

PATENTS.

The number of letters patent issued by the department in each year since 1874, and the number of those issued in each year which have since been cancelled, is shown by the following statement:—

YEAR.	LETTERS PATENT.	
	Number issued.	Number cancelled.
Departmental year ending 31st October, 1874.....	536	6
" " " 1875.....	492	4
" " " 1876.....	375	4
" " " 1877.....	2,156	13
" " " 1878.....	2,597	32
" " " 1879.....	2,194	57
" " " 1880.....	1,704	41
" " " 1881.....	1,768	11
" " " 1882.....	2,766	11
" " " 1883.....	3,591	16
" " " 1884.....	3,837	24
" " " 1885.....	3,257	18
" " " 1886.....	4,370	17
" " " 1887.....	4,599	26
" " " 1888.....	3,275	34
" " " 1889.....	3,282	30
" " " 1890.....	3,273	20
" " " 1891.....	2,449	35
" " " 1892.....	2,955	27
" " " 1893.....	2,936	16
" " " 1894.....	2,553	15
Calendar year ending 31st December, 1894.....	2,682	16

As explained in former reports, the number of patents issued does not represent the whole area of land conveyed from year to year. No patents are issued to the Hudson's Bay Company for their proportion of the public lands, nor do the Railway Companies receive Letters Patent for the lands granted to them in aid of the construction of their respective lines. All that is necessary under the provisions of the Land Titles Act is for the Minister of the Interior to notify the Registrar that certain sections or parts of sections have been granted to any railway company entitled to Dominion lands under the authority of an Act of Parliament. That notification is accepted by the Registrar as if it were a Crown grant in favour of the company. In the same way, upon the confirmation of the survey of any township, the law provides that a notification to the Hudson's Bay Company under the provisions of subsection 7 of section 22 of the Dominion Lands Act shall be accepted by the Registrar as equivalent to Letters Patent in favour of the company for the lands falling to them in such township or part of a township. This obviates much of the clerical labour connected with the issuing of patents.