

(f.) Proof of the residence and improvements required by this section shall be made by the claimant by affidavit, and shall be corroborated by the evidence on oath of two disinterested witnesses, resident in the vicinity of the land affected by their evidence, and accepted as sufficient by the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, or, in his absence, by a member of the Land Board; such affidavit shall be sworn, and such testimony given before the local agent, or, in his absence, the senior clerk performing his duties, or some other person named for that purpose by the Minister of the Interior.

Sec. 25. Every person who has obtained a homestead entry, and who proposes to apply for a patent for such homestead, shall give six months' notice in writing to the agent of Dominion lands of his intention to make such application, and shall produce evidence to the officer who is authorized to receive the application that such notice has been duly given.

Sec. 26. (a.) In case it is proved to the satisfaction of the Minister of the Interior that a settler has not resided upon and cultivated his homestead, except as herein provided, for at least six months in any one year, or has failed to cultivate and crop the said land during the first two years after obtaining entry therefor, or to erect a habitable house before the expiration of the second year after such entry, and to *bona fide* reside therein and cultivate the land for three years next prior to the date of his application for patent, or has made any false statement in the affidavit in support of his application for entry, or if he fails, within the time provided for in these regulations to apply for patent for his homestead, and to pay for the said homestead the price specified in these regulations, the right to the land shall be forfeited and the entry therefor shall be cancelled, and the settler so forfeiting his entry shall not be eligible to obtain another entry, except in special cases, in the discretion of the Minister of the Interior.

(b.) Provided, that in any case of illness, vouched for by sufficient evidence, or in the case of immigrants requiring to return to their native land to bring out their families to their homesteads, or in other special cases, the Minister of the Interior may, in his discretion, grant an extension of time, during which a settler may be absent from his homestead without prejudice to his right therein; but the extension of time so granted shall not count as residence.

Sec. 27. A homestead, the entry of which has been cancelled, may, at the discretion of the Minister, be held for homestead entry by another person on such terms and conditions as the Minister of the Interior may prescribe, or for sale of the land with the improvements, if any, or of the improvements alone in connection with homestead entry thereof, to another person.

Sec. 28. Any assignment or transfer of homestead right or any part thereof, and any agreement to assign or transfer any homestead right or any part thereof after patent shall have been obtained, made or entered into before the issue of the patent, shall be null and void; and the person so assigning or transferring or making an agreement to assign or transfer shall forfeit his homestead right and shall not be permitted to make another homestead entry: Provided, that a person whose homestead may have been recommended for patent by the local agent or senior clerk, and who has received from such agent or clerk a certificate to that effect in the