

CROWN LANDS DEPARTMENT.

The Crown Lands Department is the great revenue-producing branch of the Government, and, with the exception of the amount received as subsidy from the Dominion, provides the largest part of the annual income of the Province. The duties of the Department, instead of decreasing, are year by year growing greater and more complex. They comprise the sale and management of the Crown, Clergy and School lands still undisposed of; the locating of settlers in the Free Grant districts; the surveying of new townships from time to time, as they are required for settlement or the purposes of the timber trade; the construction of Colonization roads and bridges in the new and sparsely settled portions of the Province where the settlers are as yet unable to assume the burden of such works; the supervision of the vast area over which licenses to cut timber have been granted (such supervision becoming much more difficult year by year as settlement increases); the collection of Government charges and dues leviable upon such timber; and the settlement of the multifarious and often complicated questions which of necessity arise in the course of transactions covering so large a territory. The following figures and statements show the very decided increase in the work now performed by the Department, as compared with the years 1868-71—an increase which explains and far more than justifies any small additional expenditure which has occurred.

TOTAL LETTERS REGISTERED.

1868-71 (annual average).....	15,156
1872-82 " "	18,847
Increase, 24 per cent.	

SALES.

Sales, 1868-71 (annual average).....	59,400 acres.
" 1872-82 " "	80,000 "
Increase, 35 per cent.	

Letters registered, endorsed on papers, and noted on land rolls :

1868-71 (annual average).....	8,660
1872-82 " "	11,504
Increase, 33 per cent.	