

North-West part of Turtle Mountain, in charge of Mr. George F. Newcomb, formerly Timber Inspector and Clerk in the Dominion Lands Office at Winnipeg.

The Lands Office at Emerson was closed early in the spring of 1880, the most of the land in that district having been taken up, and it having been considered more profitable to have the few transactions for the remainder included in the business of the Winnipeg Office.

The office at Portage la Prairie was removed to Gladstone, and placed in charge of Mr. Joseph Graham, formerly a clerk in the Winnipeg Office, there being more land to be disposed of in that part of the land district in question, than in the vicinity of the Portage.

MANITOBA ACT CLAIMS.

It was deemed important to obtain, by inspection on the ground, such information as circumstances might render possible, respecting the nature of the present occupancy or that affirmed to have existed in the cases of many of the lots in the Settlement Belt claimed under the Manitoba Act or otherwise.

Mr. Lang of this office, and Mr. Goulet of the Winnipeg Office, were sent on this service, and examined, during their inspection, 715 land claims in the parishes of Ste. Agathe and St. Norbert, and in the settlements of the River Sale and Rat River.

Total issues of scrip up to the 31st October, 1880 :—

	No. of Claims.	Amount.
To Half-breed heads of families.....	3,023	\$483,680 00
Original White Settlers and their children	7,0	123,200 00
In commutation of hay and common right.....	634	104,860 20
do grants of land.....	8	2,100 00
Totals.....	4,435	\$713,840 20
Amount redeemed, to date, by having been accepted in payment for land.....		573,791 55
Balance outstanding.....		\$140,048 65

TIMBER AND MINING LANDS.

During the year, sixty-five applications for timber berths and twenty-three for mineral locations were received.

A twenty-one years' lease and ten yearly licenses, for timber berths, were granted.

Public attention having been drawn by the reports of the Geological Section of the Boundary Commission Survey, and of other explorers, to the lignite deposits on the River Souris and its branches, several private surveys were made of mining locations on that river, and applications, based on these, filed; but under your instructions, no action was taken, pending the result of an examination by the Geological Survey, which examination has, I understand, been ordered.

Applications for mining rights have also been received for various locations in the territory covered by a late unconfirmed award respecting the boundary between the Dominion and the Province of Ontario.

LAND DRAINAGE.

The Local Government of the Province of Manitoba having applied to the Dominion Government for its co-operation or assistance in a scheme for the reclamation of large areas of Dominion lands in that Province, rendered more or less unfit for cultivation by their wetness, an arrangement was made, ratified by Order in Council of the 5th July last, under which, on the effectual drainage of any given area previously unfit for settlement, the Province was to receive a free grant of all the homestead sections included in the drained area.