

## APPENDIX A.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,  
ORDNANCE LANDS' BRANCH,  
OTTAWA, 27th February, 1872.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit a report on the transactions of this branch of your Department to the close of the fiscal year, terminating 30th June, 1871.

Auction sales have been made of building lots laid off for that purpose, at the following places, which realized also the following prices:—

Chambly .....	\$9,119 18
Coteau du Lac .....	1,501 00
Cornwall .....	352 00
Prescott .....	2,333 00
Ottawa .....	9,980 00
Toronto .....	24,571 88
	\$47,857 06

payable on time, the first instalment having been paid at the time of sale.

Active exertions on the part of the Branch, and the improved condition of the country at large, have resulted in the collection of a large amount of arrears. A generous policy towards purchaser and tenant accompanied by a pressure, which has never been oppressive, has produced its natural fruits. We have very few absolute defaulters, and the lots held by these parties, on cancellation of sale under the statute, will now sell more advantageously than heretofore. The collections made for the year ending 30th June, 1871, partly derived from rents, and partly from instalments on account of sales, amount to the sum of \$93,733:88. It is right to observe that of this sum \$24,228:88, ought to have gone to the credit of last year, but was received a few days after its fiscal termination, which would have made the returns for 1870, \$73,845:40, instead of \$49,616:52, and those of the present year 1871, \$69,505, thus distributing the amount above first mentioned in a more equal ratio, and showing a more regular and healthier rate of annual improvement. The returns since the advent of confederation have been

1867 .....	\$45,981 85
1868 .....	44,645 48
1869 .....	48,219 22
1870 .....	73,845 40
1871 .....	69,505 00

With respect to the work done in this office, I can only repeat what was said last year, that it is difficult to form any precise or tangible estimate. The "handwork" may to a certain extent be judged of by the folios covered with writing—856 folios, representing about 1,100 letters despatched, in answer to 700 letters received, by 87 drafts of Letters Patent prepared, and 151 assignments registered and transfers made, after a careful examination of wills and documents, but the amount of "headwork" required to digest and mature the material of the above correspondence can only be gauged and measured by men who have been engaged in like occupations. The office hours are from nine to four and the work is rarely intermitted.

The account books of the office are laboriously kept and in a style of carefulness and neatness worthy of all praise.

The miscellaneous work which arises hourly requires constant attendance, to answer