

The number of homestead entries made during the twelve months ending 31st October, 1896, was 1,861, representing 5,705 souls and 297,760 acres of land. The entries were made by 935 Canadians, 202 from the United States (52 of whom were returned Canadians), 375 from the United Kingdom, 67 French, 54 Germans, 80 Austro-Hungarians, 75 Russians (other than Mennonites), 6 Swedes, 22 Icelanders and 45 from other countries. The net addition to the population of Manitoba and the North-west by the above entries was 5,705, but, of course, the number of souls represented by the 380 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 in the spring of the year, 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.

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 1896 there were 157 irrigation ditches and canals with a total length of 350 miles in operation in southern Alberta and western Assiniboia. 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.

The Provincial Crown Lands are situated within the limits of the several provinces, and are controlled by the respective governments, from whom particulars of transactions concerning them can always be obtained. Summaries of the regulations for the disposition of Dominion Lands, Provincial Crown Lands and the lands belonging to the principal railway companies who have received land subsidies in Manitoba and the North-west Territories are given below.

Under the Dominion Lands Regulations, all surveyed even-numbered sections (excepting 8 and 26) in Manitoba and the North-west Territories, which have not been homesteaded, reserved to provide wood lots for settlers, or otherwise disposed of or reserved, are to be held exclusively for homesteads.

1. Homestead Entry for one quarter section (160 acres) of surveyed agricultural land, open to such entry, may be obtained by any person who is the sole head of a family, or by any male who has attained the age of eighteen years, on application to the local agent of Dominion Lands, and on payment of an office fee of \$10.