

AN ACT

To Encourage Settlement in the Free Grant Territory.

Assented to 15th February, 1871.

WHEREAS it is expedient to ascertain how far immigration would be encouraged, and the welfare of settlers promoted, by the partial clearance of lands forming part of the public lands appropriated for free grants, and by the erection thereon of a house, and by the offer to settlers of such lands with such clearance and house thereon under the terms of "The Free Grants and Homestead Act of 1868," and under the further stipulation that the value of such clearance and house be paid by the locatee within five years from location; Therefore Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:—

1. There shall be set apart from the Consolidated Revenue Fund the sum of twenty thousand dollars, to be applied for the purposes herein mentioned, and to be designated and known as the "Settler's Homestead Fund."

2. The Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works is hereby authorized to cause to be cleared, fit for cultivation, and to be fenced, a plot of not exceeding five acres on any parcel or parcels of land, which may thereafter be granted, or as to which authority is given to locate any person by or under the provisions of "The Free Grants and Homestead Act of 1868;" and to cause to be erected on every such plot a one story house fit for habitation, of the dimension of not less than sixteen by twenty feet; and to defray the expense of such clearance, fencing and erection out of the said fund: Provided however and it is enacted, that such expense as to any plot shall not exceed two hundred dollars, and that such clearances, fencing and erections in all, shall not be made to any greater extent or value than can be paid for out of the said fund, nor in any but such one township as may hereafter be decided on by the said Commissioner.

3. The amount of the expense of clearing, fencing and erection as aforesaid, on each separate parcel of land, shall be entered in a book to be kept for that purpose by the said Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works, and information as to the same be given by him to all persons enquiring; and such amount and the terms of payment thereof, and of the interest thereon, shall be specified in every location ticket issued to a locatee.

4. Every such parcel of land shall continue subject to the provisions of "The Free Grants and Homestead Act of 1868," and to any regulations made or to be made by Order in Council thereunder, except so far as such regulations and provisions are varied by or are inconsistent with this Act. So much of the ninth section of the said Act as relates to building a house shall not apply to any such parcel after clearance, fencing, and erection thereon as aforesaid; provided however and it is enacted, that no patent shall issue for any such parcel till the locatee thereof, or those claiming under him, shall, within five years from the date of location, have paid to the Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works the expense of such clearance, fencing, and erection, and the interest thereon from the date of location.

5. On failure in payment of such expense and interest, or in performance of settlement duties according to the said recited Act, the location shall be forfeited, and all rights of the locatee, and of every person claiming under him, in the land, shall cease.

The Township of Ryerson has been selected and set apart for the purposes of the Act, and Colonization Roads and the other improvements contemplated, are now in progress.