

767. The total area set out for settlement in each year since 1873 is given below :—

	Acres.	Number of Farms of 160 acres each.	Area set out for settlement.
Previous to June, 1873.....	4,792,292	29,952	
In 1874.....	4,237,864	26,487	
1875.....	665,000	4,156	
1876.....	420,507	2,628	
1877.....	231,691	1,448	
1878.....	306,936	1,918	
1879.....	1,130,482	7,066	
1880.....	4,472,000	27,950	
1881.....	8,147,000	50,919	
1882.....	9,460,000	59,125	
1883.....	27,000,000	168,750	
1884.....	6,400,000	40,000	
1885.....	391,680	2,448	
1886.....	1,379,010	8,620	
1887.....	643,710	4,023	
1888.....	1,131,840	7,074	
1889.....	516,960	3,231	
1890.....	817,075	5,106	
1891.....	76,560	476	
Total.....	<u>72,220,607</u>	<u>451,379</u>	

At the rate of five souls to a homestead of 160 acres, these lands would sustain an agricultural population of 2,256,885.

768. Numerous improvements were made during the year in the Rocky Mountains Park, principally in opening out new roads and avenues and in improving those already made, and the total amount expended was \$10,648. With one exception, there was an absence of the heavy forest fires, both in the park itself and in the neighbouring country, which did so much damage in previous years, and no doubt helped to keep visitors away. There was an increase of 1,385 in the number of persons registering at the Cave and Basin, the total having been 5,066 as compared with 3,681 in 1890. Of the number registering in 1891, 3,409 were Canadians, 1,058 from the United States, and 419 from the United Kingdom.

769. An exploration of the country between the Liard and Peace Rivers on the east side of the Rocky Mountains was made by Mr. Wm. Ogilvie, D.L.S., during 1891. As a result the region was found to be thickly wooded, in many places with excellent timber, while the quality of the soil was generally fairly good, and as far as climatic conditions could be ascertained, the opinion was that the country was better adapted for agricultural purposes than would have been supposed from the latitude.

770. Beyond some experiments on a comparatively small scale at the Experimental Farms at Indian Head and Brandon, nothing has yet been done in the interest of forest tree culture in the North-West, and