

CHAPTER IV.

DOMINION LANDS' ACT.

The following is a summary of the Dominion Lands Act :

An Act was passed last Session (35 Vic., cap. 23) amending and consolidating the Laws and Orders in Council respecting the public lands of the Dominion.

The administration and management is to be effected through a Branch of the Department of the Secretary of State of Canada, known as "*The Dominion Lands Office.*"

The surveys divide the lands into quadrilateral townships, containing 36 sections of one mile square in each, together with road allowances of one chain and fifty links in width, between all townships and sections.

Each section of 640 acres is divided into half sections of 320 acres, quarter sections of 160 acres, and half quarter sections of 80 acres. All townships and lots are rectangular. To facilitate the descriptions for Letters Patent of less than half a quarter section, the quarter sections composing every section in accordance with the boundaries of the same, as planted or placed in the original survey, shall be supposed to be divided into quarter quarter sections, or 40 acres. The area of any legal subdivision in Letters Patent shall be held to be more or less, and shall, in each case, be represented by the exact quantity as given to such subdivision in the original survey; provided that nothing in the Act shall be construed to prevent the lands upon the Red and Assinaboine Rivers, surrendered by the Indians to the late Earl of Selkirk, from being laid out in such manner as may be necessary in order to carry out the clause of the Act to prevent fractional sections or lands bordering on any rivers, lake, or other watercourse or public road from being divided : or such land from being laid out in lots