

Mr. J. G. Turriff, of Alameda, N.W.T., was appointed to succeed Mr. Burgess, as Commissioner of Dominion Lands, on the 8th July last.

It may be noted that during the past year it was deemed advisable, in the public interest, to appoint all Dominion Lands Agents in Manitoba and the North West Territories, Crown Timber Agents for the districts which they respectively administer, and for similar reasons all Homestead Inspectors have been appointed Forest Rangers. The duties attaching to the offices of Crown Timber and Dominion Lands Agents, as well as those of Homestead Inspectors and Forest Rangers, are so closely allied that it was considered to be in the public interest to merge these offices, both as a matter of economy and of convenience.

Some changes have also been made in the names of land districts. The district formerly known as "Souris" has been changed to "Brandon," that of "Little Saskatchewan" to "Minnedosa," "Qu'Appelle" to "Regina," and "Coteau" to "Alameda." With the exception of these, all the land districts in Manitoba, the North West Territories and British Columbia were already designated by the names of their chief towns, and it was felt that the same rule should be followed everywhere, as there can be no doubt that the name of the chief town is a much better indication of the situation of a district than was furnished by the name of a river or mountain near to or within its borders.

#### HOMESTEADS AND SALES.

##### HOMESTEADS.

The following is a comparative statement of the homestead entries and sales which have been made at the several agencies of the Department during the calendar years 1897 and 1898, respectively :—

	Calendar year 1897.	
	No. of entries.	acres.
Homesteads.....	2384	381,440
Sales.....		22,336
	Calendar year 1898.	
	No. of entries.	acres.
Homesteads.....	4848	775,680
Sales.....		47,186