

The Township of Zealand embraces the whole of the north shore of lake Wabigoon, except that portion included in Van Herne. The soil is clay with rock outcropping in places, and it is inclined to be sandy in the northerly concessions. The rank growth of alders and berry bushes in the clearings speaks well for its fertility. The township is timbered with small growing timber, which is not difficult to clear. The O.P.R. runs through the township, skirting the north shore of the lake.

Up to the present time, about 25,000 acres of land have been sold, and the population of the settlement in and around Dryden, is between five and six hundred people. Enquiries regarding the country are still numerous.

The land is sold by the Government at fifty cents per acre, to actual settlers only, payable one third down and the balance in three annual instalments. The settlement duties consist of clearing and putting under cultivation one tenth of the land taken up, building a habitable house not less than 16x20 feet, and residing thereon for at least six months in each year for three years, or for two years continuously. Each male person over eighteen years of age may purchase 160 acres; but a man, with children under eighteen years of age is allowed 240 acres.

The development of the town of Dryden, which is the centre of the settlement, has been very marked during the past year. At the end of April, 1897, about 75 town plots had been disposed of, and eighteen or twenty buildings erected. Since then, the number of plots sold has increased to 122 and the buildings to 75, showing that building operations have been carried forward with considerable energy.

The town has now two hotels, three boarding houses, a railway station, telegraph office, express office, post office, a public library and reading room, and a good school house, with seventy scholars on the roll.

Two saw mills are in operation, and there is a probability of a brick yard being started, the clay in the vicinity making excellent brick. The town also has a doctor, a land surveyor, a magistrate and a constable.

The price of provisions is very reasonable. Among the businesses established there, are four general stores, four flour and feed stores, three butchers, three wood dealers, two blacksmiths, a hardware, a furniture and undertaking, a boot and shoe, and a drug store. Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian services are held every Sunday.

A bridge and a dam have been built by the Government across the Wabigoon river at Dryden. The Government has also built about twenty miles of colonization road, which the settlers have supplemented by as much more. Park and cemetery lots have also been laid out adjacent to the town.

The situation of Dryden, at the angle formed where the C.P.R. crosses the Wabigoon river, is very advantageous and attractive. The town has a large amount of farm land at its back, besides having the additional advantage of communication by water with the gold fields now being developed in the vicinity. The river is from a few rods to an eighth of a mile in width, with