

block. On these lines all township, section, and quarter section corners are marked, to govern in the subsequent subdivision of the block. After detailing the system of survey, the bill refers to the disposal of the Dominion lands, in which it is provided that the Hudson Bay Company is entitled to certain portions of the territory known as the "Fertile Belt." The Company, however, may select land, in lieu of allotted land, provided it not on the Indian reservation and settled under lawful authority. Next come the modes of settling the lands—first by cash, one dollar per acre; next, pre-emption right, or the right to purchase by actual settlement. Any person being the head of a family, or a single man above the age of twenty-one years, who has made a settlement on unappropriated Dominion Lands, and who has inhabited or improved thereon, and has erected a dwelling thereon, may have himself entered with the Local Agent of the division in which such land is situated for any number of acres not exceeding the quarter section of land including the residence of the claimant, and being a subject of Her Majesty by birth or naturalization, shall receive a patent therefor, upon paying the price of such lands. Every claimant of pre-emption rights must within *twelve months* after filing his claim furnish the Local Agent proof of continuous residence on the land he claims, and pay the price thereof, and in default of so doing the land so settled and improved will be subject to the entry of any other purchaser. Again, there is the homestead system: any person coming into the territory and settling on a quarter section of surveyed and unoccupied lands, becomes entitled to a patent at the end of three years. It is intended, said the hon. gentleman, to verge the pre-emption clause into those referring to the homestead system, in accordance with the principle of a Bill which has just passed its second reading in Congress. It is also provided that certain reservations be made in every township for educational purposes. In the subdivisions of townships which may consist partly of prairie and partly of timber land, such of the sections or subdivisions of sections containing islands, belts, or other tracts of timber, shall be subdivided into such number of wood lots of not less than ten, and not more than twenty acres in each lot, as will afford, so far as the extent of wood land in the township may permit, one such wood lot to each quarter section prairie farm in such township. Any tract of land covered by forest timber may be set apart as

Timber Lands, and reserved from sale and settlement. The right of cutting timber on such limits shall be put up at a bonus per square mile, varying according to the situation and value of the limit, and sold to the highest bidder by public competition. The purchaser shall receive a lease granting the right of cutting timber on the land for *twenty one years*, and containing certain conditions. Provision is also made with respect to mining lands. No reservation of gold, silver, iron, copper, or other mines or minerals shall be inserted in any patent from the Crown granting any portion of the Dominion lands. Any person may explore for mines or minerals on any of the Dominion lands, surveyed or unsurveyed, and not then marked or staked out and claimed or occupied, and may, subject to the provisions of the law, purchase the same. In case of certain lands proving to be rich in minerals, the Secretary of State shall have the power to withdraw such lands from sale, and in lieu thereof institute a system of lease to discoverers or first applicants. The rent payable to the Crown under any such lease shall be a royalty, not to exceed two and a half per cent. on the net profit of working. When there are two or more claimants for the same tract, then if the claim of the first discoverer be not fully established to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, the same shall be put up at public auction on stated terms of lease, and sold to the highest bidder. As respects coal lands, they are withdrawn from the operations of the Act as regards the rights of squatters to homesteads on the Dominion lands in advance of the surveys, and are reserved in the interest of the general public. The law provides for the steps necessary to be taken by persons desirous of carrying on coal mines in the territory. The Bill also provides regulations with respect to surveyors of Dominion lands, and among other things it is provided that a Board of Examiners be established for the examination of candidates for commissions as surveyors.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST called attention to the fact that the French copy of the Bill had only been placed in the hands of members, and that it was advisable to defer the going into Committee for some time, in order to afford ample opportunity for a thorough criticism of so important a measure.

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON also wished time to consider it, as he had only just then received his copy.

Hon. Mr. BUREAU did not intend to oppose the second reading of the Bill, but as that was the proper time to discuss it