

CHAPTER XII.

DOMINION LANDS.

Dominion
Lands.

741. The Crown Lands of the Dominion of Canada, known generally as Dominion Lands, are situated in Manitoba, the Territories, and in what is known as the Railway Belt in British Columbia, and comprise some of the finest agricultural lands on the Continent. In order to provide every facility for information to immigrants and settlers the Commissioner of Dominion Lands has his office in Winnipeg, and a number of land agencies are situated at the most convenient points, where the fullest details can be obtained.

Area taken
up in 1889.

742. With the exception of the years 1882 and 1883, the area of land entered by actual settlers under the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act was greater than in any previous year. In 1885, owing to the disturbance in the North-West, the area entered for homestead purposes only amounted to 249,552 acres, but since then the increase has been continuous: the increase in 1888 over 1887 amounted to 100,833 acres, and in 1889 over 1888 to 275,717 acres.

Area pre-
empted,
1889.

743. The increase in the area pre-empted was very considerable, amounting to 142,130. This increase was undoubtedly largely due to the fact that the privilege of pre-emption ceased on the 31st December, 1889, and many settlers were thereby induced to apply for pre-emption entries who otherwise might not have done so.

Area sold,
1889.

744. There was a decrease in the area of land sold of 20,048 acres. The following are the comparative figures for the last three years of the transactions in Dominion Lands:—

	1887.	1888.	1889.
Homesteads... ..	319,500 acres.	420,333 acres.	696,050 acres.
Pre-emptions.....	87,747 “	70,521 “	212,651 “
Sales.	114,544 “	197,140 “	177,092 “