

Mr. Geo. Price.

...x months' residence in the Northern Ontario Clay opinion is that the future prospects of this great region of the best. The climate is there either summer or winter, the soil is there, and the necessary requirement now needed is the developer, the pioneer, who must be ready to face the battle with nature—who is no mean adversary—in the shape of the bush. Now that the Ontario Government are building roads throughout the new country, the lot of the future settler will be better than his predecessor.

The conditions of the country are such that the intending settler, if he does not already know how to handle the axe, he should be ready and willing to learn how.

The one great drawback, which will in time prove to be a curse if not remedied, are the Veteran Lots scattered throughout the country. The fact that these lots are held by those to whom they were allotted, or sold to speculators for a small cash sum, and which speculators are in turn holding without developing to sell at a profit later, simply off-sets the work the Government is doing to develop and settle the country, and also retards the work being done by the settler on the ground, trying his best to improve his own homestead, and thus prevents him from getting the returns he should receive from his land. For just as long as the country is covered by the bush, just so long will the climatic conditions have some effect upon the successful growing of crops. One such instance I have in mind. A settler who had been four years in this neighborhood (Homer Siding), and had his improvements far enough advanced to enable him to obtain a patent for his homestead, had on each side of him a Veteran Lot. This spring he sold out to go West. He had come to the conclusion there were better prospects out there for a man with a little capital. One of his reasons for going was that it was no use trying to make headway while these Veteran Lots were not being developed. One remedy is that the Government should allow the owners of these Veteran Grants a certain length of time to commence improvements, or forfeit their ownership.

As an inducement to get the proper class of settler into this north country, it would be a safe investment for the Ontario Government to offer a short term loan at a reasonable rate of interest to incoming settlers, to carry them along the first two or three years, stipulations to be made, of course, in regard to this loan. The Australian Government evidently finds it pays them to do so, and the Canadian Pacific Railway are working on the same basis to induce settlers to go West and take up their lands. Both the Australian Government and the Canadian Pacific Railway are making the loans on unusually long terms.

Professor Fernow, in his remarks before the Conservation Commission at Ottawa, on January 22nd last, stated that it costs from \$30.00 to \$50.00, including stumping, and up to \$75.00 per