

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."

The Crown Lands of the Dominion, commonly called Dominion Lands, are situated in Manitoba, the Territories, and 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, land agencies are situated at the most convenient points, where the fullest details can be obtained.

Under an Order in Council passed 25th November, 1885, a large tract of land, inclosing several hot mineral springs at Banff, Alberta, was 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. These Orders in Council were passed under authority of provisions contained in the "Dominion Lands Act," respecting the reservation of public lands for park purposes, but the reservation of the Rocky Mountains Park was confirmed and particularly defined by the "Rocky Mountains Park Act, 1887," chap. 32 of 50-51 Vic. Since its reservation many improvements have been completed in the park; roads have been made, bridges built, burnt timber and brushwood removed, buildings erected at the Hot Springs, at the "Cave and Basin," for the convenience of bathers and other visitors; and lately a museum which already contains an interesting collection of 1,339 articles, found within the park or elsewhere in the Rocky Mountains, has been added to the attractions of this park. The majority of visitors call at the Cave and Basin, and in 1898 of those who registered there, 1,366 were Canadians, 721 were from the United States, 280 from England, Scotland and Ireland, and the remainder from France, Germany, India, Australia, China, Japan, and other countries. For the year 1899, the number was 2,775, of whom 1,491 were Canadians, 765 from the United States, 317 from England, Scotland and Ireland, and the remainder from other countries. The total number of visitors to the Park during the year was 7,387.

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

	1891.	1892.	1893.	De- part- mental Year, 1894.	Cal- endar Year, 1894.	10 mo's ended 28th Oct. 1895.	12 mo's ended 31st Oct., 1896.	Cal- endar Year, 1897.	Cal- endar Year, 1898.	Cal- endar Year, 1899.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acr s.	Acres.
Homesteads.	563,680	774,400	650,720	513,440	507,840	338,240	297,760	381,440	775,680	1,070,240
Pre-emptions	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sales.....	189,704	62,800	46,873	17,578	18,275	27,436	28,395	22,336	47,186	45,502

The annual average number of acres taken up during the period 1890-7, was 572,200 acres. In 1899, the number was nearly double, or 95 per cent of an increase.