

Dominion Lands.

Few new surveys were undertaken in 1877. The special survey was continued, seven townships sub-divided, thirteen Indian Reserves surveyed, one old settlement, one outer two miles and one old trail surveyed; the Reserve at Thessalon, Lake Huron, sub-divided into farm lots, and a survey made for the Indian Branch at Garden River.

In the Special Survey, the second principal meridian was produced north to the telegraph line, and a careful preliminary survey made of Prince Albert and the Indian Settlement and "The Forks" of the Saskatchewan. The total distance run was 30 miles; the country was well supplied with wood and water,—soil, sandy loam of fair quality. Streams of fresh water. Lakes, alkaline. North of these lakes the soil is poor to about three miles south of the C. P. R. line, when it becomes densely wooded, with numerous ponds. This continues about 27 miles, when for 13 miles the country is more open and inviting, gradually descending into an alkaline sandy plain. On the Third Principal meridian 106 west, the line runs for 24 miles through the same sandy, rolling plain, crossing the C. P. R. line at the 13th mile. At the 11th base, the main southern trail to Carleton was crossed, the land improves and fresh-water ponds and groves of timber abound. After crossing the South Saskatchewan 1½ miles north of the 12th base line, a tract of great fertility was entered on which continued to the North Branch, beyond which the country was thickly timbered with poplar and spruce of large size. All along the 12th correction line for 2½ miles east the land was excellent, and settlers' improvements were met with. At Prince Albert there was a population of about 500. The land is nearly as rich as in the Red River valley and more undulating, and everyone seemed satisfied and cheerful as regarded the future prospects of the settlement. The wheat, oats, barley, turnips, &c., &c., were equal to those of Ontario. At the St. Laurent Settlement, on the south branch, there are about 40½ French half-breeds. Not much attention is given to farming; but the land is capable of raising good crops. The Indian Settlement is on the north bank of the South Saskatchewan, 14 miles south-east of Prince Albert, on a very choice

flat. Fort à la Corne is 50 miles east of Prince Albert, land poor and light. Carleton House, 40 miles south-west of Prince Albert, land inferior in quality, except on the limited intervals. The Saskatchewan flows for 15½ miles from Carleton on the north branch, and St. Laurent on the south, through a land with excellent soil, plenty of splendid timber and abundance of water. This fertile belt, bounded by the Pasquia hills on the south, extends more than 50 miles east of Fort à la Corne, and this fine country is free from the grasshopper, and the magnificent rivers afford a cheap outlet for surplus produce to Winnipeg, the trip from Carleton to Winn peg occupying 4½ days. On the 8th September, 1877, the North Saskatchewan was 97 feet wide with a mean depth of over six feet.

The entries for land in Manitoba during the year ending October 31st, 1877, were

	acres.
Homesteads and pre-emp-tions	1,476 .. 225,710
Sales, Military Bounty, Forest, Tree, &c	857 .. 171,713
	2,233 400,423
Two years previous..	1,828 .. 316,812

The cash and scrip receipts amounted to \$168,098.

The half-breed lands were allotted in 1877, in 12 parishes, and 1,15 claimants over 18 years of age were granted patents. Scrip was issued during the year to half-breed heads of families equal to \$43,320, and in commutation of hay and common right, \$26,705.58.

Grants were made as follows:—

Half-breeds over 18	1,115
Sales	609
Homesteads	139
Military Bounty Grants	132
Outer two miles or Hay privilege..	19
Under Manitoba Act.....	421
Free wood-lots	2

Nine new settlements were formed in Manitoba in 1877, besides 10 Mennonite villages, and the population is steadily and rapidly increasing every year.