

Department of the Interior.

feet. This increase was caused by American lumber having been put on the free list. The result to the consumer, however, has been satisfactory, as the price of pine and spruce has been reduced by \$2.00 to \$2.50 per thousand feet—the former now selling at \$19.00 per thousand, and the latter at \$17.00 per thousand feet.

Approximately 50,000 cords of wood were marketed at Winnipeg during the past year, which was sold on the car at the following prices:—Tamarac \$3.50, oak \$3.50, and poplar \$2.00 per cord.

Following is a comparative statement of the average prices of lumber within the several Crown timber agencies during the last nine years. The cost of this article to the settler has been very much reduced within that time:—

Agency.	1885.	1891.	1894.
	Per M.	Per M.	Per M.
Winnipeg.....	\$13.50 to \$25	\$9 to \$19	\$17
Brandon.....	20 to 22	13 to 15	15
Whitemouth.....	11 to 12	9 to 12	
Calgary.....	25 to 30	12 to 18	8 to 16
Fort McLeod.....	30	17 to 40	10
Lethbridge.....			9 to 16
Prince Albert.....	30 to 45	20 to 42	10 to 25
Edmonton.....	25 to 30	10 to 20	18
British Columbia.....		9 to 10	10

During the past year the crown timber agent at Winnipeg and his staff of forest rangers made satisfactory progress in selecting timbered lands in Manitoba, which are to be set apart as timber reservations, with the view of securing a continuous supply for the future needs of the settlers.

Owing to the unusually dry season, a large area of timbered land was burnt over in Manitoba and the district of Saskatchewan during 1894, notwithstanding the precautions taken by the department to prevent the spread of the fires. It is hoped, however, that this year, with the additional staff of local sub-agents and forest rangers, the continuation of this form of destruction may to some extent be prevented.

GRAZING.

The sum of \$19,223.53 was received for grazing lands from the 1st of November, 1893, to the 1st of November 1894, being an increase of \$5,616.11 over the immediately preceding period of twelve months. The revenue from the same source for the calendar year 1894 was \$19,871.64.

The total number of ranches is increasing every year, but the areas leased are much smaller than formerly. None of the ranches disposed of by the department in 1894 exceeded 6,000 acres.

The total number of leases now in force is 156, covering 1,298,871.51 acres.

By an order of His Excellency the Governor General in Council dated the 16th of March, 1894, regulations for the leasing of school lands in the North-west Territories for grazing purposes were promulgated. The lease provided for is for a term not exceeding five years, and is revocable at any time during its currency