

# CHAPTER XXVII.—MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATION.

## Section 1.—Public Lands.

### Subsection 1.—Dominion Public Lands.

NOTE.—After protracted negotiations between the Dominion Government and the Governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, agreements have recently been reached and assented to by the Crown for the transfer of the lands and natural resources of the Prairie Provinces and of the Railway Belt and the Peace River Block in British Columbia from the Dominion to the Provinces concerned.

The National Parks and Indian reservations are not included in these transfers but remain under the jurisdiction of the Dominion Government as in the older provinces of Canada.

The Crown lands of the Dominion of Canada are situated: (a) in the Prairie Provinces (Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta), (b) in the belt of 20 miles on each side of the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, known as the Dominion Railway Belt of British Columbia, (c) in a block in northern British Columbia, containing 3,500,000 acres, known as the "Peace River Block", and (d) in the entire area, including the Arctic islands, to the north of the organized provinces. Every person who is the sole head of a family and every male who has attained the age of 18 years and is a British subject, or declares his intention to become a British subject, is entitled to apply for entry for a homestead. 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 as a homestead 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, 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, and must have at least 30 acres of his holding broken, of which 20 acres must be cropped. A reasonable proportion of the cultivation should be performed in each of the three years.

Lands in Saskatchewan and Alberta, south of township 16, are not open for homestead entry, except by actual residents in the vicinity of the land applied for, but such lands may be secured under grazing lease.

**Disposal of Dominion Lands in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.**—According to figures supplied by the Department of the Interior, the total surveyed area at Jan. 1, 1930, was 201,173,161 acres, of which 19,279,000 acres was still undisposed of. Table 1 shows the distribution of the surveyed area for each of the three Prairie Provinces as at Jan. 1, 1930. In addition to the surveyed area, there are large tracts of land in the northern parts of these provinces, which have as yet been only very little explored. The total area of unsurveyed land in these provinces is 475,555 square miles.

Maps showing the disposition of Dominion lands and lands available for entry, and reports on the resources and development of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have been issued by the Natural Resources Intelligence Service (now known as the National Development Bureau), of the Department of the Interior. Some of these are as follows:—Small Land Map of the Prairie Provinces; Land District Maps of the different Dominion Land Agencies; Manitoba, its Development and Opportunities; Agricultural Loans; the Peace River District of Alberta; Description of the Resources and Possibilities of the Province of Saskatchewan, etc.