

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

enable the Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior to carry out certain investigations for the purpose of ascertaining which of these methods can best be applied to the Canadian forests with a view to stopping the destruction which now threatens them, and of making these forests a great and permanent source of wealth to the people of the Dominion.

Many other projects and many additional lines of work are under consideration by the Council, but these require further examination before the Council is in a position to decide what action should be taken with reference to them.

The Research Council Act of the Dominion Parliament (7-8 Geo. V, c. 20), which was assented to on August 29, 1917, gave statutory authority to the constitution of the Council under the Sub-Committee of the Privy Council on Industrial and Scientific Research.

PUBLIC LANDS.

Dominion Lands.—The Crown lands of the Dominion of Canada are situated in the Prairie Provinces and in the Railway Belt of British Columbia. Of these lands large areas are offered in free grants as homesteads for settlers¹. The lands are laid out in townships of 36 sections. Each section contains 640 acres and is divided into quarter sections of 160 acres. A quarter section of 160 acres may be obtained by a settler on payment of an entry fee of \$10 and fulfilment of certain conditions of residence and cultivation. To qualify for the issue of the patent for his homestead a settler must have resided upon his homestead for at least six months in each of three years, must have erected a habitable house thereon, must have at least 30 acres of his holding broken of which 20 acres must be cropped, and must be a British subject.

Disposal of Dominion Lands in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.—According to figures supplied by the Department of the Interior, a total area of 139,148,956 acres, equal to 6,039 townships, or 217,420 square miles, has been alienated from the Crown. The total number of acres surveyed to January 1, 1917, was 220,215,856 and of this area there remain for disposal 61,066,900 acres, of which 3,931,500 acres are under timber licenses, 5,398,800 acres are under grazing leases, 25,615,500 acres are under forest reserves and parks and 26,121,100 acres are now available for homestead entry.

In addition to the surveyed area, there are large tracts of land in the northern parts of these three provinces which have, as yet, been explored only in a very partial way. The total area of this unsurveyed tract is 285,426,842 acres, of which 22,616,262 acres are water-covered.

Railway Lands.—Table 6 is a record for the three fiscal years 1914 to 1916 of the sales of lands by the Hudson's Bay Company and by railway companies having government land grants. The total sales in 1915-16 amounted to \$5,435,949 for 354,886 acres, as compared with \$3,279,031 for 192,801 acres in 1914-15.

¹Copies of the detailed Regulations for the granting of free homesteads are obtainable from the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, Department of the Interior, Ottawa.