

ASSISTED SETTLEMENT.

(Sudbury Star.)

A correspondent in the Toronto Mail and Empire puts the case pretty strongly with regard to a practical immigration policy for New Ontario, when he urges a personal and financial interest by the Government in each settler. After pointing out that (in his opinion) the men from the British Isles make the best settlers, he says:

"The immigrant should never be allowed on arrival to be dissatisfied. He should be taken in hand, and things made smooth for him, the first year anyway. And the only way is for the Government or its representative to take him in hand and place him right at the start; and for this purpose I make the following suggestion:

"Let the Government select a few of the most promising agricultural townships in Northern Ontario for settlement and appoint a good practical man who has had experience in clearing land and building, to have full control of the township in each case, to receive the immigrant, to locate him and direct his work the first year. Each lot in the township contains 160 acres. I understand the Government price is \$1.00 per acre, which is \$160 per quarter section. The Government should bring this amount up to \$500 by advancing an additional \$340 to be expended on the lot, which would be sufficient to erect a small log house and barn and supply a cow, a pig and a few hens, the whole to remain the property of the Government until the \$500 is paid, with 4 per cent. interest. After three years of occupation and interest payments are made in full at the rate of four per cent. on the \$500 capital, the settler is to have a further period of seven years to complete his title and receive his deed by paying yearly 4 per cent. and a sinking fund sufficient to wipe out the liability. The work performed by the immigrant under the township superintendent's direction would so improve the value of the lot that the Government would be secured for the money advanced. At the end of the first three years if the immigrant was reported by the superintendent to be an undesirable settler he should be removed and another put in his place."

There is a good deal of sound common sense in what the correspondent here suggests. Hitherto we have been working along at haphazard, letting the immigrant go where he will and losing sight of him altogether. When he first comes to this country he finds things vastly different from what he has been used to and he needs a little direction and monetary assistance in tackling the problem of clearing the timbered land allotted to him and in weathering the first few years. If he becomes dissatisfied and discouraged, as in many instances he will, if not given a helping hand, he writes back accordingly to his friends in the Old Country, and the good effect of New Ontario's literature goes for naught. Some sort of practical scheme along the lines suggested is absolutely required, and it is to such a plan that the Whitney Government should apply itself. We may not move very fast for a while, but in the end the results will be established and settlement gradually extended of the kind that will attract and foster a big agricultural population.

The correspondent thinks that the policy of allowing homesteaders to take up lands just where they please is bad, and in this he is right. One township should be colonized at a time, thus avoiding scattered settlement and tending to keep the settlers together to their mutual advantage and to the advantage of the particular municipality.