

COPY OF LETTER FROM DEP'T INTERIOR

Ottawa, 13th January, 1910.

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo with regard to the desire of your brother and yourself to obtain an extension of your time within which to commence your settlement duties in connection with your respective homestead and pre-emption entries covering the whole of section 9, Township 28, Range 7, West of the Fourth Meridian, and in reply to say that so long as you each hold your respective pre-emption entries it will be impossible to grant the privilege asked for.

If however you and your brother, Mr. Charles S. Belden, will each execute a Declaration of Abandonment on the forms enclosed, in connection with your pre-emptions it will then be possible to protect your homestead entries until the 1st of May, 1910.

The answers to your various questions are as follows:-

Under the ordinary practice of the Department if your homestead and pre-emption# entries for the land mentioned above should be cancelled, you would be granted permission to again make similar entries on payment of fresh fees on making application to the Department to this effect. If the above entries should be cancelled on your abandonments, the land would be posted as available for settlement for a period of ten days and then disposed of to the first applicant that was eligible

W.H.Belden, Esq.,

c/o Hillis Timber & Trading Co.,

Box 1558, Victoria, B.C.

permitting his father, mother, brother, sister, son, or daughter to locate the said scrip.

This will not exhaust the settler's homestead, purchased homestead or pre-emption right as the case may be.

Every homesteader is required to live upon his homestead for at least six months in each year during a term of three years. The six month's residence referred to need not be continuous but must aggregate at least six months within twelve months.

In the case of entries made subsequent to the 1st of September 1909 (which by the way ours wasn't) the homestead year can only be counted from the date of entry or from the commencement of residence at the option of the homesteader.

I enclose a summary of the regulations giving full information on the above points, and would call your attention to pages 27 to 33.

Your obedient servant,

Secretary/

Refer to file no.

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