

way. When a group of four or eight families decide to settle as here recommended, and make application to that effect, paying a deposit as proof of good faith, orders are cabled to the agents at Regina—the new Capital of the North-West—to select such a Colony site as may be required. This is done at once. The land answering all the conditions of a Colony site is secured and reserved. These same agents will receive the Colony on its arrival, and assist in its settlement. If desired, houses may be put up, and a few acres broken in advance, for which the actual cost only will be charged. These agents are a class of professional land valuers now extensively engaged in the North-West at this kind of work, both for public and private corporations. No question can be raised as to the dependence to be placed on the work they perform, for they have no interest on either side. Their instructions are to find suitable Colony sites, to make diagrams of the same, showing surface conditions and quality of the soil: if these are found to answer the requirements of the case, the lands are entered and secured.

The advantages of this mode of settlement may be summed up as follows:—Groups of four or eight families or friends may leave home together, travel, land, and settle together. They may form the beginning of an important settlement: the Colony sites are selected with this object in view. Many would-be settlers of small means, for whom it would be a risk to settle alone on the prairie at all, might, with every confidence, start as a Colony on the plan proposed. A group of such, just able, and no more, to provide between them the stock, implements, and machinery necessary to one, if settling alone, might make a shift for a year or so as a Colony. Close neighbourhood, opportunities of exchanging labour among the Colonists themselves and with outside settlers, proximity to the railway, with the certainty that actual residence and cultivation of the land will rapidly enhance its value, are among the advantages of this small Colony plan. Many farmers in the North-West, who commenced on a homestead and pre-emption, have, after two or three years, sold one or the other at very high figures. It is not exaggerating to say that sales of ordinary farming land, for farming purposes, have been made at from £3 to £5 an acre. Suppose a Colony of eight families, settling in the centre of four selected sections within the railway belt, bring under cultivation the four central quarter sections, that is, one whole section, and suppose they agree to sell