

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 50 cents 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. British Columbia returned soldiers are entitled to abatement of \$500 on purchase price. The Board has power to order 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.

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 Railway Belt and Peace River Block were transferred to the Provincial Government on Aug. 1, 1930, so that the area of land administered by the province is now 238,469,600 acres,¹ of which about 11,000,000 acres have been alienated; about 11,000,000 acres are under reserve as timber, coal, grazing and other leases and licences; and about 13,000,000 in timber, park, Indian, game and other reserves. The total area surveyed at Dec. 31, 1929, was 33,356,671 acres, including 22,921,487 acres of land surveys, 9,147,176 acres of timber, 686,111 acres of coal lands, 28,548 acres of phosphate licences and 603,375 acres of mineral claims. The area included in cities is 73,950 acres, in district municipalities 906,753 acres, and in village municipalities 5,058 acres.

The area of the province is 238,469,600 acres,¹ 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. b.m. per acre and 17,281,600 acres from 5,000 to 30,000 ft. b.m. 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 Railway 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.

¹ As estimated by the provincial authorities. The Dominion estimate of the area of British Columbia is 227,747,200 acres, of which 3,766,400 acres are covered by water.