

TOWN PLOTS, &C.

31. The Secretary of State shall have power from time to time to set apart and withdraw from purchase and from the pre-emption and homestead clauses of this Act, any tract or tracts of land which it may be considered by him expedient to lay out into Town or Village Plots, and to cause the same to be surveyed and laid out, and the lots so laid out to be sold, either by private sale and for such price as he may see fit, or at public auction.

Secretary of State may reserve tracts of land for town or village plots.

32. The Governor in Council may also set apart and appropriate such Dominion lands as he may deem expedient, for the sites of market places, gaols, court houses, places of public worship, burying grounds, schools, benevolent institutions, squares, and for other like public purposes, and at any time before the issue of letters patent therefor, may alter or revoke such appropriation, as he deems expedient, and he may make free grants for the purposes aforesaid of the lands so appropriated, the trusts and uses to which they are to be subject being expressed in the Letters Patent.

Governor in Council may set apart lands for other public purposes.

PRE-EMPTION RIGHT, OR THE RIGHT TO PURCHASE BY VIRTUE OF ACTUAL SETTLEMENT.

33. Any person being the head of a family, or a single man above the age of twenty-one years, who has made a settlement on unappropriated Dominion lands, and who has inhabited or improved the same, and has erected a dwelling thereon, may have himself entered with the Local Agent of the division in which such land is situated for any number of acres not exceeding the quarter section of land including the residence of the claimant; (Form A.), and being a subject of Her Majesty by birth or naturalization, shall receive a patent therefor, upon paying the price of such lands.

Steps to be taken for the purpose of acquiring a right of pre-emption to land.

1. When two or more persons have settled on and seek to obtain a title to the same land, the right of pre-emption shall be in him who made the first settlement.

2. Provided, that in cases where both parties may have made valuable improvements, the Secretary of State may order a division of such land, in legal subdivisions, in such manner as may preserve to the said parties, as far as practicable, their several improvements, and further, may direct that what the land of each of such parties, as so divided, may be deficient of a quarter section, shall be severally made up to them in legal subdivisions from unoccupied quarter sections adjoining.

3. Questions as to the right of pre-emption arising between different settlers shall be investigated by the Local Agent of the division in which the land is situated, whose report and recommendation, together with the evidence taken, shall be referred to the Secretary of State for decision.

4. Every person claiming a pre-emption right from actual settlement must file his application for such claim, describing the land settled, with the Local Agent within whose district such land may be, within *thirty days* next after the date of such settlement, if in surveyed lands, but if in unsurveyed lands the claimant must file such application within three months after such land shall have been surveyed; and in either case before the right of pre-emption may be exercised proof of settlement and improvement shall be