

On April 3, 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 February 28, 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 from \$1 to \$5 per acre.

Any land 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.

#### ONTARIO.

Agricultural lands can be obtained from the Crown by actual settlers only, subject to conditions as to improvements and residence before the issue of the patent. In some districts free grants of land are offered, and in others the land is for sale at the uniform price of 50c. per acre. In Nipissing district including the Temiskaming townships in the Eastern part of New Ontario, in Algoma, in the middle west and in Wabigoon or Dryden further to the west the land is for sale in lots of 160 acres, but in case a portion is rough and broken the quantity may be increased so as not to exceed 240 acres. The settlement conditions to be fulfilled before a title is granted are the erection of a habitable house 16 x 20 ft. at least and the clearing of 10 per cent of the land. There are slight differences in the several localities as to the time allowed for the payment of the purchase money and the number of years residence required on the land before the issue of the patent.

The Temiskaming region possesses the largest continuous area of first-class land of all the sections now open for settlement. The thirty-three townships thus far thrown open to settlers extend in a north-westerly direction from Lake Temiskaming. The settlement will shortly be closely connected with the leading markets of the Dominion by the opening up of railway communication by way of North Bay.

The fertile area of the Wabigoon country, situated almost in the centre of the Rainy River district, comprises nine townships having a total area of about 234,000 acres in addition to a large area of good land yet unsurveyed. The Canadian Pacific Railway runs through this tract for about 40 miles.