

Another band of settlers appear, and enter upon the abandoned locations. They remain and buy the land. The assessor sometimes gives notice of back-taxes due, sometimes not. The settlers expect a clear deed from the Crown. Eventually their land is offered for sale for taxes. By petition to the township council, running to and fro, seeking favor with the Reeve, seeking advice in this quarter, influence in that, the blunder may be corrected. It may not.

We have a Statute in the Ontario Statute Books which enacts that a purchaser of unpatented lands sold for taxes acquires no greater or other right against the Crown than the original purchaser or locatee. It is questionable if there was any necessity for such a Statute. It is a pretty piece of legislation, however,—evidence of zeal in the interest of Her Majesty's Crown and Dignity. At tax sales no information is given of what the original purchaser or locatee's interest is. You draw a prize or a blank in the land lottery. You may be entitled to a patent from the Crown, which the purchaser perhaps failed to get. You may find that the locatee's interest is buried beyond redemption in an accumulation of arrears of principal and interest.

In the business of settling the country between the Ottawa and Lake Huron there is a task before us very different from any hitherto undertaken. A fertile soil and a great stretch of navigable water rapidly developed the settlement of our shores of the St. Lawrence, Lakes Ontario and Erie, the Detroit River, and the southerly reaches of Lake Huron. After these influences came those of the railways of the Peninsula, running through a very fertile territory. The condition of the moneyless colonist of late years has everywhere been favorable. Employment at all seasons of the year, a market for everything that the soil produces, the neighborhood of schools and places of worship, have made his lot prosperous. It is true that men prospered in the early history of the country when many of these favoring conditions were unknown. We attempt now, however, to do by a leap what the early settlers did tentatively.