

for reference. They contain a record of the lien number, name, age, and location of each settler, together with the name and age of each member of every family. The number of acres under cultivation of wheat, oats, and potatoes, average per acre, yield and market value. Total acres under cultivation, breaking, backsetting and summer fallow, done during the year, and grand total of acres, that can be brought under cultivation during the season of 1898, as well as the live stock on the farms, value of improvements, &c., on each homestead, present approximate value of the Board's security, amount of principal advanced by the Board, to each settler, and general remarks.

Recapitulation.

A comparative statement has been added for the years 1890 and 1897, which shows that the total number of acres brought under the plough by the fifteen settlers, at present remaining on their homesteads in 1890, was 58, and for 1897, 45½, a decrease of 12½ acres; also that the total number of acres under cultivation for 1890 was 83, and for 1897, 45½, a decrease of 37½ acres. In 1890 the total acreage under wheat was 13, which yielded over 16 bushels, and in 1897, 8, a decrease of 5 acres. In 1890 the number of acres under oats was 39, which yielded 23 bushels to the acre, and in 1897, 24, a decrease of 15 acres. In 1890 the acreage under potatoes was 6, which yielded 1,108 bushels; while in 1897 the settlers sowed 13½ acres, which yielded 2,426 bushels.

The settlers could have found a ready market for their crops, at an average of 75 for wheat, oats 25, and potatoes 20 cents per bushel.

The cause of the decrease in the acreage of cultivated lands has been explained in the Agent's 1896 Report, *i.e.*, "by the settlers having given up grain growing and devoting their attention to the raising of live stock, which they contend pays best and allows us to go out and earn money during the sowing and harvest seasons." In case it might be inferred by the Board, as it has been by some of the settlers, that the land and climate is not suitable for grain growing, the agent begs to record the fact (which can easily be verified by reference to practical farmers living in the same district as the Board's settlers) that the farmer who properly prepares and sows his land, very seldom reaps a crop that does not pay him manifold. The direct cause of the crofters failure to successfully grow grain can only be explained by the unhusbandlike manner in which they have attempted to farm.

The comparative statement also shows that in 1890 the crofters had no horses, and in 1897 they had in their possession 29 head. In 1890 the number of Imperial Colonisation Board oxen were 18, and in 1898, 1, a decrease of 17. Again in 1890 they had no other oxen, but those supplied by the Board; while in 1897 they had two. Imperial Colonisation Board cows in 1890, numbered 10, and in 1897 none. Cows purchased by the settlers, in addition to those supplied by the Board in 1890, numbered 4, and in 1897 this number was increased to 60. The number of young stock, &c., is as follows:—

Heifers,	1890,	9;	1897,	61;	an increase of	52.
Steers,	1890,	8;	1897,	33;	"	27.
Bulls,	1890,	1;	1897,	4;	"	3.
Sheep,	1890,	0;	1897,	72;	"	"
Pigs,	1890,	0;	1897,	5;	"	"
Poultry,	1890,	106;	1897,	417;	"	311.

While the number of tons of hay in 1890 was 185, and in 1897, 756.

The cause of the decrease in the live stock, originally supplied by the Board to their settlers, is explained by death and sale.

General Remarks.

The agent begs to report that he has thoroughly explained to each settler the conditions under which the *Dominion Lands Act* would allow him to abandon his present and enter for a new homestead. (See Exhibit "A" herewith attached.)

It will be seen from the agent's remarks, recorded in each settler's individual report, that they decline to take advantage of the Act.

Exhibit "A."

1. Notwithstanding anything in the said Act contained, any person who has been placed on homestead lands or has been assisted to place himself on such lands by the Board mentioned in chapter 21 of the Statutes of 1888, and who has resided on such lands up to the time of the passing of the Act, may, upon abandoning such lands, and, if required to do so, upon executing an acknowledgment as hereinafter provided, be granted a second homestead entry.

2. The lands so abandoned may be granted to the said Board subject to a condition that the Board shall place a *bona fide* settler thereon by the sale thereof to such settler or otherwise within two years from the date of the patent to the Board, or, in default of so doing, shall, on demand sell the said lands to any person willing to become a *bona fide* settler thereon for such sum of money as is sufficient to pay the amount of the charge of the Board thereon and interest, and the expenses incurred by the Board in obtaining such patent, or for such less sum as is named in such patent as the fair value of such lands on sale, in case of refusal, of the forfeiture of the said lands and of all claims thereon, and of the patent or other titles thereto.

3. The minister shall, for the purposes of this section, be the sole and final judge as to the value of such abandoned lands, and in any case where such lands are valued by him at less than the amount of the charge thereon, and interest and the expenses aforesaid, the settler may be required, before he is granted a second entry, to sign an acknowledgment in the form "B" in the Schedule to the said Act, or to the like effect, creating a charge upon his second homestead for the difference between the amount of the charge on his first homestead and interest and expenses, and the value so placed upon such first homestead.