

CHAPTER VI.

OF THE SURVEYS, METHOD OF TRANSFER OF LAND, AND
RECORDS OF ASSINIBOIA.

In his interesting and instructive sketch (*y*) appended to the report of the Department of Interior for 1891, Mr. J. S. Dennis, D.T.S., states, at the beginning of his paper, that the "only surveys, other than explorations, which had been effected in the territory purchased (Rupert's Land), covered a narrow belt of lots fronting on the Red and Assiniboine rivers, and extending a short distance up and down these streams from their junction at Fort Garry. These surveys had been performed by Messrs. Sabine and Goulet, under instructions from the Hudson's Bay Company, with the object of defining the boundaries of holdings granted by that Company to settlers along these rivers." Mr. Dennis, not having the requisite books and documents at hand, has fallen into several errors in the above remarks, in pointing out which, it is not to be understood that any reflection is cast on the accuracy of his subsequent statements referring to the surveys of the Dominion Government in and after 1869, in regard to which he it said that Mr. Dennis is exceptionally well qualified to speak, and has furnished us with a valuable addition to a branch of Manitoba's history hitherto neglected.

The surveys of the Red River Settlement were not made by Messrs. Sabine and Goulet, who were employed at a much later date by the Council of Assiniboia to make local surveys for parties desiring to take up lands outside the regular and general surveys; nor were they made by the

(*y*) A Short History of the Surveys made under the Dominion Lands System, 1869 to 1889.