

# THE SETTLER

**He May Now Get His Patent in Three Years  
Instead of Five—Gets all on the Ground,  
Above and Beneath it—No Large  
Grants to Speculators.**

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In the matter of land regulations and treatment of the settlers, the Government found much awaiting its attention. There was no uniformity of treatment. Settlers on Free Grant Land in the Rainy River country were able to prove up their settlement duties and get their patents in three years. In the sales districts further east a settler was required to put in four years' residence, and in the older Free Grant Districts in Muskoka, Parry Sound and Eastern Ontario, the settlers were required to put in even five years before they could qualify for their deeds. There was no reason why one district should have an advantage over another in this respect, and the Government has amended the different laws and regulations, providing for a uniform period of three years to qualify for patent anywhere in Greater Ontario. This places Ontario settlers on a parity with those of the Northwest Territory and removes a very real cause of complaint.

## **ALL ON THE GROUND, ABOVE AND BENEATH IT.**

By amendment of the Public Lands' Act of 1891, the Liberal Government reserved from the patents of settlers on sales land the right to the mineral, if any, on their farms. This meant that a man might buy land from the Government, pay for it, and improve it, but could only get the patent for the agricultural rights, and he might wake up some fine morning and find that a prospector had staked a valuable mine on his property. The miner had, of course, to arrange with the owner for damages to surface rights, but no such arrangement was as satisfactory as the right to the mineral that might be found on one's own property. If the veterans were entitled to the minerals,