

The quality of these lands is of course variable, but the vacant lands on the south shore of the St. Lawrence are usually as fertile as any that have been settled, while there are many fine river-valleys in the Ottawa district which are very inviting to the farmer.

NOVA SCOTIA.

In Nova Scotia, Mr. S. P. Fairbanks, the Commissioner of Crown Lands at Halifax, who is not a member of the Government, conducts the business of the Department.

Deputy Surveyors reside in every County, whose duty it is to execute orders issued by their Principal, and to protect Crown property from trespassers; they are furnished with plans of their respective Counties. They are as follows:—

Annapolis, Hugh Kerr, William A. Calnek; Cumberland, Charles D. Roach, Samuel O'Donnell; Colchester, Isaac N. Archibald, Robert L. Byers; Digby, Alpheus Jones, Amselem M. Comeau; Guysboro', Charles Taylor, William Hartshorne; Hants, Benjamin Smith, Geo. F. McDonald; King's, Edward E. Armstrong, George Niely; Lunenburg, Edward H. Solomon; Queen's, Whitman Freeman, Nathan R. Freeman, James F. More; Shelburne, John Firth; Antigonish, Hugh McDonald; Yarmouth, Peter Lent Hatfield; Halifax, William A. Hendry, Charles W. Fairbanks, James Davison, James D. VanBuskirk, Pitout, James Holmes, Peter Ross; Cape Breton, David McKeen. Inverness, John Murphy, James H. Austin; Richmond, James McKenzie, John James Robertson; Victoria, Angus McKay.

The system of disposing of the Crown Lands, is as follows:—

The applicant presents, in person or otherwise, at the office of the Commissioner, a petition to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, praying a Grant of a specified number of acres, with a general description of the locality, and at the same time pays into the Office of the Receiver-General a sum of money at the rate of \$44 for 100 acres. The tract that will be granted is limited to 500 acres, except with the special approval of the Governor in Council. No distinction is made in the price between 100 acres and smaller lots. The cost of surveys is paid by the Province. Upon receipt of the petition and money, an order of survey is issued to the Deputy Surveyor of the County to survey and to report every particular descriptive of the lot—whether occupied or vacant, whether improved or otherwise, as well as any objections made to the passing of the grant. The order of survey gives but an incipient right to the applicant—the report is for the information of the office and the Government.

Upon a return of survey and report, a report is drawn up by the Commissioner and submitted to the Executive Committee, consisting of three members of the Government, who decide to whom the grant shall issue, in case the lot is claimed by more than one.

All persons are strictly prohibited by law from entering upon Crown Lands, and cutting the wood without authority. The same law applies to the interfering with the mines or minerals.

The Governor in Council is authorized to order surveys whenever required of large blocks of land, to be laid off in lots of 100 acres for the accommodation of settlers. This rule is made for the benefit of emigrants who receive licenses to settle without paying any cash. One prosperous German settlement has lately been formed under its operation. The occupant of such lands are entitled, in preference to any others, to become the purchaser of the said parcels of land, at the rate of forty-four cents per acre, on paying the said sum by two equal instalments of \$22, the one half in two years from the date of the license, and the other half at the expiration of the third year, with interest.

The Crown Lands department of Nova Scotia has been quite active for some years past, as many lands have been purchased for the sake of the timber upon them.

The Commissioner's report for 1866, supplies the following statistics:—

Acres applied for.....	102,402	Receipts from sales, &c.....	\$43,513
Do. granted.....	120,691	Disbursements.....	16,987
No. of Grants.....	677	Net proceeds.....	\$26,526

The net proceeds in 1864, were \$18,806; in 1865, \$29,975.

According to the Commissioner there are 11,065,597 acres of land in Nova Scotia proper, and 2,464,640 in Cape Breton; together 13,530,237 acres. Of these, 6,114,944 are granted, and 7,315,292 ungranted lands.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

The report of the New Brunswick Crown Lands Department for 1866 states that the Province contains about 17,347,360 acres, of which 9,674,587 have been already granted or located, so that 7,672,773 acres remain vacant. The surveys are not much in advance of settlement, only about 200,000 acres being surveyed in excess of those sold. The regulations for the sale and settlement of the Crown lands passed in 1861 having been too frequently infringed, a new order, dated Feby., 1867, has been issued. Under the old regulations, persons applied for and secured tracts of 100 acres with the condition that they should become *bona fide* settlers, and they were required to clear 2 acres within a year, 5 within five years, to reside on the lot one year, and to perform statute labor on the road leading to or through the land as an equivalent for a money purchase at the rate of 60 cents per acre. The new order is as follows:—

It is ordered in Council, That any person who has procured land under the Labour Act (or his assigns), before the first day of January, 1861, but has not yet resided and improved as prescribed by the Regulations, may apply to have the sale cancelled and the lot advertised for sale by public auction, subject to the payment of the value of existing improvements; and if such person, or his assigns, be the purchaser, fifty per cent. of the labour returned will be credited on the purchase.

It is further Ordered, That all sales before 1st January, 1861, to persons under the Labour Act, and not yet granted, shall be cancelled on the first day of November, 1866, and the lots then become vacant, unless such persons do previously perform the necessary conditions of payment, improvement, and residence, or avail themselves of the privilege above offered.

The equitable interest of the parties (or their assigns) who may have made improvements or performed labour on any of the lots to be sold or forfeited, will in all cases be fully protected against subsequent purchasers; but in no case shall such persons having made improvements on the lands, or performed labour in part or in whole for such lands, have any claim therefor upon the Government of this Province.

The New Brunswick lands continue to be sold by the Deputy Surveyors or Crown Land Agents for each County at monthly auction sales, at an upset price of 60 cents—25 per cent. down, the balance in three equal annual instalments—or 25 per cent. discount on the amount of the purchase if cash be paid for the whole. Under the Regulations of sales for *bona fide*