

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 5 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 minimum price of first class (agricultural) lands is \$5 per acre; second class (grazing) lands \$2.50 per acre. The purchaser of surveyed land is charged an additional 50c. an acre for the survey; in the case of unsurveyed lands the applicant must have the area he applies for surveyed at his own cost.

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; for any industrial or other special purpose, with approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, for not over 99 years.

The Land Settlement Board has selected a number of land settlement areas contiguous to the Canadian National and Pacific Great Eastern 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 establish settlers, loans of from \$250 to \$10,000 are made by the Board for development purposes, not exceeding 60 p.c. of the improved value of the 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 211,336,560 acres, of which 182,596,293 acres are vacant and unreserved; 8,570,391 acres are included in Indian, park, game, forest and other reserves, and 6,806,787 acres in timber, pulp, coal, grazing and other leases or licenses. The total area of surveys at Dec. 31, 1925, was 33,087,844 acres, including 22,851,700 acres of land surveys, 9,071,364 acres of timber, 667,729 acres of coal lands and 497,051 acres of mineral claims. The area included in cities is 56,390 acres, in district municipalities 888,876 acres, and in village municipalities 2,735 acres.

The land area of the province is 226,186,240 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 22,618,000 acres. On Vancouver island an area of 2,110,054 acres is included in the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Ry. land grant, embracing the southeastern portion of the island, and applications for lands in this area are to be made to the land agent of that railway at Victoria.