

this free land if found necessary. Any person over 18 years of age may demand a permit of occupation from any Crown Lands Agent; and if, at the end of four years, the grantee have cleared 12 acres, and built a house, he may take out letters patent free of charge.

The principal sections of the Province of Quebec now inviting colonization are the Valleys of the Saguenay, St. Maurice and Ottawa, the Eastern Townships, the Lower St. Lawrence, and Gaspé to the south of the St. Lawrence.

Settlement by French Canadians has proceeded much more rapidly in the Valley of the Saguenay than is commonly supposed.

The editor of the *Year Book* is indebted to an officer of the Quebec Government for some particulars of its progress. The line of settlement (and, of course, of road) now stretches from Ha! Ha! Bay, not only to Lake St. John, but very nearly all the way around that Lake. The latitude is much higher than that of Quebec, lying between the 48th and 49th parallels, but the climate at Ha! Ha! Bay is said to be about the same as that of Quebec, and in the neighbourhood of Lake St. John, owing to modifying influences, like that of Montreal. This Lake is about 60 miles north of Ha! Ha! Bay, and about 100 miles in circumference. There is here a very large territory fit for settlement, and capable of sustaining a very large population—it is estimated of 400,000; the present population is estimated at 20,000. The habitable territory stretches from Ha! Ha! Bay, north-westerly, for a distance of about 100 miles, the average width from either shore of the river being about 30 miles, or a total width of 60 miles.

The soil is argillaceous, mingled with a small quantity of sand; and there are in this vicinity probably the greatest clay beds in the world. Wheat, barley, and Indian corn ripen. We have seen fine specimens and large yield. Root crops grow well, but wheat is the chief crop. A road is being completed to make direct communication with Quebec. The communication has hitherto been only by steamer, down the St. Lawrence and up the Saguenay.

The territory watered by the St. Maurice and its tributaries covers an immense region of 24,140 square miles, but only parts of it are fit for settlement. There are at present surveyed and divided into farm lots, of easy access, in the Townships of the St. Maurice, 441, 200 acres of land, for sale at 30 cents (1s. 2½d. stg.) per acre.

Recent explorations made in the Valley of the Mantawa, a tributary of the Upper St. Maurice, draining a tract of about 75 miles, beyond the Laurentides, have revealed the existence of an extensive zone of fertile land, and established the importance of this new field for colonization. The survey of the Mantawa territory is being rapidly proceeded with.

Two great parallel roads, the first starting from the town of Joliette, the second from Terrebonne, a distance of thirty-six miles apart, have been already opened as far as the Mantawa, and on the east side two parishes are being settled. A railway is projected to link the extreme north of the settlements of Terrebonne with Montreal. It is probable that the opening of these roads will very considerably divert French Canadian colonization.

The line of settlement is also being rapidly pushed in the country lying to the north of Montreal, up the Ottawa Valley a very considerable distance to the north of that river, the effect of which will be to give increased depth to the settled portions of the country.

The number of acres already surveyed and divided into farm lots is 1,358,500. These are for sale at 30 cents (1s. 2½d. stg.) per acre.

The colonization of the Valley of the Ottawa has already been rapid. It is the principal but not by any means the only seat of the lumber operations of the country. The river itself, is about 600 miles in length, and flows in a south-easterly direction. It has many important tributaries running into it from the north, and on the banks of these are many desirable places of settlement. Effort is now being made to open them up. Colonization is principally being made in the Counties of Ottawa and Pontiac, on the North Shore, stretching from the river to the northern limits of the Province. It is now estimated that these counties contain sixteen thousand inhabitants, being an increase of fifty per cent. in about ten years. The national origin of the inhabitants is about half French and half British, and within late years a prosperous German settlement has been formed.

This portion of the Province belongs to the Laurentian chain, and is in great part rocky and mountainous. It contains timber of great value. The valleys contain rich soil. It is well watered, and is remarkable for the extent of its hydraulic power, which may be utilized. A profitable fishing trade has of late been pushed by Americans, who catch trout in large numbers in these back waters, pack them in snow, in boxes, in which they will keep perfectly fresh for some days, and bear transport to the Southern markets. The snow for packing them is obtained by parties going into the woods in winter and building houses, on the principle of