

Increase
in 1886.

661. There was a total increase in 1886 of \$42,685 in the receipts from fees and sales, owing to the large redemption of scrip, but there was a decrease in fees and cash for sales.

Improved
class of
settlers.

662. The people that are now settling in Manitoba and the North-West are of a far more practical class than used to be the case, and have been improving in this respect for a number of years, as is shown by the fact that the number of entries cancelled each year has been steadily decreasing; in 1874, 62½ of the homestead and 89 per cent. of the pre-emption entries were cancelled, in 1885 only 4½ per cent. of the former and 9½ per cent. of the latter were cancelled.

Manitoba
Lands Act

663. The time for making claims for lands under the Manitoba Act expired on the 1st May, 1886. The number of patents issued was 4,559, being 1,026 more than in the preceding year, and over 600 more than in any previous year.

National
Park,
Banff.

664. A large tract of land enclosing the hot mineral springs at Banff, N.W.T., was reserved and set apart as a National Park, under an Order in Council passed 25th November, 1885. The reservation has been surveyed and plans made for the construction of roads and bridges, while the grounds are being laid out under a Government superintendent. Numerous applications have been made for the purchase and lease of building lots and sites, and several hotels have already been erected. The hot springs, the use of which is subject to Government regulations, have been found to possess most remarkable curative and sanitary qualities, and it is believed that this park is likely to become before long the most successful health resort on the continent. Over fifty persons spent the last winter there for the benefit of their health.

Other
park re-
servations

665. Four other park reservations have been made in the Rocky Mountains, under an Order in Council passed 10th October, 1886.