

(I.)

DEPARTMENT OF CROWN LANDS,
Toronto, 5th May, 1868.

SIR,—By desire of the Commissioner I transmit you the enclosed answers to the queries contained in your letter to him of the 20th ultimo.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. RUSSELL,
Assistant Commissioner.

George Jackson, Esq.,

Chairman of the Standing Committee on Immigration and Colonization,
House of Commons, Ottawa.

Answers to queries referred to in Mr. Russell's letter:—

1st. On what terms can wild lands be obtained for the purpose of settlement?—Free Grants, of one hundred acres can be obtained by actual settlers under the provisions of "The Free Grants and Homestead Act of 1868," (31st Vict., Cap. 8, Statutes of Ontario,) in the territory described in the fifth section of the Act, and locatees will be allowed to purchase an additional hundred acres at fifty cents an acre, cash.

2nd. What quantity is surveyed or available on these terms?—In the territory above mentioned there are three million two hundred and thirteen thousand six hundred acres surveyed, of which three hundred and forty thousand eight hundred acres in the district of Muskoka and on Parry Sound are now open for settlement. (See accompanying map, notice and list.)

3rd. What is the general character of these lands, and where are they situated?—About one-third part of the surveyed lands in the territory, set apart by the Act, is arable and fit for settlement; the remainder is poor soil, rocky, swampy or sandy, and valuable chiefly for its pine timber. They are situated between the Ottawa River and Georgian Bay, and on the north shores of Lakes Huron and Superior.

The tracts in the district of Muskoka and at Parry Sound, now open for settlement, contain a greater proportion of good land than the rest of the territory, and are more accessible.

4th. By what mode of conveyance and route are they accessible?—See routes printed on the accompanying map.

(Signed,)

A. RUSSELL,
Assistant Commissioner.

Department of Crown Lands,
Toronto 5th May, 1868.

The Act of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, referred to in the first answer given by Mr. Russell above, is as follows:—

An Act to secure Free Grants and Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Lands. Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

1. This Act shall be called and known as "The Free Grants and Homestead Act of one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight," and may be so cited or designated in all Acts or proceedings whatsoever.

2. The Statute of the Parliament of the late Province of Canada, passed in the twenty-third year of Her Majesty's Reign, intituled, "An Act respecting the Sale and Management of the Public Lands," may be cited and designated in all Acts and proceedings as "The Public Lands Act of one thousand eight hundred and sixty," and is the Act hereinafter so designated.

3. The thirteenth Section of "The Public Lands Act of one thousand eight hundred and sixty" is hereby repealed, except that Patents may issue for all lands heretofore located as free grants under that Section as if this Act had not been passed.