

too much stress cannot be laid on the importance of immediate attention being given to this question, not only by the Dominion, but by the Provincial Governments, particularly those of Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick, in which provinces the destruction of our forests by fire and by the axe goes on with unabated fury, and with painful disregard of the inevitable consequences in the near future.

Land regulations,  
Railway  
Belt, B.C.

771. On 3rd April, 1889, judgment was given by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, declaring that the right to administer the minerals within the railway belt in British Columbia was vested in the Government of that province. In order to dispose of the anomalous condition of affairs that consequently arose, viz., that the jurisdiction over the lands was vested in the Dominion Government, and the right to administer the minerals in that of the province, the following arrangement, ratified by Order in Council of 28th February, 1890, was agreed upon between the two Governments:—

No disposition of lands containing minerals (except coal lands) shall be made by the Dominion Government, other than by patent in fee simple, thereby bringing the minerals at once under the administration of the provincial mining laws.

All lands containing minerals (except coal lands and Indian reserves) offered for sale by the Dominion Government, shall be open for purchase by the Provincial Government at the price of \$5 per acre.

Any lands sought to be acquired by the Provincial Government under the last clause shall be set apart from alienation by the Dominion, upon the Provincial Government making a written application for the same. Such lands to be surveyed (if not already done) by a Dominion land surveyor, at the expense of the Provincial Government.

Nothing in the agreement shall apply to coal lands.

The agreement may be terminated at any time by either Government.

All minerals, including gold and silver, within Indian reserves, shall be administered by the Department of Indian Affairs.

Dominion  
Lands regulations.

772. Under the Dominion Lands Regulations, all surveyed even-numbered sections, excepting 8 and 26, in Manitoba and the North-West Territories, which have not been homesteaded, reserved to provide wood lots for settlers, or otherwise disposed of or reserved, are to be held exclusively for homesteads.

1. Homestead entry for one quarter-section (160 acres) of surveyed agricultural land, open to such entry, may be obtained by any person who is the sole head of a family, or by any male who has attained the age of 18 years, on application to the local agent of Dominion lands, and on payment of an office fee of \$10.

At the time of making entry the homesteader must declare under which of the three following provisions he elects to hold his land, and