

"Large peat beds exist in many parts of the Province, and the manufacture of peat for fuel is just now being commenced.

"The above is not intended as a complete list, but is merely submitted to show what Ontario may be expected to become in future in respect of its mineral wealth."

#### PUBLIC LANDS IN ONTARIO.

There are yet very large tracts of good public lands to dispose of in Ontario—much larger tracts than has been commonly supposed.

We take the following particulars from the Government pamphlet:—

"There are in the Province of Ontario the following numbers of acres:—

In total area.	Total surveyed.	Total granted and sold.
77,606,490	25,297,480	21,879,048

"It will thus be seen that there are some three millions and a half of acres of surveyed Government lands not yet taken up, and more than fifty millions of acres not yet surveyed. The greater part of these lands lie in the region bounded at the east by the Ottawa River, at the west by the Georgian Bay, and at the south by the more northerly of what we are accustomed to call the front townships, and which are more or less improved and settled up.

"The Laurentian range of mountains running south-westerly, and skirting the north shore of the St. Lawrence, between Quebec and Montreal, but gradually receding from that river on approaching the latter city, tends westward from Montreal along the north shore of the Ottawa, sending an out-lier or two to remind of its neighbourhood the traveller on that noble stream. Some distance above Ottawa City—notably at Portage du Fort—the most casual observer may see it crossing the river strong, and, somewhat modified in character, it runs southward to near Brookville, whence, again turning westward, it forms a ridge, or rather a collection of hillocks, which shed the rain that falls upon them southward to Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence, and north and eastward to the Ottawa, or Lake Simcoe and the Georgian Bay".

The following statements are made respecting the settlement of the country beyond the Laurentian range:—

"First, from the West, from near Lake Simcoe, people found the Muskoka district and Parry's Sound not uninviting. Then, from the East, the men of Lanark and of Renfrew moved up the Madawaska and the Petewawa. Then the Crown Lands Surveyors, and, better still, the employees of the lumberers, went further back. The further they penetrated into the interior, the better the land became, and the result may be stated thus, that *inside* the Laurentian barrier, best approached by the Northern Railroad and Lake Simcoe on the one hand, and from the Upper Ottawa River on the other, there is, in the basin of Lake Nipissing and the watershed of the Ottawa, both in Ontario and Quebec, a most extensive tract of excellent land, nearly as large as the peninsula of Ontario, much of it deep-soiled as the basin of the St. Lawrence, timbered with a heavy growth of mixed white pine and hardwood, much of it as level as the St. Lawrence valley, and some as even as a prairie. It lies, moreover, near waters which either are or can be easily made navigable. A market for its farm products exists already in the lumberers' camps, which are even now breaking its solitudes, and but few years will elapse before its forests ring with the settler's axe—before the shores of Lake Nipissing, which is three times as large as Lake Simcoe, echo to the whistle of the steamboat—or even before a railway runs across it by the shortest route from Montreal towards Chicago.

"The price of such Government lands as are for sale varies with the situation. In the Algoma district it is twenty cents per acre, but that is at present a somewhat remote region. The usual price for the more accessible tracts of land is seventy-five cents per acre, cash, or one dollar per acre by instalments. Occasionally townships, parts of townships, or a few lots at a time, are sold at auction, when the prices realized vary according to the location and quality of the land. In 1867, the Government of Ontario sold 132,393 acres for the sum of \$29,707, an average of a little more than a dollar and a half per acre. The regulations under which the lands are sold, vary considerably according as they are of ordinary character, or specially for their timber or minerals. The usual settlement duties required before a patent is issued for the lands occupied are, the building of a "habitable house," and 20 acres on a 200 acre lot to be cleared and under crop. Sometimes parties take up land, work on it for a time, and, for some reason or other, leave it before fulfilling the conditions necessary to secure a deed. It is these lands for the most part—lands on which some improvements have been made, and which have lapsed back into the hands of Government, which are, from time to time, sold by auction to the highest bidder. Very advantageous purchases may often be made at such sales."

#### THE FREE GRANT LANDS AND HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION.

"The Free Grant Lands in the Province of Ontario are especially worthy the attention alike of the immigrant and of parties already resident in the country, who are desirous of possessing freehold farms, but whose means are limited. Anxious to promote the improvement of the yet uncleared districts, the Provincial Government have thrown open, upon the most liberal terms, a number of townships, into any of which parties may go and select for themselves the site of a future home. Every head of a family can obtain gratis, two hundred acres of land, and any person arrived at the age of 18, may obtain one hundred acres in the Free Grant districts. This offer is made by the Government to all persons without distinction of sex, so that a large family, having several children in it at or past 18 years of age, may take up a large tract, and become, in a few years, when the land is cleared and improved, joint possessors of a valuable and beautiful estate. The settlement duties are: to have 15 acres on each grant of 100 acres cleared and under crop, of which at least two acres are to be cleared and cultivated annually for five years; to build a habitable house, at least 16 by 20 feet in size; and to reside on the land at least six months in each year.

"These Free Grant lands are comprised in the townships of Humphrey, Cardwell, Watt,