

At the rate of five to a homestead of 160 acres, these lands would sustain an agricultural population of 2,432,470 souls.

165. The returns of the land sales by the principal railway and land companies in Manitoba and the North-west afford a not untrustworthy indication of the progress of settlement, for, while a certain percentage of the purchases will always be found to be of a speculative nature, the larger proportion are for purposes of settlement and cultivation. In 1894, the quantity of land sold by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company was 43,155 acres, the amount realized having been \$131,628, being at the rate of \$3.05 per acre. The Hudson's Bay Company sold 4,427 acres for \$23,209, or \$5.24 per acre. This company also sold town lots to the value of \$37,324. The Calgary and Edmonton Land Company sold 13,072 acres in 1892 for \$44,998, an average of \$3.44 per acre. The three companies, therefore, sold a total of 114,164 acres for \$391,143, being an average price of \$3.43 per acre.

166. The number of homestead entries made during the year was 3,174, representing 9,716 souls and 507,840 acres of land. The entries were made by 1,287 Canadians, 850 from the United States (216 of whom were returned Canadians), 460 from the United Kingdom, 114 French, 87 Germans, 86 Austro-Hungarians, 147 Russians (other than Mennonites), 61 Swedes and 31 Icelanders. The net addition to the population of Manitoba and the North-west by the above entries was 9,716, but of course the number of souls, represented by the 816 entries made by persons from other parts of Canada, was no addition to the population of the Dominion. The various immigration agents report that the demand for farm servants and female help continues to increase, and that the present supply is inadequate to meet it. Government agents all over the Dominion report, more or less, to the same effect. Farm labourers, female domestics and farm servants may emigrate with confidence that they will find situations on arrival. Mechanics are not wanted, the local supply being in excess of the demand. The practice of granting assisted passages to immigrants was discontinued in 1888. Money bonuses to settlers have also been abolished.

167. In the session of 1894 an act was passed entitled the "North-west Irrigation Act." This act has been so framed as to provide for careful supervision by the Government of the first distribution and the subsequent supervision of the available water supply in the arid region. Some of the provisions under which the control is to be exercised are departures from the methods heretofore adopted on this continent, but those best qualified to judge speak of the system adopted as calculated to establish irrigation enterprises upon a sound basis.

At the close of the season of 1894 there were over 60 private ditches in operation in southern Alberta and western Assiniboia, while two incorporated companies had extensive systems under construction. The results which have followed have been most encouraging. There is now no reason to doubt that through irrigation a large portion of Assiniboia and Alberta will be rendered fruitful every year and the element of uncertainty caused by variations in the rainfall altogether eliminated from the calculations of those engaged in extensive agricultural operations.