

quarter-section of land as a pre-emption, on payment of an office fee of \$10.

649 The pre-emption right entitles the homesteader, who obtains entry for a pre-emption, to purchase the land so pre-empted on becoming entitled to his homestead patent ; but should the homesteader fail to fulfil the homestead conditions, or to pay for such pre-emption within six months after he becomes entitled to claim a patent for his homestead, he forfeits all claim to his pre-emption. Pre-emp-tions.

650. Every assignment or transfer of homestead or pre-emption right, made before the issue of the patent, is null and void, except in cases where any person or company is desirous of assisting intending settlers, when, the sanction of the Minister to the advance having been obtained, the settler has power to create a charge upon his homestead for a sum not exceeding six hundred dollars, and interest not exceeding eight per cent. per annum, provided that particulars of how such an advance has been expended for his benefit, be first furnished to the settler, or if the charge be made previous to the advance, then such charge shall only operate to the extent certified to by the local agent as having been actually advanced to the settler. One half of the advance shall be laid out in the erection of buildings on the homestead. Power to create a charge on homestead for advances.

651. The price of pre-emption, not included in town site reserves, is \$2.50 an acre. Where land is north of the northerly limit of the land grant, along the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and is not within twenty-four miles of any branch of that railway, or twelve miles of any other railway, pre-emptions may be obtained for \$2 per acre. Price of pre-emp-tions.

652. Payments for land may be in cash, scrip, or police or military bounty warrants. Pay-ments.