

HOW TO SETTLE ON THE PRAIRIE.

At a time when great numbers are anxiously discussing the question of bettering their circumstances by Emigration, the following hints are thrown out with a view to the direction of intending settlers in the Canadian North-West. There is a considerable class of settlers, for whom certain temporary arrangements and expedients would be of incalculable benefit in commencing life on the prairie, no matter where, and the object here is to suggest these arrangements and expedients, and render them as intelligible as possible.

There are some for whose benefit it may be still necessary to say a word or two as to how lands are laid out and held in the North-West. We have adopted the American system of laying out the land in square blocks of one mile square, called sections, and containing 640 acres each. These are all further divided into four smaller ~~squares~~ ^{shares}, called quarter sections, containing 160 acres each. We have also copied the American system of giving our lands away in alternate sections, that is, when grants of land have been made to help to build railways through the country, these grants are always in alternate order, one section cornering with another, not lying alongside each other. A railway belt, therefore, means a tract of land through the centre of which runs the line of railway, the half of the land belonging to the railway, the other half to the Government. Thus the lands in a railway belt will resemble the black and white squares in a draught-board, the one kind being railway, the other Government squares. The land policy of these two different proprietors is a little different: the railway will sell their lands to anybody at from 10s. to 28s. per acre, though they prefer selling to actual settlers, who will become their customers, and to such they offer an abatement of one-half the price for cultivation. The Government, on the other hand, offer the one-half of their lands free to actual settlers, and the other half to the same class at 10s. per acre, that is, within the railway belt. A settler entering a railway belt finds this arrangement a little confusing at first. It is true he might step outside