

Ontario Department of Agriculture

Hints to Settlers in Northern Ontario

INTRODUCTION.

The object of the writers of the following pages is to furnish the settler of Northern Ontario with suggestions, facts and figures that will help him to better understand how to meet and overcome some of the problems peculiar to the country. Year by year the Great Clay Belt is opening its arms to receive men and women from other parts of the Province of Ontario as well as from many different parts of the world. People of other countries, who are unacquainted with pioneer life in a new land often become discouraged because they do not know how to adapt themselves and make the best of the means at hand. Pioneer life is still much the same as when the early settler began hewing down the forest of Old Ontario, in that it requires men and women of virility and determination, with a vision of better things to come. Success can only be achieved by earnest, faithful endeavor on the part of the beginner, and in agriculture as in every other profession, to know is to succeed.

Northern Ontario still contains many millions of acres of fertile land awaiting development and which may be made to produce abundant crops. But before the land can be tilled it must be cleared of its timber and brush, and the writers trust that the following may enlighten and instruct the new beginner.

LOCATING A LOT.

Each lot consists of a quarter section, or 160 acres. Particulars regarding location, and regulations governing the same, may be had by applying in person or by letter to H. A. Macdonell, Director of Colonization, Toronto, or to any local Crown Lands agent. After finding out as many particulars as possible about the lots available, the prospective settler should then thoroughly acquaint himself with the situation and general lay of the lot he intends to locate. He should familiarize himself with the relation of his lot to the main and cross roads. Having fully satisfied himself with the general lay of the land, he will next select a suitable place for erecting his house.

BUILDING A HOUSE.

Considerable care should be exercised in choosing a site, it is advisable to build on a well elevated part of the farm to secure good drainage and more congenial surroundings. Buildings should be near a main or cross road and not too distant from a neighbor. Existing conditions of course must govern the selection of a site, but do not make the mistake of building in an out-of-the-way place or too close to an adjoining lot. As the first clearing should be done along the main road, therefore, the house and barn should not be too far distant from it.