

## GOVERNMENT LANDS!

How to Get Uncle Sam's Gracious Gift of a Good Farm.

The U. S. Land Laws Briefly Summarized.

Following is a summary in the briefest possible manner of the leading points of our land laws, so far as they refer to the Timber Culture, Pre-emption and Homestead acts, itemized in such a way that will be clear to all desirous of such information. Intending settlers can obtain the full text of these regulations by addressing "Commissioner of the General Land Office, Washington, D. C.," and also obtain all information with regard to the locality in which they desire to settle, from the agent of that particular district. The offices are located as follows:

Grand Forks, for Red River Valley, midway between Canadian boundary and Fargo.

Fargo, intersection of Red River Valley and Northern Pacific Railroad.

Bismarck, Missouri River Country, at intersection of Northern Pacific Railroad.

Creelsburg (Devil's Lake City) for the Devil's Lake region, North Dakota, to the Canadian frontier.

Aberdeen, midway in the James River country.

Mitchell, on Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul R. R. Southeastern Dakota.

Watertown, on Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, Eastern Dakota, midway between Fargo and Yankton.

Yankton, Southeastern Dakota.

Deadwood, for Black Hills Country, in Southwestern Dakota.

The address is simply, "THE U. S. LAND OFFICE, FARGO, DAKOTA TERRITORY, U. S.," or whichever office it may be desired to communicate with.

**PRE-EMPTION ACT.**

**WHO CAN CLAIM**—Heads of families (whether 21 years of age or not) husbands, sons, or widows; all persons, male or female, over 21 years of age, citizens of the United States, or who have declared intention to become such.

**WHO CANNOT CLAIM**—No person who is the owner of 320 acres of land in any state or territory. So that any one who desires to have the benefit of all three acts may pre-empt when he holds a homestead or tree claim, but is not allowed to pre-empt if he already holds both a homestead and tree claim.

**REQUIREMENTS**—Continuous residence, settlement and cultivation until final proof.

**PRICE**—In Dakota, within the 40-mile railroad belt, the price per acre is \$2.50; outside the belt the price is \$1.25.

**FINAL PROOF AND PAYMENT**—Must be made in 33 months from date of settlement and may be made after six months of actual residence and improvement. The improvements must be of a substantial and valuable character, and the facts must be attested by claimant and two competent witnesses.

**FEES**—Two dollars when the application or declaratory statement is made, and \$8 at final proof.

**NOT TRANSFERABLE**—Claims cannot be transferred until title is perfect.

**ONE ENTRY ONLY**—Only one pre-emption is allowed to one and the same individual.

**NO SPECULATION**—Pre-emptor must also swear that he has not settled said land for speculation but for his own exclusive use.

**HOMESTEAD ACT.**

**WHO CAN CLAIM**—Heads of families, (whether 21 years of age or not) husbands, sons, or widows; all persons, male or female, over 21 years of age, citizens of the United States, or who have declared their intention to become such.

**REQUIREMENTS**—Continued residence settlement and cultivation for five years from date of entry.

**SALE INVALID**—The sale of a homestead by the settler to another party before the completion of the title, vests no title in purchaser and will not be recognized by the Government.

**ONE ENTRY ONLY**—The law allows but one homestead privilege, and a settler who abandons or relinquishes his claim cannot make a second entry.

**FEES**—Eighteen dollars at time of entry and \$8 additional at final proof when patent issues.

**ABSENCES**—An occasional visit to the land every few weeks, and occupation by a steward, with cultivation is not sufficient. The homestead must be the actual home of the claimant. Occasional absence for a few days, or even weeks, if good faith be shown in all respects, will not subject the claim to forfeiture.

**NOT LIABLE FOR DEBT**—Homesteads are not liable for debts contracted prior to issue of patent.

**COMMUTED HOMESTEAD**—If a settler does not wish to reside for five years upon his tract, he may pay for it at the rate of \$2.50 per acre any time after six months' residence and cultivation.

**CHANGED TO PRE-EMPTION**—Homesteads may be turned into pre-emptions at any time within five years from date of entry.

**FINAL PROOF**—Cannot be made within five years and must be made within seven. Settlers must swear to his continuous residence and cultivation; that the homestead has not been alienated (unless for church, school, seminary or railroad requirements) that he is sole bona fide owner of it or actual settler; that he will bear true allegiance to the Government of the United States. This testimony must be supported by two credible witnesses.

**TREE CULTURE ACT.**

**WHO CAN CLAIM**—Heads of families, (whether 21 years of age or not) husbands, sons, or widows; or all persons, male or female, over 21 years of age, being residents of the United States, or having declared their intention to become such.

**ONE ENTRY ONLY**—Can be made by the same individual for one quarter section of untimbered land, but as many entries can be made in the same section as will aggregate a quarter of one whole section.

**ONE CLAIM IN A SECTION**—Not more than one tree claim of 160 acres can be allowed in a section of 640 acres.

**HOW CULTIVATED**—Of the quarter section allowed for tree culture, ten acres must be planted to trees in the following manner:

First year, five acres must be broken.

Second year, the first five acres must be cultivated, to a crop, and another five acres broken.

Third year, the first five acres must be planted with timber seeds, cuttings or trees, and the second five acres cropped.

Fourth year, the second five acres must be planted with timber seeds, or cuttings, or trees, and first five acres of timber properly cultivated.

Fifth to eight years, the whole amount of ten acres of timber must be continuously cultivated, and, if destroyed by grasshoppers, drought or other mischance, must be replaced. In such cases an extension of time is allowed.

**FINAL PROOF**—A patent for the land will be issued at the expiration of eight years from the date of entry, or at any time within five years thereafter, if ant or his heir shall prove by two credible witnesses that not fewer than 2,700 trees have been planted to the acre and that 675 living and thrifty trees are growing on each acre, or 750 in all, at time of proof.

**WHAT IS TIMBER?**—The following are recognized by the act: Ash, alder, birch, beech, black walnut, basswood, black locust, larch, maple, box elder, oak, pine, cedar, chestnut, cottonwood, elm, fir, spruce, hickory, honey-locust, plane-tree or cotton-tree, butternut or sycamore, service tree or mountain ash, white walnut or butternut, white willow, and white wood or tulip tree.

**WHEN FORFEITABLE**—If requirements of law are not complied with within one year from date of entry, claim reverts to Government.

**FEES**—Fourteen dollars at time of entry for 160 acres, and \$4 more at final proof.

**NOT LIABLE FOR DEBT**—The tree claim cannot be held for debts contracted prior to the issue of the patent therefor.

The tree claim does not require residence.

**Dakota's Productiveness.**

Dakota takes takes the pot, when you come to talk about fertile soil. A farmer planted a small house, 10x12 on his quarter section, and the next year it had grown into a large and pleasant farm house, with green blinds and veranda attachment. His pump had grown into a wind mill, and instead of one cow he had a whole herd. His land had run over its boundary and covered three-quarters of a section. He had grown from a slim, dyspeptic person to an individual of over 200 pounds, and his pocket book had grown so heavy he had to invest in government bonds. Who says Dakota soil is not productive?—EX.

**Vacant Land Limited.**

One of the papers in a new county, not far from the Missouri river, expresses the opinion that at this time next year there will not be a piece of desirable land east of the great river. That looks somewhat extravagant, but the more carefully the situation is examined—the extent of land yet to be entered, the rapidity in which it is being taken and the indications for immigration in the spring—the less of improbability appears in the statement. New railroads will give easy access to all the new sections to surpass anything known in the history of the country, unless it should be checked by unfortunate legislation in congress.—Fargo Argus.

"To Dakota" is as common a word as was "On to Richmond" in the days of the rebellion, and the echoes will not die away until the thousands of flourishing and happy homes will have beautified the land, and the power of man transformed the whole of this great territory into a land the choicest on earth.—Minnesota Farmer.

Wm. Glass loans money for final proof, and on titled land. 381f.

## WHY THEY KICK!

A Courier Correspondent Tells Why Eastern Squealers Squall so About Dakota.

Gotthold tells us that Hans Priem was admitted into paradise on the express condition that he was not to indulge a habit he had acquired of censuring and criticising whatever came under his notice. As he entered he saw two angels carrying a beam crossways, and knocking it against every object they met, but he said nothing. He next saw two angels drawing water from a fountain and pouring it into a cask which had holes in the bottom, but still he held his peace. And many other things of the same kind he although suppressed his thoughts and his remarks apprehending that he might otherwise be expelled from the place. At last he saw a cart stuck in the mire, with one pair of horses hooked into it before and another pair behind, and the driver urging both simultaneously forward. This was too much for Hans, and he was unable to refrain from some criticism. The consequence was that he was seized by two angels and turned to the door. Before it stood behind him, however, he looked behind him and perceived that the horses were winged, and had succeeded in drawing the cart out of the mud into the air, and he wisely concluded that there could be no doubt that in the cases of the beam and the cask there were equally good reasons why things were as they were in the land of paradise. Quills there are and not a few south and east and west in our country, who like Hans, can't refrain and are pouring out their native colic against the land of the Dakotas, and all that's being done by an enterprising, prosperous people in the permanent development of one of the most fertile districts on the continent of North America. It is one of the most inexplicable things to these editors that exist, in the reason of things, that a man having one hundred acres in Pennsylvania of which 20 under the plow cost him the best part of twenty years labor to redeem from stumps, roots and stone, should sell out his old home and locate in a land where 160 acres good land is given him and in one year's time can have with one good team 100 acres under the plow well in hand for a good crop. The impenetrable mist still blinds these disciples of growler when their neighbor and friend after one year's sojourn in Dakota sends them cheerful news—saying that he is happy and contented, and that his experience has confirmed his most sanguine expectations and that no inducement could take him back to dodge his team between stones and stumps on the old plantation. As dark as ever seems the mystery to these grumble-town people when at the end of the second year they hear again from their old neighbor that he has had good health, good crops, and as good time generally in his new western home, and that the gift of Uncle Sam of 160 broad acres is estimated to be worth \$1,600.

"Jerusha, what's the matter with that brat that she squalls all the morning through? I wish you would examine carefully and see."

"Yes, ma'am I will."

"Well, I declare, if there isn't a pin sticking right into her poor little body! It's enough to make any child squall."

Some of our eastern, western and southern brethren have pins still in their swaddling clothes. In a few years the nurse will have them out. Then they will feel better. QUILL.

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