

## A PRACTICAL TOWNSHIP SETTLEMENT PLAN\*

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THE essential features of any improved plan to further land settlement in the northern parts of the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba must be: (1) Suitability of the shape and size of the lots and suitability of the road system to a topography described as rolling land, heavily wooded and broken with

which the first and last are all but absent, and more perfectly than certain plans, which have appeared in the public press deriding the second essential and going from simplicity to the other extreme. It is proposed to show that the scheme could be applied to any township plan in the third or fourth system of survey for Dominion lands which is now surveyed but not yet entered upon for settlement, and within a month or so a new township plan in accordance with the scheme could be placed in the Dominion Lands Office with a minimum disturbance of the present methods of making entry and keeping records.

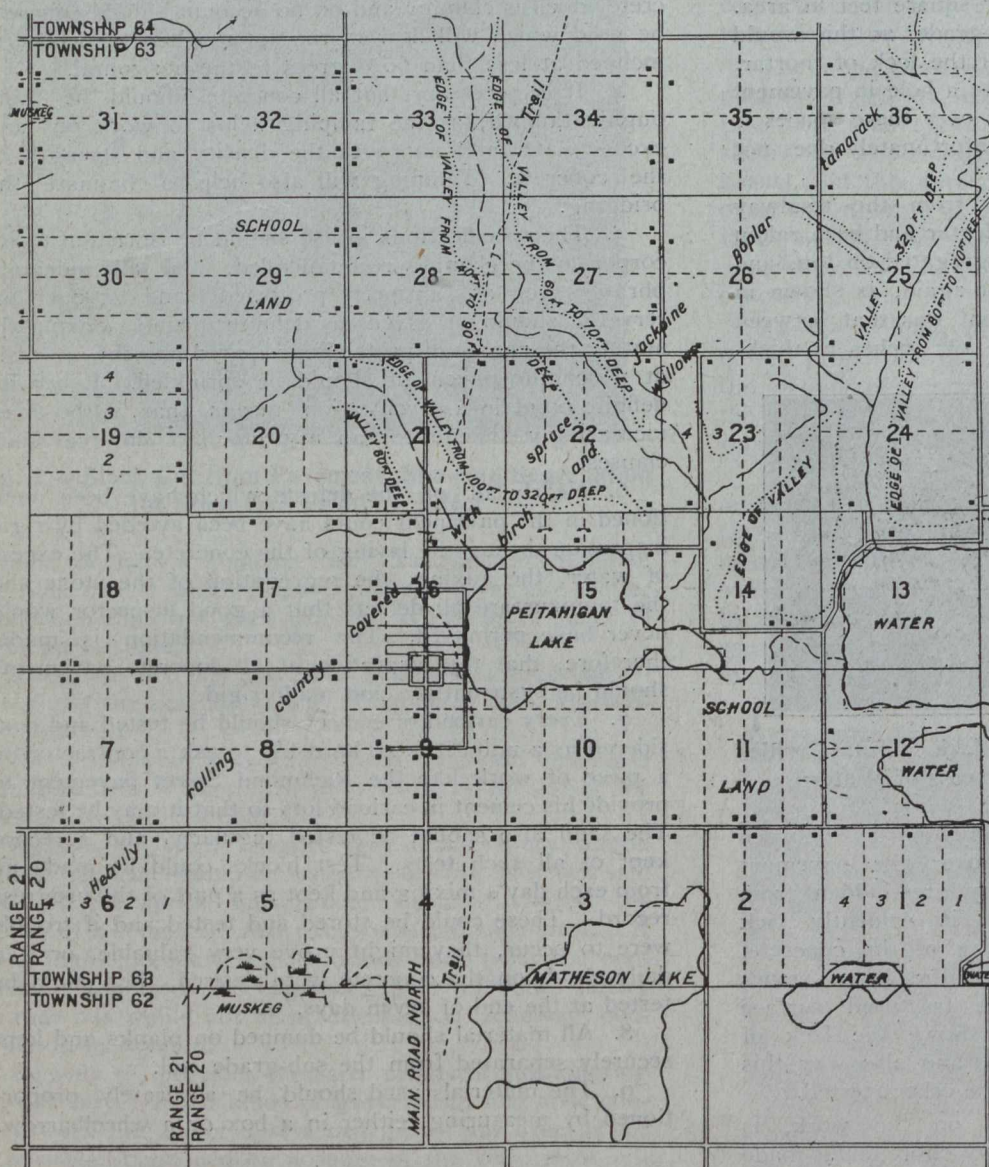
Two chief and radical changes are proposed, namely, (1) Where not inconsistent with the topography, the lots for agricultural purposes will be normally 80 chains by 20 chains and may be laid out fronting either north, south, east or west, depending on the road system; (2) the roads will not be laid out according to a set system but will be located by an engineer after the survey by the Topographical Surveys Branch and after a thorough and personal investigation of the topography. This implies that the road allowances, now reserved from the sections, will be included within the area of the lots or quarter sections, and a general reservation of 3 per cent. of the area of each allotment will be reserved from the patent for road purposes.

It is not the writer's intention to reproduce the many arguments already advanced by many able men in favor of a changed system. Favorable opinion has been aroused. It is felt rather that an explanation of a method of arriving at the desired result might remove the apprehension and attitude of doubt with which any changes affecting land settlement is viewed.

## Preliminary Investigation

The Dominion land surveyor, during the progress of a township survey, makes careful note of all the topography encountered on the surveyed lines, but only when large lakes or rivers are to be traversed does he map the physical features within the interior of any section. Notwithstanding, a map prepared from the surveyor's field notes could show much more information concerning the topography than is now shown upon the authorized township plan. The first step after the survey of the township would be the preparation of a plan showing the topography as fully as possible.

It is proposed that an engineer, experienced in road location, should make a two or three weeks' investigation



A Practical Township Settlement Plan

Adapted to the Topography of Township 63, Range 20, West of the Third Meridian, Sask.  
Scale, 100 chains to an inch.

lakes, marshes and streams; (2) adaptability to the existing systems of survey and methods of indexing and describing land; (3) establishment of a community or settlement centre whereby the man with a trade or business, upon which the homesteaders are dependent, might secure sufficient land and an opportunity to practice his trade concurrently with the settlement of the township.

The diagram has been prepared to illustrate the proposed scheme. It contains the above essentials, in a degree, at least, more perfectly than the present system, in

\*From "Conservation of Life."