

In a prairie country, the posts stand in the centre of mounds, generally of earth, thrown up in the form of right angled pyramids. At the corners of townships these mounds are three feet high, their bases being six feet square; at the corners of sections or quarter-sections the mounds stand 2 ft. 6 in. high, and their bases are five feet square.

If a township or other corner fall in a ravine, the bed of a stream, or some similar situation where it would be impossible to erect a monument of a permanent character, and should a "bearing tree" not be obtainable, the surveyor indicates the position of such corner by erecting at the nearest suitable spot a "witness mound." In this case the mound is in the form of a cone 2 ft. 6 in. high, its base having a diameter of six feet. The post in the centre is marked "W. M." and also inscribed, in red chalk, with the bearing and distance to such corner.

Iron posts, which are placed at every township corner, consist of either iron bars or tubes, driven into the ground with a sledge, and inscribed, by means of a cold-chisel, with the necessary marks.

Quarter-sections corner posts are simply marked with the conventional sign "q" to indicate their character, and bear no inscription shewing to what township or range they belong.

Posts or stone monuments indicating all other corners bear sufficient marks to thoroughly indicate the position they are intended to legally establish; and must always be read from the top of the post downwards.

On township corners, the upper figure on either side of the post indicates the number of the township which that side of the post faces, and the next figure indicates the range.

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SYNOPSIS OF THE DOMINION LANDS LAW, Etc.

Canadian public lands in Manitoba and the North-West Territories may be acquired either by homesteading (as a free grant) or by purchase on the terms set forth in the Regulations issued by the Department of the Interior [see official advertisement.] The information contained in this and subsequent pages has been summarized from the Consolidated Dominion Lands Act, 1879, and the amendments thereto of 1880 and 1881; from the Regulations for disposing of the public lands now in force; and from various other authorities.

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HOMESTEADS, PRE-EMPTIONS, AND WOOD-LOTS.

A "homestead," which is limited in extent to a farm of 160 acres, is a free gift from the Government on condition of three years' actual residence and cultivation; but a pre-emption entry, giving the right of priority of purchase at a future period, for an additional tract of 160 acres, is also allowed to each homestead settler, who may occupy and cultivate the whole 320 acres for three years without any payment whatever subject, however, to the fulfilment of the obligations attaching to the homestead grant.* Only the even-numbered sections of a township can be taken up as homesteads and pre-emptions. The price to be ultimately paid for pre-emptions, with the terms of payment, may be found in the latest official Regulations.

Settlers in townships where wood is scarce, or altogether wanting, are allowed to purchase "wood lots" not exceeding 20 acres in size, out of timbered land, in some adjacent locality, reserved for the purpose. The price of wood-lots is \$5.00 per acre.

Settlers are strictly forbidden to dispose of wood from off their homesteads, pre-emptions, or wood-lots (previous to issue of patent) to saw-mill proprietors or any person other than an actual settler for his own use. Breach of this condition entails forfeiture of entries for all three, with other penalties.

While he faithfully performs the homestead conditions, a settler enjoys the full rights of proprietorship, even previous to receiving patent. Non-fulfilment of conditions, however, renders the entries for homestead, pre-emption, and wood-lot subject to cancellation, the right to hold the two latter claims being entirely contingent on actual performance of homestead obligations. On cancellation, all improvements become forfeited to the Crown, and the ex-holder is prohibited from making a second homestead entry.

The title of all lands remain with the Crown till after the patent is issued. Unpatented lands are consequently not liable to seizure for debt, nor do they afford any security for obtaining credit or loans. In case a settler dies, the law allows his executors to fulfil the deceased's homestead obligation, that the estate may be secured to his heirs.

Any man over eighteen years of years of age, or any woman who is the sole head of a family, made take up a homestead. If the citizen of a foreign country, such settler is required to become a British subject, by naturalization, previous to issue of patent, which can be done under the law on completion of his or her three years' residence on the homestead.

* A settler must commence residence within six months after entry, and may not absent himself from his homestead for a longer period than six months without special leave from the Minister of the Interior, to obtain which the application should set forth in plain terms the grounds upon which the indulgence is asked. The affidavit of the applicant would lend weight to his representation of the circumstances.