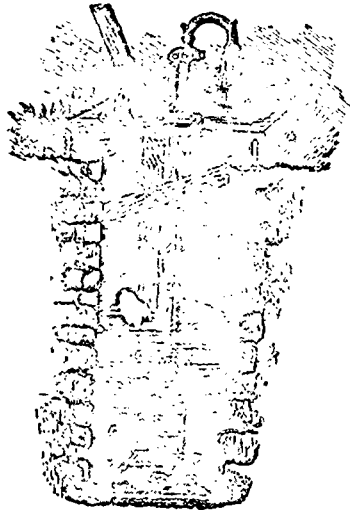


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THE TRADE REVIEW
 AND
 Intercolonial Journal of Commerce.
 MONTREAL, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1869.

See Advertisement of Moccasins for sale.
 Purchasing Department of the TRADE REVIEW. See Advertisement.

THE FREE GRANT POLICY
OF the Province of Ontario has proved tolerably successful, although we confess we anticipated more land would have been taken up since the 1st of January last than appears from a return recently laid before the House. During the eleven months which have expired, 336 free grants have been allotted to settlers. These grants embrace 38 689 acres. Besides the lands thus given away, 556 acres were sold to 44 purchasers. We are gratified to be able to report over this much progress in settling our free grant territory, but we have no hesitation in saying that we think a little more energy on the part of the Government and its agents would have enabled them to make a better exhibit. The Muskoka district is one which, on account of its proximity to Toronto and the best markets, ought to fill up very rapidly; but in the whole nine townships of Muskoka, Watt, Cardwell, Draper, Macaulay, Brunel, Stephenson, Humphrey and Monck, the number of persons given as having taken up lands during the year is 276, and the number of acres disposed of is set down at 27,877. The return laid before the Local Legislature thus refers to the other free grant districts:—

'In the townships of Foley and McDougall, county Simcoe, 29 persons have located, with number of acres located 2,819; purchasers of land, 3; number of acres 10. In the townships of Chandos, Cardiff, Anstruther, Minden and Stanhope, county Peterborough, 40 persons located on 3,295 acres, with one purchaser of 17 acres. In the townships of Carlow, Dungannon, Herchel and Meateige, county Hastings, 15 persons located on 1,436 acres. In the township of Anson, county Victoria, 5 persons located on 235 acres. In the townships of Grattan, South Algona, Alloe and Buchanan, county Renfrew, 11 persons located on 855 acres. In the township of Hagarty, district of Nipissing, 10 persons located on 1,630 acres. In the counties of Renfrew, Victoria and Hastings, and in the district of Nipissing, there were no purchasers, and consequently no lands sold.'
 We trust the progress made in settling these wild

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TERMS LIBERAL.

lands this year is only a forerunner of the success which is to attend the free grant policy of Ontario in the future. These townships mentioned above, when taken as a whole, probably do not contain soil equal to some of the older settled districts; but they embrace large quantities of first-class land, and are quite suitable for settlement. It is to be hoped, therefore, the Government will set themselves energetically to the duty of inducing settlers to fill them up. The local agents should be sharply looked after, and only the services of those retained who manifest energy and enterprise in bringing in settlers. The Hon. Mr. Richards has an excellent opportunity to make his mark, and silence his troublesome opponents, by infusing life and popularity into the free grant movement. We know no greater service which could be rendered to the Province. Will he try it?

WINTER PROSPECTS.
 "See Winter comes, to rule the varied year,
 Sullen and sad with all his rising train;
 Vapours, and clouds, and storms."
 —Thompson.

WINTER may now be said to be fairly in. Although we have had snow since early in November, and pretty good sleighing in many localities during most of the weeks since, nevertheless it was difficult to persuade ourselves that old Winter really meant to assert his reign so early; there was for several weeks a constant expectation of a thaw, and a short spell of fine weather. But the grim old King has cheated all such expectations, and now "reigns tremendous o'er the conquered year." The merry jingle of the sleigh bells can now be heard in every nook and hamlet, and a merry jingle it is on a clear, bracing day, when the fields are white, the air pure and the spirits high.
 The good roads have had their customary effect in facilitating the movements of produce all over Ontario. Up to the last week in November, the deliveries of grain were rather limited; but since that time, considerable improvement has been manifest. The farmers were kept busy to the last moment in securing their root crops, and hundred of acres of turnips, carrots, &c., are yet in the fields! Hopes of saving these are all but relinquished, and farmers are now busy in bringing their produce into market; although many of them are holding on for higher prices.
 It has been a pleasure to see some of the Western towns during the past ten days. The loads of pork, wheat, oats, and other productions, crowding the markets, the bustle on the streets, and the excellent business doing in the leading stores, have made up a gratifying scene of industry and prosperity. The bankers tell us, however, that they have not been drawn upon so largely for money, up to this time, as during former seasons. In other words, millers and produce dealers have not bought as largely up to the 1st of December, as usual. The writer sees no reason to induce him to change the opinion which he has already expressed, namely: that the unusually late harvest is the real cause of this. We have firm faith in the general excellence of the late harvest, and we therefore consider our winter prospects to be bright and cheering.
 There must be busy times throughout Ontario for the next two months. Although prices are on the