

CHAPTER XII

DOMINION LANDS.

607. In the face of the large immigration into the North-West Territories last year, the increase in the amount of land taken up, was by no means what was expected, there being only a small increase in the area taken up as homesteads, and a decrease under the heads both of pre-emptions and sales. The following are the comparative figures:—

	1886.	1887.
Homesteads.....	294,960 Acres	319,500 Acres
Pre-emptions.....	146,480 "	87,747 "
Sales.....	133,701 "	113,544 "

608. Two reasons are, however, given in the report of the Minister of the Interior for the comparatively small area taken up, one being that the extraordinary grain crop caused a very large demand for labour, and consequently a much larger proportion than usual of the immigration was absorbed in this way, and the other that settlers coming into the country appeared to realize to a much greater extent than formerly, the advisability of acquiring some experience of the modes of agriculture suitable to the country, before taking up land. "There is much" says the report "in the soil and climate of Manitoba and the North-West that requires to be studied by the newly arrived agriculturist, even assuming his former experience to have fitted him in every respect for the pursuit of his calling, and it would be to his personal interest that he should acquire a little practical knowledge of the country and its methods of farming before finally taking up land on his own account." The report further says that "The opinion begins to gain favour with those who have paid close attention to the affairs of Manitoba and the North-West, that, so far as relates to the grain growing portions of the

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