

Townships are numbered in regular order northward from the 49th Parallel of north latitude, which forms the International Boundary Line between the territories of Canada and those of the United States and they lie in "ranges" which are numbered in regular succession westward of certain standard north-and-south lines first established, under the name of "principal meridians," which are distinctly set down on all Government maps.* There are also certain ranges lying (and numbered) east of the First Principal Meridian, and likewise some townships lying (and numbered) south of the 49th Parallel; but these latter are situated east of the Lake of the Woods.

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SECTIONS.

Each township is subdivided into thirty-six "sections" of 640 acres, or one square mile more or less (the exact area being, like that of the township itself, subject to the convergence or divergence of meridians,) together with certain road allowances, having a width of one chain, on each section line running north-and-south, and on every alternate section line running east-and-west.

The sections are laid out of the precise width of eighty chains (or eighty-one chains, including the contiguous road allowance) on certain lines running east-and-west called "base lines" and the meridians bounding sections are drawn thence both northward and southward to the depth of two townships, to certain "correction lines."

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HOW SURVEY LINES ARE MARKED ON THE GROUND.

The course of every line surveyed in the North-West is marked upon the ground by the planting or erection of such posts, stones, mounds, or other monuments as will serve the temporary purpose of guiding Prospectors through the country, and which also constitute permanent landmarks to establish the legal boundaries of farms held by different proprietors.

Only a single row of posts (or other monuments) to indicate the corners of townships, sections, or quarter-sections is placed on the ground to show the line surveyed, except in the case of correction lines. Such posts (or other monuments) are invariably planted along the western limit of the road allowance on all lines running north-and-south, and in the southern limit of the road allowance on all lines running east-and-west. It follows, accordingly, that such corner posts always stand on the north-east corner of the township, section, or quarter-section to which they belong; also, that these single lines of posts govern the relative position of the corners on the opposite sides of the road allowance (or road allowances) on which they stand, whether the same may be those of adjacent townships, sections, or quarter-sections. [See Diagram No. II.]

On correction lines, however, the boundaries on both sides of the road allowance are planted with monuments indicating the township, section, and quarter-section corners. [See Fig. 3, Diagram No. V.]

The kind of monument employed varies somewhat, according to the material available in the locality surveyed; but the position in which all such are placed is governed by unalterable rules, and the inscriptions or marks are all in conformity.

In a timbered country, a post three inches square, and showing two feet above ground is firmly planted at the township or section corner to be indicated, and it bears marks as hereafter described. The post distinguishing a quarter-section corner in such a region is three inches wide, being flattened on two sides, and it stands eighteen inches only above the surface, with the flattened sides at right angles to the line on which it stands. In a wooded region where stone abounds, corners are sometimes defined by simple stones correctly planted and properly marked.† The position of all such corners as are indicated by simple monuments such as a post or stone are further defined by the astronomical bearing and distance therefrom being marked in red chalk upon some adjacent tree, the side of which nearest to the monument is also inscribed with the letters "B. T." cut into the trunk.

* The First Principal Meridian runs northward from a point on the International Boundary about eleven miles west of the town of Emerson. The second Principal Meridian is established upon the 102nd meridian of west longitude, passing about thirty miles west of Fort Ellice. The Third, Fourth, and Fifth Principal Meridians are identified with the 106th, 110th, and 114th meridians of longitude respectively.

† It is not only mischievous and improper, but in law a felony, to remove, alter, or deface any landmark established by the original surveys of the Government. Settlers should therefore never remove such in order to plant a fence or construct a ditch, but conserve the evidences of the true boundaries of their farms with the most jealous care. Land Prospectors also should discountenance any disposition, by reckless companions, to interfere with the monuments on any pretence.

‡ A stone corner is very rarely to be seen in the North-West, the country having generally an alluvial soil of great richness, with no stone whatever.