

INFORMATION
FOR INTENDING SETTLERS.

MUSKOKA

—AND—

LAKE NIPISSING DISTRICTS.



PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

OTTAWA.

1880.

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## INTRODUCTORY.

In view of the diversity of taste and adaptability of certain settlers for woodlands and a hilly country, containing clear cold brooks and lakes, as compared with the plains of the treeless prairie, the following pages are compiled from the most recent authorities respecting the Muskoka and Lake Nipissing Districts.

This compilation is further particularly made in view of the prospect of that portion of the Dominion receiving an added importance from the probability of its being traversed in the immediate future, by a through railway system between the East and the West.

### MUSKOKA AND LAKE NIPISSING DISTRICTS.

#### SUITABILITY FOR SETTLEMENT BY IMMIGRANTS ACCUSTOMED TO HILLY COUNTRIES.

Dr. Hahn, a delegate from Wurtemberg Germany in 1878, made the following report of the suitability of the country between Gravenhurst and Lake Nipissing for German settlement, in which he particularly noticed the progress made by recently established Swiss colonists.

“By the Northern Railway, he says, by way of Barrie (where the cars change), I went to Gravenhurst. Here I stayed over for one night in order to see Mr. Cockburn, M P, proprietor of the steamers plying on Lake Muskoka. He received me most kindly. At 2 o'clock the steamer leaves and arrives at 9 o'clock at Rosseau. I might, if I had desired have made the journey from Toronto to Gravenhurst in one day; from 7 o'clock in the morning till night. Now I had arrived at the Northern point.

“There is a large hotel here for summer tourists kept by an American.

“The hotel has existed only two years; it has a new wooden wing, in which the windows have not even been put in. During the winter it is closed. Down at the lake

there is another hotel which I would recommend in preference; and on a peninsula stands the Immigrant House.

\* "Next morning we start for Magnetawan. The conveyance (a char-a-banc) with two fine horses, is ferried across with me. The road is quite serviceable for some 20 miles. Every mile or so we meet a new blockhouse, and all these houses are but a few years old. Five years ago an Englishman with a bag of potatoes on his back went towards the north and settled in what is now Magnetawan. (On the maps it is spelled Maganetowan.) At the present time Magnetawan is a village with an hotel, post office, saw and grist mills and several stores. You can here buy everything you may need. Magnetawan is the starting point for the Swiss Colony founded by Madame von Koerber. Some ten Swiss families have settled in the village itself; the others have gone further towards Lake Nipissing.

"This country lies under the 46th degree of latitude, that is to say about the same as South Tyrol. The sun is warmer than with us, but not so hot as in New York, the winter it about the same as in the United States, and it does not last beyond the beginning of April; the greatest cold commonly occurs in January and the first half of February.

"The soil is Laurentian Gneiss with drift sand covered by a layer of mould

"The forest consists of pines, spruce, the Canadian arborvitæ intermingled with groups of oak, beech, &c. Here the soil is best. The land is hilly, but does not rise higher than at the utmost 500 feet above Lake Nipissing. From there to Simcoe it is hilly and gently undulating. The harvests are abundant; they have only suffered a little from the unusual heat last summer. They say the harvest of the second year is usually better than that of the first.

"The next day we arrived at Commando Creek and the third at Lake Nipissing. The soil grows better the nearer we approach the lake and the forest denser. None of the blockhouses have stood longer than since last October, and yet most of them are surrounded by 10 acres of cleared farmland with splendid potatoes, wheat and oats, corn and

vegetables. Wherever we stop to rest the settlers are able to offer us a good dinner. The cattle are in good condition, pasturing partly in the woods and partly in fenced lots. Potatoes ripen in six weeks in soil only prepared in June. A good crop of them is expected; of buckwheat also. Fruit trees are only beginning to be set out. In the midst of the forest we met a cart, the farmer walking behind it. He stood still before me with the words: 'You are surely also a Suabian?' 'Yes, and whence are you?' I replied: 'Half a mile from Oppelsbohm is my home.' That was a pleasure! I enquired of all the settlers thoroughly about their circumstances. Their unanimous testimony is that any body possessing 1,000 marks (\$250) can settle in the bush. The proceeding is as follows:—The month of September is used to select the land. The Provincial Government of Ontario gives to each settler of over 18 years of age, male or female, married or single, 100 acres of land; a married couple therefore receives 200 acres, and for every child of eighteen years an additional 100 acres. He who resides six months every year on the land, has built a house 16 x 20 feet and cleared at least 10 acres of land, receives the land as his property. Till then he is secure in possession (as soon as he has built his house and cleared two acres of land), so that nobody can take it from him.

"As soon as the lot is selected, the man enters the land with sufficient provisions for the winter, cuts the timber for his blockhouse and trims it. When it is ready for erection he asks his neighbours, who help him to put it up. This labour usually requires from 10 to 14 days. Then he clears two acres of land near the house, and so he awaits the winter.

"The winter is employed to cut more wood, which is burned during the following summer. In June this work has to be finished and the land to be planted with potatoes, spring wheat etc. The garden also is arranged, and if everything goes well, a clover field for the cow that has meanwhile been bought. A few pigs get fat by winter.

"Thus the settler is prepared for the next winter, which he

uses again for cutting wood, and so things repeat themselves. It is calculated that an industrious man will, besides his other labour, clear every winter five acres of land, so that he has at the end of five years at least 25 acres under full cultivation.

“ About this time also the stumps on the land first cleared begin to rot away. If he has a team of oxen, which as well as the Canadian horses, are much more powerful than ours, he can even do more.

“ Hence it will be observed that with the necessary diligence the settler can obtain during the first year enough to supply his absolute wants; in the second year he can obtain a comfortable subsistence, and in the third a small surplus. Then he can also attend to other things: he begins to sell honey, cheese and cattle. But in any case the settler retains in his own pocket the value of his own labour (cleared lands costs \$20 to the acre)

“ But people say: Well, but life in the backwoods is dangerous! Not at all! I have not heard of one instance of a wild beast (a bear or wolf hurting a man. I was told that the bear at the worst sometimes stole a lamb, for in summer he lives on berries, in winter he sleeps; the wolf hunts deer.

“ Another thinks: Yes, but life in the backwoods is so very lonely. Solitude ceases only too soon. Good land becomes populated with overwhelming rapidity. Where five years ago no human foot had trod, there are already hundreds of homesteads, and I am certainly not mistaken when I say that in ten years the shores of the Nipissing will be nearly equal to those of the Bodensee.

“ The great Pacific Railway passes near by (it is now in course of construction) and in the direction from south to north the North Western Railway will also be continued to this district.

“ The future, therefore, will not lack rapid transport for its produce. At the present time the mail route goes from Rosseau to within three miles of the Nipissing. To the right and left of this road there are thousands of acres of the best land. The forest is full of game, the lakes abound

in the best of fish.

“On the shores of the Nipissing there are two saw and grist mills. But what is most to be considered is the extraordinary salubrity of the country. There are no physicians since they would lack occupation. This country I consider eminently suited for Wurtembergian immigration.

“It is easily accessible (and the Government pays the poorer immigrants their journey from Quebec to Rosseau, and thence still further freight for their baggage); it is salubrious; it is fertile. As far, however, as the inhabitants are concerned they are mostly Swiss and English. The Sabbath day is hallowed here in the wilderness—the seventh house built in any neighborhood is to all intents a church. (Montreal has 164 churches, that is to say one for every thousand inhabitants.) The people possess manners and general education; eagerly they await the latest newspaper; in every blockhouse belonging to an Englishman you will find books.

“For five days I travelled in the woods in good health, and found everywhere hospitable shelter. There can be no question as to solitude, for colonization progresses too rapidly. In over-populated countries, the law of battle for life is said to be justified and to be a law of nature; here in the backwoods there obtains the law of mutual assistance. Of course one neighbour does not take upon himself his neighbour's labour, but he assists him, where the other is incapable of doing any piece of work alone for himself; for instance in the erection of a house; and I also believe any person in real need would not ask for assistance in vain.

“Thus, through personal observation, I have become convinced that this portion of Canada is for our Suabians a country that offers all the advantages of their fatherland, without offering any important disadvantages in comparison with their homes.”

These remarks were entirely corroborative of the views expressed by Professor Kaderly, in a report made four or five years previously from which the following extract is taken.

“Having upon Mr. Beatty's reiterated invitation, made his

from our head-quarters, we began our explorations with the Lower Namanitigong or South River as it is called by the settlers, from its last falls, the future head of steam navigation, down to its mouth, a distance of about three miles. Namanitigong, the Indian name, means 'Paint River' from the dark ironrust colour of its waters, which at their head, and during their upper course dissolve great deposits of a dark yellowish iron ochre.

"The ferruginous impregnation in the river water is so strong, that a white linen two inches under the water appears as yellow as the ochre itself in its solid state and that the ebullition of a quantity of its water leaves an ample residue of iron ochre at the bottom of the vessel.

"The river bottom also is formed by the same metalliferous substance. The water soft by its other qualities, is very palatable and wholesome in the highest degree by its ferruginous impregnation and is preferred to spring water by the settlers, trappers and Indians, although good and well supplied natural wells are abundant in the neighbourhood. The banks of the river are high and crowned with a luxuriant vegetation, which is reflected with such a clear resplendence in the smooth liquid mirror, to which the metalliferous impregnation and the rusty bottom serve as an amalgam, that the navigator in his Indian canoe believes himself on a novel aeronautic excursion through a labyrinth of rich cascades, suspended in the air. Oak, maple, beech, birch, balsam, white and red pine, hemlock and alder in the lower lands, form the growth of the forests with a great variety of underwood. The trees are generally sound and of a good height. Fine agricultural soil, a sandy clay loam, is found, with small rocky patches only, all along the left bank of the river, whereas the right bank is generally rocky and broken, with a few smaller spots only of good land and becomes swampy towards the lake, where the river submerges the lower lands in the freshets.

"The Namanitigong widens from 60 feet at the head of navigation, to 200 feet near the lake, has an average depth of 15 feet, and is consequently navigable here for middle sized steamers plying on the Nipissing and on the French River.

“On our second exploratory excursion we followed up the river for several miles in a south easterly direction, and deviated then at a right angle to the south west, in the direction of Routh and Jessy. We met with the same predomination of hardwood in the forest growth, with a thicker crust of humus and a deeper subsoil of a greyish argill. The country here is broken by upheaval in places, but nowhere to such an extent as to seriously interfere with successful agricultural settlements. A range of hills of a height from 250 to 300 feet begins near the mouth of the Namanitigong and follows an almost south-westerly direction to a distance of about ten miles, as I could observe; but probably much further. I made the south-east slopes of this hill range the object of my third exploratory excursion.

“A few erratic blocks of trap and porphyry obstruct in places the course of a small tributary to the Namanitigong, which winds its way at the foot of the hills. A few out-crops of pseudo-granite and gneiss are perceived along the slopes. Maple prevails here and the manufacture of maple sugar is carried on occasionally by the settlers and trappers of the neighbourhood. The soil on these slopes is a diluvial loose sediment of a sandy, gravelly argill, much resembling the soil of the vine-growing hills on the shores of our lakes, in the French Cantons of Switzerland, and the climate on the south shore of Lake Nipissing is exceptionally mild for that latitude, the south-east slopes of the hills are facing the morning and noon sun, and are well protected against northern winds. It is my firm belief that in the course of time vine culture will be carried on successfully in that part of the Nipissing district.

“Serious frosts, as I was told by the few local settlers, very seldom set in before the beginning of November, and none before the middle of October, when the vintage can be over, if the beginning is made with vine shoots of an early growth from Geneva, Vaad, Neufchatel or from the northern vine-lands of the Rhine. The climate of Canada, and especially south of Lake Nipissing is nearly analogous to that of north and north-west Switzerland. By the middle of April and on the sunny hill slopes at the end of March, all the snow is

away and the vine dressers' work in the vines can begin.

"The fourth and last of our excursions was to the Commandos and Restoul lakes, a distance of 14 miles from the Nipissing head of Navigation. A trail leads through a dense forest of mostly hardwood trees, with a great number of beaver meadows, some of them covering areas of ten acres. These natural meadows owe their origin to the industry of large beaver colonies.

"The sagacious and laborious animals dammed creeks and rivulets here centuries ago, and thereby submerged great extents of forest lands transforming them into beaver lakes, on the shores of which they established their colonies, and constructed their two-story dwellings. The stagnant water soon attacked and putrified the roots of the forest trees, they fell, one after another, decayed and saturated the water with the substance of their decay, which in its turn precipitated that substance in the form of a black humus-deposit to the bottom of the lake. In the course of time the beaver dam was broken through by strong freshets, the creek or rivulet resumes its former course in a narrow bed, and the land void of timber now, was soon covered with a luxuriant carpet of grass and wild flowers, a favorite pasture for the deer, and of late a rich yearly hay harvest for the neighbouring settler.

"The land on both banks of the Commandos river, and on the shores of Restoul and Commodos Lakes exhibits the same fertile soil that we found on the left bank of the Namanitigong, but with a thicker and more regular crust of a black humus, resulting from a more abundant decomposition of organic matter. This tract of land is in fact the best of the whole area I had occasion to visit during the four days' excursion.

"The left bank of the Namanitigong may nevertheless be preferred perhaps by the first new colonists on account of the proximity to the little village of Nipissing of the future steam communication with the Georgian Bay and the Ottawa River, the nearest markets for their agricultural products, and finally of the greater facility to establish and build a waggon road to and through the colony as there exists a wide trail of several miles' length, already from Mr. Beaty's farm to Mr.

Shaw's saw and grist mill, constructed some years ago at the Upper Namanitigong Falls; but out of working order now. It is thus not only possible, but very probable that the pioneers of this future colony will establish their camp and build their shanties on the banks of Namanitigong, but will, by a yearly numerous addition of immigrants, take up gradually that whole number of townships and parts of townships encircled with dotted lines on the adjoined map.

"Before leaving the Nipissing settlement I had a walk over Mr. Beatty's farm, which is reported to be the largest and best in that part of the Parry Sound district.

"Mr. Beatty has 400 acres of very good land; about 100 acres are already under cultivation, whereof 30 acres are fine meadows. He clears out 20 additional acres now every year. The stumps are removed four or five years only after the clearing, when the roots begin to decay. The farm has a numerous and fine living stock, consisting of horses, oxen, cows and pigs. There is now a large and commodious new dwelling house and about a half-a-dozen outhouses, stables and barns, the latter full to the tops of the roofs. Mr. Beatty sold for \$2,000 the surplus of his produce from the last year, principally hay, oats, potatoes, peas, beef and pork, and had an ample provision left for the yearly domestic use of his large family. His present market is the extensive timber district of Mattawan rivers, whither he transports his surplus with his own teams during the winter months.

"Mr. Beatty gave the following average quotations:—

"HAY.—Cuts from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  tons per acre; sells it for \$40 to \$50 the ton. OATS.—Sowed  $2\frac{1}{2}$  bushels to the acre, reaped 45 to 50 bushels per acre; sells it at  $\$1\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\$1\frac{1}{2}$  the bushel. BARLEY.—Sowed 2 bushels to the acre; reaped 25 to 30 bushels to the acre; sells them at  $\$1\frac{1}{2}$  the bushel. POTATOES.—Planted 20 to 25 bushels to the acre; Harvested 300 bushels to the acre; sells them at 60 cents to \$1 dollar the bushel.

"All other grains, as wheat (summer wheat and winter wheat), corn, rye, maize, millet, etc., prosper as has been ascertained; also hemp and flax, melons, tomatoes, and all the sundry kitchen vegetables. Fruit trees are being planted now, and Mr. Beatty is confident that he will have a very fine

orchard in a few years. The lakes and rivers abound with the best fish ; venison also is in great abundance—a whole deer from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 dollars.

“The geological features of the Lake Nipissing Shore District, are of a decided plutonic but nowhere as far as I been able to ascertain, volcanic character. Important geological revolutions seem to have taken place here during the last epoch of the secondary period in the formation of our globe. Great fluid masses of a gneissy granite, and of a metamorphous diorite heaved through the crystalline formations which overlaid them, and forced their way through the transitory and secondary crusts, emerged by the Waldean group, submerged it and cooled down. Small fragments of mica schist and argillaceous slate, greywacke of the Devonian formation, Lias and Waldean clay of the secondary period, brought up by this upheaval as also the many different metamorphoses, which the two eruptive masses contracted in breaking through these different formations tend to argue the truth of this supposition, although to establish the full certainty, a more careful investigation would be required than a simple observation in passing by. Time was short and not geological discoveries, but agricultural explorations were the principal objects of my expedition to Lake Nipissing. I may state here, however, that a careful geological survey would very probably result in the discovery of considerable deposits of good iron between the head-waters of the Namanitigong and Commandos rivers, the waters of both, but especially the former, being very ferruginous as mentioned already in a former paragraph. I found fragments of iron ore near the mouth of the Namanitigong and on the right bank of the Commandos, near the new road, but had no time to look for the site of bedrocks. Graphite is in situ in pseudo-granite about a mile from Mr. Beaty's farm. A neighbouring trapper exhibits a fine specimen of copper ore (sulphurets of copper and iron) which he found in situ somewhere on his hunting grounds, but declines to part with his secret. Specimens of gold-bearing quartz have often been seen, as I was told, in the hands of Nipissing and Ojibbeway Indians, who occasionally come to the Village of Nipissing from the north

shore of the lake. Coarse lime is found near the Upper Trout Lake, north east of Lake Nipissing.

“In passing Maganetawan on our homeward journey, we paid a visit to a fine, well managed farm in the neighbourhood. Mr. Matheys the proprietor, is an Hanoverian by birth and carries on farming in a German style, which, in many respects, is more rational and consequently more profitable also than the one generally adopted in Canada

“His live stock is the best we have seen yet in this country. The farm comprises like Mr. Beaty’s at Nipissing, 400 acres of very good land, of which about one-fourth is under a careful cultivation and twenty additional acres are cleared out here also every year. There is something of a homely attraction in the cleanliness and the general good order which prevails throughout that whole farm, and in its picturesque situation on the right bank of the Maganetawan, which agreeably surprises the visitor, and invites him to a longer stay, than ours could possibly be within the few hours only we had to spare.

“Recapitulating the results of our limited exploration, we find, that the south east shore of Lake Nipissing, the banks of the Namanitigong and Commandos Rivers and the shores of Restoul and Commandos Lakes, an area of about 200 English miles, including lakes and rivers or about 80,000 acres of good agricultural land (lakes, rivers, and the rocky patches excluded), afford one of the most favourable sites for a new agricultural colony.

“The striking resemblance which that part of the Nipissing District bears to the north west Cantons of Switzerland by its numerous fine lakes, the mildness and great wholesomeness of its climate, and the extraordinary fertility of its soil, would make it a splendid new home for Swiss immigrants to Ontario, in whose hands there would soon flourish a “new Helvetia in Canada,” as rapidly prospering as her elder sister colony “New Berlin” in the County of Waterloo. The two Swiss agricultural labourers, who accompanied me on my exploratory expedition, are highly satisfied with our results, and communicate them now to their relatives and friends at home. Switzerland, with a population of almost three

millions to an area of little over 500 Geographical square miles of agricultural land and mountain pastures, has notwithstanding its great industry and its flourishing commerce, a considerable surplus of inhabitants, which is counterbalanced by yearly emigration to the different points of our globe, where land is in excess and consequently settlers and labour wanted. The Swiss remains more attached to his native country even where settled abroad, than emigrants from other nationalities generally do. He may for the benefit of his domestic affairs and for the welfare of his family, become a citizen often of a foreign country, but he never relinquishes his love and attachment for the Alpine home of his childhood and his youth. The Mother Country returns the filial affection of her sons, even after she had to give them away to a foreign land. She watches their steps from the distant shores, and rejoices in their success and prosperity in the new home.

“That the district from which I now return, may soon become such a happy home to hundreds and thousands of his countrymen, is the sincere wish of your obedient servant. (Signed) JACQUES KADERLY.”

While these statements were more immediately written for the information of Swiss and German settlers, they contain matter of great value to all others whose tastes lead them to prefer the kind of country described to the treeless plains of the west.

The descriptions of country contained in the preceding pages, are very strongly corroborated by the elaborate work recently published by Messrs. A. Kirkwood & J. J. Murphy, on the “Undeveloped Lands of Northern and Western Ontario,” from which the following facts are condensed:—

North and west of Lake Nipissing the land is good, and there is more fertile arable land in the country on the west bank of the Ottawa above the Mattawan, than on the banks below it. A line drawn from Lake Nipissing to the lower end of Lake Temiscaming with the Ottawa to north and west, and the Mattawan to the south would form a rough triangle, enclosing an extensive area of good hardwood land, in every way well adapted for settlement, touching on one

side a great navigable reach of the Ottawa, and on the other a large lake which at small cost could be rendered easily accessible from lake Huron, and on the very route which must be used for the timber trade now extending to Lake Temiscaming. Lake Temiscaming with its tributary the Blanche, which enters at its northern end, presents more than 120 miles of unbroken navigation. It is the great basin of the Ottawa and drains an area of over 19,000,000 acres. The Blanche is navigable 60 miles above the lake and for that distance the country is level with very good land as far inland as has been explored. It is a valley extending to an unknown distance with a rock foundation the same as the most productive lands in Canada, and a climate fully equal to any on the north shore on the St. Lawrence.

Between Lakes Temiscaming and Abbitibe (80 miles in a straight line), the soil is generally a level alluvial over a limestone formation with a heavy growth of hardwood timber and within the latitude of 49°. Mr. Marcus Smith says in his Report of Exploration 1876:—"Near the west end of Lake Nipissing, there are extensive flats of good land. Up the River Beuve which flows into the north side of the lake near the west end, he travelled two days, and found very fine land covered with soft maple, birch, ash, &c." "The land in the valley of the stream appeared very rich, covered with maple and other hardwoods." South of Lake Nipissing from the head waters of the Mattawan, westward, there is a tract of land of good wheat growing quality, extending 60 miles. South-east from Lake Nipissing to Lake Opeongo—the first twenty miles is all good arable land, and about two thirds of the remainder is good with hardwood timber. Ascending the South River of Lake Nipissing, land of excellent quality is found far into the interior. All of the interior country is well watered, with valuable water powers and interspersed with groves of white pine of the best description.

#### FARMING ON FREE GRANT LANDS.

As respects farming in the Free Grant Districts of Muskoka and Nipissing, the following remarks are taken from an offi-

cial pamphlet published by the Ontario Government :—

The Free Grant Act was passed in 1868, only eleven years ago. The territory was then absolutely a wilderness. Fifteen townships were first opened for location. There are now ninety-four. The portion of the Free Grant territory known as the Muskoka, Parry Sound, and Nipissing districts, now forms a Parliamentary Division, with a representative in both the Federal and Provincial Legislatures; and a region that in 1868 had scarcely an inhabitant, has now a population of some 30,000 souls. Portions of the territory are under license to lumberers; this affords a great deal of work and circulates money among the settlers. Bracebridge, the chief place in Muskoka, is a busy centre, while at Parry Sound, on the Georgian Bay, are large mills and other establishments connected with the local industry.

The climate is not, for Canada, intensely cold, nor yet disagreeably warm. It is unquestionably healthy. Fever and ague are hardly known in Muskoka and the surrounding regions; pulmonary affections are also very rare. All the cereals grow freely in the district, oats, barley, rye corn and buckwheat, especially. Wheat-growing increases as the area cleared provides a sufficient extent of warm, dry land for its profitable culture. For coarse grains and roots of all sorts, the soil and climate are extremely well adapted, and the progress made has been most satisfactory. Indian corn was raised by the aboriginal owners of the soil, long before it was cultivated by the white man. An instance is mentioned of 1,800 bushels of turnips being raised from 5 acres of new land, not far from Bracebridge, a few years ago. All garden stuffs, including radishes, carrots, peas, parsnips, celery, squashes, and tomatoes, grow in profusion.

Cattle require to be housed during the winter months, but although this entails some provision for their shelter and keep, the open season is, in Muskoka, eminently favourable for stock-raising. Already there are several very large farms for the raising of improved stock in the district. Tanneries on a very large scale, flouring mills, and several other industries have been established. Every description of hardwood grows in this region with great luxuriance. The whole coun-

try is full of small lakes and streams, the purest water abounding in all directions. The soil however is exceedingly variable. The Laurentian rock crops up freely, and at some places, especially at the southern and western entrances to the Muskoka district, frequently appals the new comer, with its ominous appearance. But there is plenty of good land nevertheless, and the abundance of moisture makes even some rather unpromising locations far from unprofitable.

The question of funds is one that should be well considered by the settler. We have already pointed out that he must have some means of existence while waiting, at all events, for his first crop. In the case of a settler on free grant lands, entirely new to the country the possession of some £50, as his first capital, is almost indispensable. For a family of five, the following is an estimate given on authority of the necessary outfit and supplies for the first year. A dollar is about 4s. 2d., sterling, or for the purpose of rough calculation, five dollars may be reckoned as representing one pound.

Provisions necessary for a family of five, say for one year :

|                                               |               |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 8 barrels of flour, at \$5.25 per barrel..... | \$42 00       |
| 2 barrels of pork, at \$13.50 per barrel..... | 27 00         |
| 80 bushels of potatoes, at 50c. per bushel... | 40 00         |
| 30 pounds of tea, at 50c. per pound.....      | 15 00         |
| 1 barrel of herrings.....                     | 6 00          |
| ½ barrel of salt.....                         | 0 75          |
| Cost of provisions.....                       | —————\$130 75 |

SEED.

|                                               |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 20 bushels of potatoes, at 50c. per bushel... | \$10 00           |
| 3 bushels of wheat, at \$1.20 per bushel...   | 3 60              |
| 10 bushels of oats, at 50c. per bushel.....   | 5 00              |
| Cost of seed.....                             | ————— 18 60       |
|                                               | <u>          </u> |
|                                               | \$149 35          |

OTHER NECESSARIES.

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| 1 axe.....        | \$1 50 |
| 1 grindstone..... | 1 50   |
| 1 shovel.....     | 0 40   |

|                                           |          |
|-------------------------------------------|----------|
| 100 pounds nails.....                     | 3 00     |
| 2 hoes, at 70c. each.....                 | 1 40     |
| 3 reaping hooks, at 30c. each.....        | 0 90     |
| 1 scythe.....                             | 1 00     |
| 1 inch auger.....                         | 1 00     |
| 1 inch and a half auger.....              | 1 50     |
| 2 hand saws.....                          | 1 50     |
| 2 water pails, at 30c. each.....          | 0 60     |
| 1 window sash and glazing.....            | 2 00     |
| 1 bake oven.....                          | 1 00     |
| 2 pots, at \$1 each.....                  | 2 00     |
| 1 kettle.....                             | 1 00     |
| 1 frying-pan.....                         | 0 60     |
| 1 teapot.....                             | 0 50     |
| 6 small tin vessels.....                  | 0 40     |
| 3 large tin dishes, at 50c. each.....     | 1 40     |
| 6 spoons.....                             | 0 25     |
| 6 knives and forks.....                   | 1 00     |
| 3 pairs of blankets, at \$5 per pair..... | 15 00    |
| 2 rugs, for quilts, at 50c. each.....     | 1 00     |
| 2 pair of sheets.....                     | 2 00     |
| 1 smoothing iron.....                     | 0 50     |
| 1 pig.....                                | 3 00     |
|                                           | <hr/>    |
|                                           | 46 05    |
| Add one cow.....                          | 40 00    |
| Hay for cow, first year.....              | 12 00    |
|                                           | <hr/>    |
|                                           | \$247 40 |

Or £50 sterling.

But many a Free Grant settler adopts a different course altogether. The head of the family, or one or more sons, if old enough, will leave the rest at home in some of the settled counties, where they are either farming on a larger or smaller scale, or getting a living in some other way, and, going into the bush in the fall, do a certain amount of clearing before the others join them. If, too, a man is handy, and can make arrangements beforehand for the partial employment of his time at wages he may get a settlement by degrees and relinquish the hiring out when his own location supplies him

with sufficient employment. A great many locations in the Free Grants are taken up by small farmers in Ontario, whose means do not enable them to place their sons on improved farms, but who can assist the young settler with a few months' work at a time, especially in winter, when chopping has to be done, and thus almost without money he gets in time a good farm. There are deer and other game in the woods, and the lakes abound in fish, all of which comes handy enough at a pinch. The latter enable the younger members of a family to contribute something towards the furnishing of the domestic board, but sport, however healthy and pleasant, is very apt to disqualify for more practical pursuits, and the concentration of the mind on the farm exclusively will pay best in the long run.

A good authority on such matters says: "The course for a man with very small capital is as follows: He goes on the land in September or October and under-brushes as much as he intends to clear the next spring. He then gets up his house and prepares for the winter; moving in his family, either in the late autumn or the winter, according to the state of the roads. During the winter he chops what he has under-brushed, sometimes, but not often, a little more, usually however, somewhat less. If he has made a fortunate selection, and got good, dry, rolling ground; if he is also fortunate enough to have a good, dry, early spring, he manages to get his chopping burned off and partly logged, time enough to get in a few potatoes, some Indian corn, and possibly a small patch of spring wheat. All this helps his family through the summer. By about September he will have got a patch ready for winter wheat, which is then sown and afterwards fenced."

The abundance of timber, both for fuel and mechanical purposes, is one of the great recommendations to the Ontario Free Grants.

### GAME.

It may be of interest for many intending settlers to know that there is a good deal of game in this part of the country and no game laws to preserve it for the exclusive use of

particular persons. The laws simply refer to confining hunting and fishing to their proper seasons, to prevent destruction during breeding seasons, which would very soon have the effect of destroying the game entirely, and in this every man in the country has an interest, the property in game being common to all.

The kinds found are the moose, caribou or deer, and the red deer. Of fur bearing animals there are the silver grey, red and black fox, the otter, marten, mink, musk rat and raccoon. The beaver is getting pushed back to more remote parts. A species of hare, quite as good as the English hare, is very abundant. Of birds there are almost every description,—swans, geese, ducks, partridges, quails, woodcocks, wild turkeys, &c. There are some wild animals, such as bears and wolves, but they are not troublesome or dangerous. The numerous lakes and rivers literally swarm with fish of the best varieties, such as salmon trout, white fish, trout, herring, maskinonge, bass, pike, pickerel and many other kinds.

#### FREE GRANTS AND HOMESTEADS

Every settler over 18 years of age, is entitled by the law of Ontario to select one hundred acres, and every head of a family 200 acres in the Free Grant districts. The patent will not issue until the expiration of five years from the date of settlement, and then he must have cleared and have under cultivation at least 15 acres, and have built a house thereon fit for habitation, at least 16 by 20 feet. He must further reside on his land continuously for five years, not being absent for more than six months in any one year. When these conditions are fulfilled, the patent will issue, and the settler will hold his estate in fee simple. The settler is allowed to cut such pine lumber as is necessary for his own use, but he is not allowed to cut for sale. The object of this law is in the interest of the settler to prevent these forests from being used as grounds for cutting lumber and then abandoned.

For the purpose of protecting a settler during his early struggles, his property is protected from ordinary seizure by

a Homestead law.

Intending settlers in the Free Grant districts should apply to the nearest Land Agent, to whom immigrants will be directed by the nearest Dominion Agent.

