

connected with the Bank and familiar with its transactions, and a valuator, paid by a percentage on sales, are the only gentlemen employed outside the Departments. Col. Coffin, the head of the Ordnance Lands Branch, here, in addition to his special duties, assumed the charge of these interests without additional assistance or compensation, and has performed them with his usual accuracy and despatch. The larger and more valuable portion of these properties had been sold previous to the date of the transfer of the same to this Department, but the amount of sales made will, up to the present time, testify to the activity employed. The total is \$66,678.12.

Recourse has been had whenever advantageous to auction sales, and the result has been satisfactory.

It is hoped that the remainder of these lands will be disposed of in the current year.

The Report from the Ordnance Lands' Branch marked A and appended hereto shows a very large return from sales and rents for the present year, the total amounting to \$93,783, and the explanation given which assigns a part of this amount to the preceding year shows a gradual and actual progress of improvement, which is in every way satisfactory.

The experience of another year in the working of the Queen's Printer's Office has fully established the wisdom of its organization upon its present basis. The constant supervision of the printing and binding for the several Departments, and the uniform audit of the accounts for those services as performed under contracts at a schedule of prices, tend alike to economy and uniformity of work and price—both satisfactory results. The system of the office has been so far perfected that now the cost of every detail of every job can at once be ascertained, and the account promptly closed. The basis for future contracts or other arrangements, derivable from the registered statistics of the office, will always hereafter be forthcoming when needed. It will be seen from the Queen's Printer's Report (Appendix B to this Report), that the cost of the printing and binding of the Departments has been considerably increased, but he shows at the same time so large a quantity of work performed as to account for this; and this increase of work and expenditure is explained by the Census taking and other causes referred to by him in this and his previous Report. The cost of the publication of the *Canada Gazette* has been unavoidably increased by the same causes.

The duties incumbent upon the Registrar's Branch have continued to be fulfilled with accuracy and promptness.

A large number of Indian and Ordnance Land Patents have been engrossed and recorded during the past year, and Returns of the same have been regularly sent to the respective Registrars in whose Counties the lands Patented were situated.

I have caused to be sent to the Ontario Government, when completed, the copies of Crown Land Patents, which prior to 1st July, 1867, were recorded in books, which had to be kept, inasmuch as in them were registered Patents for the Indian and Ordnance Lands. They could not therefore be transferred to that Province. These documents covered over 1,700 pages of large paper.

The number of Officers' Bonds recorded in the Branch during the year, is 250.

Since my last Report the North West Territories have been transferred to and become