

certificate of improvement and Crown grant. The fact that an applicant has previously homesteaded in another province does not preclude him from pre-empting in British Columbia. Unsurveyed lands cannot be pre-empted.

Homesite leases of an area not exceeding 20 acres, surveyed or unsurveyed, may be obtained for occupation and cultivation—this being a provision to enable fishermen, miners or others to obtain homesites—at a small rental, under improvement conditions, including the building of a dwelling in the first year, title being procurable after five years' occupation and completion of survey.

Under the Land Act, vacant and unreserved Crown lands, surveyed or unsurveyed, may be purchased in quantities not exceeding 640 acres for agricultural purposes, on improvement conditions. The Minister may require improvements to the value of \$5 per acre within 4 years of allowance of the sale, and Crown grant may be withheld until it is certified that improvements are made. The price of first class (agricultural) lands is \$5 per acre; second class (grazing) lands \$2.50 per acre.

Crown lands are leased, subject to covenants and agreements deemed advisable, for agricultural or industrial purposes—for hay-cutting, up to 10 years; for other purposes, except timber-cutting, up to 21 years.

The Land Settlement Board has selected a number of land settlement areas contiguous to the Canadian National Railways. Lands within these areas are sold on easy terms for farming purposes, conditional upon development, prices being usually from \$3 to \$10 an acre, a small cash payment being required, and the balance spread over a term of years to suit the purchaser. Returned British Columbia soldiers are entitled to abatement of \$500 on purchase price. The Board has power to enforce orders on those owning land within an area to improve it, and to levy a penalty tax for failure, also power to procure compulsory sale of undeveloped land. To established settlers, loans are made by the Board for development purposes of from \$250 to \$10,000, not exceeding 60 p.c. of improved value of land offered as security.

Timber-cutting rights are acquired by timber-sale. The applicant locates the timber, and, application being made, the area is cruised, surveyed if necessary, and advertised for sale by tender. All particulars are obtainable from the Forest Branch, Department of Lands. Information regarding water-rights for power, irrigation, etc., may be obtained by addressing the Water Rights Branch, Department of Lands.

The area of land administered by the province is 223,639,920 acres, of which 197,229,640 acres are vacant and unreserved; 6,488,137 acres are included in Indian, park, game, forest and other reserves, and 7,244,251 acres in timber, pulp, coal, grazing and other leases or licenses. The total area of surveys at Dec. 31, 1922, was 32,729,473 acres, including 22,620,266 acres of land surveys, 8,983,085 acres of timber, 658,462 acres of coal lands and 470,754 acres of mineral claims. The area included in cities is 56,390 acres and in district municipalities 892,360 acres.

The area of the province is 238,469,600 acres, of which 92,800,000 acres is above timberline, and 91,432,100 acres is forested—39,352,000 acres carrying over 1,000 ft. per acre and 17,281,600 acres from 5,000 to 30,000 ft. per acre. The area suitable for agriculture is estimated at 22,608,000 acres. On Vancouver island, an area of 2,110,054 acres is included in the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Ry. land grant, embracing the south-eastern portion of the island, and applications for lands in this area are to be made to the land agent of that railway at Victoria.