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Charles Wesley Teetzel, Prince Rupert, B.C.

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE TALKS OF LAND

Hon. E. D. Barrow Corrects Distorted Impressions Abroad Regarding Work of the Settlement Board.

Partly in reply to A. E. Howse, of Nicola, who indulged in a good deal of criticism of the Government of British Columbia during the course of his address before the Boards of Trade Convention in Vancouver and partly to correct an extraordinary impression which appears to be gaining ground in relation to land settlement operations and soldier settlement in particular, the Hon. E. D. Barrow says:

"There are those who apparently possess the idea of discrediting the operations of the Land Settlement Board, either intentionally or unintentionally, or through ignorance of the facts. That is to say, by the circulation of misleading statements as to climatic and soil conditions as well as transportation facilities, there has got abroad a very distorted impression of the true facts of the case."

Mr. Barrow went on to explain that the Bulkley and Nechaco valley land settlement areas are located along the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway and are already sparsely settled by a very fine progressive class of farmers. They are prosperous, in spite of the lack of proper marketing facilities owing to the want of sufficient combined production to allow of the economical handling of their produce.

And to the general cry that returned soldiers are being allocated to lands at "the back of beyond" Mr. Barrow points out that the disadvantages now experienced by the prosperous farmers of the localities named will be aided by the settlement of returned soldiers among them, who will very naturally share in the general community plans that will then be possible.

The Real Cause.

Mr. Barrow emphasizes further that just because the story of the non-resident owner and his non-producing lands is an old one it loses none of its truth, and that the reason these very lands had not been settled earlier was not on account of natural disadvantages, but merely owing to the fact that all the land within the boundaries of these unsettled areas were held by the class of owners mentioned. "The settlement of these 50,000 acres," continued the Minister, "is the commencement of a land settlement policy which eventually will bring into production hundreds of thousands of acres in the interior where conditions generally favor mixed farming. Large areas in other parts of the province which require irrigation and still others where it is necessary to dyke and drain will be dealt with. There are also logged off lands which will be made available for settlement."

Fine Opportunities.

Mr. Barrow considers that opportunities for settlers in British Columbia are second to none in any other province of the Dominion. "Some returned soldiers and other prospective farmers seem to think that unless they can get in on these first areas," he proceeded, "they will probably have to accept something inferior. I want to assure them that there will be an abundance of land available for several years to come. The areas still to be handled will offer equal opportunities to those desiring to go into mixed farming, live stock raising, or fruit growing."

Intelligent Allocation.

"In determining the size of the holdings sufficient consideration has been given to ensure the settler the necessary scope as an incentive to his energy and ambition and the certainty that the returns from his endeavor will enable him to conform to a standard of living that will be conducive to good citizenship.

The result aimed at, he says, is not altogether with a view to the production of any particular food commodity, at the lowest possible cost, but that a given area of land should support the greatest number of workmen under the most favorable conditions of living.

The system of homesteading and pre-empting carried on in the

AUTUMN LEAVES

Donald A. Fraser, author of the book of poems "Pebbles and Shells," has a poem in the October number of Contemporary Verse, his subject being "Autumn Leaves." Mr. Fraser is a British Columbia school teacher. Many of his verses are published in the big periodicals and his name is becoming widely known. He is also editor of The Public School Magazine of Victoria. The poem follows:

Summer danced in golden garments;
Winter spied her at her play;
Forward sprang and tried to catch her;
Like the light she flashed away.
Winter cried to Autumn, "Clutch her;
Hold her in your iron clasp;"
Autumn fingers fast were numbing,
But her vesture he did grasp.
Summer wrenched herself to freedom
Spite of Autumn's stern commands,
But she left her fairy garments
Golden tatters in his hands.

past was all wrong. The scheme whereby a man was allowed to settle where he pleased was neither in the interest of the individual or of the community. It resulted, says Mr. Barrow, in conclusion, in many instances, in imposing inhuman hardships on women and in denying children their right to a proper education.

Fine Letterheads at The News Print Shop.

SKEENA LAND DISTRICT—DISTRICT OF QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS.

TAKE NOTICE that I, John McLarty Macmillan, of Vancouver, B. C., occupation canneryman, intend to apply for permission to lease the following described lands: Commencing at a post planted on the south shore of Lagoon Bay, Moresby Island, about one mile from its mouth, thence south 20 chains, thence west 20 chains, thence north 20 chains, thence easterly along the shore line to point of commencement, containing 40 acres more or less.

JOHN McLARTY MACMILLAN.
Dated June 20th, 1918.

SYNOPSIS OF LAND ACT AMENDMENT

Pre-emption now confined to surveyed lands only.

Records will be granted covering only land suitable for agricultural purposes and which is non-timber land.

Partnership pre-emptions abolished, but parties of not more than four may arrange for adjacent pre-emptions, with joint residence, but each making necessary improvements on respective claims. Pre-emptors must occupy claims for five years and make improvements to value of \$10 per acre, including clearing and cultivation of at least 5 acres, before receiving Crown Grant.

Where pre-emptor in occupation not less than 2 years, and has made proportionate improvements, he may, because of ill-health or other cause, be granted intermediate certificate of improvement and transfer his claim.

Records without permanent residence may be issued provided applicant makes improvements to extent of \$300 per annum and records same each year. Failure to make improvements or record same will operate as forfeiture. Title cannot be obtained on these claims in less than 5 years, with improvements of \$10 per acre, including 5 acres cleared and cultivated, and residence of at least 2 years.

Pre-emptor holding Crown Grant may record another pre-emption, if he requires land in conjunction with his farm, without actual occupation, provided statutory improvements made and residence maintained on Crown granted land.

Unsurveyed areas, not exceeding 20 acres, may be leased as homesteads; title to be obtained after fulfilling residential and improvement conditions.

For grazing and industrial purposes, areas exceeding 640 acres may be leased by one person or company.

PRE-EMPTORS' FREE GRANTS ACT. The scope of this Act is enlarged to include all persons joining and serving with His Majesty's Forces. The time within which the heirs or devisees of a deceased pre-emptor may apply for title under this Act is extended from one year to one year after the conclusion of the present war. This privilege is also made retroactive.

TOWNSITE PROPERTY ALLOTMENT ACT.

Provision is made for the grant to persons holding uncompleted Agreements to Purchase from the Crown of such proportion of the land, if divisible, as the pre-emptors already made will cover in proportion to the sale price of the whole parcel. Two or more persons holding such Agreements may group their interests and apply for a proportionate allotment jointly. If it is not considered advisable to divide the land covered by an application for a proportionate allotment, an allotment of land of equal value selected from available Crown lands in the locality may be made. These allotments are conditional upon payment of all taxes due the Crown or to any municipality. The rights of persons to whom the purchaser from the Crown has agreed to sell are also protected. The decision of the Minister of Lands in respect to the adjustment of a proportionate allotment is final. The time for making application for these allotments is limited to the 1st day of May, 1919. Any application made after this date will not be considered. These allotments apply to town lots and lands of the Crown sold at public auction.

For information apply to any Provincial Government Agent or to
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