

all the complaints which had been brought against the past management of the Crown Lands Department. Some of them, however, he believed were well founded. There were three great interests affected by the management of the Crown Lands—the agricultural interest, as represented by the settlers—the timber interest, as represented by the lumberer:—and the mining interest, as represented by the miners. The resolutions now submitted, had reference more to the agricultural, than to the lumbering or mining interests. These latter the Government proposed to make more particularly the subject of consideration at another time. So far as the timber and mining interests were concerned, they were referred to in these resolutions merely because the free grant system could not be brought before the House, without to a certain extent referring to the interests connected with the lumbering and mining branches of industry. The first resolution affirmed the principle that it was desirable that free grants of the public lands should be given to actual settlers, on certain conditions, to be embodied in regulations by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, not inconsistent with the resolutions before the House. He did not think there was much difference of opinion as to the correctness of this policy. During the late elections it had been generally assented to throughout the country. He supposed there was not a single member of this House, during whose canvass the question had not been raised. He believed the Premier, at various places, during his peregrinations, prominently presented before the country as one of the chief features of his policy, the system of granting portions of the public lands to persons who proposed to go on them as actual settlers, and of annexing to the grant, as an encouragement to the settler, a homestead exemption provision. In the neighbouring country, inducements of a powerful character were held out to immigrants, and also to the young men of this country, to go in and settle on the lands of the Western States. The settler went upon a lot, and, having made affidavit of continuous residence for five years, he had the land conveyed to him in fee. That was the effect of the homestead law in the United States. With such inducements, it was not a matter of surprise that immigrants from Europe, and also young men from this country, naturally sought homes in the West. If we desired therefore, to retain our young men in our own country, or to attract to it any considerable amount of immigration, we must hold out inducements, as far as the circumstances of the country would admit of it, equally favourable with those presented by the United States. The second resolution referred to the localities, in which it was proposed that these free grants should be given. It was intended to confine them to the newly surveyed lands. The old townships would be excluded from the operation of these grants—and for the following reasons. In the first place, in the old townships, there were comparatively few lands which could be made the subject of free grants. What was not yet taken up was comparatively refuse land. Secondly, in the old townships, there were facilities, in the shape of roads, &c., for getting to market, which people could not expect to enjoy for a number of years in a new country; and there was not, therefore, any special inducement required to get people to go into those old townships. Another reason was, that there were now large sums due the Government with respect to lands sold in