

Nova Scotia and 1 in Manitoba. The increase in the number of companies and in the business done has been very large, the companies having increased 124 per cent., the capital paid up 299 per cent., and the total loans 485 per cent. The total authorized capital, as far as the returns showed, was \$102,700,583. of which \$75,768,750. or 73 per cent., was subscribed, and 32,125,009, or 31 per cent., paid up. The returns were partially defective, the companies in New Brunswick making no returns at all, and the company in Nova Scotia only imperfect ones.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### DOMINION LANDS.

631. The area of land taken up for homesteads during 1888 was largely in excess of that of the previous year, and the number of acres sold was also considerably more than in 1887, while there was a decided decrease in the number of acres pre-empted, showing pretty conclusively that settlers are becoming more firmly convinced that 160 acres is as large an area as the average farmer can profitably work. The following are the comparative figures for the two years:—

	1887.	1888.
Homesteads .....	319,500 acres.	420,333 acres.
Pre-emptions .....	87,747 "	70,521 "
Sales.....	114,544 "	197,140 "

632. The proportion of land taken up for homesteads to the total number of persons reported to have settled in Manitoba and the North-West was about the same as in 1887, from which it is satisfactory to see that incoming settlers continue to realize the advisability of acquiring some experience of the modes of agriculture suitable to the

Area of  
land  
taken up,  
1888.

Proportion of  
area to  
number of  
settlers.