

the member for Algoma in regard to the mineral interest, and in the remarks of the member for Ottawa on the timber limits. But the statements of the latter hon. gentleman, from which it might be inferred that the agricultural land of the country had been exhausted, were not correct; and it would be matter of regret if so unfounded an impression should go abroad. With some modifications and explanations he thought the policy of the Commissioner of Crown Lands a good one. He had decided to give one. He had decided to give the free grants of land in those sections, which were now unoccupied and best adapted for settlement; and he had acted wisely. As to the Homestead Law, it could hardly be called such. But in the United States a similar system had worked to advantage, and it certainly would be well to try the experiment here. The present law, he would also remark, need not at all conflict with any legislature which may hereafter be proposed for a general Homestead Law affecting the entire country. But he considered it doubtful whether the country demanded a Homestead Law at all. There were, he added, improvements which he would like to have seen in the resolutions. In regard to the latter of the resolutions, he must express his satisfaction at the declaration of the Commissioner that the settler would not be liable to have the timber stripped from his land by the lumberer. When he had fully performed all the duties required of him, the settler was to be fully entitled to all that the land contained. He (Mr. Beatty) would even go so far as to extend this privilege to the mines on the lands. He would say, however, that the Government policy did not go far enough. Nothing had been said in the resolution regarding the mode of settlement, or the sale of lands to those who did not come under the system of free grants. It would, in his opinion, be a good plan to sell all their lands at say \$1 an acre. Though he would be sorry to go so far as the member for Algoma, and advocate a slavish copying of the American Crown Lands system, still he thought much of their system might be copied to advantage. The Province would undoubtedly gain much by a free, unrestricted, unconditional sale of its unoccupied lands to actual settlers, at one dollar, or one dollar and a quarter an acre. But before going further there was one thing which was of the utmost necessity to the development of the country, and that was communication. Without roads, free grants were useless. With them as had been seen in the very region where it was proposed to give these free grants, the country would be settled up and prosper. Much of the land to be included in the free grants was really of excellent quality. The whole area of the Nipissing region was said by surveyors to yield from 60 to 75 per cent. of arable land; and there were yet many such districts of land fit for settlement in the Province. Having shown the folly of royalties in regard to mineral lands, the hon. gentleman closed by expressing a hope that the Government would embody in their measure as many of the suggestions offered as they could.

Sir HENRY SMITH said that though he might have characterized one of the measures before the house rather harshly that evening, he was bound to say that he had heard nothing during the debate yet which convinced him that the resolutions came up to the standard intended by His Excellency's remarks. What was there in the new scheme to attract emigration here? Where was the liberal homestead law? Was there any liberality or fairness in giving grants of land to settlers, and calling them free grants, when the very timber and mines were exempted? Now, he wanted the promise of the Government to be kept, and if they were not disposed to keep it, he desired to drive them to do it. Why not allow the man who settles and builds a house, to have the timber at the same rate as the lumberman? (Hear). As to the eulogies delivered on the Commissioner of Crown Lands, by the member for Algoma and others, he (Sir Henry) would say that there was very slight foundation for them. (Laughter). The Commissioner had, it was true, made a fair speech for a young member—(laughter)—but he had failed to deal with the matter before the house in a statesmanlike, comprehensive way; and it was to be hoped that in committee the honourable gentleman would allow of such modifications and improvements in his resolutions, as would make them something like the promised measures. Let them be so modified as that the settlers going on those free grants shall be dealt with liberally and honestly. Again he (Sir Henry) would call attention to the last resolution. It really reserved all merchantable timber, elm or oak, &c., to the Crown. As to the inducing of emigration that was something on which not one word had been said by the Commissioner; nor did he (Sir Henry) see what inducements were alluded to.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said that from