-rated in the past. And it is a fact of no little importance to the Dominion itself, to intending immigrants, and to British agriculturists generally, that the extent of the wheat-producing district in Canada's undeveloped interior should prove, as time goes on, to be so much greater than was at first supposed.—*The Standard*, Jan. 31.

AN INSTANTANEOUS LIGHT.

Such in a word is the unique apparatus on exhibition at the rooms of the Portable Electric Light Co., 22 Water Street, Boston. It occupies the space of only five square inches and weighs but five pounds, and can be carried with ease. The light, or more properly lighter, requires no extra power, wires or connections, and is so constructed that any part can be replaced at small cost. The chemicals are placed in a glass retort; a carbon and zinc apparatus, with a spiral platinum attachment, is then adjusted so as to form a battery, and the light is ready. The pressure on a little knob produces an electric current by which the spiral of platinum is heated to incandescence. The Portable Electric Light Company was recently incorporated, with a capital of \$100,000, under the laws of Massachusetts. The usefulness of the apparatus and the low price (\$5) will no doubt result in its general adoption. Some of the prominent business men of the State are identified with this enterprise. In addition to its use as a lighter, the apparatus can also be used in connection with a burglar-alarm and galvanic battery.—*Boston Transcript*, Dec. 30.

An Iowa farmer claims to have nearly doubled his crop of winter wheat by means of a thin autumn mulch of straw.