

CHAPTER XII.

DOMINION LANDS.

Home-
steads and
pre-emp-
tions, 1885
and 1886.

658. It was inevitable that the unfortunate outbreak in the North-West Territories, in the spring of 1885, should have tended very materially to hinder for a time the settlement of those districts, but the following figures show that the effect is rapidly passing away, and that there was a very material increase in the number of homestead and pre-emption entries in 1886 as compared with 1885, and the expected immigration, coupled with the general improvement in business of all kinds, make the prospects for the coming season very bright :—

| | 1885. | 1886. |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Homesteads..... | 249,552 acres. | 294,960 acres. |
| Pre-emptions..... | 106,213 “ | 146,480 “ |
| Sales..... | 126,049 “ | 133,701 “ |

From the above it will be seen that there was a total increase in the area disposed of of 93,327 acres, the largest increase being in the number of homesteads taken up.

Transac-
tions in
Dominion
lands, 1872-
1886.

659. The following table gives particulars of the transactions in Dominion lands in each year from 1872 to 31st October, 1886, that being the end of the year in this Department, except in financial matters :—