

One or two guns among the party would provide, during the proper seasons, variety for the bill of fare.

When the Prospectors have made up their minds as to the particular part of the country they will explore in search of farms to suit their requirements, they should ascertain in which Land District the locality is situate, and proceed to the office of the "Local Agent" in charge, who is the official representative of the Dominion Lands Branch of the Department of the Interior. (See list of land officers.) Here they will be furnished, free of cost, with all the information the Agent's books contain calculated to assist the would-be settler or purchaser in making his selection with the least possible difficulty and loss of time.* The following suggestions are offered as indicating the general information that should be obtained of a Land Agent:—

1. As to the most promising localities the District contains, having regard to the primary requisites, viz: Rich land, sufficiency of timber, and good water.

2. Should all of these desiderata not be attainable in any locality that appears attractive, it would be important to ascertain what prospect there would be of making up any particular deficiency. For instance, whether wood-lands would be obtainable, if the country it is proposed to locate in should be open prairie; or what results would be likely to attend the sinking of wells, if there be no permanent fresh water lakes, ponds or streams in the locality.

3. Present facilities for reaching the townships under enquiry should be ascertained; and the prospects of securing improved means of transportation and communication, in the near future, might also be taken into consideration.

After deciding in what particular townships they will pursue their search, the Prospectors should obtain the following specific information in regard to them:—

1. As to which quarter-sections have already been entered for by other parties.

2. As to the characteristics of the locality. The Local Agent, on request, will show to an applicant a copy of the official map of the survey of any particular township, drawn on a scale of two inches to the mile. From this the Prospector may note upon a section diagram any features distinguishing the quarter-sections still open for entry. The points to be specially observed and marked down are:—

(a) The quality of the soil—whether classified as 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th class.

(b) Whether the land is prairie, timbered, wet or swampy.

(c) The course of any creek, and the position of any lake or pond (fresh, salt, or alkaline) not exhibited in the general map.

(d) The situation of swamp or hay lands.

(e) The location of such timber or bush as there may be.

(f) The direction of any road or trail traversing the land.

Having thus noted the principal features, the prospectors should finally seek information as to the best trail to follow in order to reach the township they purpose examining.

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HOW TO FIND A PARTICULAR SECTION.

Upon nearing the locality to be explored, the party should be on the look-out for a "mound." So soon as one is perceived, an examination of the marks upon the post in its centre will acquaint the Prospectors with the exact situation in which they stand. Any person who comprehends the meaning of the inscriptions on township or section corner posts cannot possibly get lost within the surveyed districts of the North-West, and, with or without the aid of a compass, he should experience little difficulty in keeping on the course he wishes to follow.

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TOWNSHIPS AND RANGES.

Under the improved system of survey, now in force, Dominion lands in the North-West Territories are laid off in four-sided "townships," almost square in form, bounded on their east and west sides by lines which are meridians of longitude (i.e., radiating from the North Pole,) and on the north and south sides by lines which are chords of the circular parallels of latitude intersecting such meridians.

A township measures on its east and west sides, from centre to centre of the road allowances which form its actual boundaries, exactly 483 chains, and on its north and south sides 486 chains, more or less, subject to the deficiency or surplus resulting from the convergence or divergence of the meridians, as the case may be, caused by the curvature of the surface of the Globe.

* One or more "land guides" are attached to each Dominion Land Office to assist intending settlers to find the localities they wish to inspect; but their services are chiefly required for conducting large parties of immigrants arriving from Europe.