

CHAPTER IV.

Lands of Canada.—Dominion Lands.—Synopsis of Dominion Lands Regulations.—
Provincial Lands.—Railway Lands.

154. There is a very large area of land throughout Canada available for settlement, either for agricultural or for mining purposes, the disposition of which is in the hands of the Dominion Government and of the several Provincial Governments, according to situation. These lands are known generally as “Crown Lands.”

155. The Crown Lands of the Dominion, commonly called 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.

156. Under an Order-in-Council passed 25th November, 1885, a large tract of land, inclosing the hot mineral springs at Banff, N.W.T., was reserved and set apart as a national park, to be known as “Rocky Mountains Park.” Under an Order-in-Council passed 10th October, 1886, certain other reservations in the Rocky Mountains were also made for park purposes. Since the reservation a number of improvements have been made in the Rocky Mountains Park, roads having been made and bridges built, besides alterations at the hot springs for the convenience of visitors and bathers. Still further improvements and repairs were made in 1894, the sum of \$4,453 having been expended. The number of visitors during the year 1894 to the Cave and Basin was 2,632 as compared with 3,784 in 1893, the decrease being attributable to the interruption to railway travel caused by the floods which occurred during the months of June and July. Among those who registered their names at the springs were 1,474 Canadians, 680 persons from the United States, and 342 from the United Kingdom.

157. The following are the comparative figures for the last seven years of transactions in Dominion lands. The pre-emption system was terminated on 1st January, 1890.

—	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	Depart- mental Year 1894.	Calendar Year 1894.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Homesteads ..	420,333	696,050	471,040	563,680	774,400	650,720	513,440	507,840
Pre-emptions .	70,521	212,651	57,600
Sales	197,140	177,092	139,030	189,704	62,800	46,873	17,578	18,275