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THE
RAINY RIVER DISTRICT,
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, CANADA.

AN ILLUSTRATED DESCRIPTION OF ITS SOIL, CLIMATE, PRODUCTS,
AREA, AGRICULTURAL CAPABILITIES AND TIMBER
AND MINERAL RESOURCES.

TOGETHER WITH

THE LAWS AND INFORMATION PERTAINING TO FREE GRANTS AND HOME-
STEADS; TO MINING AND TO THE PRESERVATION OF FORESTS
FROM DESTRUCTION BY FIRE.

Compliments of

COMPILED BY

FRANK YEIGH,

OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CROWN LANDS.

BY DIRECTION OF

HON. A. S. HARDY,

COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS FOR THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

1892.

TORONTO:

PRINTED BY WARWICK & SONS 68 AND 70 FRONT STREET WEST,
1892.

MAP
OF PART OF
RAINY RIVER DISTRICT

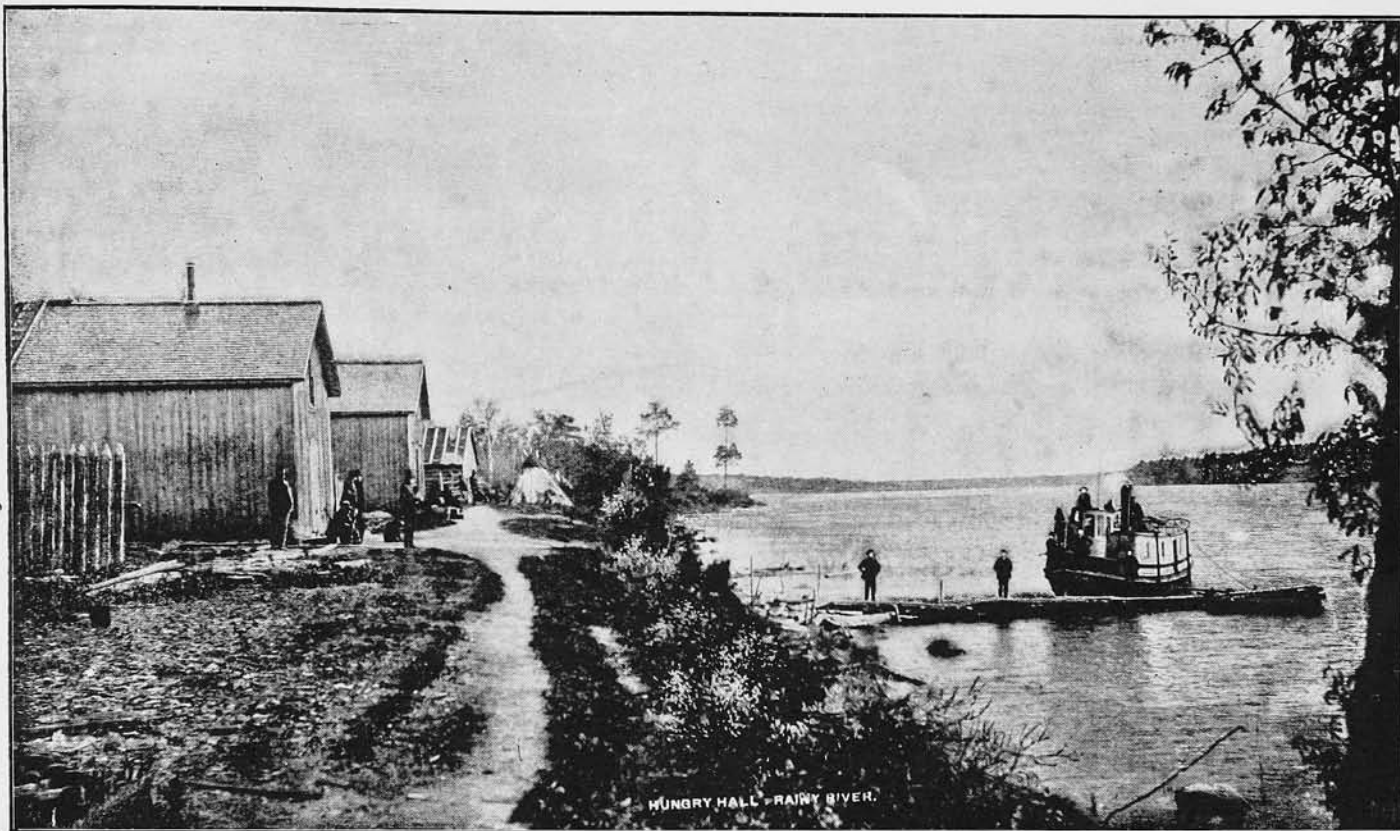
SHOWING SURVEYED TOWNSHIPS ALONG
RAINY RIVER

DEPARTMENT OF CROWN LANDS
TORONTO, APRIL 1892.

Richard Hardy
COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS.



SCALE OF STATUTE MILES



"HUNGRY HALL," AT ENTRANCE TO RAINY RIVER.

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INTRODUCTION.

Until recent years the Rainy River country was practically a *terra incognita*, known only in a vague way as a paradise for the sportsman and as the home of several Indian tribes. Although for a century past occasional travellers have penned glowing descriptions of the natural beauty and capabilities of the country, yet these did not attract the attention of the general public, and it was not until the settlement of the dispute between the Dominion Government and the Manitoba and Ontario Governments, in favor of the latter, as to which had jurisdiction over the great area of country, (including the Lake of the Woods and Rainy Lake and River,) that attention was directed to the territory as a possible field for settlement, although a few settlers had found their way there as early as 1874. Since that time all doubts as to the suitability of the valley of Rainy River for agricultural purposes have been removed by the hundreds of pioneers who have made and are making homes on its banks, by their own evidence to the soil and the favorable climatic and natural advantages of the country, and by the evidence, equally as strong, of those who have visited the locality and carefully examined its conditions and prospects. A few of these results and opinions are given elsewhere.

It has therefore been fully established and demonstrated that no part of the Dominion offers better advantages to the farmer-immigrant or the man who desires to hew out a home in a new country, than the Rainy River District. In its agricultural capabilities, by reason of the high quality and rich productivity of its soil; in its situation in the heart of a series of magnificent and navigable waterways; in its healthful and equable climatic conditions; in the comparative ease with which the virgin land can be cleared and tilled; in the continually increasing facilities for the marketing of surplus products; in the remunerative employment during the winter months in connection with the extensive lumbering operations; in the evidence of great mineral wealth; in its possibilities of stock-raising and sheep-farming; in the free granting of farm lands by the government; and in the building of colonization roads and bridges as settlement warrants it, the District presents attractions possessed by few and certainly not surpassed by any other part of Canada. As in all pioneer work intelligent and continued industry is the essential of and the sure road to success. Where hundreds are now building up a comfortable home and ensuring a future competence, there is room for thousands along the banks of this beautiful River; where through the liberality of the Government a hundred acres have been granted free to the new comers, thousands of acres equally fertile, may be had for the asking by bona fide settlers.

With all its exceptional advantages therefore of soil, climate, and situation, one is safe in predicting that before many years have elapsed the Canadian banks of the Rainy River will be the home of a happy and prosperous community, numbering its tens of thousands and shipping its surplus products of farm and forest to assist in supplying the ever increasing needs of the world.

A new map of the District will be found attached hereto.

Rat Portage to Fort Francis P. O.

Fare via Steamer Shamrock, on Lake of the Woods : adults, \$4 ; children, \$2.50 ; cattle and horses per head, \$4 ; colonists' outfit of household goods, \$8 per ton ; ordinary supplies (provisions), \$10 per ton.

Rat Portage to Marsh's Dock :

Via Steamer Shamrock : adults, \$3 ; children, \$2 ; cattle and horses per head, \$3 ; household goods, \$4 per ton ; provisions, \$5 per ton.

Freight rate by Canadian Pacific Railway, Toronto to Rat Portage \$4 per ton.

When to go and outfit required.

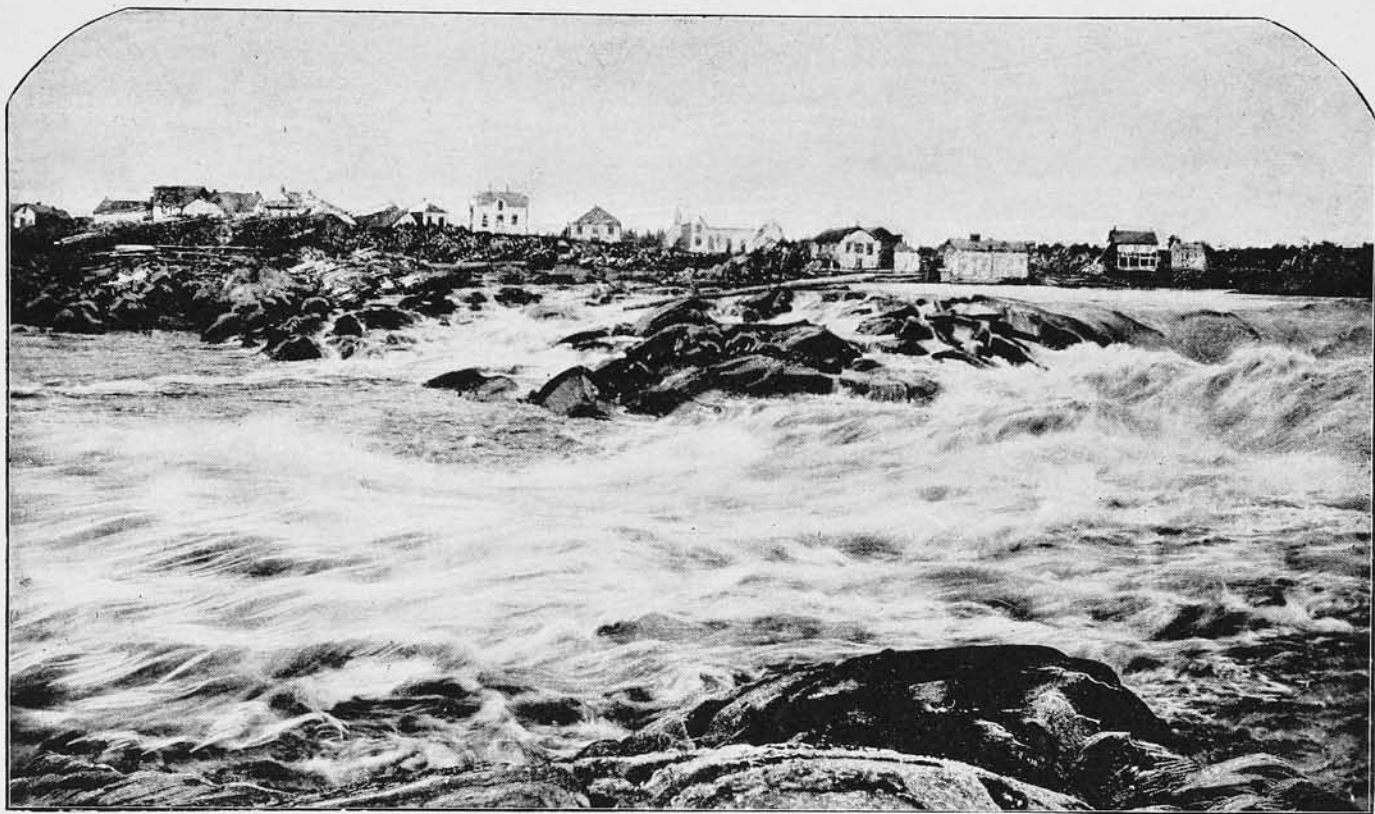
The settler should if possible reach Rainy River in April or May. If he has not secured a location beforehand through one of the Government free grant agents, he should, on arrival, call upon the nearest agent, get a list of the vacant lots in the township where he desires to locate and then visit the locality and make a choice as soon as possible.

It is somewhat difficult to state definitely the amount of capital required by the settler or immigrant who intends to make the Rainy River District his home. Having secured the Government free grant, under the conditions set forth on pages 21 and 23, and having arrived at Rainy River, the prospective settler should have enough capital to erect a small and temporary log house, or a frame one if possible, building material being for sale at different points along the river where mills are situated. The approximate price of a necessary outfit might be stated as follows: For a single man, one yoke oxen, \$115 ; plough, harrow, etc., \$40 ; lumber, doors, windows, etc., for log house \$50 ; provisions, \$100 ; seed, \$30 ; bedding, etc., \$20, or say \$350 in all. This sum would of course be necessarily increased in the case of a farmer with a family. For a family of five, \$200 or \$250 should be added to the former sum. Excellent general stores will be found at Fort Francis, Rainy River and other points where all the necessaries in the way of groceries, clothing, household utensils, etc., may be procured at reasonable prices. A general store will also be found on river lots 43 and 44 in the Township of Lash where settlers can land and get general information.

The Quality of the Soil.

As has been stated, Rainy River takes its course through a rich alluvial valley for over eighty miles. This valley is eminently adapted to support a large and populous agricultural population. As to the extent of the cultivatable land in the District it is stated on good authority that all the land fronting on the Canadian side of the river is suitable for settlement, while the arable area reaches back to a distance varying from 10 to 20 miles, where the soil is mostly clay and clay loam with very little gravel or sand.

The greater part of the arable land requires but little drainage ; even the occasional swamps of spruce, cedar and tamarac are



[PARTIAL VIEW OF FORT FRANCIS, ON RAINY RIVER, SHOWING RAPIDS BELOW THE FALLS.

dry in summer and can be made most excellent land by drainage, and as they are all at a considerable height above the river level, proper ditching would remove the surface water in the spring. The beds of the small creeks and streams are deep enough to provide adequate outlets, ditches and drains. The area of good land along Rainy River is also remarkably free from stones and rocks.

A Wide Range of Products.

The richness of the soil and the equable climate combine to produce a good range of cereals and fruits. Hay, oats, and spring and fall wheat are successfully grown; the products of the garden include potatoes, onions, corn, carrots, turnips, tomatoes and cabbage, while the smaller fruits, such as raspberries, strawberries and plums, grow in abundance.

As an instance of the length of the season, oats sown as late as the middle of June have fully ripened. The settler who makes the above statement has lived on the bank of Rainy River for thirteen years and has never had a failure of crops. During the summer of 1889, his farm yielded seventy bushels of potatoes from one bushel of seed. A practical experience such as this illustrates most forcibly the fertility of the soil. The market for all a farmer can raise is at his door, the large number of lumbermen in the district being the purchasers. Good prices for grain and produce prevail, the lumbermen purchasing all kinds of produce at the highest prices.

The Climate.

The climate of the district is similar to that in the region of Lake Ontario. Though the winter may be colder it is proportionately dryer and instead of the rain and slush of the eastern winter, excellent sleighing continues from December to March. The climate has been proven to be very healthful by the settlers, while, as is pointed out elsewhere, it is well suited to the growth of a wide range of cereals. The whole flora of this region also indicates a climate very like that of the old settled parts of Ontario, and the luxuriance of the vegetation shews that the soil is of the very best quality. Throughout the whole of the region from Lake Nipissing to the Lake of the Woods, the depth of snow is generally less on an average than it is at the city of Ottawa. Only in one locality between these two points is the snow found generally as deep as at this city, namely, in the immediate neighbourhood of Lake Superior, where the lake appears to have a local influence on the humidity of the atmosphere, and, in consequence, on the amount of snow fall.

The name Rainy River (a perversion of René River) is really a misnomer inasmuch as the rainfall is not usually excessive. One of the settlers thus describes the climate: "The summer is generally moist, with clear sunshine most of the time. The fall is beautiful, and November all through about the best month of the year. The spring is similar—very dry, with bright clear sun until about the first of June. The winters are very dry. The snow is loose, yet it seldom drifts. I have not seen what I would call a snowdrift yet. A log or hump on the level land shows all through winter. Sometimes I think I will never require another over-

coat. I have so seldom worn one that apparently the one I have will last my lifetime. On the very coldest days, except for a short time at sunrise, we can chop in the woods the day through." "There is something remarkable about the climate," writes another settler in the *Toronto Globe* of April 2nd, 1892." "Summer is generally moist, and spring, fall and winter exceedingly dry, and so agreeable to the health of both man and beast that sickness and disease are comparatively unknown. The past fall and winter so far have been beautiful. October and November were, as usual, very fine up to the last week of November, when for three or four days we had sufficient frost to partially ice the river over. A couple of days and nights of rain followed, which surprised the oldest settlers. This month, so far, the river has been open for fully 40 miles at the upper end, and people have been travelling by boats and canoes thereon. Last week we were logging and burning a fallow. So far we have had only a very thin scattering of snow, not enough to cover the ground, and we have bare ground now almost all over."

The Progress of Settlement.

The great advantages of this District, especially with regard to water and wood, over a prairie country, have attracted a number of settlers from the adjacent States as well as many parts of the Dominion and Great Britain. Already there is a white population in the District of nearly 7,000 and an Indian population of 2,800 on Government Reserves. Some of the settlers have been on their lands since 1874, and have good houses and barns, large clearances, good fences, and well bred stock. The Ontario Government gives a Free Grant to every *bona fide* settler, head of a family, male or female, 160 acres of land, and if he desires will sell him an additional 80 acres adjoining, at \$1 per acre, payable in three years, while any or all of their sons over 18 years of age may have 120 acres free and may purchase 80 acres each at \$1 an acre.

On February 13, 1889, a proclamation was issued by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, bringing into force on February 18, 1889, the Act respecting Free Grants and Homesteads to actual settlers on Public Lands in the district of Rainy River, which was passed during the session of the Legislature held in 1886. Immediately following this proclamation, the Department of Crown Lands set apart twenty townships in the district as Free Grant Townships. They are situate on the Canadian bank of the Rainy River and contain the choicest and most fertile land to be found in the district, each township having a frontage on the river.

The surveys made in 1876 by the Dominion Government (on the one mile square section plan, the same as has been followed in the North-West), have been adopted by the Ontario Legislature, which legalized these surveys by the Act of 1886, and provided that any lands in the Rainy River District considered suitable for settlement and cultivation may, by Order in Council, be appropriated as Free Grants upon the terms specified.

A few townships will be surveyed near the mouth of Rainy River during 1892.

Railway Facilities.

For some years the Rainy River District has had the advantage of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which runs through it diagonally, stopping at the following stations: English River, Martin, Bonheur, Ignace, Raleigh, Toche, Wabigoon, Barclay, Eagle River, Vermillion Bay, Gilbert, Parrywood, Hawk Lake, Rossland, Rat Portage, Keewatin, Deception, Kalmar and Ingolf.

The Port Arthur and Western Railway, eighty miles of which have been subsidized by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario at the rate of \$3,000 per mile, is practically completed and runs through the southern portion of the Thunder Bay District. This new line will open up large tracts of good agricultural lands, forests of the finest timber such as pine, tamarac, spruce, cedar and poplar, as well as mineral lands already proven to be rich in gold, silver and iron, the development of which only awaits further railway facilities.

Navigation and Mail Service.

Rainy River being navigable for eighty miles, adequate means for transportation over its waters was provided through the enterprise of those who realized the great possibilities of this region, as soon as the tide of settlement turned to its shores. Four steamers run regularly during the season, (which lasts from April until November), from Rat Portage and Keewatin on the Canadian Pacific Railway across the Lake of the Woods to Fort Francis on the southern side of Rainy Lake, a distance of 180 miles. Round trips are made weekly. There are in all thirty-five craft of different kinds, including 23 steamers, in service in the district, representing a capital of about \$200,000. The gross tonnage of the steamers is about 1,300 tons. The other lakes and rivers in the district have long stretches of navigable water which will materially aid in settlement.

During the winter the mail is carried on sleighs, leaving Rat Portage for Fort Francis on the first and fifteenth of every month, calling at the Hudson Bay Company's Fort Louise, at the mouth of Rainy River, at Hughes & Co.'s saw mill in the township of Atwood, at Rapid River post office in the township of Worthington, at Rainy River post office in the township of Morley, at Emo post office in the township of Lash, at Big Forks post office in the township of Woodyatt, and at Isherwood post office in the township of Roddick. A new and shorter winter trail from Rat Portage to Rainy River was laid last year which will shorten the distance by about twenty-five miles.

The lock at Fort Francis when completed will consist of a canal 800 feet long, cut through the solid rock, about 40 feet wide, with one lift of 24 feet 8 inches. The chamber of the lock will be 200 feet long and 38 feet wide in the clear. The completion of the lock will greatly benefit Fort Francis and the lumbermen who would use it.

Lake of the Woods.

Of the numerous lakes in this district, the Lake of the Woods is the most extensive. From Lac Plat, which may be regarded as its western extremity, to White Fish Lake, which is a somewhat similar extension in an opposite direction, the distance is not far short of 100 miles, and from the mouth of Rainy River, at the entrance of the lake, to its outlet at Rat Portage, in lat. $49^{\circ} 47'$ north, and long. $94^{\circ} 44'$ west, the distance is about seventy miles, so that altogether it occupies an area of about sixteen hundred square miles. This extensive sheet of water is interspersed with islands, on some of which the Indians have grown maize from time immemorial, and have never known it fail. It would be difficult to conceive anything more beautiful of its kind than the scenery of this lake. Islands rise in continuous clusters, and in every variety of form. Sometimes in passing through them the prospect seems entirely shut in; soon again it opens out, and through long vistas a glance is obtained of an ocean-like expanse, where the waters meet the horizon.

Schools and Churches.

There are good schools for white children at Fort Francis, Emo, Big Forks, Marsh's, Pine River, Rat Portage, Keewatin and Norman. At Fort Francis Indian Reserve, at Kitchechokeyo Reserve, in the township of Woodyat, at the Indian Reserve in Barwick (Manitou Rapids) and at Roseberry (near the Long Sault Rapids) are Indian schools under able teachers. Religious privileges will no doubt be provided as population centres and villages are being formed. The Government Poor School grant of \$100 a year is made to the schools already organized.

Fish and Game.

To the sportsman this part of Ontario is indeed a "happy hunting ground." The waters abound in fish, and wild fowl are very plentiful. The moose are unfortunately becoming very scarce in the District. Buffalo were seen by early settlers near Rainy River but have since disappeared. The common brown bear and the more rare and beautiful silver fox are among the denizens of North-western Ontario. Beaver abound in the streams and creeks, while the otter, ermine and mink are plentiful. Partridge, grouse and water fowl of all kinds are also extremely numerous. A large fishery outfit and fish freezer has been erected at Rat Portage from which extensive shipments are annually made to outside markets.

Colonization Roads and Bridges.

Since the Rainy River District came under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Legislature, the Government has adopted a liberal policy regarding the construction of colonization roads and bridges within its



A "BOOM" OF LOGS ON RAINY RIVER.

borders. About \$30,000 has been expended during the last six years on the leading highways, and ninety miles of roadway have been built, viz. the Rat Portage and Keewatin Road, (which is five miles in length and serves the towns of Rat Portage, Keewatin and neighboring localities) and the Rainy River road which is some seventy miles in length and follows the course of Rainy River on the Canadian bank from Fort Frances to the Lake of the Woods. The Rat Portage and Keewatin Road necessitated the building of three large bridges across the main outlet of the Winnipeg River. The estimates of 1892 contain a further vote of \$6,500 for additional roads in the vicinity of Rainy River. It will thus be seen that the Government is alive to the interests of the settlers in this regard. A dock and freight shed are now being erected at a point on the river near Fort Francis for the convenience of settlers on their arrival, where their goods may be temporarily stored.

The Timber Resources of the District.

One of the most valuable resources in Rainy River District is its timber, extending along the entire length of Rainy River, of pine, poplar, birch, basswood, oak, elm, ash, soft maple, balm of gilead, balsam, spruce, cedar and tamarac. Between Sagimaga, Seine and Maligne rivers there are extensive forests of red and white pine. Occasional white pine appears in the beautiful valley of Rainy River and on the innumerable islands of the Lake of the Woods.

Lumbering operations are carried on to a considerable extent on Rainy Lake and its eastern tributaries and Lake of the Woods. There are also well-equipped saw-mills on Rainy River where the incoming settler may procure the necessary material for the erection of a home, and where he has the additional advantage of obtaining employment during the winter months at wages ranging from \$25 to \$30 per month, and from \$2 to \$2.50 per day with board for team and teamster. On the banks of the Seine and other rivers flowing into Rainy Lake, there is a very large growth of both red and white pine.

The Dominion Public Works report of 1875, in dealing with the pine-growing capacities of this region, says that extensive groves of red and white pine are to be found, of a size and quality well adapted to all the purposes for which such timber is usually applied. On the alluvial belt of Rainy River white pine of a large size is to be seen interspersed with other descriptions of forest trees, and on the Lake of the Woods and mainland to the north and east there are occasionally pine groves of moderate extent, which lessens in quantity as it nears Lake Winnipeg where the pine belt finally disappears. The lumber trade therefore forms the leading industry in the District. Seven large saw mills are located at Rat Portage, Norman and Keewatin, having a united capacity of 100,000,000 feet, board measure, a year. There are in addition, as has been said, four other saw mills on the Rainy River and Rainy Lake. It is estimated that two million dollars are invested in plant alone in these eleven mills—their combined annual product or output reaching four million dollars; while they employ during the season over two thousand men. The Rainy River Boom Company, which employs about forty men, sort and raft all logs coming down the river from Rainy Lake and its tributaries.

Employment for Settlers.

Besides the results of farming, the settlers can dispose of cordwood for steamboats at \$1.25 per cord and during the winter months obtain wages ranging from \$25 to \$30 and board per month and from \$2 to \$2.50 per day with board for team and teamster for work in connection with lumbering, as pointed out in the preceding paragraph. Laborers are in fair demand, men for farming purposes receiving about the same rate as for lumbering. There are openings for blacksmiths, carpenters, shoemakers, tailors, tinsmiths and other mechanics, the demand for which will no doubt rapidly increase as the country is populated.

Municipal Institutions.

The municipal machinery of Ontario is said to be the most complete and the easiest worked of any known system of local self government. As soon as a township has 100 resident freeholders a township council, consisting of reeve, deputy reeve and councillors, may be chosen to administer the affairs of the organized settlement. The township of Alberton has thus far been organized, and each year will no doubt see the number added to until the whole tier of townships along the entire length of the river, will be fully equipped under the provincial municipal constitution. Once a township is thus organized, the council directs the statute labor of the settlers toward the improvement of roads and bridges, thus assisting the Government in proportion to the population, while in addition, they materially assist on other lines in the general development of the township.

Administration of Justice.

The Government also, in accordance with their usual policy, provide or assist in providing the necessary machinery for the proper administration of justice in all the new districts. Rainy River District is attached to the district of Thunder Bay for judicial purposes, and to the Electoral District of Algoma west for election purposes. The general session and district courts are held at Rat Portage, while justices of the peace-residing on the Rainy River have been appointed.

A Table of Distances.

From Toronto to Rat Portage	1,154 miles
From Rat Portage to Rainy Lake	180 "
Length of Rainy River	80 "
Length of Lake of the Woods from north to south	100 "

PART II.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES IN RAINY RIVER DISTRICT.

Rat Portage.

The largest town in the Rainy River District is Rat Portage, which has a population of nearly 2,000. It is the seat of much business enterprise and is destined to grow. Being one of the divisional points of the Canadian Pacific Railway adds materially to its activity, while the fact that it is the principal port on the Lake of the Woods also conduces to its prosperity. It has two well conducted weekly newspapers, the *News* and *Record*, which are devoted to the interests of the whole District. It is also the Judicial seat of the District, with the offices of the Stipendiary Magistrate, Sheriff, and other officers. Extensive fisheries do a good business, shipping the products of the Lake to Chicago, Minneapolis, Buffalo and Denver. It is also the principal shipping port of the District for lumber, etc. At the outlet, or northern arm of the Lake of the Woods, is a magnificent water power, enormous in extent and never failing in supply, the utilization of which will be of incalculable benefit to Rat Portage as well as Norman and Keewatin. Arrangements have been made with the Keewatin Milling and Manufacturing Co. by the Ontario government by which the former will develop this water power at a total cost of \$250,000. The fact that over two million dollars is annually paid in wages by the C. P. R. and the mill owners to men living in Rat Portage or its neighborhood ensures an extensive business town. The telephone is in extensive use as is the electric light. Many industries are also being added from time to time to the town. It is also destined to be the mining centre of the Lake of the Woods mineral region.

Keewatin.

This town on the Lake of the Woods has long been known through the western country as the seat of extensive lumber operations. The Lake of the Woods Milling Co's Flour Mill, having a capacity of 2,000 bbls per day, is the largest flouring mill in Canada with its accessories in the way of a barrel factory with a capacity of 1,000 bbls per day and elevators, one of which will hold 400,000 bushels, and the output of flour scattered far and wide over Canada and across the sea. Thus the name Keewatin has become as familiar a household word as Rat Portage. The town possesses 4 general stores, 2 hardware stores, 2 bakers, 2 groceries, 1 drug store, 2 butchers, 2 saw mills, 2 planing mills, a board factory, the flour mill, a brick yard, 2 hotels, a liquor store, a tailor

and a doctor. The Presbyterians, Methodists and Roman Catholics all have churches of their own here. The Foresters, Masons and Royal Templars of Temperance have societies in active operation. The magnificent new school is under able management. Population of the place is about 700. Numerous fine private residences have been built there. As a summer resort, Keewatin has an enviable reputation. Its population numbers nearly 1,500.

Norman.

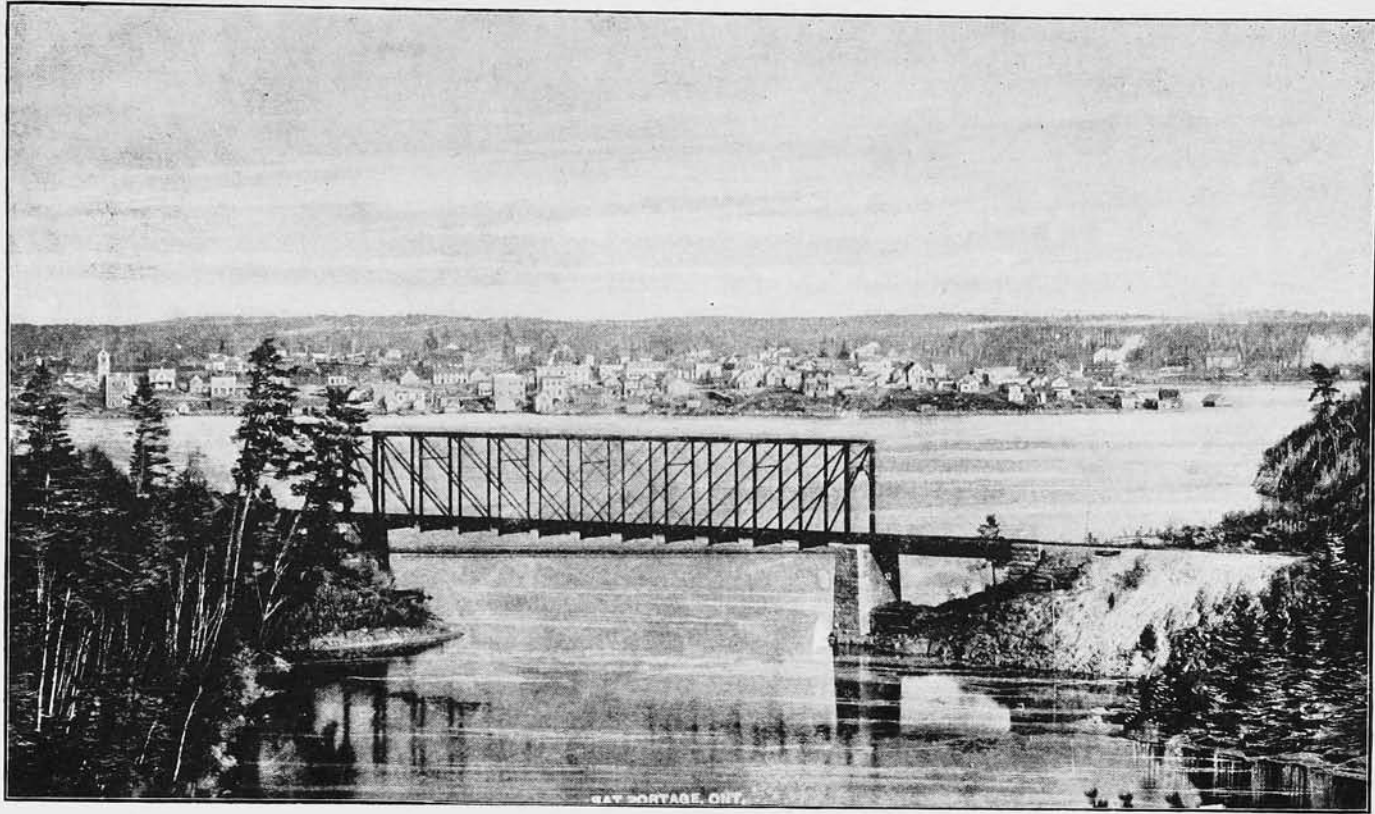
Norman, lying in the centre of the group of towns on the Lake of the Woods, is situated midway between Keewatin and Rat Portage. The water power here is unlimited, and there are excellent openings for factories. The following are the business enterprises already established: 4 general stores, 1 grocer and confectioner, 3 blacksmith shops, 3 saw mills, 3 planing mills, a machine shop, 1 licensed hotel and 7 boarding houses. There is a large public hall and services are held here regularly by the Presbyterians. The town has a population bordering on 800. As a summer resort Norman is also one of the places of interest to tourists, many finding it a central point from which to purchase their supplies during their outing on the Lake of the Woods.

Fort Francis.

The principal settlement on Rainy River is Fort Frances, the approach to which is really picturesque. Nearing the outlet of Rainy Lake, and entering Rainy River, the right bank is quite park-like, the tall trees standing far apart, and having the rounded tops peculiar to those seen in open grounds. Blue oak, balsam and Lombardy poplar, with a few aspen, are, however, the principal forest trees. These line the bank, and for two miles after leaving the lake the voyageur glides downwards between walls of emerald green, until the Fort is reached. This ancient post of the Hudson's Bay Co. is beautifully situated on the right bank of the Rainy River, immediately below the falls. It has a school and church, and several general stores, hotels, saw mill, etc., and is destined to be an important centre of population. It is in addition the centre for the new municipality of Alberton. A new survey of the village has recently been made by the Ontario Government. The town is situated on the strip of land lying between Rainy Lake and the head of navigation on Rainy River, a site beautiful and commanding. Its population, according to the census of 1891, was 1,339. The water power of Fort Francis will no doubt ultimately prove of great value.

Municipality of Alberton.

Alberton is the first organized municipality in the Rainy River District. The boundaries of the new corporation include the territory from the Indian Reserve east of Fort Frances down the River eighteen miles and back from it ten miles, including the Townships of Crozier and Lash, where there is a considerable settlement. Mr. Charles J. Hollands was the first reeve elected, and Mr. W. Phair is his successor.



VIEW OF THE TOWN OF RAT PORTAGE.

PART III.

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE RAINY RIVER DISTRICT

BY

Hon. ARTHUR S. HARDY, Commissioner of Crown Lands for Ontario.
Mr. AUBREY WHITE, Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands for Ontario.
Mr. ARCHIBALD BLUE, Director of Mines for Ontario.
Mr. JAMES CONNOR, M.P.P., for Algoma West.
Mr. H. B. PROUDFOOT, Provincial Land Surveyor.
Mr. THOMAS O. BOLGER, Provincial Land Surveyor.
Mr. R. SMYTH, of Lindsay, Ont.
Mr. JOHN BOYD, of Thessalon, Ont.
The Manitoba *Colonist*.
Prof. ANDREW C. LAWSON, Canadian Geological Survey.
Mr. WM. MARGACH, Crown Timber Agent, Rat Portage.

HON. ARTHUR S. HARDY.

The following interview with the Hon. Arthur S. Hardy, Commissioner of Crown Lands, appeared in the *Toronto Globe* of September 3, 1891:

"You have, Mr. Hardy, I believe, just returned from Rainy River?" asked a *Globe* reporter of the Commissioner of Crown Lands at his office yesterday.

"Yes, the Provincial Secretary and I went as far as Fort Francis and Rainy Lake," he replied.

"How did the Rainy River country impress you?"

"The territory lying along the banks of Rainy River, between its mouth and source, was a revelation to us. There is a stretch of nearly 80 miles of farm land between Fort Francis and the mouth of Rainy River along the Canadian bank which does not, perhaps, contain two miles of broken or untillable land in the whole distance as seen from the river. It is of unparalleled fertility. I know of no stretch of 80 miles in Ontario that can compare with it in richness or fertility of soil. It is easily cleared, the timber upon it being of second growth, and the stumps are easily removed, indeed come out readily in about three years from the clearing. The available land varies in depth along the bank of the river from ten miles to thirty miles as we were told, but it has not yet been fully explored, and may stretch back, as we were also informed, a good deal farther at certain points. It is capable of sustaining 500,000

people, perhaps more. The crops are uniformly of the best quality, wheat running from 30 to 35 and 40 bushels per acre, and other grains in proportion. Indian corn and tomatoes ripen, and the whole section, it is said, is free from the summer frosts that afflict Manitoba and the Northwest. I have never seen early settlers more comfortable. There is a chance too for the farmer at certain periods of the year, if he chooses, to engage with the lumbermen operating on Rainy Lake and Rainy River at from \$1.50 to \$1.75 per day, and many settlers earn money in this way. A number of excellent settlers from Muskoka have gone in this year and their work of clearing has already begun. Some of them have erected houses and others are preparing to do so. They are an excellent class of men for this district, as they have been used to clearing woodland and breaking it up. I predict a rush of settlers to this section of the country as soon as its merits are even half understood. The land is free grant land, and any settler can obtain 160 acres by settling and making the necessary improvements."

"Is Rainy River itself attractive or navigable throughout?" asked the reporter.

"It is one of the great rivers of the country. I had but a very imperfect conception of it. It appears from casual observation to be from a quarter to in some places a third of a mile wide, is almost uniform in width from source to mouth, and tugs and steamers ply over its whole course. There are but two places where navigation is difficult, viz., two comparatively small rapids about half way up. The expenditure of a few thousand dollars would overcome all difficulty in so far as these are concerned, and make as fine a navigable river as is to be found on the continent. The volume of water is great, the current is moderate and the banks of the river beautiful throughout. One drawback is that the American border is as yet an unbroken wilderness. The accounts vary as to the farming land on the American side, but it appeared from the steamer very similar to that on the Canadian side, except that the soil is not so rich, indeed is much lighter in some places. What the Canadian section wants is roads, more ready access to the front and to existing railways, and for some of their products a more ready market, but above all what is wanted is more settlers. For all their coarse products—hay, fodder, potatoes, etc.—a ready market is found among the lumbermen at excellent prices. The settlers are looking for the rapid prosecution of the Port Arthur Railway, which it is thought must ultimately reach them and traverse the Rainy River valley."

"What about Fort Francis? Is it a settlement of any importance?"

"I was surprised to find quite a village at this point—stores, churches, schools, hotels, etc.—and I was told that at certain portions of the year business is very brisk. The village is built on the strip of land lying between Rainy Lake and the head of navigation on Rainy River, and as a site is most commanding and beautiful. The landmarks connected with the old survey of the town plot at Fort Francis have been largely obliterated, and at the request of the Council and citizens I have directed a new survey."

"Did you extend your visit to Rainy Lake?"

"Yes, we went out some miles upon the lake. It is a very fine body of water, comparing favorably with one of the most beautiful lakes on the continent—the Lake of the Woods. It is in many respects very

similar, dotted with beautiful islands, but navigable in every direction. Some of the finest tracts of timber owned by the Government in the west are to be found upon the shores of and tributary to the Lake of the Woods."

"What about the lock partially built by Mr. Mackenzie at Fort Francis?"

"A comparatively small expenditure upon this lock would make navigation continuous from Rat Portage, across the Lake of the Woods, up Rainy River and through into Rainy Lake—a distance of nearly 300 miles. The lock is nearly built and the water rushes through it, but the appliances for making it useful have not been supplied. Precisely how much it would cost I am not prepared to say, but its completion would be of great assistance to lumbermen and the lumber interests, but ultimately it is thought by the people of Fort Francis it must be completed."

"What of the rest of the county in the Rainy River district? Is there any farming land to be found?"

"It is not a farming country. Different accounts, however, are given upon this point. Generally it may be said the district is a mining and timber district, with parcels of land here and there capable of being converted to agricultural uses."

"What kind of country does the Port Arthur & Western Railway pass through?"

"I was delighted to find that the railway, quite contrary to my expectations, passes through some very rich farming land. The valley of the Kaministiquia, and further west and south the Whitefish Valley, show some as fine soil as is to be found in many of the finest counties of the Province. We saw here and there crops growing indicating great fertility and productive capacity. The great want is agricultural settlers. The railway has revealed and practically opened to the public this large district. The road seems to have been built with skill and judgment, and ran as smoothly as many roads long completed. Messrs. Conmee and Middleton have been exceedingly energetic and are looked upon as benefactors of the district by the people at large. As the road proceeds it reaches and runs through some of the richest iron producing districts in the Dominion and it is thought it will ultimately prove a great mineral road. Our visit to the silver mines was full of interest, as was that to Kakabeka Falls. These latter will yet become the great resort of western tourists. They are as striking in some of their features as Niagara, and it is a wonder that more has not been said and written respecting them."

MR. AUBREY WHITE, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS FOR ONTARIO.

I had of course prior to my visit of this summer formed a very favorable opinion of the character of the country along the Rainy River, having heard from reliable persons glowing descriptions of its beauty and fertility; but I must say that the very high expectations which I had formed were completely dwarfed by the reality. So far as the river itself is concerned, it is, I suppose, one of the most beautiful to be found on the continent. Imagine a river eighty miles in length of great width,

and navigable for its entire distance, having upon each side of it a belt of as fine agricultural land as is to be found anywhere—easily cleared up, with banks just high enough to protect from danger of flooding, and you have some idea of the scene presented as one sails up the river. Settlement has made considerable progress on the Canadian side and there were to be seen from the deck of the steamer fields of wheat, oats, peas, and all kinds of vegetables of a most luxuriant growth,—guaranteeing the productiveness of the soil; while the ripening harvest supported the assurances we received on all hands that there was no summer frost. The soil where I went ashore, as I did at several places,—walking some distance into the bush, was of great richness, as was evidenced by the prolific growth of wild vetches which was to be seen. There is scarcely any pine visible from the river, the principal timber being poplar, spruce, tamarac, balsam and cedar, with an occasional oak or maple.

Fort Francis at the head of navigation is most beautifully situated, in fact I doubt whether it would be possible to find anywhere a finer or more picturesque site for a town. The canal is in an unfinished state, but the immense timber wealth lying behind the town,—all of which will have to come out this way, will probably justify and call for its completion ere long. Settlement is as yet sparse and upon the Canadian side only, the American side of the river being a dense wilderness. This of course while it adds beauty to the scenery is a drawback to the material progress of the country. When the land on the American side is thrown open for settlement as I understand it is likely to be soon, there will no doubt be a continuous settlement on that side. And when the river on both sides is settled with as thrifty and satisfied a population as is now found on the Canadian side, greater facilities for travel will be required and provided. Railway communication will surely come and once that is provided there is no equal area in the United States or Canada that will be comparable as a field for settlement with the valley of the Rainy River.

MR. ARCHIBALD BLUE, DIRECTOR OF MINES FOR ONTARIO.

Rainy River flows through a valley which one time was covered by the waters of a glacial lake, and which has every indication of being an extensive deposit of silt. The banks are low near the mouth, but rise gradually to ten, fifteen and twenty feet as the river is ascended until at Fort Francis they reach an elevation of twenty-five or thirty feet. The soil is a rich clayey loam mixed with small pebbles of limestone, and wherever I had an opportunity of examining an exposure it was found to be not less than six feet in depth. In the month of August when I went up the river, field and forest vegetation was remarkably luxuriant. On the farm of Mr. R. F. Marsh, in the township of Morley, I walked through fields of spring wheat and oats which as to length of head, plumpness of grain and quality of straw were equal to the best that I have seen in the older parts of the Province. Other fields of grain as seen from the boat were equally promising. Indeed, upon such soil the failure of crops is hardly possible in a favorable season. I can only say from observation that the good land extends along eighty miles of river

front; but all persons having a knowledge of the country of whom I made enquiry informed me that it goes back at least twelve or fifteen miles for a long distance up from Lake of the Woods, narrowing gradually to a breadth of two or three miles at Fort Francis. Rainy River itself is a magnificent stream; the only greater ones in Lower Ontario are the St. Lawrence and the Ottawa.

MR. JAMES CONMEE, M.P.P. FOR WEST ALGOMA.

Rainy River is a very large, navigable stream, averaging about 500 feet in width. It is the outlet of Rainy Lake and is about ninety miles in length; it is in my opinion one of the most beautiful rivers in America. The banks are not more than twenty feet above the water line. The country bordering on the river is an unbroken plain of rich fertile land, well timbered and presenting a most refreshing view to the traveller who is fortunate enough to see it in full leaf.

The belt of good land is not confined to the valley of the river, but extends north-easterly along the shore of the Lake of the Woods, and for a considerable distance along the northern shore of Rainy Lake. The land is not only easily cleared as compared with eastern Ontario bush lands (the stumps being removable much earlier and easier), but is entirely free from loose stone, such as eastern farmers have to contend with.

I estimate the agricultural belt as equal to an area of 140 miles in length by 40 miles in width, or 4,084,000 acres. This by no means includes all the good land in that district; there are other valleys of excellent land, but none so large as the Rainy River valley. The valleys of the Kawawia-gamog and Seine rivers emptying into Rainy Lake both contain large areas of good agricultural lands. The same is true of Grassy and other rivers emptying into the Lake of the Woods. The means of access to this agricultural belt is by way of Rat Portage, Lake of the Woods and Rainy River. The principal drawback to the route is that but a small class of boats can be used, owing to the rapids in the river. If the rapids were improved to admit a larger class of vessels it would be a great boon to the settlers.

But the greatest drawback now felt is the want of railway communication, there being no outlet except by teams from December until May, but this difficulty will be overcome as soon as the Ontario & Rainy River Railway is completed. This railway runs south-westerly from Port Arthur to a point within twenty miles of the boundary between Ontario and Minnesota, and thence westerly parbelting the said boundary at a distance from twenty to thirty miles, crossing the valleys of the Kawawia-gamog and Seine rivers to Rainy Lake, where it crosses the narrows of the north arm of that lake, and passes on to Fort Francis, and down the valley of the Rainy River. Seventy miles of this line is now completed, and it is hoped the line will within a few years be built to the north of the Rainy River, where it is expected to make connection with an American railway. The construction of this railway through this section of country will open for settlement one of the greatest, if not the greatest, agricultural belts in the Province, as well as afford facilities for the

development of the great Atic-Okan iron range, and that of the Huronian and other gold mines, while it will afford an outlet for the many hundred million feet of pine which this region is known to contain. Too much cannot be said in praise of this country and its resources as a home for the settler. That it will yet contain millions of people, I have not the slightest doubt.

MR. H. B. PROUDFOOT, P.L.S.

During the summer of 1891 Mr. H. B. Proudfoot, Provincial Land Surveyor, completed a survey of about 4,000 square ~~miles~~ ^{acres} of territory in the Rainy River District. He describes the country as follows in his official report;—

TOWNSHIP OF CARPENTER.—I have the honor to submit the following report of the survey of the township of Carpenter—Rainy River District, made under instructions from the Crown Lands Department, dated 23rd of June, 1891. The township of Carpenter lies immediately north of the township of Lash, which fronts on the Rainy River, and is bounded on the west by the township of Dobie and on the east and north by unsurveyed lands of the Crown. A large portion of this township's surface is what is miscalled "muskeg," but which differs from the true muskeg in having a good solid clay bottom at a very small distance from the surface and admitting of easy drainage. From an examination of the plan of the township it will be noticed that there is a large number of creeks flowing away from and running in all directions from this swamp. These creeks are all good large running streams, with good falls and capable by the expenditure of a small amount of money on each of being converted into drains sufficiently large and deep to carry away all the water from this swamp and convert it into good arable land. The timber on this land is generally very small spruce and tamarac and when drained will be exceedingly easily cleaned. The remaining portion of the township is first-class farming land and as has been demonstrated by Mr. Arch. Reid (lot 10, Con. 1), who has been three years settled in this township, capable of bearing first-class crops of both roots and grain. The soil is a good rich clay with a large amount of vegetable matter overlying, and timbered principally with light woods—poplar, spruce, balsam of gilead, tamarac, birch and balsam. There is considerable pine of good quality in small patches scattered throughout the township.

The ease with which the township is reached from the railroad at Rat Portage—by steamboat up the Rainy River, which is only two miles distant from the south-west angle of the township, and the encouragement intending settlers will receive on seeing improvements already made by actual settlers, will, I am sure, conduce to the early and permanent settling of this district.

TOWNSHIP OF DOBIE.—I have the honor to submit the following report of the survey of the township of Dobie—District of Rainy River, made under instructions from your Department, dated the 23rd day of June, 1891. The township of Dobie lies immediately north of the township of Barwick which fronts on Rainy River, and is bounded on the west by the township of Shenston and on the east by the township of Carpen-

ter. The country lying north of this township is still unsurveyed lands of the Crown. The southerly portion of the township is broken by Indian reserve number eleven (11), fronting on the Manitou Rapids, Rainy River. The greater portion of this township is good farming land, easily cleared and capable of bearing excellent crops. A certain portion of the surface is covered by what is miscalled "muskeg" but in reality "open spruce swamp," which will require only a small amount of drainage to make it the most desirable farming land. The soil is a good rich clay with a large amount of vegetable deposit overlying. The timber is principally light, being poplar, balm of gilead, spruce, tamarac, balsam, etc.

As yet there are no settlers in the township of Dobie and only one small clearing has been made; but I am assured that it will be rapidly settled now that it has been surveyed, the territory embraced within its boundaries having been extensively prospected for farms during the past summer alone. From the manner in which the surveyed portions of the district of Rainy River have been settled in the last few years, I can confidently predict that the township of Dobie will have very few unapplied for lots within a year from the time that it is placed on the market.

MR. THOMAS O. BOLGE ², P.L.S.

During the summer of 1886, Mr. Thomas O. Bolger, of Belleville, Provincial Land Surveyor, acting under instructions from the late Commissioner of Crown Lands (Hon. T. B. Pardee), proceeded to explore the land lying north of Rainy River and Rainy Lake. Extracts from his official report are appended:

SIR,—I have the honor to report that in accordance with your instructions dated May 29th, 1886, I have explored the lands lying north of the surveyed townships on Rainy River, and also the country lying north of Rainy Lake. I proceeded first to Rat Portage, where I procured the necessary supplies and canoes, and hired some men to assist in moving camp, etc., and then went across the Lake-of-the-Woods to the south shore of Sabashkong Bay, pitching my first camp at the mouth of Split Rock River, and from here explored the country south to the forty-ninth parallel, and eastward to the canoe route which leads from the easterly end of Sabashkong Bay to Fort Francis. I then followed the southerly shore of the Lake-of-the-Woods westward to the mouth of Rainy River, stretching inland sufficiently often to obtain a good general idea of the nature of the country and timber. I ascertained in this way that the land lying north of the forty-ninth parallel is generally of a very poor description with the exception of some good patches in the vicinity of the Indian Reserve on Big Grassy River; while the timber is generally poplar and jack-pine of small growth. I first encountered good land at the point where the forty-ninth parallel or the first base strikes the Lake-of-the-Woods, and following up Little Grassy River, which empties into the lake a couple of miles south of this point, I found, from travelling in every direction, that the block of four townships composed of townships one and two south, ranges twenty-three and twenty-four east, contains a large percentage of the finest land I have ever seen, and the same description applies to the block of land lying westward between these

townships and the Lake-of-the-Woods. Little Grassy River is navigable for canoes for a distance of about eight miles from its mouth, and the land on the shore is all good, being composed of a rich calcareous drift formation, equal to any soil in the best agricultural districts of Ontario.

The timber along the river is chiefly large thrifty poplar, mixed with some scattering oak and swamp elm, and some evergreens such as balsam and spruce; inland the timber changes in character somewhat from that along the river shore, as large balm of gilead, spruce, balsam and tamarac are met with more frequently, and the nice open bush which prevails along the river banks is changed for a tangled brushy undergrowth; but the character of the soil remains the same. Tamarac and spruce swamps occur frequently in this section of the country, as is the case all through this large level area of good land which lies along the banks of Rainy River. These swamps were all perfectly dry this summer, and are nearly all capable of being made into excellent land by drainage, as they lie nearly as high as the surrounding dry lands, and only require proper ditching to take the surface water off in wet seasons. The extreme levelness of the country causes the presence of so much swamp land here, as the surface water has no means of escaping from the low-lying portions, and consequently the growth of moss and swamp timber is engendered. I noticed that in most cases the beds of the little streams are deep enough to form outlets for ditches and drains, and these creek beds are usually so numerous that to drain any swamp, no very long ditches would be required; in nearly all the swamps through which I passed I observed the soil to be a black vegetable mould, varying in depth from one to three feet, and always underlaid by the same calcareous clay above alluded to. I seldom met the muskeg proper, that is to say, the wet shaky bog in which water is present at all seasons of the year, and which grows nothing but dwarf spruce and moss. I then paddled up Rainy River, and on both shores I found the same kind of country as I have described as being in the vicinity of Grassy River, and as there are a good number of settlers along the river on the Canadian side I had an opportunity to observe the soil while under cultivation, and to see the kind of crops it is capable of raising.

The soil I found to be most excellent in character, calcareous clay overlaid by a thin streak of whitish fine earth about six inches in thickness, and this again covered with a coating of vegetable mould, and these three mixed up together in the working of the land form a soil which cannot be excelled in any part of the Dominion. I saw along the river crops of potatoes, turnips, hay, oats, wheat, corn, tomatoes and cabbage all grown to perfection this season, which shows that the climate, as well as the soil, is suitable to successful farming, especially when tomatoes ripen as they certainly did this year as well as ever I saw them ripen in the vicinity of Lake Ontario.

As I went up the river I frequently travelled inland several miles, and at the easterly side of township three, range twenty-four, I penetrated northward to the section I had explored from Grassy River, and I found that the calcareous clay formation extends at this point clear from the Lake of the Woods to Rainy River, a distance of twenty miles in a straight line. There is an area of pine land in here a little north of the first correction line south, where the soil is inclined to be sandy, but the extent of this tract is not very large. Along

the line dividing ranges twenty-six and twenty-seven the good land extends back some twelve miles from the river, but towards the north-east corner of the township three the rough regions begin to appear, and away to the northward the country is broken and rocky, and the good land disappears. Township three and the north part of township four, range twenty-seven, have been burnt over some years ago, and are now grown up with small second growth of poplar. Townships four, in ranges twenty-eight, twenty-nine and thirty, are mostly all good land; while townships three, in the same ranges, are generally broken with rocky ridges, but contain some excellent land in the valleys among the hills; townships two, ranges twenty-seven and twenty-eight, also contain some good land, although broken by rocky hills.

A straight line drawn from the south-west corner of the large Indian Reserve on Big Grassy River to Fort Francis would approximately form the north boundary of the good belt of land, while almost all the country lying between this line and the Rainy River and the Lake of the Woods is good agricultural land. This tract of country is over sixty miles long, and averages over fifteen miles wide, and contains over nine hundred square miles, or something like six hundred thousand acres, and has a water frontage on the Lake of the Woods and Rainy River of over one hundred miles. Of this area perhaps thirty per cent. is swamp, most of which can be drained and made tillable land; rocky ridges occur very rarely, and the soil is all a limestone clay such as I have described. No limestone rock in place has been observed, but loose limestones containing fossils are frequently to be met along the rivers, and the settlers along Rainy River pick them up and burn them into excellent lime; in fact, this whole district is a glacial drift.

The timber is chiefly poplar, which grows to a great size; I have seen trees over eighteen inches across the stump and sixty feet long clear of limbs. Balm of Gilead, too, prevails in some sections, while spruce, tamarac and balsam of thrifty growth are everywhere met with. In some places magnificent cedar abounds large enough for telegraph poles, shingle bolts, or any other use to which cedar is applied; there are some groves of pine through this section, but it cannot be called a pine country, that is, on the drift formation.

North of the above imaginary line the country is all rough and broken with valleys of clay land occurring occasionally among the ridges, especially along the margins of creek beds; east of the line dividing ranges twenty-six and twenty-seven there is a good deal of pine, although in some places the fire has been through and destroyed much valuable timber; all around the north-west bay of Rainy Lake, and around the chain of waters stretching from this bay to the south-east corner of the Lake of the Woods, I saw a considerable quantity of pine, both red and white, and in the country lying between this chain of lakes and the north bay of Rainy Lake, pine is present almost everywhere, but not often in large thick groves.

I explored all the country north of Rainy Lake, nearly as far north as the forty-ninth parallel, and eastward to what is called Sand Island River on the map, and up the Seine River to Sturgeon Falls; I travelled inland through this section of the country sufficiently often to get a good general idea of the land and timber. There is not much good land all through this region, that is, in large blocks, although patches of excellent

clay land of from fifty to one hundred acres are met with frequently among the hills, but this clay is never the calcareous clay of the Rainy River drift. The only place I found a large tract of good land is on the bank of Sand Island River, extending from near the mouth of the river up stream for about sixteen miles, with a width of perhaps two miles; this tract is broken in places with rocky ridges, but this soil is a good clay loam and free from stone. This tract of good land has all been burnt over and is now grown over with small poplar. All the rest of this country, lying north of Rainy Lake, may be described as a rough, rocky region, which in some places is utterly denuded of timber by forest fires. There is a considerable quantity of pine in all this section of country; all along the eastern shores of the north bay of Rainy River scattering pine is met with, and a good deal of lumbering has been done in the vicinity of the lake.

On the chain of water connecting Sand Island River with Rainy Lake, lumber camps have been in operation in former years. Around Sand Island Lake and in the country between this point and the River Seine there are some fine groves of red and white pine, and along the Seine also pine is frequently seen; the other prevailing timber is chiefly jack-pine, with poplar and tamarac.

Along both sides of the Seine River and inland, both north and south, the country is rough and broken with occasional valleys of good land, and the same may be said of the land on Rat River, Pipestone River and Little Turtle River. From this it will be seen that the tract of country I have described adjoining Rainy River, and including the Townships already surveyed, is a locality well adapted for farming, and although there is some good pine within this area it cannot be said to be a pine country.

The remainder of the country explored by me, including from Sabaskong Bay to Sturgeon Falls, on the Seine River, and north to the forty-ninth parallel, is comparatively unfit for settlement, but pine is met with all through this region, in some places only scattering, but in others in considerable groves, so that this portion may be classed as a lumbering district.

Wild rice is very abundant in all this country, and being an exceptionally good year for it the Indians laid in large quantities for winter use. Ducks, partridges and prairie chickens are very plentiful, and sturgeon, pickerel and whitefish are found in all the waters. Moose and caribou are very numerous, but the red deer are not found in these parts. Bears are very plentiful, but wolves are never seen in these woods.

MR. R. SMYTH, OF LINDSAY, ONTARIO.

wrote as follows to the *Lindsay Post*, under date of Oct. 23, 1891.

Leaving Toronto on Thursday I arrived at Rat Portage on the following Monday. After a pleasant sail on the steamer Shamrock down the beautiful Lake of the Woods I reached Rainy River and proceeded up stream over forty miles, landing at short intervals to unload supplies for settlers who came in groups of ten to twenty to receive them. They were invariably a good-natured, happy and contented looking people, so much so that I could not believe I was amongst pioneer settlers braving the privations and hardships common to their class. The river is beautiful, about half a mile wide, with high, clean-cut banks. Like all the waters in this district it is of a deep lye color, but pleasant to drink and

very wholesome. Sturgeon, white fish, pike and other fish abound, which, with the abundance of game and wild fruit, supply the settlers with some of the luxuries of life without money and without price. My first adventure inland was at the foot of the "Soo" rapids, in the township of Morley. Accompanied by Mr. Marsh, the local crown land agent, I started through the bush to the government road now under construction and arrived at the camp at noon. All along the road are settlers comfortably located, with neat and cosy-looking dwellings and outbuildings. As far as completed the road will compare favorably with our best roads in Victoria county. It is intended to extend it through the township the next summer, when easy access to the whole township can be made. From the river to a mile or so back from the river the land is comparatively flat and heavily timbered with white poplar, birch, elm, cedar and tamarac and oak, all of which can be turned into cash with a fair amount of profit to the settler. About two miles back it commences to rise gradually and is quite dry. This is known as the burnt land and is easily cleared, being only covered with small underbrush. The burnt land can be cleared and made ready for seeding for \$5 an acre, while it costs \$15 or \$20 to clear the timber. There is but one opinion about the productive qualities of the soil, and that is it cannot be excelled. It is a dark, loamy, calcareous clay, entirely free from stone, and so deep that it is almost inexhaustible. So far as I could learn from settlers the climate resembles our own, except the winter, which is clear and frosty with light, dry snow,—no thaws. Summer storms and frosts are rare. I did not hear of a single instance of damage to wheat or vegetables by frost. Clover and timothy are sure crops when sown, which I believe is not the case in prairie lands.

In the townships I have selected for settlement two new schools have been started this year and so far entirely sustained by special government grant. There are no churches yet except the Indian missions, but both Catholic and Protestant clergy visit the settlers occasionally. There are two good sawmills, a shingle mill and a blacksmith shop in this section. The first threshing machine came to the settlement this fall and now only a flour mill is needed to complete the immediate wants of settlers, and it is expected before next fall. Steamers running daily during summer between Rat Portage on the C. P. R. and Fort Francis afford most of the privileges of older settlements, and if the same ratio of immigration continues, postal, telegraph and telephone service will be in the immediate future.

From the impression formed of the future of the country I had no hesitation in deciding my course—I located a quarter section in the township of Morley, in the burnt land section, about three miles back from the river, and arranged to have five acres cleared and a summer cottage erected, where I expect to make my abode about the end of May next.

MR. JOHN BOYD, OF THESSALON, ONTARIO,

a widely known and reliable gentleman, has written as follows regarding the Rainy River District:

I started from Rat Portage on the 12th of August last (1890) to cross the Lake of the Woods, a distance of about eighty miles. The scenery

among the islands of the lake is really magnificent. These islands are very numerous, there being hundreds of them, and for the most part covered with luxuriant foliage, making the whole view a perfect picture. After having crossed the lake we steamed up the Rainy River for another eighty miles to Fort Francis, the Rainy River being the boundary between Ontario and Minnesota. The fields of ripe grain and the fine gardens sloping back from the banks of the river were simply beautiful to look upon. The river is on the average about 800 feet in width, with deep water right up under the banks, so that without dock or wharf the steamer can load or unload her cargo at almost any point along the river. I found Fort Francis a very fine place, nature having been bountiful to her, furnishing her with everything that tends to make a delightful site for a large town. There are already there two stores, one hotel and several boarding houses, the Hudson Bay Co.'s stores and a number of comfortable private residences. . . . The Ontario Government has chopped out a road on a surveyed line between what is known as the river lots and the township lots and running down the river from Fort Francis for a distance of seventy miles and this season the Government have commenced to grade this road and when completed it will be a boon to the settlers of that country. They will then have a good road through the district.

For the better information of myself and in order the better to see what was necessary to be done, I travelled over this road on foot, and do not regret having done so as I was enabled to see for myself personally the finest tract of land that I ever travelled through. The settlers are all comfortable and well-to-do. Proceeding down the road I passed many fine farms, not being able in my own mind to decide which was really the best one of them, until I reached Archibald Reid's, about thirty miles from Fort Francis, and near Emo post-office. Here I found him residing with his wife, two daughters and three sons on a very beautiful farm on which he has erected a good substantial house. He has thirty acres in crop and is clearing this season a fallow of twenty acres. He has also a good yoke of cattle, six cows and other stock with pigs and poultry in abundance. Judge Lyon has a very fine farm near Mr. Reid's and has it stocked with thoroughbred cattle and sheep, and in fact everything else belonging to the farm appear to thrive splendidly in the Rainy River country.

Proceeding down the river about ten miles further I came to the saw mill of Mr. Fotheringham. This mill is a good one, having all the latest improvements and being able to cut about 30,000 feet of lumber daily. The mill is of course a great convenience to the settlers, this more particularly so as Mr. Fotheringham accommodates them with work, giving them lumber in exchange for their labour. Still further down the river there is another fine saw mill, to which a planing mill has been added and every accommodation which is usually found about a mill. The Government are cutting a road from the first-mentioned saw mill to Grassy River, a distance of thirty miles. This will open up a fine section of country. I went along the road for some distance and found every farm taken up which speaks well for the land.

It is, of course, pretty well known that there is a great deal of timber taken out yearly on the Rainy River, there being no less than seven large saw mills at Rat Portage and Keewatin which depend for their

supply of logs upon the Rainy River District. This makes it all the better for the settlers as they can not only procure work in the winter if they wish to work out, but it also affords them a good ready market for all their surplus crop.

There is a flour mill at Keewatin having a capacity of 1,200 barrels per day. The settlers are thus enabled to send their wheat by the boat to the mill and get their flour by return boat. Rainy River wheat is considered A 1 and in fact all the crops I saw up there were as fine crops as I have ever seen in the older parts of the Province of Ontario. I met men there from Manitoba and Dakota and also from St. Mary's, Owen Sound and Pembroke, all of whom had taken up land in the district. And I would say to any man who wants a good bush farm (and I know something about a bush farm for I was brought up on one) go to Rainy River and you will find just what you want.

FROM THE "MANITOBA COLONIST."

A correspondent of the *Manitoba Colonist*, under the signature of "Settler" contributed the following to the issue of that journal of February, 1891 :—

The agricultural portion of this district is 900 square miles or something like 600,000 acres. A district like this, with its many rich and fertile homesteads lying dormant in their wild and natural state, awaits only those who are able and willing to cultivate them and turn them into independent and comfortable homes. Young, able-bodied men, who have been raised on farms, used to the woods, and are not afraid of hard work, and have some little money saved from their own industry, but not enough to buy and run a farm in older settlements without going considerably into debt, should take up a good homestead here and work and improve it for the summer six months or all the year round if you can. If not, go the winter six months to the lumber companies, who will gladly give you employment, at the best of board and wages.

Since last writing you the hay crop of the district has been secured in good condition. I never saw a heavier crop. All who required hay seem to have made plenty and to spare, and the settlers have left considerable uncut in the several meadows. We ourselves put up in stacks about 25 tons. The fruit crop is likewise a most abundant one. There will be thousands of bushels of choice fruit go to waste here this year, such as plums, high and low bush cranberries, huckleberries, currants and gooseberries, straw, rasp and Saskatoon berries, etc., etc. The grain crop of the river is all that should be expected. We have one of the best crops of spring wheat I ever harvested for over 20 years. Grain plump, straw tall, stiff and bright. The Italian, Fife and Red Fern varieties, sown April 21 and May 10, but all harvested the same week, from August 14 to 20. I have several stools, two of which contain respectively 54 and 52 heads; over 45 in each of these are good and perfect. Also oats and barley over 40 each. Grain stools most remarkable here. All garden vegetables are extra good. We never grew such beets, carrots, cabbages, parsnips and especially onions as we have this year. Windsor beans, stalks four to five feet high; beans similar in size to those grown in England.

I never had anything to do with better sheep than what ours each fall got to be with little trouble. They simply run the woods all summer, fed on the wild vetches, peas and other abundant herbage. In winter they pick up hay scattered from feeding other stock, go to browse in the woods, etc., and keep all the time in fine condition, producing heavy fleeces. Our flock now numbers seventeen, and I would be glad if it was 100. Timothy and clover do well here. Stock of all kinds doubtless will succeed. As to timothy, we have threshed over 200 pounds of fine seed from a piece reserved, the seed of which was sown in oats two feet high the last week of July, 1889. The purity of our water is shown by the following fact: This spring I sowed watercress along a stream running by the house, and have had as fine, crisp cress for use the past two months as we ever had, and it is all I know of in the district. Game is plentiful, and shooting is pretty general.

REPORT OF ANDREW C. LAWSON, M.A., Ph. D.

The following is an extract from the report of Mr. Andrew C. Lawson, M.A., Ph. D. of the Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada, on "The Geology of the Rainy Lake Region," published in 1888:

"The wooded plain which extends from the south-west corner of Rainy Lake to the Lake of the Woods is on a slight but distinctly lower level than that of the 'rocky lake country.' Its slope is apparently the continuation of that of the rocky plateau just described. The highest part of the plain, so far as I was able to observe, is where the scarped face of the bedded clays which underlie it overlook Rainy Lake near Couchiching, with an elevation of 10 or 12 feet above the surface of the lake. Down the Rainy River to the Lake of the Woods the plain has practically the same slope as the river * * * occasionally, as to the north-west of the Indian Reserve at the Longue Sault or Rainy River, the country is rolling or undulating. * * * Drainage is effected by the numerous creeks and rivers which flow into the Rainy River. These all cut channels down through the clayey strata and afford excellent sections of a thickness varying from 10 to 30 feet.

MR. WILLIAM MARGACH OF RAT PORTAGE, ONT.

Having been a resident of the County of Victoria for twenty years and being thus acquainted with the quality of the land in that locality, I am in a position to compare it with the land on the Rainy River. Excepting the Townships of Mariposa, Ops and Emily, there are no other townships to be compared with the land on the river. The soil is good and free from stone, while the timber is light. I have seen more timber in a birch tree in the Township of Snowdon than you will find in an acre on the Rainy River. As to getting employment in the camps in the winter, the wages are good for men and horses. The good land is not confined to Rainy River however. From the outlet of the river north to Grasse River, a distance of 25 miles, is very fine land and the land on Big and Little Grasse Rivers is equal to that on Rainy River and is within 60 miles of Rat Portage.

PART IV.

THE ACT SETTING APART AND FORMING THE DISTRICT OF RAINY RIVER.

AN ACT RESPECTING THE DISTRICT OF RAINY RIVER.

[*The following is the Act setting apart the District of Rainy River as a territorial district which was assented to 30th March, 1885.*]

CHAPTER 20, STATUTES OF ONTARIO, 1885.

WHEREAS the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, on the ^{Preamble.} third day of October, in the year of our Lord, 1884, by virtue of an Act passed by the Legislature of Ontario, in the session thereof held in the 47th year of Her Majesty's reign, entitled *An Act respecting the District of Algoma and Thunder Bay*, issued a proclamation naming the 11th day of the said month of October, as the day upon which the said Act respecting the District of Algoma and Thunder Bay should go into force; and whereas the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, on the 13th day of January, in the year of our Lord, 1885, in pursuance of the powers in the said Act contained, did proclaim and declare that, from and after the 15th day of February then next, all that part of the Provincial Judicial District of Thunder Bay lying west of a line drawn due north and south through the most easterly point of Hunter's Island should, for the purposes (except registry purposes) mentioned in the Revised Statute *Respecting the Territorial Districts of Muskoka, Parry Sound and Thunder Bay*, be detached from the said Provisional Judicial District of Thunder Bay, and should form a separate Territorial District by the name of The District of Rainy River; and whereas it is expedient to make provision in respect of the matters hereinafter mentioned;

Therefore Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:—

1. The said Territorial District of Rainy River, being all that portion of the Province lying west of the said line, shall, from and after the first day of July next, also be separated, for registry purposes, from the District of Thunder Bay, and shall form a separate registry division.

District of Rainy River separated from District of Thunder Bay for registration purposes.

Appointment of Deputy Clerk. 2.—(1) The Lieutenant-Governor may, from time to time appoint, under the great seal, an officer for the District Court of the Provincial Judicial District of Thunder Bay, to be called the Deputy Clerk for Rainy River, who shall hold office during pleasure, and shall keep his office at Rat Portage.

Vacancy in the office of Deputy Clerk. (2) In case after an appointment has been made a vacancy occurs in such office, the Clerk of the Division Court at Rat Portage shall, *ex-officio*, be Deputy Clerk until another appointment is made.

Powers and duties of Deputy Clerk. (3) The said Deputy Clerk shall issue writs for the commencement of actions in the said District Court, and shall, in respect of actions so commenced and of proceedings therein, perform the like duties and have the like powers and rights as are performed or possessed by the Clerk of the District Court at Port Arthur in respect of actions commenced by writs issued out of his office, and of proceedings therein; and the said Deputy Clerk shall also issue such writs and process as may be required in such actions as may in like cases be issued by the said Clerk of the District Court, and may renew any such writs as by law may be renewed.

Capias. (4) No writ of capias issued under the next preceding subsection shall be executed outside of the District of Rainy River; and every writ of capias so issued shall be marked by the Clerk as follows: "Only to be executed within the District of Rainy River," but this shall not prevent a copy of such writ of capias being served at any place within Ontario.

Seal. (5) The Deputy Clerk of the said District Court shall have the custody of a seal similar in design to the seal of the court in the custody of the Clerk at Port Arthur, and the said Deputy Clerk shall seal with the said seal all writs, process and proceedings requiring the seal of the said court; and every writ, process or proceeding sealed with such seal shall be held to be duly sealed with the seal of the said court.

Venue. 3. In actions in which the venue is local the writ shall be issued out of the office of the said Deputy Clerk, and the venue shall be laid in the District of Rainy River in the same manner as if the said district was a separate county; but the judge may, if he sees fit, change the venue in any action.

Deputy Clerk to be Registrar of Surrogate Court. 4.—(2) The Deputy Clerk for the Rainy River District of the District Court of Thunder Bay shall, *ex officio*, be Deputy Registrar for Rainy River of the Surrogate Court of Thunder Bay; and he shall keep his office of Deputy Registrar at the same place as he is required by law to keep his office of Deputy Clerk.

R. S. O., c. 46, ss. 10-13, to apply to Deputy Registrar. (2) Sections 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the Revised Statute, chapter 46 (*The Surrogate Courts Act*), shall apply as nearly as may be to the Deputy Registrar for Rainy River; and he shall observe and conform to the provisions thereof; and shall per-

form the like duties, and shall have the like powers and rights, under and by virtue of the said Revised Statute, within the District of Rainy River, as are performed or possessed by the Registrar of the Surrogate Court for Thunder Bay at Port Arthur; and the latter shall, after the passing of this Act, cease to exercise the powers and rights of Registrar of the Surrogate Court for Thunder Bay, in regard to applications for probate, or letters of administration, in respect of the will, or estate, of any person who had at the time of his death his fixed place of abode in the District of Rainy River, or of any person who having no fixed place of abode within Ontario had, at the time of his death, real or personal estate in such District, which but for this Act would have been exercised by him as Registrar of the Surrogate Court for Thunder Bay.

(3) The said Deputy Registrar of Surrogate shall have the custody of a seal similar in design to the seal of the court in the custody of the Registrar, and such seal shall be the seal of the court for the purpose of sealing all grants, letters, writs, certificates, papers or proceedings in connection with any matter or thing in the office of the said Deputy Registrar requiring to be sealed. Surrogate seal.

5. The Surrogate Court for Thunder Bay shall, at Rat Portage, in the District of Rainy River in respect of matters arising within the District of Rainy River and at Port Arthur in respect of matters arising within the rest of the Provisional Judicial District of Thunder Bay, hold such sittings as the Judge of the Surrogate Court of the Provisional Judicial District of Thunder Bay may think proper and necessary, but the said Judge may, when he deems it more convenient for the parties interested, perform any judicial or magisterial act affecting either of the said Surrogate divisions in the other of such divisions. Sittings of Surrogate Court.

6.—(1) The Lieutenant-Governor may also appoint a Sheriff of the said District of Rainy River, who shall keep his office at Rat Portage. Appointment of Sheriff.

(2) All writs and other process requiring to be directed to a Sheriff and intended to be executed within the said District of Rainy River shall be directed to the said Sheriff.

(3) Nothing herein contained shall prevent the Sheriff of Thunder Bay from proceeding upon and completing the execution or service within the said District of Rainy River, of any writ of *mesne* or final process in his hands at the time this Act takes effect, or any renewal thereof, or any subsequent or supplementary writ in the same cause; or in the case of executions against lands, from executing all necessary deeds and conveyances relating to the same; and the acts of the said Sheriff of Thunder Bay in respect of these matters shall be valid in the same manner and to the same extent as if this Act had not been passed, and no further.

(4) Sub-sections 5, 6, 7 and 8 of section 12 of the Act passed in the 43rd year of the reign of Her Majesty, entitled *An Act respecting the Administration of Justice in the District of Algoma, Thunder Bay and Nipissing*, shall apply to the District of Rainy River and to the Sheriff thereof.

Application of certain Acts to District of Rainy River.

7. Unless where inconsistent with this Act and as nearly as may be, the Acts mentioned in schedule A appended to this Act shall, to the extent shown in the third column of the said schedule, apply to the District of Rainy River, and all other Acts, or parts of Acts, applying in general terms to Territorial Districts, shall also apply to the said district.

Returns of Convictions.

8. All returns of convictions required by law to be made by any Justice or Justices of the Peace shall, for the District of Rainy River, be made to the Clerk of the Peace of the District of Thunder Bay.

Sitting of District Court.

9.—(1) Besides the sittings at the district town, the District Court of Thunder Bay shall hold sittings on the first Tuesday of the month of June and the fourth Tuesday of the month of November of each year, at Rat Portage, for trials and assessments by jury in cases in which the venue is laid in Rainy River, and sittings of the General Sessions of the Peace of Thunder Bay shall be held on the same days.

Sitting of General Sessions.

Trial of appeals.

(2) The said General Sessions of the Peace shall be for the trial of causes within the jurisdictions of the General Sessions where the offence to be tried was committed within the District of Rainy River, and for the trial of appeals to the General Sessions from a decision, order or conviction made by a Justice of the Peace within such district.

Gaols and Lock-ups.

10.—(1) Any gaol or lock-up erected in the said District of Rainy River under the authority of the Lieutenant-Governor, or any building so declared by Order in Council, shall be a common gaol of such district, for the safe custody of persons charged with the commission, within the said District, of crimes, or with the commission therein of offences against any statute of this Province, or against any municipal by-law, who may not have been finally committed for trial, or for the safe custody of persons finally committed for trial, charged as aforesaid, who are to be tried within the said District of Rainy River; or for the confinement of persons sentenced within the said district for crimes or for offences as aforesaid, for periods not exceeding six months; or for the confinement of persons sentenced as aforesaid for periods exceeding six months until such persons can be conveniently removed to the gaol at Rat Portage, or other lawful prison to which they are sentenced.

Gaol at Rat Portage.

(2) The gaol at Rat Portage shall be the chief common gaol of the District, and, besides being for the detention of persons held for safe custody as mentioned in this section, shall also be

for the confinement of persons sentenced within the said District for crimes or offences as aforesaid for periods less than two years.

11. The Third and Fourth Division Courts of the District of Thunder Bay, the limits of which are now within the District of Rainy River, shall, after the first day of April, 1885, be respectively known as the First and Second Division Courts of the District of Rainy River, subject to the authority of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to alter the numbers, limits and extent of the divisions. Division
Courts.

12. Whereas the dispute with respect to the Boundary between this Province and the Province of Manitoba has been determined in the manner contemplated by the Act passed at the last session of the Ontario Legislature, chapter two, entitled *An Act respecting the territory in dispute between this Province and the Province of Manitoba*, the said Act is therefore hereby repealed except the 27th, 28th and 29th sections thereof; and whereas the report in that behalf of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council bears date the 22nd day of July last, and the Order of Her Majesty in Council confirming the same bears date the 11th August following, but the determination of the dispute was not immediately known in the disputed territory, it is hereby declared and enacted that the said Act shall be deemed to have been in force notwithstanding anything therein contained, until the 26th day of October last, but no longer; and the authority of the council at Rat Portage which was suspended by the said Act is hereby declared to have been revived from the 26th day of October aforesaid, and the by-laws, rules and regulations theretofore passed or enacted by the Municipal Board of Rat Portage shall, except so far as they have been since varied by the said council, be held to be as valid and effectual as the same would have been had the authority of the said council not been suspended, and had such by-laws, rules and regulations been passed or enacted by the said council. 47 V., c. 2,
repealed ex-
cept as to sec-
tions 27, 28,
29.

PART V.

THE RAINY RIVER FREE GRANTS ACT.

ALSO LIST OF FREE GRANT TOWNSHIPS AND DIRECTIONS AS TO
HOW TO OBTAIN FREE GRANTS AND PUBLIC LANDS.

THE RAINY RIVER FREE GRANTS AND HOMESTEADS ACT.

CHAPTER 26, REVISED STATUTES OF ONTARIO, 1887.

*An Act respecting Free Grants and Homesteads to Actual
Settlers on Public Lands in the District of Rainy River.*

WHEREAS under instructions from the Department of the Preamble.
Interior of Canada, certain townships have been surveyed in the Rainy River District, the lots immediately upon the bank of Rainy River having a width of ten chains fronting the river and a varying depth, and the remaining land so surveyed being subdivided into sections of one mile square, and quarter sections of one hundred and sixty acres, with road allowances around each section; and whereas a number of settlers have gone into occupation of the lands so surveyed, and it is expedient to adopt said surveys and otherwise provide for the settlement of the lands in question;

Therefore Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as "*The Rainy River Free Grants and Homesteads Act.*" Short title. 49 V. c. 7, s. 1.
2. The said surveys are hereby adopted and legalized, and Former surveys adopted. the Department of Crown Lands is authorized to continue such system of survey within the District of Rainy River, so far as may be deemed expedient. 49 V. c. 7, s. 2.
3. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appropriate Appropriation of lands for settlement. any lands in the Rainy River District considered suitable for settlement and cultivation, and not being mineral lands or pine timber lands, as free grants to actual settlers, under such regulations as shall from time to time be made by Order in Council not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act. 49 V. c. 7, s. 3.

- Application of R. S. O. c. 25, to this Act. 4. *The Free Grants and Homesteads Act*, saving and excepting as is hereafter provided, and so far as the same is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, shall apply to lands opened for settlement under this Act.
- Free grants to heads of families. 1. The male, or sole female, head of a family with children under eighteen years of age residing with him or her, may be located for a free grant to the extent of one hundred and sixty acres, or a quarter section.
- Free grants to males 18 years of age. 2. A male of the age of eighteen years, without children may be located for a free grant to the extent of one hundred and twenty acres, or a half quarter section, together with an adjoining quarter quarter section.
- Purchase of locations for children. 3. In addition to location every head of a family having children under eighteen years of age residing with him, or her, may purchase at the time of location an adjoining half quarter section, or eighty acres, at \$1 per acre, payable one-fourth cash and the balance in three equal annual instalments with interest.
- Purchase of locations by males 18 years of age. 4. A male of the age of eighteen years, without children, entitled to locate, may purchase at the time of location an adjoining half quarter section, or eighty acres, at \$1 per acre, payable one-fourth cash, and the balance in three equal annual instalments with interest.
- Issue of patents. 5. Patents for lands located and purchased under this Act may issue at the expiration of three years from the date of location and purchase.
- Sale to person who has made improvements. 6. Where a person has, previous to the passing of this Act, made substantial improvements on two or more adjoining lots, and the lots contain more land than the person is entitled under this Act to locate and purchase, the Commissioner of Crown Lands may sell to such person such additional quantity of land at \$1 per acre as may, under the circumstances, seem just and equitable.
- Issue of patents to persons having made improvements. 7. In case a person has occupied and made the required improvements upon one or more lots of land before the passing of this Act, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, may, after location and purchase as hereinbefore provided, issue the patent therefor without waiting for the expiration of three years.
- Reservation of pine trees, mines and minerals. 8. Pine trees growing or being upon any lands located or purchased under this Act, and gold, silver, copper, lead, iron or other mines, or minerals, shall be considered as reserved from the location or purchase, and shall be the property of Her Majesty, except that the locatee, or those claiming under him, may cut and use such trees as may be necessary for the purpose of building, fencing and fuel, on the land so located or purchased, and may also cut and dispose of all trees required to be removed, in actually clearing the land for cultivation, but no pine trees (except for the necessary building, fencing, and fuel as aforesaid) shall be cut beyond the limit of the

actual clearing before the issuing of the patent; and pine trees so cut and disposed of (except for the necessary building, fencing and fuel as aforesaid) shall be subject to the payment of the same dues as are at the time payable by the holders of licenses to cut timber or saw logs.

9. Trees remaining on the land at the time the patent issues shall pass to the patentee. 49 V. c. 7, s. 4. Trees to pass to patentee.

5. This Act shall not go into force until a day to be named by the Lieutenant-Governor by his proclamation. 49 V. c. 7, s. 5. Commencement of Act.

AN ACT TO AMEND THE FREE GRANTS AND HOMESTEADS ACT.

The following amendments to the Free Grants and Homestead Act, and which apply also to the Rainy River Free Grants and Homesteads Act, was passed by the Ontario Legislature during the Session of 1890 :

HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows :—

1. Section 12 of *The Free Grants and Homesteads Act* is repealed, and the following is substituted therefor :— Rev. Stat. c. 25, s. 12, repealed.

12. From and after the 30th day of April, 1889, the patentee, his heirs or assigns, of land located or sold under this Act, after the 5th day of March, 1880, shall be entitled to be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue of the province, on all pine trees cut on such land subsequent to the 13th day of April next, after the date of the patent, and upon which dues have been collected by the Crown, the sum of thirty-three cents on each one thousand feet, board measure of saw-logs, and four dollars on each one thousand cubic feet of square or waney timber, and the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may make regulations for ascertaining and determining the persons from time to time to receive the payments and the sums to be paid. Payment by Crown to patentees of part of dues.

2. In case a person who has complied with all the settlement duties under the said Act and obtained a patent for only one lot, is entitled to and desires to obtain another 100 acres to make up his full quantity, or having obtained his full quantity as a free grant has purchased an additional 100 acres under the orders and regulations under the said Act, and such additional location or purchase is adjacent to his patented lot, the Commissioner of Crown Lands upon being satisfied that such lot or lots are not chiefly valuable for their pine timber, and are suited only or principally for grazing purposes or as a Commissioner may dispense with residence and settlement duties in certain cases.

fuel reserve, may dispense with residence and settlement duties upon them provided there are 30 acres cleared upon the patented lot, and may issue the patent at the expiration of the time required by the said Act.

Commissioner may dispense with clearing in certain cases.

3. In case the person is *bona fide* the owner and occupant of land in a free grant district acquired otherwise than as a free grant under the said Act and is entitled and desires to obtain a free grant location and such location is adjacent to the land which he owns and occupies, the Commissioner of Crown Lands upon being satisfied by inspection or evidence that the lands are not chiefly valuable for their pine timber, and are suited only or principally for grazing purposes, or as a fuel reserve, and that there are 30 acres cleared upon the land which he owns and resides upon, may dispense with clearing and residence upon such free grant location and issue the patent at the expiration of the time required by the said Act.

Where occupant for six years not regularly located through inadvertence patent may issue before five years.

4. In case a person entitled to obtain a location under the provisions of the said *Free Grants and Homesteads Act* has, without objection by the Crown, for a period of six or more years occupied or made the required improvements upon one or more lots (not exceeding the quantity which may be granted under the said Act) of land prior to the said land being brought under the operation of the said Act, or if the land be open for location, in case he has so occupied but has not, either through inadvertence or oversight, been regularly located, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, subject to such regulations as may be provided in that behalf, may after location as by said Act is provided, issue the patent upon proof of the performance of the required settlement duties and without awaiting for the expiration of five years from the date of location. But this section shall not apply where it appears to the Commissioner that the lot has been selected chiefly on account of the pine timber thereon.

Rev. Stat. c. 25, s. 10, amended.

5. Section 10 of *The Free Grants and Homesteads Act* is amended by adding thereto the following sub-section:—

Locatee of two or more lots may cut pine for building and fencing.

2. Where the land allotted to a locatee or purchaser under this Act, is composed of two or more lots, or parcels of lots, the said locatee or purchaser, or those claiming under him may cut such pine trees as may be necessary for the purpose of building and fencing as hereinbefore provided, or any one or more of the said lots or parcels of lots so located or purchased, and may use the said pine trees on the same lot or any of the other lots or parcels of lots held by him as a free grant or by purchase under this Act, whether located at the same time or otherwise.

Rev. Stat. c. 25, s. 22, subss. 3 and 4 repealed.

6. Sub-sections 3 and 4 of section 22 of *The Free Grants and Homesteads Act*, are hereby repealed and the patents for the lands in said sub-sections mentioned or referred to may

issue notwithstanding any arrears of payments of the expenses of clearing, fencing and erection of buildings thereon, and all sums due Her Majesty in respect of such clearing, fencing and building by locatees in the townships of Ryerson and Spence, in the district of Parry Sound, amounting to \$7,304 principal together with any interest thereon, are hereby remitted.

Remission of dues from settlers in Ryerson and Spence.

7. That all sums due to the Crown for seed-grain supplied to the settlers in the free grant territory or any part thereof, amounting to \$5,306, together with any interest thereon, are hereby remitted.

Sums due to Crown for seed grain remitted.

8. This Act shall be read with and as part of *The Free Grants and Homesteads Act*.

Act incorporated with Rev. Stat. c. 25.

Rainy River Free Grant Townships.

The following townships are now open for location under the Rainy River Free Grants and Homesteads Act:—

Township of—

Curran	Township 3	Range 22
Atwood	" 4	" 22
Blue	" 3	" 23
Worthington	" 4	" 23
Nelles	" 3	" 24
Dilke	" 4	" 24
Pattullo	" 3	" 25
Morley	" 4	" 25
S. of Morley	" 5	" 25
Tait	" 3	" 26
Shenston	" 4	" 26
Roseberry	" 5	" 26
Barwick	" 5	" 27
Lash	" 5	" 28
Aylsworth	" 6	" 28
Devlin	" 5	" 29
Woodyatt	" 6	" 29
Crozier	" 5	" 30
Roddick	" 6	" 30
McIrvine	" 5	" 31

Agents for the Sale and Location of Crown Lands.

T. J. F. MARSH, Rainy River P. O., agent for the Townships of Roseberry, Shenston, Tait, Pattullo, Morley, Dilke, Nelles, Blue, Worthington, Curran and Atwood.

WM. WILSON, Fort Francis P. O., agent for the Townships of Barwick, Lash, Aylsworth, Devlin, Woodyatt, Crozier, Roddick and McIrvine.

ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, Rat Portage, who will furnish intending settlers with the number of lots open for location, as well as valuable general information regarding the district.

How to Obtain Free Grants and Homesteads in the Rainy River District.

Public lands which have been surveyed, and are considered suitable for settlement and cultivation, and not valuable chiefly for minerals or pine timber, may be appropriated as Free Grants.

To obtain a Free Grant, the applicant must make application to the local Crown Land agent, in whose agency the land desired is situated, and deposit with him the necessary affidavit (see Forms Nos. 1, 2 and 3, in Appendix). Although no fees are charged by the Department, or allowed to the land agents for locating, yet if required to prepare the necessary affidavits, the agent may make a reasonable charge for so doing.

One hundred and sixty acres is the limit of the Rainy River Free Grants and Homesteads Act. No individual, therefore, can obtain more than that quantity as a Free Grant, and if the land selected exceeds 160 acres, the applicant must pay for the overplus at the price fixed by the regulations, viz., \$1 per acre. *The male head of a family, or the sole female head of a family, having a child or children under eighteen years of age residing with him or her, may be located for 160 acres as a Free Grant; and may also purchase an additional 80 acres at the rate of one dollar per acre.*

Upon receipt of the necessary affidavits, the agent will, if the land selected be open for location, and there be no adverse claim thereto, enter the locatee for it on the records of his office, and at the end of the current month he will return the location to the Department of Crown Lands.

In case a party has settled on Government land before the township has been surveyed, or appropriated under the Free Grants Act, he should, immediately after it is opened for location, apply to the local agent and get located, as he will have no recognized title, and his occupation of the land will not count until this action has been taken.

Upon completion of his location, the locatee may enter upon and occupy his land, and may commence his improvements; and the Regulations require him to do so within one month.

The locatee will not be entitled to his patent until the expiration of three years from the date of location, and he must then make proof that the settlement duties have been fully completed. The settlement duties required on each location are as follows, viz.:—

(1) *To have at least fifteen acres cleared and had under cultivation, of which two acres at least are to be cleared and cultivated annually during the three years;*

(2) *To have built a habitable house, at least 16 by 20 feet in size;*

(3) *And to have actually and continuously resided upon and cultivated the land for three years after location.*

A locatee is not bound to remain on the land all the time during the three years; but may be absent on business or at work for, in all, not more than six months in any one year. He must, however, make it his home, and clear and cultivate the quantity of land required (two acres at least) each year.

Where a locatee holds two lots he may make the requisite improvements on either one or both, as he finds it most convenient.

A locatee who purchases an additional 80 acres under the Regulations must, within three years from the date of sale, clear fifteen acres thereon, and cultivate the same, before he will be entitled to the patent; but he is not required to build a house or reside on the purchased lot, where he holds it in connection with a Free Grant.

The proof of the performance of the settlement duties must be: the affidavit of the locatee himself, supported by the testimony of at least two disinterested parties, which affidavits are to be filed with the local agent—who, if satisfied as to the correctness of the statements contained therein, recommends the issue of the patent, and transmits the application to the Department.

In case a locatee has, after the issue of his patent, absolutely and in good faith parted with the land patented to him as a Free Grant, he may take up another location by applying to the local agent, and making affidavit setting out the facts.

In case the locatee fails to perform the settlement duties required by law, his location is liable to forfeiture, and may be cancelled by the Commissioner of Crown Lands. Applications for cancellation must be made through the local agent, and be supported by the affidavits of the applicant and at least two credible witnesses, who will show what the present position of the lot is; whether the locatee ever occupied or improved, and, if so, to what extent and the value of the improvements; when he ceased to occupy; and his address, if known. Upon receipt of this evidence the agent will, if he can ascertain the address of the locatee, notify him of the application, and call upon him to disprove the allegations, or show cause why his location should not be cancelled within thirty days. At the expiration of that time the agent will transmit the evidence, with anything he may have received from the locatee in reply, and his own report to the Department. (See Form No. 5.)

The assignment or mortgage of a homestead from a locatee to another party before the issue of his patent is invalid, and cannot be recognized by the Department. This does not, however, apply to the devise of a Free Grant lot by will, nor to transfers of land by a locatee for church, cemetery or school purposes, or the right of way of railroads.

All pine trees and minerals on land located or sold under the Free Grants Act are reserved from the location or sale, and are the property of the Crown; and the Commissioner of Crown Lands may at any time issue a license to cut the pine on such land. The locatee may, however, cut and use such pine trees as he requires for building and fencing on his land, and may also cut and dispose of any pine trees he meets within the actual process of clearing his land for cultivation; but any trees so disposed of are subject to the payment of the same dues as are payable by license-holders.

Holders of timber licenses have the right to haul their timber over the uncleared portion of any land located or sold, and to make such roads

as may be necessary for the purpose, and to use all slides, portages and roads, and to have free access to all streams and lakes.

The Crown reserves the right to construct on any land located or sold, any Colonization Road, or deviation from the Government allowance for road; and to take from such land, without compensation, any timber, gravel or material required for the construction or improvement of any such road.

Any conveyance, mortgage or alienation (except a will) of the land located, by a locatee after the issue of a patent and within twenty years from location, will be invalid unless it be by deed in which his wife is one of the grantors, and unless it be duly executed by her.

The land while owned by the locatee, his widow or heirs, shall be exempt from liability for debt during twenty years from the date of location. This exemption does not, however, extend to a sale for taxes legally imposed.

When a Free Grant locatee dies before the completion of his title, his representatives may continue the settlement duties and obtain a patent at the proper time upon filing the requisite proof. If he died before the 1st July, 1886, intestate, evidence is required of the date of death and that he died intestate, giving the name of his widow, and the number and names of all his children, and if he left no wife or children, the name of his heir must be given; if he made a will, it must be sent in with proper proof of due execution according to law. If he died after the 1st July, 1886, probate or letters of administration to the real and personal estate, as the case may be, must be sent.

Where a locatee dies, whether before or after issue of patent, leaving a widow, she is entitled to the land during her widowhood in lieu of dower, unless she prefers to take her dower instead.

In making application for land, and in filing proof in support of applications for cancellation of a location, or for issue of patent, the applicant will save time and unnecessary trouble by filing his papers with, or mailing them to, the Crown Land Agent in whose agency the land is situated, as on account of the agent's local knowledge of the lands he has to deal with, the Department requires that his certificate be attached to all such applications.

Lands located or sold under the Rainy River Free Grants and Homesteads Act, or the regulations made thereunder, are liable to taxation from the date of such location or sale, and where taxes assessed on such land are in arrears for three years, the interest of the locatee or purchaser may be sold in the manner prescribed by law. When the tax-purchaser receives his deed, unless legal proceedings be taken to question it by some person interested within two years from the date of sale, he acquires the right and interest of the locatee or purchaser, and may obtain a patent on completion of the original conditions of location or sale.

In order to have his claim recognized, a tax-purchaser should file his deed in the Department, and two years after the date of the sale for taxes, should file evidence showing that no action has been taken to question his title, that there is no adverse claim on the ground of occupation or improvements, and that all arrears of taxes have been paid since he purchased. (See Revised Statutes 1887), Cap. 193, sections 159, 160 and 171, and Cap. 24, section 18). And in order to obtain a patent for the land, as a free grant, the tax-purchaser must also show that he

has performed the settlement duties required by the Rainy River Free Grants and Homesteads Act, and that he has not already received the benefit of the said Act, or if he has received a grant of all the land which it allows him, that he has *bona fide* and absolutely parted with the same.

HOW TO PURCHASE PUBLIC LANDS.

In case a party should desire to purchase public land which has been surveyed, but is not within the jurisdiction of any Crown Land agent, he should make his application direct to the Department, and support it by the affidavits of at least two credible and disinterested persons. These affidavits should set out all facts in connection with the land which he seeks to purchase, and especially whether it has ever been occupied, whether occupied at the time the application is made, and, if so, by whom, and when such occupation commenced; whether any improvements have been made on said land, and, if so, the nature and extent of the same, and by whom and when they were made; and also, whether there is any claim made thereto adverse to that of the applicant, and based on the ground of occupation or improvements. If the applicant has acquired the interest or claim of some previous occupant, he should show the fact and file an assignment.

FORMS OF AFFIDAVITS USED IN APPLICATIONS FOR FREE GRANT AND OTHER CROWN LANDS.

NO. 1.—AFFIDAVIT FROM A SINGLE MAN FOR 100 ACRES.

Set out the name, I. of the in the make
last place of resi- oath and say :
dence, and occu- 1. That I have not heretofore been located for any land under
pation in full. the "Free Grants and Homesteads Act," (except);
nor have I obtained a Patent for any land as a Free Grant or any benefit under that
Section of the said Act which provides for the remission of arrears due to the Crown
by settlers who purchased in Free Grant Townships (*except for lot number*
but that I have absolutely and in good faith parted with the said land so patented to
me, and I am entitled to and desire to obtain another location.)
2. That I am of the age of years.
3. That I desire to be located for lot number in the concession
of the township of
4. That I believe the said land is suited for settlement and cultivation and is not
valuable chiefly for its mines, minerals or pine timber; and that such location is
desired for my benefit, and for the purpose of actual settlement and cultivation of
such land, and not either directly or indirectly for the use or benefit of any other
person or persons whatsoever, nor for the purpose of obtaining, possessing or dispos-
ing of any of the pine trees, growing or being on the said land, or any benefit or ad-
vantage therefrom, or any gold, silver, copper, lead, iron, or other mines or minerals,
or any quarry or bed of stone, marble or gypsum thereon.
5. And that the said lot is wholly unoccupied and unimproved (*except*

Sworn before me, at }
this day of 18. }

No. 2.—AFFIDAVITS WHERE APPLICANT IS THE MALE OR SOLE FEMALE, HEAD OF A FAMILY.

Set out the name, I. of the in the make
 last place of resi- oath and say :
 dence, and occu- 1. That I have not heretofore been located for any land under
 pation in full. the "Free Grants and Homesteads Act." (except) ;

nor have I obtained a Patent for any land as a Free Grant or any benefit under that
 Section of the said Act which provides for the remission of arrears due to the Crown
 by settlers who purchased in Free Grant Townships (except for lot number
*but that I have absolutely and in good faith parted with the said land so patented
 to me, and I am entitled to and desire to obtain another location.*)

2. That I am the male (or) sole female head of a family, having children under
 eighteen years of age, residing with me, consisting of son and daughter.

3. That I desire to be located under the said Act, and the Regulations made there-
 under for lot number in the concession, and lot number
 in the concession of the township of

4. That I believe the said lands are suited for settlement and] cultivation, and are
 not valuable chiefly for their mines, minerals, or pine timber.

5. That such location is desired for my benefit, and for the purpose of actual set-
 tlement and cultivation of such lands, and not either directly or indirectly for the use
 or benefit of any other person or persons whatsoever. nor for the purpose of obtaining,
 possessing or disposing of any of the pine trees growing or being on the said lands, or
 any benefit or advantage therefrom, or any gold, silver, copper, lead, iron, or other
 mines or minerals, or any quarry or bed of stone, marble or gypsum thereon.

6. And that the said lots are wholly unoccupied and unimproved (except

Sworn before me, at }
 this day of 18 . }

We, of the in the and
 of the in the each for himself, make oath and say : that
 I am well acquainted with named in the above affidavit, and that he
 is the head of a family and has children, under eighteen years
 of age, (consisting of son and daughter ,) residing with him ; and I further
 make oath and say that I know lots number , in the concession of
 the township of referred to above, that I am not aware of any claim to the
 said lots on the grounds of occupation, improvements or otherwise, adverse to that of
 the applicant, and that the said lots are wholly unoccupied and unimproved (except

Sworn before me, at }
 this day of 18 . }

No. 4.—APPLICATION FOR PATENT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF "THE FREE GRANTS AND HOMESTEADS ACT."

To the Crown Lands Agent :

SIR,—I have the honour to apply, under the provisions of "The Free Grants and Homesteads Act," for a Patent from the Crown for my Homestead, upon the grounds set forth in the following affidavits, and have to request that the said Patent, when issued, be mailed to the following address, viz :

Dated this 18 .

Affidavit of Applicant.

Recommendation for Patent this 18
 Crown Land Agent.

Ontario, of To Wit : } I, _____ of the _____ of the _____
 } in the _____ of _____
 } make oath and say :—

1. That I desire to obtain my Patent under the provisions of the Eighth Section of "The Free Grants and Homesteads Act," for lot _____ of the township of _____ for which lot I was located on the _____ day of _____ 18 _____.
2. That since then I have been an actual resident upon, and have cultivated the said lot continuously for _____ years, and that I am still residing upon and cultivating the same.
3. That I have cleared upon the said lot, and had under cultivation last season _____ acres at least, and that I have erected buildings thereon of the following descriptions and dimensions, viz : A house fit for habitation x _____ feet at least,
4. That I have not been located for any other land (except _____) nor have I obtained Patent for any land, as a Free Grant, or by remission of arrears, under the provisions of the said Act ; and that I am well entitled to the Patent for the said lot, and am not aware of any adverse claim thereto on the grounds of occupation, improvements or otherwise.

Sworn before me, at this _____ day of _____ 18 _____ . }

Affidavit in Support of Application.

Ontario, of To Wit : } We, _____ of the township of _____ in the _____
 } of _____ and _____ of the same place, yeoman, each for
 } himself, make oath and say :—

That I know lot _____ in the _____ concession of the township of _____ described in the affidavit of _____ the Applicant for Patent ; that the said affidavit has been read over to me, and that all the statements made therein respecting the residence of the said _____ on the said lot, and the cultivation and improvements made by him thereon are true in substance and in fact, and that I am not aware of any adverse claim thereto.

Sworn before me, at this _____ day of _____ 18 _____ . }

No. 5.—APPLICATION FOR CANCELLATION OF A LOCATION.

Affidavit of Applicant.

Ontario, District of To Wit : } I, _____ of the township of _____ in the district
 } _____, yeoman, make oath and say :—
 } 1. That I desire to be located for lot number _____ in the _____ concession of the township of _____

2. That I am informed that the said lot _____ located on the _____ day of _____ A.D. 18 _____, to one _____
3. That I know the said lot, and personally visited and examined on the _____ ; and that there was no person at that time residing thereon ; and that I did not discover any improvements whatever on the said lot ; and that from _____

said examination, and from information which I have received, I verily believe that the said locatee has never occupied or improved the said lot ;

If locatee has occupied or improved at any time set out when he ceased to occupy, what improvements he made, when they were made, and in what position the lots are at time of application.

4. That so far as I am aware the said locatee is not occupying or improving any other land in the said township, and resides at present at

5. And that I have not, neither has any person for me, either directly or indirectly by purchase or otherwise from the said locatee, or any other person, acquired any interest in the said lot.

Sworn before me, at
in the of this }
day of A.D. 18 .

Affidavit in Support of Application.

Ontario, } We, of the township of in the district
District of } of and of the same place, yeomen, each for
To Wit : } himself, make oath and say :—

1. That I know lot number in the concession of the township of which located to and that I personally visited and examined the said lot on the , that there was no person then residing thereon, nor were there any improvements whatever ; and that from said examination and from information which I have received, I verily believe that the said locatee has never occupied or improved the said lot ;

If locatee has occupied or improved at any time set out when he ceased to occupy, what improvements he made, when they were made, and in what position the lots are at time of application.

2. That the said locatee is not, as far as I am aware, occupying or improving any other land in the said township, and that he resides at

Sworn before me, at
in the of this }
day of A.D. 18 .

I hereby certify that I have no reason to doubt the statements contained in the foregoing affidavits ; and also that I did on the day of mail to the locatee of said lots at Post Office, a letter notifying him of the application for cancellation, and calling upon him to show cause why it should not be allowed, and since then I have not received any reply to the said notice, except

Crown Land Agent.

No. 6.—AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR LAND UNDER THE MINING ACT.

Ontario, } I, of the township of in the District
District of } of and I, of the township of
To Wit : } in the District of do solemnly swear :—

1. That on the day of I personally visited and carefully examined lot number in the concession of the

township of _____ and at that time there was no person residing on said lot, and there were no improvements thereon.

2. That there was no visible trace nor indication of work having been done on said lot by any person or persons for mining or other purposes.

3. And that to the best of my knowledge and belief there is no claim to said lot by any person or persons adverse to that of _____ the applicant on the ground of priority of discovery of mineral thereon, or otherwise.

Sworn before me, at _____ }
 in the district of _____ this }
 day of _____ A.D. 18 . }

No. 7.—AFFIDAVIT TO BE TAKEN BY A MALE OR FEMALE HEAD OF A FAMILY WHO DESIRES TO PURCHASE LAND, SUBJECT TO SETTLEMENT IN NORTH NIPISSING AND ALGOMA DISTRICTS.

Canada, _____ } I, _____ of _____ being the
 Province of Ontario, } head of a family, and desirous of purchasing lot number
 District of _____ } in the _____ concession of the township of _____ make
 To Wit : _____ } oath and say :—

1. That I am the _____ head of a family
2. That the said land is wholly unoccupied and unimproved, and I believe the same to be suited for settlement and cultivation.
3. That I desire to purchase the said land for the purpose of settling thereon and for cultivation, and not for speculative purposes or for the cutting or disposing of any timber there may be thereon.

Sworn before me, at _____ }
 this _____ day of _____ 18 . }

No. 8.—AFFIDAVIT TO BE TAKEN BY A MALE PERSON ABOVE THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN YEARS, AND NOT THE HEAD OF A FAMILY, WHO DESIRES TO PURCHASE LAND AND BECOME A SETTLER IN SAME DISTRICTS.

Canada, _____ } I, _____ of _____ make
 Province of Ontario, } oath and say :—
 District of _____ }
 To Wit : _____ } 1. That I am of the full age of eighteen years.

2. That I am desirous of purchasing lot number _____ in the _____ concession of the township of _____ in the district of _____ and that the said land is wholly unoccupied and unimproved, and I believe the same is suited for settlement and cultivation.

3. That I desire to purchase the said land for the purpose of settling thereon and for cultivation, and not for speculative purposes or for the cutting or disposing of any timber there may be thereon.

Sworn before me at _____ }
 this _____ day of _____ 18 . }

No. 9.—AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR PATENT FOR LANDS SOLD
SUBJECT TO SETTLEMENT.

Ontario, } We, of the township of in the
District of } of and of the same place, yeomen, each for
To Wit : } himself, make oath and say :—

- Recommended for Patent this*
18
Crown Land Agent.
1. That I know lot number in the concession of the town-
ship of
 2. That there are acres cleared and had under cultivation and crop
on the said lot.
 3. That the following buildings have been erected thereon, namely—A
house fit for habitation x feet.
 4. That said lot is occupied by and has been continuously
occupied by for years, and the improvements
made thereon were made by
 5. That I do not know of any claim to or occupation of said lot adverse to
that of

Sworn before me, at }
this day of 18 . . }

PART VI.

THE RAINY RIVER FIRE DISTRICT.

AN ACT TO PRESERVE THE FORESTS FROM DESTRUCTION
BY FIRE.

THE RAINY RIVER FIRE DISTRICT.

The Rainy River District is included in the Fire District No. 2 (See Cap. 22, R.S.O.) the latter being described as follows:—

District No. 2.—All that part of the said Province lying west of Provincial Land Surveyor Albert P. Salter's meridian line between ranges twenty-one and twenty-two west, near Bruce Mines, in the District of Algoma, and west of the said meridian line produced, to the northern boundary of the Province, the said meridian line being the western boundary of the Fire District established by the Proclamation of March 27th, 1878.

AN ACT TO PRESERVE THE FORESTS FROM DESTRUCTION
BY FIRE.

CHAPTER 213, REVISED STATUTES OF ONTARIO, 1887.

PROCLAMATION OF FIRE DISTRICT, SS. 1-3. RESTRICTIONS AS TO STARTING FIRES, S. 4. PRECAUTIONS AS TO FIRES FOR CLEAR- ING LAND, S. 5. Fire for cooking, s. 6. Matches, cigars, firearms, s. 7. ACT TO BE READ TO EMPLOYEES BY SURVAYORS, ETC., S. 8.	LOCOMOTIVE ENGINES, MANAGEMENT OF, SS. 9, 10. PENALTY, S. 11. LIMITATION OF ACTIONS, S. 12. DISPOSAL OF FINES, S. 13. ENFORCING ACT, S. 14. RIGHT TO DAMAGES NOT AFFECTED, S. 15.
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HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of
the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario,
enacts as follows :—

- 1.** The Lieutenant-Governor may, by proclamation to be made by him from time to time, issued by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, declare any portion or part of the Province of Ontario, to be a fire district. 41 V. c. 23, s. 1.
- 2.** Every proclamation under this Act shall be published in the *Ontario Gazette*; and such portion or part of the Province as is mentioned and declared to be a fire district in and by the said proclamation, shall, from and after the said publication, become a fire district within the meaning and for the purposes of this Act. 41 V. c. 23, s. 2.
- 3.** Every portion or part of the Province mentioned in the proclamation shall cease to be a fire district upon the revocation by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council of the proclamation by which it was created. 41 V. c. 23, s. 3.
- 4.** It shall not be lawful for any person to set out, or cause to be set out or started, any fire in or near the woods within any fire district between the 1st day of April and the 1st day of November in any year, except for the purpose of clearing land, cooking, obtaining warmth, or for some industrial purpose; and in cases of starting fires for any of the above purposes, the obligations and precautions imposed by the following sections shall be observed. 41 V. c. 23, s. 4.

5. Every person who shall, between the 1st day of April and the 1st day of November, make or start a fire within a fire district for the purpose of clearing land, shall exercise and observe every reasonable care and precaution in the making and starting of such fire, and in the managing of and caring for the same after it has been made and started, in order to prevent the fire from spreading and burning up the timber and forests surrounding the place where it has been so made and started. 41 V. c. 23, s. 5.

Precautions to be taken in case of clearing land.

6. Every person who shall, between the 1st day of April and the 1st day of November, make or start within such a district a fire in the forest, or at a distance of less than half-a-mile therefrom, or upon any island, for cooking, obtaining warmth, or for any industrial purpose, shall—

Precaution in case of cooking, etc.

1. Select a locality in the neighbourhood in which there is the smallest quantity of vegetable matter, dead wood, branches, brushwood, dry leaves, or resinous trees ;

2. Clear the place in which he is about to light the fire by removing all vegetable matter, dead trees, branches, brushwood, and dry leaves from the soil within a radius of ten feet from the fire ;

3. Exercise and observe every reasonable care and precaution to prevent such fire from spreading, and carefully extinguish the same before quitting the place. 41 V. c. 23, s. 6.

7. Any person who shall throw or drop any burning match, ashes of a pipe, lighted cigar or any other burning substance, or who shall discharge any firearm within such fire district, shall be subject to the pains and penalties imposed by this Act if he neglect completely to extinguish before leaving the spot the fire of such match, ashes of a pipe, cigar, wadding of the firearm or other burning substance. 41 V. c. 23, s. 7.

Precautions in cases of matches, burning substances, etc.

8. Every person in charge of any drive of timber, survey or exploring party, or of any other party requiring camp-fires for cooking or other purposes, within a fire district, shall provide himself with a copy of this Act, and shall call his men together and cause the Act to be read in their hearing, and explained to them at least once in each week during the continuance of such work or service. 41 V. c. 23, s. 8.

Act to be read to employees by heads of surveys, lumberers, etc.

9. All locomotive engines used on a railway which passes through any fire district or any part of a fire district, shall, by the company using the same, be provided with and have in use all the most approved and efficient means used to prevent the escape of fire from the furnace or ash-pan of such engines, and the smoke-stack of each locomotive engine so used shall be provided with a bonnet or screen of iron or steel wire netting, the size of the wire used in making the netting to be not less

Precautions as to locomotive.

than number nineteen of the Birmingham wire gauge, or three sixty-fourth parts of an inch in diameter, and shall contain in each inch square at least eleven wires each way at right angles to each other, that is in all twenty-two wires to the inch square. 41 V. c. 23, s. 9.

Duty of engine drivers. **10.** It shall be the duty of every engine driver in charge of a locomotive engine passing over a railway within the limits of any fire district, to see that all such appliances as are above mentioned are properly used and applied, so as to prevent the unnecessary escape of the fire from any such engine as far as it is reasonably possible to do so. 41 V. c. 23, s. 10.

Penalty. **11.** Whosoever unlawfully neglects or refuses to comply with the requirements of this Act in any manner whatsoever, shall be liable, upon a conviction before any Justice of the Peace, to a penalty not exceeding \$50 over and above the costs of prosecution, and in default of payment of such fine and costs the offender shall be imprisoned in the common gaol for a period not exceeding three months; and any railway company permitting a locomotive engine to be run in violation of the provisions of section 9 of this Act shall be liable to a penalty of \$100 for each offence, to be recovered with costs in any Court of competent jurisdiction. 41 V. c. 23, s. 11.

Limitation of actions. **12.** Every action for any contravention of this Act shall be commenced within three months immediately following such contravention. 41 V. c. 23, s. 12.

Disposal of fines. **13.** All fines and penalties imposed and collected under this Act shall be paid one-half to the prosecutor and the other half to Her Majesty for the public use of the Province. 41 V. c. 23, s. 13.

Government agents to enforce this Act. **14.** It shall be the special duty of every Crown Land agent, woods and forest agent, free grant agent and bush ranger to enforce the provisions and requirements of this Act, and in all cases coming within the knowledge of any such agent or bush ranger to prosecute every person guilty of a breach of any of the provisions and requirements of the same. 41 V. c. 23, s. 14.

Act not to interfere with right of action for damages. **15.** Nothing in this Act contained shall be held to limit or interfere with the right of any party to bring and maintain a civil action for damages occasioned by fire, and such right shall remain and exist as though this Act had not been passed. 41 V. c. 23, s. 15.

PART VII.

THE RAINY RIVER MINERAL LANDS.

Mineral Lands.

Crown Lands in the District of Rainy River may be purchased or leased for mining purposes under the provisions of the Mines Act, 1892. For a purchase, the price varies from two and a half to three and a half dollars per acre, according to distance from a railway, and whether the land is in surveyed or unsurveyed territory. Under the leasing system, the rental is at the rate of one dollar per acre for the first year, and twenty-five cents per acre for subsequent years. A lease may be at any time converted into a purchase, in which case the first year's rental is applied as part payment for the land. Patent or lease is issued upon payment, and contains a reservation of all pine trees standing or being upon the land. The pine continues to be the property of the Crown, who may at any time issue a license to cut it, and the party holding the license is empowered to enter at all times upon the land, cut and remove it, and make all necessary roads for that purpose.

Applications to purchase or lease land under the Mines Act should be made direct to the Crown Lands Department at Toronto, and should be accompanied by the purchase money or first year's rental, together with affidavits of at least two credible and disinterested parties, showing that the land is unoccupied and unimproved (except by or on behalf of the applicant) and that there is no claim adverse to his on the ground of occupation, improvements or otherwise.

After seven years from the date of patent or lease the output of ore is subject to a royalty not exceeding 2 per cent. for iron, or 3 per cent. for silver, nickel or copper.

Mining in the Thunder Bay and Rainy River Districts.

The mining interests of a country are no less important and valuable as an asset than the timber interests, and in this respect the Province of Ontario is exceptionally rich. The extent and variety of our mineral resources are fully set forth in the "Report of the Royal Commission on the Mineral Resources of Ontario" from which the following paragraphs are compiled.

North of Lake Superior locations of gold, silver, copper, iron, galena, plumbago and zinc ores have been taken up, besides which there are inexhaustible supplies of granite, marble, serpentine and sandstone. West

of Port Arthur is a silver district, which is an argentiferous region of great richness. Beyond this district to the north-west, are found veins of gold bearing quartz and extensive ranges of magnetic iron ore, while to the southwest is believed to be a continuation of the Vermillion iron range of northern Minnesota.

Considerable activity has recently been shown in the iron bearing area of the Atic-Okan River as well as in the silver-bearing Animikie series to the south. The completion of the Port Arthur and Western Railway through the silver districts will afford the necessary outlet for the product of these mines.

Silver ore has also been discovered in the township of Paipoonge, ten miles west of Port Arthur, while numerous silver and native copper lodes and deposits have been found in the township of Crooks, twenty miles from Fort William.

The islands in the Lake of the Woods, especially Sultana Island, have also revealed gold-bearing veins of good promise and have been developed and capital has recently come in for the further development of the possible mineral resources of this district.

The mineral wealth of the Rainy River district, although less easily estimated, bids fair to be even greater than that of the timber wealth. The results thus far of prospecting establish the existence of gold, silver, copper and iron, and it is more than probable that the valuable veins discovered in Algoma will be found to extend through the Rainy River district. That the geological formation is indicative of valuable mineral deposits is verified by Professor Bell's geological surveys. A band of rocks running south-west from Lake Schebandowan (in neighbourhood of which gold has been found in considerable quantities) to the international boundary, and thence to Lake Vermillion in Minnesota, is also said to be rich in auriferous deposits. The Public Works Report of the Dominion (1875), says that, "The Indians, both of Rainy Lake and Lake of the Woods have among them specimens of native gold and silver ore, which they affirm is to be found in places known to them in abundance, and the rock formation is such as to corroborate their statement. Iron ore is plentiful in many sections, and charcoal for smelting easily obtainable. Granite, which report says is equal in texture and fitness to the best imported specimens, is to be found at the Lake of the Woods, and the steatite, of which the Indians make pipes, a very valuable article for the construction of furnaces, is quite abundant at Rainy Lake and Sabaskin."
