

success, and those who are disposed to adopt that course would do well to give themselves ample time and opportunity to explore the land and make their selection of a location in the summer or early part of the autumn, the latter season being the most favorable for commencing operations on a bush farm. Since the opening to settlement of the free grant lands, there have been 9,947 patents issued to actual settlers, an average of about 525 a year since 1873, when the first issue took place.

There are now one hundred and fifty-four townships open for location under the "Free Grant and Homesteads Act of 1868," each containing from 50,000 to 60,000 acres. Other townships will be opened as railways and colonization roads are constructed. There are twenty-one local agencies established throughout the free grant districts, each agent having a specified number of townships assigned him.

The following is a summary of the regulations respecting Free Grants:—The Lieutenant-Governor in Council is authorized to appropriate lands, not being mineral lands or pine timber lands, as free grants to actual settlers, under regulations to be made for that purpose; no such grant to be made to a male under eighteen, or for more than 200 acres. The patent (or deed from the Crown) is issued to the settler at the expiration of five years after the taking up of the land, provided the settlement duties have been performed; and failure to perform the settlement duties forfeits the location. The head of a family, whether male or female, having children under eighteen years of age, can obtain a grant of 200 acres, and a single man over eighteen years of age, or a married man having no children under eighteen residing with him, can obtain a grant of 100 acres in the Free Grant Districts.

Any locatee under the Act, being the head of a family as aforesaid, is allowed to purchase an additional 100 acres at 50 cents per acre, cash, at the time of such location, subject to the same reservations and conditions and the performance of the same settlement duties as are provided in respect of Free Grant locations, except that actual residence and building on land purchased will not be required.

The settlement duties are:—To have fifteen acres on each grant cleared and under crop, of which at least two acres are to be cleared and cultivated annually for five years; to build a habitable house, at least 16x20 feet in size; and to reside on the land at least six months in each year.

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