

THE BELLE PLAINE ENQUIRER

Thursday, May 19, 1859.

4.

Pre-emption Law.

The following embrace the points which persons wishing to make pre-emptions in Minnesota, are required to prove to the satisfaction of the officers at the different Land Offices, in order to pre-empt:

1. The settler must never before have had the benefit of pre-emption under the act.
2. He must not, at the time of making a pre-emption, be the owner of 320 acres of land in any State or Territory in the U. S.
3. He must settle upon and improve the land in good faith for his own exclusive use or benefit and not with the intention of selling it on speculation; and must not make, directly or indirectly, any contract or agreement in any way or manner, with any person or persons, by which the title which he may acquire from the United States should enure, in whole or in part, to the benefit of any person except himself.
4. He must be twenty-one years of age and a citizen of the United States; or if a foreigner, must have declared his intention to become a citizen before the proper authority, and received a certificate to that effect.
5. He must build a house on the land, live in it, and make it his exclusive home, and must be an inhabitant of the same at the time of making

application for pre-emption. [Until lately a single man might board with his nearest neighbor; but the same is now required of a single as of a married man except that if married, the family of the settler must also live in the house.]

6. The law requires that more or less improvement be made on the land, such as breaking, fencing, etc.; but pre-emptions are granted where a half-acre is broken and enclosed.

7. It is necessary that no other person entitled to the right of pre-emption, reside on the land at the same time.

8. No one is permitted to remove from his own land, and make a pre-emption in the same State or Territory.

9. The settler is required to bring with him to the Land Office, a written or printed application, setting forth the facts to his case of the 1st. and 2nd. and 3rd. requirements here mentioned, with a certificate appended, to be signed by the Register and Receiver, and make affidavit to the same.

10. He is also required to bring with him a respectable witness of his acquaintance, who is knowing to the fact of his settlement, to make affidavit on the 4th., 5th., 6th., 7th., and 8th. requirements here mentioned, with the same set forth on paper, with corresponding blank certificate attached, to be signed by the land officers.

11s The pre-emptor, if a foreigner, must bring with him to the Land Office, duplicates of his naturalization papers, duly signed by the official from whom they were received.

A minor who is the head of the family, or a widow, may also pre-empt—their families being required to live on the land.

The settler is required to file a written declaratory statement of his intention to pre-empt, before he can proceed with his pre-emption.

Fees—1st. The fee required by the Register for filing a declaratory statement is \$1.00.

2d. For granting a pre-emption, the Register and Receiver can receive each fifty cents.

3d. For duplicate of the map of any township, one dollar is required by the Register. ■

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Posted MLHP: April 8, 2010.