

in the case of a free grant, affidavits have to be made in proper form, and examined by the Department, before the intending locatee can be located for the lot; then the Department has to see that the regulations as to settlement duties, etc., are duly performed; and finally, at the expiration of the term, it has to receive and pass upon fresh affidavits made by the locatee and at least two others, respecting the due fulfilment of all conditions of the grant, before the Department is in a position to issue a patent for the lot. In addition, applications for the cancelling of locations are frequently and constantly being made on account of the settlement duties not having been performed, when the Department is obliged to examine in each case the evidence upon which such cancellation is asked, and decide upon it. It will thus be seen that every location is the subject of no small amount of work and attention on the part of the Department.

SUCCESS IN ADMINISTERING THE DEPARTMENT.

It is perhaps unnecessary to enter upon a defence of the manner in which the Crown Lands Department has been administered since a Reform Government came into power, as no serious attempt has been made to impugn that administration in any way. The steady flow of settlers into the newer districts of the Province, notwithstanding the inducements offered by other portions of the Dominion, the advances made in developing the resources—agricultural, mineral and forest—of those districts, and the accurate and satisfactory way in which the large and increasing revenue derived from the timber trade is collected, are but instances which testify to the honest and capable manner in which the administration of the Department has been conducted ever since it was entrusted to the present Government.

CONTRACT SYSTEM vs. OVERSEERS.

One of the petty, unfounded accusations which have been made against the Department is, that the system adopted in the construction and repair of Colonization roads is erroneous and extravagant, and that instead of having the work performed under the supervision of overseers appointed by the Department, it should be let by contract to the lowest bidder. Those who urge this course cannot have given the matter the consideration to which it is entitled, and cannot be conversant with the character of the work to be done, or with the difficulties which experience has shown to be inseparable from the building or repairing of roads under the contract system in the newer portions of the Province. The first cost of an ordinary Colonization road averages from \$200 to \$250 per mile. The Department, feeling that it would be relieved of a good deal of responsibility if these roads could safely be built by contract, made an attempt in former years to have the work done in this way. Tenders were asked for in the usual manner, and it was invariably found that large numbers of persons offered to do the work, many of whom were totally unacquainted