

"country at least, 160 acres is the limit of the area which "the average farmer can profitably work." The decrease in the number of pre-emptions would appear to be an indication of the growth of this feeling.

609. The following table gives particulars of the transactions in Dominion lands in each year from 1872 to 31st October, 1887, that being the end of the year in this Department, except in financial matters :—

Transactions in Dominion lands 1872-1887.

YEAR.	AREA.			
	Homesteads.	Pre-emptions.	Sales.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1872.....	40,000	1,600	15,200	56,800
1873.....	136,640	2,400	16,620	155,660
1874.....	215,520	101,461	17,713	334,694
1875.....	84,480	67,314	4,908	156,702
1876.....	52,960	40,406	39,562	132,928
1877.....	145,280	107,715	170,989	423,984
1878.....	308,640	275,240	125,380	709,260
1879.....	555,296	270,178	271,343	1,096,817
1880 (Oct. 31st)	280,640	140,790	260,797	682,227
1881 ".....	438,707	263,647	355,166	1,057,520
1882 ".....	1,181,652	904,211	613,282	2,699,145
1883 ".....	970,719	659,120	202,143	1,831,962
1884 ".....	533,280	364,060	213,172	1,110,512
1885 ".....	249,552	106,213	126,049	481,814
1886 ".....	294,960	146,480	133,701	575,141
1887 ".....	319,500	87,747	114,544	521,791

Since the beginning of 1872, therefore, the total number of acres disposed of has been 12,026,977, of which 5,807,826 acres were homesteads, 3,538,582 pre-emptions and 2,680,569 sales.

610. The next table gives the total amount of pre-emption and homestead fees, and proceeds of sales, received in each year from 1st July, 1872, to 30th June, 1887 :—

Receipts from fees and sales 1873-1887.