

## CHAPTER XII.

## DOMINION LANDS.

Dominion  
lands.

793. 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.

Land  
transac-  
tions, 1887  
1890.

794. The following are the comparative figures for the last three years of the transactions in Dominion Lands :—

	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
Homesteads. ....	319,500 acres.	420,333 acres.	696,050 acres.	471,040 acres.
Pre-emptions....	87,747 “	70,521 “	212,651 “	57,600 “
Sales. ....	114,544 “	197,140 “	177,092 “	139,030 “

Decrease  
of area  
taken up  
in 1890.

795. There was, it will be seen, a reduction in the area of land taken up as homesteads of 225,010 acres, which was brought about, it is supposed, by an unfavourable impression created by the drought of the previous year, and it is to be hoped that this impression will soon pass away, since there is no reason for it; all lands being subject to drought at times and the fertile lands of the North West not more so than elsewhere. The decrease in the quantity pre-empted was only to be expected, since the right to obtain pre-emption entries lapsed on the 1st January, 1890. The decrease in the area of land sold was probably also attributable to the drought of the previous year.

Entries  
cancelled.

796. The number of entries cancelled has been steadily decreasing; in 1874 63 per cent. of the homestead and 93 per cent. of the pre-emption entries were cancelled, in 1890, two per