

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

AREA SET OUT FOR SETTLEMENT.

Year.	Acres.	Number of Farms of 160 acres each.	YEAR.	Acres.	Number of Farms of 160 acres each.
Previous to June, 1873. . . . .	4,792,292	29,952	In 1889 . . . . .	516,968	3,231
In 1874. . . . .	4,237,864	26,487	1890. . . . .	817,075	5,106
1875. . . . .	665,000	4,156	1891. . . . .	76,560	476
1876. . . . .	420,507	2,628	1892. . . . .	1,395,200	8,720
1877. . . . .	231,691	1,448	1893. . . . .	2,928,640	18,304
1878. . . . .	306,936	1,918	1894. . . . .	300,240	1,876
1879. . . . .	1,130,482	7,066	1895. . . . .	406,240	2,539
1880. . . . .	4,472,000	27,950	1896. . . . .	506,560	3,166
1881. . . . .	8,147,000	50,919	1897. . . . .	428,640	2,679
1882. . . . .	10,186,000	63,662	1898. . . . .	859,840	5,374
1883. . . . .	27,234,000	170,212	1899. . . . .	1,022,720	6,392
1884. . . . .	6,435,000	40,218	1900 (8 months)	735,480	4,596
1885. . . . .	391,680	2,448	1901. . . . .	1,603,680	10,023
1886. . . . .	1,379,010	8,620	Total . . . . .	83,382,855	521,263
1887. . . . .	643,710	4,023			
1888. . . . .	1,131,840	7,074			

At the rate of five to a homestead of 160 acres, these lands would sustain an agricultural population of 2,605,710.

The number of homestead entries made during the twelve months of 1901 was 9,108, representing 28,034 souls. The entries were made by 3,520 Canadians, 2,753 from the United States (205 of whom were returned Canadians), 945 from the United Kingdom; 48 were French, 245 Germans, 969 Austro-Hungarians, 257 Russians, 112 Swedes and Norwegians, 162 Icelanders, 97 other countries.

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 so 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 1901 there were 169 irrigation ditches and canals in operation in southern Alberta and western Assiniboia, with a length of 469 miles. These have a carrying capacity sufficient to irrigate 614,684 acres. Number of water rights recorded for domestic, power and other purposes, 127. 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.