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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.," of 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 \$2.00; 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—**Continuous 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; 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 eighth 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 7,750 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, spruce, fir, hickory, honey-locust, plane-tree or cotton-tree, buttonwood 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.

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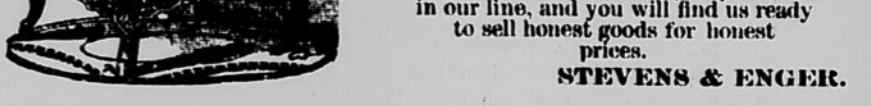
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