

ment lands. The settlers are of two classes. The homestead settler, if the head of a family, or a male over 18 years of age, may obtain 160 acres in the North West, on paying a fee of \$10, and entering upon actual residence, and cultivating a portion thereof in six months from date of entry, unless that is made on the eve of winter, when residence and cultivation may be delayed until the next spring. He must continue to reside upon, and to cultivate his land six months yearly for three successive years, when he will receive a patent, or deed. He is allowed to shorten the probation period under certain conditions, and each homesteader is allowed to purchase on very easy terms the adjoining 160 or more acres. The Government also encourages settlers by financial assistance in order to enable them to buy stock, erect buildings, and, in a word, to start farming with fair prospects. We regard the homesteader as the best class of settlers as he cannot have secured his land without three years steady work on the farm. The following shows the number of homestead entries, and the area taken up by them, also the area to others in 1897 and 1898:—

	1898 Homestead entries	Acres	1897 Homestead entries	Acres
Homesteads.....	4,848	775,680	2,384	381,440
Sales of Lands.....	47,186	22,336

Out of the entries in 1897, there were 293 cancelled, and of those in 1898 only 155. The net entries last year were more than twice the number in 1897, and within 10 per cent. of the aggregate in 1894, 1895 and 1896. In no single year since these lands were opened for settlement have so many homesteaders taken up farms as in 1898. The following shows from whence the homesteaders came in the last two years, with their respective increases or decreases:—

Nationalities, &c.	1898 Homestead entries	1897 Homestead entries	Increase or decrease
Canadians from Ontario.....	1,019	455 inc.	564
do Quebec.....	126	75 inc.	51
do Other provinces.....	389	173 inc.	216
do The States.....	117	54 inc.	63
British Immigrants.....	725	416 inc.	309
United States.....	581	164 inc.	417
French.....	63	55 inc.	8
Hungarians and Germans.....	838	458 inc.	380
Russians, Poles, Swedes.....	317	142 inc.	175
Homesteads renewed.....	620	396 inc.	224
Miscellaneous.....	53	18 inc.	35
Totals.....	4,848	2,406 inc.	244
Number of persons settled.....	15,083	7,404 inc.	7,679

Up to 1898 the total number of homestead entries made was 77,922, out of which 26,543 were cancelled for non-fulfilment of conditions. This is an important point, and it is highly satisfactory to note that, while the average cancellations was 37 per cent. up to 1895, the average since then has only been 9 per cent. This decrease in the number of those who looked back after putting their hands to the plough, is probably attributable to the greater comfort enjoyed by settlers from having more and nearer neighbours. It has in-

deed been urged, with considerable reason, that settlement would have proceeded more rapidly had the farms not being spread so wide apart. Another promising feature is, the yearly increase in number of patents issued, a "patent" being a title deed to the land. In 1898, the number was 3,037, which is larger than for many year past. The sales of land by railway companies having Government land grants, and by the Hudson's Bay Company in the last six years have been as follows:—

Name	1893-94 Acres	1895-96 Acres	1897-98 Acres
Canadian Pacific Railway...	136,379	122,077	377,718
Manitoba & S. W. Railway...	20,476	26,877	170,273
Qu'Appelle, &c., Railway...	2,243	2,677	25,058
Calgary & Edmonton Ry...	11,295	57,368	24,917
Alberta Rail. & Coal Co...	10,108	28,661	49,564
Hudson's Bay Co.....	7,526	13,730	44,707
Total land Sales, Acres...	189,987	251,390	696,234
Increase over preceding 2 years.....	61,403	444,244

The total acreage sold by the Canadian Pacific from 1893 to 1898 was 636,131 acres, which realized \$2,013,113, the average price per acre having been \$3.17. The total area of the land sold by the above companies from 1893 to 1898, was 1,137,611 acres. If, to these sales, we add those for which the Government gave deeds in the same years, 1893 to 1898, we get a total of 3,701,931 acres, as having been passed into the possession of settlers in the last six years, in Manitoba and the North West Territories.

The net revenue derived by the Dominion Government from its lands between 1872 and 1898 reached a total of \$10,977,183. Of this amount, \$992,740 came from homestead and other fees; \$6,107,155 from cash paid for land; \$1,560,893 from timber dues; \$766,660 from hay permits, mining fees, stone quarries, etc.; 3,887,921 from colonization lands, and the balance from miscellaneous charges for grazing lands, surveys, etc. As much is being said just now about the timber supplies for the North West, which some allege must be sent from the States, it will be interesting to note that, in 1898, there were 40,705,107 feet of lumber manufactured within the area controlled by the Dominion Government in that region. Considerable interest, and some little alarm, has been excited by the large number of immigrants into Canada this year and last, from Russia, and Galicia. Of the Doukhoborts, the immigration agents speak favourably as to their industry, peaceful habits, thrift and cleanliness. Now they are freemen, they will probably discard some of their peculiarities, and become ambitious of sharing in all the duties and privileges of Canadian citizenship. Of the Galicians the reports are not as promising; they represent a far lower grade of civilization than any other immigrants ever landed in Canada. We can only hope that contact with their superiors in the North West, and the opportunities they will see for advancement, will gradually render them good settlers. As they are reported to be harnessing women to their ploughs like oxen or horses, the Government