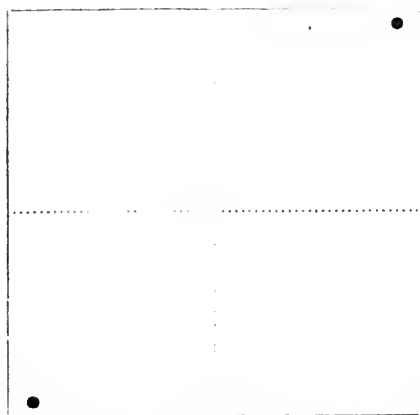


the belt to where the Government still owns all the land, and have a freer choice, but that often means stepping beyond the bounds of help, neighbourhood, and civilization.

It is said that the individuality of English speaking people *causes* scattered settlement in any new country. I am convinced that scattered settlement is the result of circumstances arising from the natural diversities of situation, and from the way lands are laid out and held. A new country is full of prizes in the shape of choice situations, and there is always a scramble for these. If individuality is the cause of scattered settlement, what causes towns and villages to spring up? There is a way in which people can settle together in groups on the prairie that will be of the greatest advantage to themselves at the start, and will not clash with their individuality in the least. I shall describe how a group of four families might make a start. Here is a Government section; it contains four exact squares of land, each containing 160 acres (100 acres used to be considered a large farm in Ontario when it was first settled); it is occupied by two settlers, each has a free homestead, and a pre-emption, together making a farm of 320 acres; each settler builds his house wherever he takes the notion, but it has to be on his homestead quarter section; thus it may happen, and often does happen, that the two occupants of a section of land live at a distance of more than a mile from each other:



Now, instead of only two families occupying a section with their houses, it may be, at the extreme corners, I would advise that four families be content with a quarter section each, and build