

the person to whom the same has been granted to take possession of the land described in it.

#### THE POSITION OF "SQUATTERS."

No entry can, of course, be made for lands still unsurveyed or (even if surveyed) not yet officially in the hands of a Local Agent for disposal. A settler therefore who makes improvements under such circumstances does so entirely at his own risk, and must look solely to actual continuous residence and practical cultivation as the grounds upon which to establish an equitable right to hold his claim. No time should be lost by such a settler, however, in asserting his claim at the earliest moment when such can effectually be done.

A settler who has taken up land in advance of the surveys\* should keep a bright look-out for the arrival, sooner or later, of the surveyors in his locality. In addition to furnishing all necessary verbal information, he should be particular to make before the Dominion Land Surveyor at the head of the party an affidavit after the following form, to be forwarded to Ottawa with the other official returns of the survey:—

\* Such settler would act wisely in driving in pickets to mark the boundaries of the land he desires to hold as a homestead. These boundaries should be laid off east-and-west and north-and-south, as near as may be, a distance of 40 chains (half a mile) on each side. Upon every picket the claimant should cut in his name in readable characters.

#### STATUTORY DECLARATION OF OCCUPATION.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ formerly of \_\_\_\_\_  
in the \_\_\_\_\_ solemnly declare:—  
That I first entered into occupation of and began continuous residence upon the \_\_\_\_\_  
quarter of Section \_\_\_\_\_ in Township No. \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_  
on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 18\_\_  
That I have also cultivated the said quarter-section to the extent each season, since that date, of \_\_\_\_\_  
That I am not aware of any other claimant to the said quarter section.

DECLARED before me this \_\_\_\_\_ } *Signature*  
day of \_\_\_\_\_ }  
188\_\_ . (*Signature.*) }  
\_\_\_\_\_ D. L. S.

In the event of a dispute between two or more squatters as to the right to hold lands taken up in advance of the surveys, the law declares that the homestead right shall belong to him who made the first settlement on the land in question. In cases, however, where it is shown that the contending parties have each made valuable improvements on the disputed claim, the Minister of the Interior has power, on the survey of the township in which the lands are situate taking place, to order a division of the same so as to preserve to the rival claimants, so far as practicable, their own several improvements; and he has authority further to direct that whatever the land thus apportioned to each such claimant may be deficient of the conventional area of a homestead (160 acres) may be made up to him out of unoccupied quarter-sections adjoining.