

## PUBLIC LANDS

cattle, pigs, poultry, etc., as competent authority may determine, up to the value of \$500. The lien will be repayable in 20 years at six p.c., but no payment on account of either principal or interest will be required until after the expiration of three years. At the expiration of five years from the settler locating upon his land, and upon due performance of certain conditions in the meantime, he will be entitled to receive a patent from the Crown<sup>1</sup>.

In British Columbia there are large areas of free grant land. Any British subject being the head of a family, a widow, a femme sole who is over eighteen years of age and self-supporting, a woman deserted by her husband, a woman whose husband has not contributed to her support for two years, a bachelor over eighteen years, or any alien on his making a declaration of his intention to become a British subject, may pre-empt free 160 acres out of the unoccupied and unreserved Crown lands, not being an Indian settlement. The fees payable include \$2 for recording, \$2 for certificate of improvement and \$10 for the Crown grant. Of the total area of the province, approximately 200,000,000 acres are vacant, and 90,000,000 acres of vacant lands have been placed in reserve against sale, but are open to settlement by pre-emption. It is the practice to continue surveys each year of the lands most favourable to settlement, and at the close of the year 1915 there were vacant and available 2,400,000 acres surveyed for settlers.

The Government of British Columbia has announced its intention to improve large areas of public lands within the province and to sell them to actual farmers. Under Section 45 of the Land Settlement and Development Act, 1917, every returned soldier of British Columbia, irrespective of rank, who purchases land will be entitled to an abatement on the purchase price to the amount of \$500. This abatement is applicable only to the first purchase of land by the returned soldier, and the title to the land is subject to the fulfilment of prescribed conditions. For the purposes of the section a "returned soldier" means any person who, having theretofore resided in the province, has at any time during the present war served overseas or who may at any time during the present war serve overseas as a sailor, soldier, chaplain, surgeon, or nurse, or in any other capacity in the naval or military forces of Canada, or in any other of His Majesty's naval or military forces, and who, having been honourably discharged from the service, has returned to the province. The widow of a soldier who has died in service will be entitled to the rights of a returned soldier under the section.

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<sup>1</sup>Further particulars may be obtained on application to the Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, Ont.