

## PRE-EMPTION RIGHTS.

“Any person being the head of a family, or widow, or single man, over the age of 21 years, and being a citizen of the United States, or having filed his declaration of intention to become a citizen as required by the naturalization laws,” has a right to “claim” and take possession of any number of acres of unoccupied public lands, not exceeding 160. A dwelling must be erected upon it, and the claimant reside there in person, and improve and cultivate the land claimed, or enough of it, and reside long enough upon it, to constitute the “settlement” which the law requires. If he does not make the claim and reside upon the land in person, anybody else may erect a shanty thereon, and by occupying it in person, hold the claim in spite of any previous occupation by proxy. The claimant or pre-emptor must “enter” his claim in the proper land office, within 30 days after the land has been surveyed, and within 12 months, payment must be made. Although the law does not specify whether the payment is to be made within 12 months after settlement, or 12 months after survey, yet it is supposed that 12 months after survey was intended to be given the claimant for making it to the Government. No individual can hold more than one claim, and he must make oath that he does not claim that for the purpose of selling to another, or on speculation. Nor can any one make a claim or “enter” land by pre-emption right, who already owns 320 acres in the Territory. The pre-emption act was passed on September