

the privilege of purchasing forty acres additional at the rate of one dollar per acre, payable in four annual instalments. Several townships have already been surveyed on the Canadian bank of the Rainy River on the one mile square section plan—the same as has been followed in the North-West. The Ontario Legislature has adopted and legalized these surveys by the Act just mentioned, and provided that any lands in the Rainy River District considered suitable for settlement and cultivation may, by Order in Council, be appropriated as free grants upon the terms specified. Twenty townships have been so appropriated and agents appointed for the sale and location of Crown lands at the following places:—Rainy River, Fort Francis and Rat Portage. (See p. 41). Rat Portage is situated on the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, distant from Toronto 1,154 miles. From this town, intending settlers on the Rainy River free grants make their way to Fort Francis or other points by steamer on the Lake-of-the-Woods and thence by the Rainy River.

The Rainy River District is the western division of Ontario, bordering on Manitoba, and comprises a large area of the most valuable timber lands in the whole Dominion. The Rainy River itself marks the International boundary line, and its valley, which is the most extensive in the district, is admirably adapted for agriculture, the soil being a rich, alluvial deposit, and considered equal in fertility to the best lands in Manitoba and the North-West. Here are located the townships set apart as free grants, and in addition to a soil that is as rich as the most favoured portions of the western prairies, the settler will have the important advantages of an unlimited supply of wood and water. The river is about eighty miles in length, and the whole of the right, or Canadian bank is covered with a heavy growth of forest trees, shrubs, climbing vines and beautiful flowers. The forests in the district are of immense value, and the lumbering industry which will undoubtedly be prosecuted there on an extensive scale will make farming a profitable undertaking in Rainy River valley. The climate is similar to that of the old settled parts of the Province, and the luxuriance of the vegetation gives evidence of the richness of the soil. All kinds of grain, roots and garden vegetables yield abundant crops, as has been proved by the settlers who have already taken up land in the neighbourhood of Fort Francis, which is situated on the river bank about two miles from Rainy Lake. The name of Alberton has been given to this settlement. It has been organized as a municipality embracing a territory of eighteen miles along the river bank and ten miles back, including the townships of Crozier and Lash.