

and fencing. Provision was made for the issue of permits to cut, free of dues, timber for the construction of public works, public institutions and the buildings in connection therewith, and the quantity of building timber which a homesteader is allowed to cut, free of dues, has been increased from 1,800 to 3,000 lineal feet.

Homesteaders on Dominion Lands in the Railway Belt in the Province of British Columbia have been granted all the timber on their homesteads, excepting in cases where such timber has been disposed of under license or permit.

This will be a great source of great satisfaction to the settlers in British Columbia, as it will give them an interest in clearing their lands which they otherwise did not have, and puts them in possession of a large amount of timber.

**HAY.**

Provision has been made that no permits to cut hay are to be issued to persons who are not actual farmers until after the latter have been supplied.

**COAL.**

The regulations for the granting of permits to mine coal for domestic purposes were made to extend to School Lands as well as Dominion Lands.

**TO FACILITATE ISSUE OF PATENTS.**

The amendments to the Act in 1902 are calculated to facilitate the issue of a patent in certain cases, and also improve the conditions under which homestead duties may be performed.

It will not be necessary now for the personal representative of a settler who completed his homestead duties, but died before becoming a British subject, to obtain a certificate of naturalization before receiving a patent for land.

**A RECENT STEP.**

Amongst the latest steps taken by the Liberal Government to facilitate the settlement of the West is the policy to be followed in connection with the disposal of the millions of acres of odd-numbered sections of land now under the control of the Government through the arrangement made which completes the selection of the C. P. R. land grant.

It is proposed to sell these lands, not to speculators, but to actual settlers who will go into residence upon them; and where there are settlers in residence on adjoining homesteads such homesteaders will have the first opportunity of purchasing 160 acres from an odd section adjoining them.

In connection with this subject may be mentioned the steps taken by the Liberal Government to relieve the Western settler from paying an unfair proportion of the local taxes through the railway lands being exempt from taxation. The Liberal Government reversed the Conservative policy of delaying the patenting of land grants. As long as the patents were not issued the land grants were not taxable. The Liberal Government rushed out the patents and so made the railway lands eligible for taxation. In the case of the C. P. R., which enjoys exemption from taxation under special legislation, the Liberal