

Sir,—It is understood that the settlement and development of Northern Ontario is to be by joint action on the part of the Dominion and Provincial Governments, and it is hoped that their action will be characterized by kindly forethought and due provision for the welfare and happiness of the settlers, instead of stopping at the dumping of a lot of inexperienced people into a wilderness.

The successful development of so vast a region depends upon the contentment and success of the first settlers, many of whom will be subject to the natural home-sickness, loneliness and depression consequent upon changed conditions and surroundings, which may be mitigated by the healthfulness and hopefulness which comes from present prosperity. Grumblers there will be, but the causes of discontent should be as few and as slight as forethought can prevent.

Looking for a moment at what the farmers in some parts of the country have acquired for themselves, we may form some idea as to what is desirable and is practicable in a new country if due consideration is made beforehand; we find co-operation in telephone lines; boxes for the reception of letters, newspapers and parcels; the farmers in turn provide for the conveyance of children to and from school; they establish libraries, churches, schools, and in many other ways co-operate for the general welfare, happiness and convenience.

Experience shows that large blocks of land are only partially utilized; therefore no one should be allowed to acquire them. Many of the old settlers in Ontario became land-poor by injurious selection of locations, so undesirable land should be kept out of the market, except for leasehold for pasturage, quarries, afforestation, or other such purposes for which they may be specially fitted. For the economical location of telephone lines, mail routes, schools, churches, creameries, etc., the frontages of the farms should be comparatively narrow; houses may not be too far apart—that there may be co-operation in emergencies and facilities; to the same ends, the roads should be so located that suitable building sites may not be far away from them. Model plans for the location of houses, outbuildings, wells, accommodations and drains should be available in order that the health of the settlers may not be injured by errors which can be readily avoided. There is no need for the prevalence of typhoid or scarlet fever or smallpox or any other infliction.

Selecting Townsites.

The Governments have now sole control over the country to be settled. Therefore they can dictate the location of townsites, which should only be where good water and good drainings can be easily secured. The Government should own these townsites in order that they may impose conditions of settlement and occupation for all time; preventing the close proximity of buildings, which must often be of a temporary nature, built of inflammable material, whose continuance