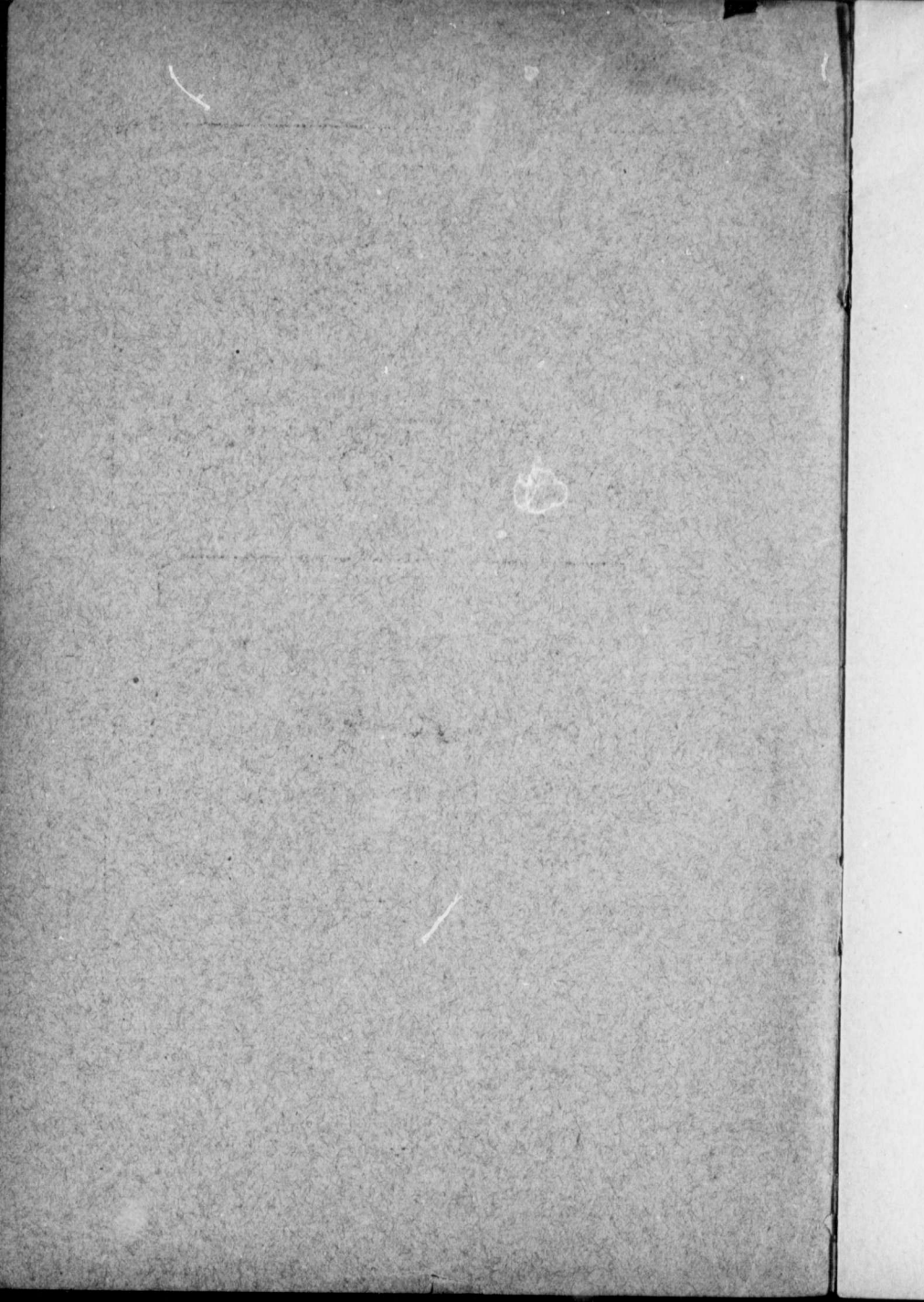




BRITISH COLUMBIA  
**LAND POLICY**



SPEECH BY  
The Hon. **WILLIAM R. ROSS, K.C.** Minister of Lands.  
29th January, 1915



# Land Policy of British Columbia

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Minister of Lands

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JANUARY 29th, 1915

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Hon. William R. Ross, K.C., Minister of Lands, in closing the debate on the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne in the Legislature on Friday, January 29th, 1915, said:

"The honorable Members for Nanaimo and Newcastle have directed their attention to almost every other question that has arisen in this debate, yet they have nothing to say with reference to our administration of land. I also understood, from what I could hear of the speech just delivered by the honorable Member for Columbia, though it contained references to criticisms of the Government in reference to other matters, from where I sit I failed to gather that he dealt in any way with reference to the administration of land.

"It is evident that the members of the Opposition to the Government feel the responsibility of their position in such a way that they do not consider it their duty to express to the House any dissatisfaction with the methods that have been taken and the results that have been achieved. I think I am fair in my assumption that the administration in this respect is quite satisfactory to them, and I hope I am not misrepresenting their feeling when I draw that conclusion.

"I think that the criticisms that have been directed towards the Government in connection with the sales of land arise rather from the fact that we have been able to achieve very satisfactory results from the proceeds under the sales of land, and I think we have been able to do things in the expenditure for public works to meet the requirements of the people. We can claim that through the receipt and expenditure of this money this Province has made

greater progress in the last five years than in any other like period of time in its history.

### LAND ADMINISTRATION

"It is not true, as critics say, that there has been a certain amount of laxity in the administration of the law with reference to the sale of land through agents, by which the amount of these sales has been augmented. This is a matter I propose to deal with a little later. In the meantime, I would ask the House for a few minutes to direct their attention to our general land administration, and more particularly to land sales.

"I may say that during the ten years beginning in 1905 and ending at the close of 1914, the Governments of the day have consented to the sale of 5,222,508 acres; that the amount received under the general heading of land sales in cash during this period has amounted to over \$12,301,426, and as I have already stated, the receipt and expenditure of this money has enabled us to give a greater impetus to the progress of the country than in any other equal period of time.

"If we would deal for a moment with the history of the land boom, it makes very interesting reading, and I think that your conclusion will be that in this land boom the number of parcels of land purchased in this way has been dependent upon the caprice of the public rather than any statutes that have been enacted. And I may say that the whole history of our land administration during the time this Government has held office has been marked by one restriction after another, both in the enactments on the statute book and in the administration of the land in a departmental way.

"In the early stages when times were good, and it was possible for speculators to purchase land from the Government and re-sell at a profit, the amount of money which stood on the books by way of arrears of payments was not sufficient to attract the attention of anybody. Later on, when, following a policy of placing reserves upon desirable land in the interests of homesteaders and pre-emptors, the man who wished to purchase land was forced away from the more accessible land and had to take less desirable portions, naturally the arrears began to mount up, until they attracted a very considerable amount of attention. I would direct your attention to a few figures in connection with this matter, and you will realize what the amount was. In 1905 the sales amounted to 50,000 acres; in 1906 they rose to 225,000 acres. During these years our lands were classified into three classes, bringing prices from \$5 an acre for the first class, \$2.50 an acre for the second class, to \$1 an acre for the third class. This would properly be said

to be the day of dollar land, because the greater part of the land surveyed at that time came under that classification.

"In 1907 the classification of third-class lands was abolished, and that practically was to increase the minimum price from \$1 to \$2.50 an acre. Notwithstanding this, the demand for land on the part of the public remained firm, and in 1907 and 1908 about 200,000 acres were sold in each year.

"In 1909 appeared the first symptoms of the land boom, and during that year some 645,000 acres were sold. In 1910 the highest stage was reached, when 2,000,000 acres were sold.

"In 1911 prices advanced to \$10 an acre for first-class lands and \$5 for second-class land, and notwithstanding that advance, some 900,000 acres were sold in that year.

"In 1912 the sales declined to 500,000; in 1913 they were 421,000, while in 1914 they were only 45,000 acres.

#### SIGNIFICANT FIGURES

"I would ask you to direct your attention to the fact that in the year 1906 the best lands were available for selection and no reserves had been placed against sales, and compare that with 1911. In the year 1906 people were able to secure the very best lands available in this Province—there was no reserve, and prices were practically \$1 an acre, and yet the total area sold was 225,000 acres; while in 1911, after 3,500,000 acres had been sold, large areas had then been closed by reserves, and prices had advanced by 400 per cent., the area of land sold was 900,000 acres. Whatever may be said of the wisdom of that policy—the policy in effect at the time this Government took office—the result would appear to have justified it.

"We have received from these land sales from 50c an acre up to \$1.25 an acre, according as the land was surveyed or unsurveyed. We have also up to 1911 had surveyed all the lands sold, except 280,000 acres. The amount of land sold up to the end of 1911 was 4,238,000 acres, so practically we have been able to secure the survey of about 4,000,000 acres free of expense to the Government.

"A great deal has been said in the daily press with reference to the question of arrears on land sales. I wish to give you figures on these arrears, which aggregate about \$9,000,000—made up on surveyed lands of \$5,780,000, and on unsurveyed land, \$3,240,000. It may be said that these figures do not correspond with the figures offered by Sir Richard McBride in his speech, but without doubt he was speaking of the total arrears in connection with these sales, including townsite sales of something over \$3,000,000 and

interest accrued. But the fact remains that the total amount in connection with sales of the land, and exclusive of townsites, amounts to \$9,000,000.

"Up to 1914 the total amount remaining unsurveyed is between 500,000 and 600,000 acres.

### COLLECTION OF BALANCES

"As to the question of further extension of time for the collection of the balance remaining unpaid, needless to say, it would be a very desirable thing indeed for us to continue to collect and endeavor to collect as much as possible of that money. But if we fail to get that money in I cannot see wherein the Crown is a loser, as no title passes until payment in full has been made, and we will have the land and it can be utilized for other purposes. If there was a shortage of land I would be inclined to suggest a more drastic action, but I think I will be able to show you that we have met the demand fully and that we have a substantial surplus over and above what is immediately required.

"I am not here to defend the man who has purchased land from the Crown with the object of selling it again—call him a speculator or whatever you like—but I think his position today is not by any means a rosy one. It is popularly supposed that all he has to do is to take the unearned increment and his responsibility is at an end. However, this is not true. Where the land was secured at the earlier sales some of these men have made profit, but it would be difficult to convince the bulk of these men who are on our books today that there is going to be any unearned increment at all, and the great majority of them would be willing to take their money back and call the matter off.

"With reference to land sales, I take it that in addition to the money which is brought into the treasury as a result of that policy, land sales are a means to an end just in the same way that the pre-emption clauses are. I take it that any man who purchases land has the idea that it will ultimately be colonized or occupied. If he cannot do it himself, he must get someone else to do it in his place. So that I think on that ground the policy is justifiable.

### AS TO SETTLEMENT

"I do not wish to be considered as apologizing in any way for the policies that have been followed, as I am a firm believer that the net result has been in the public interest, and I think that criticism of our policy with reference to our administration of land must stand or fall on the question as to whether or not the following out of that policy has hindered or hampered in any way the

settlement of our vacant land; and I would propose to test the same by the actual figures and by our experience in that new portion of this Province which is now being opened up by the construction of three new lines of railway—the Grand Trunk Pacific, the Pacific and Great Eastern and the Canadian Northern. These are being constructed through the northern section of the Province, and their total length will be about 1,200 miles. I take it you will agree with me that these areas—that these lands which lie the closest to the lines of the railways in question—will naturally be the first selected, either by a purchaser or under the pre-emption clauses. I think you will agree with me that if you take an area of a distance of three miles on each side of the railway, you will be including land contiguous to these lines of railway. I would ask you to do so in this case. Three miles on each side of the railway line would form an area contiguous to the railway, making a belt 1,200 miles long and six miles wide; that would give us 4,500,000 acres contiguous to the railway. My figures of 1,200 miles may not agree with the time tables of the Grand Trunk Pacific, but allowance must be made for departures from the straight line in railway construction.

“Now, this 4,500,000 acres comprise the lands which our critics say have been sold and tipped off to friends of the Government.

“Our total sales in ten years amount to 5,250,000 acres, but of this total area sold only 847,783 acres lie within the railway belt I have spoken to you about just now, so that the great bulk of the lands sold are not contiguous to the railway lines, and their sale will have little effect on the immediate settlement of the northern land.

#### RESERVATIONS FOR PRE-EMPTORS

“When I used the figures 847,000 acres I referred to all classes of sales, those under the old administration of the Land Act, as well as the Coal Mines Act and the South African War Land Grant Act, and a large area of this land which was located under the scrip issued in 1903 and 1904 was in this railway belt that I have mentioned. We have surveyed about 2,000,000 acres of the total area of this railway belt, well on to half of that total area; we have issued pre-emptions in it to 2,400 pre-emptors. We have surveyed in addition to the lands already held by pre-emptors 375,000 acres, which are now available for pre-emption, and we have remaining unsurveyed 2,500,000 acres, the greater portion of which is absolutely reserved for pre-emptors and would make homes for 15,000 people. The balance of the land is made up by university land grants and also timber licenses.

"The figures I have quoted to you in a general way cannot fail to impress fair-minded people as to what we have succeeded in achieving during the short time we have administered these lands. I think it constitutes a very enviable record and it would compare favorably with the record of any other Province in Canada, including the Prairie Provinces, although at the first glance it might seem that the land in those countries is more desirable than the wooded areas of British Columbia. I think, perhaps, the fairest comparison that we can make of our administration in this railway belt would be a comparison with the administration that has taken place in the railway belt adjoining the Canadian Pacific Railway, twenty miles each side, running from the eastern boundary of the Dominion to the Pacific Ocean. It was administered for fifteen years, from 1896 to 1910, by the Liberal administration at Ottawa; it has been administered since that time by the Conservative administration at Ottawa. When I give you the facts in connection with that administration I think you will admit that we have done quite as well, if not better.

#### A COMPARISON

"From 1896 to 1911—this was under the administration of the Liberal party at Ottawa—in the year 1911, which saw twenty-four years of constructed railway line, the total number of pre-emptions was 2,203 in fifteen years, or an average of 146 per annum.

"From 1911 to 1914, and this during a Conservative administration—I draw the attention of my friends of that persuasion in this House to this fact—the annual average was raised from 146 to 351, or a total of 1,025.

"Now, while this may seem good administration, our case is this—that with less than one half the area to draw upon, with only one railway completed and in operation for less than a year and two others not yet completed, we have placed 2,400 pre-emptors in ten years as against a Liberal record of 2,203 in fifteen years in more than double the area following the operations of the railway through that land for twenty-four years. And the comparison does not end there, because while I have given you the nominal figures for ten years, in point of fact we have succeeded in three years in placing 2,400, or at the rate of 800 per annum.

"I want to refer to that section of the land which lies within that portion of the line operated by the Grand Trunk Pacific, a portion of the railway belt which I have just referred to. The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway traverses this Province for 700 miles,



but, as the most westerly forty miles cannot be said to contain any large quantity of agricultural land, this leaves 660 miles in length, which would give a total area of 2,500,000 acres. In that area our land sales aggregate 593,000 acres, including alienations of all kinds. Now it is my opinion you will not find in other sections of this Province an equal area of good agricultural lands as in this particular belt. The pre-emptions issued amount to 1,200, but we have room for 9,000 more pre-emptors, allowing the full 160 acres to each. Now, I say that this has resulted from the Government policies of placing reserves in good time against the purchase of these lands. These reserves commenced in 1907.

### A CONTINUOUS RESERVE

"In that year you will find that a large reserve was placed on this land for 195 miles along the South Fork of the Fraser River from Yellowhead Pass to the junction with the North Fork of the Fraser River, and for three miles on each side. Additional reserves were made in 1908, 1909 and 1910, so that there was practically a continuous reserve from Yellowhead Pass to the Bulkeley Townships. In this area we have surveyed 1,200,000 acres, or nearly half the total area. Of the surveyed land still available for pre-emption we have 234,000 acres, enough for 1,500 pre-emptors; 59,000 acres are reserved for university purposes, and timber license holdings occupy 137,000 acres.

"With respect to the Bulkeley Townships it may be said this was the first large area surveyed in the Province of British Columbia. Some twenty-two or twenty-three years ago these lands were practically surveyed by A. L. Poudrier, and an effort was made to settle or colonize them at that time. By reason of the lack of transportation no great result was achieved, and subsequently the lands were acquired by the South African War scrips in 1903 and 1904, but my calculation includes all of these alienations, although they could not properly be said to come under the head of land sales in the sense I have been discussing.

"I noticed in The Victoria Times the other day a declaration from the gentleman who bears the same name as myself, although of different political persuasion—Mr. Duncan Ross. At one time he was heard on the floor of the Dominion House, but at the moment he appears to be engaged in reconstructing the Liberal party. At the annual meeting of the Liberal Association he told the people what he thought he knew of the land policy of the Government, and made some rather startling declarations. Amongst other things he stated that I ought to be put into the penitentiary for allowing literature to be distributed telling about

the vacant lands of this Province, and made the further statement that he would challenge me to show him any quarter section from the eastern boundary of the Province to the coast along the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway in which it was possible for any person to acquire a homestead area.

#### **LAND OPENING AT McBRIDE**

" I have told you in a general way what the situation is in that belt, and in addition to that I want to draw your attention to an incident that occurred last Spring. We had completed our examination of a portion of this railway belt with reference to timber lands and completed our surveys in that area. We selected a portion of the agricultural lands, divided them into quarter sections, and advertised that these sections would be open at a certain date. The matter received full publicity in the newspapers for three months. A special office was opened in the town of McBride for the convenience of the public. There was a total of 537 full-sized pre-emptions offered in this portion of the belt, and of these only 133 were taken up. The net balance is 400, and I will say that each one of these 400 quarter sections constitutes an answer to the challenge of Mr. Duncan Ross. In these belts the amount of land that still remains is approximately half the area, which is available to the homesteader and is not available for purchase.

#### **THE P.G.E. BELT**

"The Pacific Great Eastern Railway is 371 miles long. Taking this railway belt at six miles wide makes a total of 1,400,000 acres. This includes part of the oldest sections of this Province, yet all the alienations total 221,000 acres, and I say this comparatively small sale has resulted from the policy adopted by the Government of creating reserves against the purchaser. In this connection I would refer you to the Gazette of April and October, 1911, withdrawing from sale every foot of land in that area from Howe Sound to Fort George, except by way of pre-emption.

"Surveys have been continuously prosecuted in this belt against the completion of the railways. An aggregate of 560,000 acres in this belt constitutes a very respectable percentage of the total area; 835 pre-emptions have been issued, and the amount of surveyed land still available is 65,000 acres, and of that remaining unsurveyed, 860,000 acres. So, when this area is developed further, there will be room for several thousand more pre-emptors, giving them 160 acres each.

#### **THE C.N.P. BELT**

"The Canadian Northern Pacific Railway runs 173 miles, and the six-mile belt would give 660,000 acres of land. The total land

sales in this area from the beginning, some forty years ago, amount to 32,156 acres. No sales were permitted by the Government for a period of two years prior to the incorporation of the railway company, as can be seen by the Gazette of August, 1908, and April, 1909. The surveyed lands in this belt aggregate 192,000 acres, of which 63,000 acres are held by 360 pre-emption holdings, while another 30,000 acres are surveyed and available for pre-emptors.

"In addition to this there is a further area, now held by timber licenses, which will be thrown open as soon as the timber has been removed.

"I think you will agree with me, that whatever else these figures may demonstrate, they show that the policy of land sales pursued by this Government has not hampered or hindered settlement in any degree.

"I have told you that the total sales of land has been 5,222,000 acres; deducting from that the total sales in the three railway belts—847,000 acres—there is a balance left of 4,375,000 acres, representing lands sold outside of the six-mile belt in connection with any of these lines of railway, and this latter area is not land that is contiguous to the lines of railway in question. I ask you, did the purchasers of this land voluntarily elect to go at least three miles from the railway, or were they forced to do so by virtue of the policy of reserves created by this Government? It is in the comparatively inaccessible parts of this Province that the 'speculator is taking his chance,' to use a phrase which has become more or less familiar, where he is taking the certain chance of having to pay taxes and to hold on to his investment until the development of the Province, assisted by his own efforts, will put sufficient into his holdings to enable him to sell at a price sufficient to pay him for the moneys he has launched in his speculation.

#### EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS

"I think we have made progress, because a few years ago the Government might as a matter of policy have given away a grant of 5,000,000 acres of land as a railway subsidy without exciting any comment, and we have progressed so far that the sales of this quantity of land carried through ten years of administration, with advances in prices aggregating 400 per cent., although eighty per cent. of the land lies more than three miles from any railway constructed or in course of construction, meets with condemnation in some quarters.

"I believe the total cash payments received from land sales during the ten-year period amounted to \$12,000,000. If we assume

that of this amount the sum of \$9,000,000 has been received on account of sales of these lands and there is a balance outstanding of \$9,000,000 more, this makes a total of \$18,000,000, of which fifty per cent. is received in cash, this would average \$3.60 per acre for every acre sold during this period, and much of this was sold when the Government's price was only \$1 per acre during the first three years.

"I think this policy requires no apology whatever, and while the speculator has been filching land from the Crown at the rate of \$3.60 per acre, we have succeeded in buying back from the Columbia and Western Railway subsidy large areas amounting to millions of acres at 40 cents per acre.

"Then the Government has been criticized with reference to staking lands by means of agents. Most of these comments have been made by a gentleman who formerly occupied a position on the floor of this House as Member for the Delta, Mr. John Oliver. You may read his effusions and you will notice that he has repeatedly made the statement, confirmed by Mr. Brewster, also formerly a Member of this body, that the practice in the Act of staking lands through the medium of agents was established in 1907 by the Government. If not put in so many words, it was their desire to give the public the impression that such is the case.

#### STAKING OF LANDS

"Now I have looked carefully into the matter of the law governing the staking of lands through the medium of agents in the departmental records and on the Statutes, and I find that the practice of staking land through the medium of agents is as old as the administration of land itself in this Province. The practice of staking timber concessions has always been followed. Although there was no statutory provision for it, there was no prohibition against it, and the practice has always been to allow the securing of these concessions through the medium of an agent. If you look up the Location Clauses of the Mineral Act, the Placer Mining Act and the Coal and Petroleum Act, you will see they are the same as those in the Land Act. The procedure to secure mineral claims is the same now as it was in the first instance, and the same with regard to coal areas and placer mines, and if it is wrong in one instance, surely it is wrong in all. Yet we find it has been satisfactory, and I think any criticism in this matter was first mooted with reference to the purchase of land, and I find on referring back to the debate of 1907 that it is summarized in the newspapers of that date. Out of curiosity I examined these reports to find out what

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.

### AN ACTIVE POLICY .

"Leaving this subject, I would like for a moment to show in a general way what has been accomplished outside of these railway belts, and I think it should silence forever the criticisms now levelled at us. In fact, I think I am safe to assume that it will not be very long indeed before the criticisms will be that perhaps we are endeavoring to do too much in bringing people on to the lands, and that we should direct our attention to helping out the man who is already there. This is receiving the attention of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, and some matters in connection with this have been ably presented to the House by the two gentlemen who spoke yesterday or the day before.

"It is not my intention to discuss the contents of the report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, because I am limiting my attention particularly to our own actual land administration, the position I take being that it is not sufficient in land administration to offer lands to the public, but the administration should avail itself of every workable recommendation to increase productiveness.

"Up to the present time our work has been to prepare the land by survey and to acquire information about it so as to make it available by surveys for allotment and location later on, and I think I can point with pride and considerable confidence to what has already been done.

"Our total pre-emptions during the last five years were:

In 1910 .....	2,011
In 1911 .....	2,455
In 1912 .....	3,655
In 1913 .....	3,855
In 1914 .....	4,283

—making a total of 16,259 in the last five years, or an average of 3,419 per annum.

"I say, in view of these figures, that it must be convincing to the public that we are as active as possible under all the circumstances.

### MARKED PROGRESS

"I might say that the year 1914 shows a marked progress in this connection in the Province of British Columbia, and greater relative progress than any Province in the East as to the number of homesteaders.

"In 1903 the number of pre-emptors was 783, in 1914 the number was 4,300; fifty per cent. of those issued in the year 1914 were out of four offices in the North, namely, Prince Rupert, Hazelton,

Fort Fraser and Fort George, all on the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. In this section there has been the greatest activity with reference to homesteading and also in purchasing. In that part of the Province we have now 2,300,000 acres of land, enough land for 15,000 settlers, surveyed and waiting. Our surveys are well ahead of the settlement and it is much easier for intending homesteaders to secure a filing; for the sum of \$2 he can get an exclusive option for a period of sixty days so as to make a personal inspection, and thus obviate the necessity of staking.

"In addition to these lands, we have also done considerable in the matter of opening land reserved pending survey, and lands formerly held under timber licenses. The total opened in 1914 was 115,000 acres of this class of land. Of these lands we have offered 979 pre-emption holdings, of which only 382 were taken, while the demand for logged-off lands in the vicinity of the Coast is greater than the supply. Of the 25,000 acres offered last year the entire acreage was reasonably close to large centres of population—such as Lund, Salmon River and Powell River.

"As to our plans for the ensuing year, we have made arrangements for opening in the Spring an almost equal area, that is: In East Kootenay, 13,000 acres; 6,500 on the Coast and small islands, and 2,000 acres on Nootka Island.

"Of the lands held in reserve pending survey we shall have 65,000 acres ready to open in the Spring, of which 55,000 acres are along the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, where Mr. Duncan Ross says there is not a quarter section available for pre-emption. We have also 8,700 acres on Canoe River, which will be more or less tributary to the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway. The balance of the area is on Malcolm Island, where, you will recollect, a reserve was placed many years ago in favor of a Finnish colony.

"The Coast lands will be divided into small holdings, where we shall find room for a number of people who prefer Coast climate and surroundings.

#### ORGANIZE NEW EFFORT

"Now I am about at an end of what I proposed to offer to the House this afternoon, and I wish it to be understood that I do not in any way resent criticism of the Land Department. I do not think it can be truthfully said we have done nothing—I think it must be admitted we have done a great deal. Perhaps we have not done all we might have done, but we have accomplished much. Intelligent criticism may be of great help in the future,

but I am entitled to ask that future criticism be based on a foundation of truth. I do not pretend that we have an ideal system. It is quite true that we are getting men to go upon the land as homesteaders who may not be the best class for the purpose, and I am not sure that a system that recruits its farmers from men out of work in the large cities is an ideal one.

"I am quite satisfied that this Province is a land of promise, that it is a land which contains many and vast resources, and in it there can be found a living for all of us. But I think the time has come when we should consider whether it would not be better to organize an effort to place our advantages before practical farmers, who can be induced to come here for the purpose of assisting us in developing our natural resources. In this respect we require quality rather than number. We want farmers who will farm, and men who will add to our annual acreage under crop each year as a result of their endeavors. I do not think that we should depend entirely for our result upon men who are obliged during the large part of the year to secure a subsistence upon the public works of the country and eke out their existence by perhaps misdirected efforts in farming.

"I have told you in a general way matters which I consider of interest in connection with this question, and I think we should now endeavor to answer the question for ourselves as to which is the best way to secure the best men for developing the best Province in the Dominion of Canada."



