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## Review of The Administration of Dominion Lands, 1870-1930.

Barry Kaye

*University of Manitoba*

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*The Administration of Dominion Lands, 1870-1930.* By Kirk N. Lambrecht. Regina: Canadian Plains Research Center, 1991. Preface, notes, bibliography, appendices. ix + 405 pp. \$40.00 paper.

Members of the legal profession have made useful contributions to our knowledge of the history of western Canada. In Manitoba the writings of Roy St. George Stubbs and Dale Gibson come to mind. To be added to that list is Kirk N. Lambrecht, a practicing attorney from Edmonton, Alberta, who has made an important contribution to the literature on the administration and development of Dominion Lands in the western provinces and northern territories of Canada. After the vast areas of Rupert's Land and the North-West Territories were transferred from the Hudson's Bay Company to the Dominion of Canada on 15 July 1870, the responsibility for the administration of all matters relating to lands in what amounts to virtually one quarter of the entire land area of North America lay with the Canadian federal government in Ottawa. This situation lasted until 1930 when responsibility for these lands passed from the federal government to the provinces.

The book is divided into three main sections. The first, a fifty-seven page essay in which Lambrecht reviews the main policy developments relating to lands in western and northern Canada, outlines significant federal legislation relating to aboriginal rights, Métis claims, Hudson's Bay Company lands, and railway subsidies. Attached to the essay is a useful eleven page bibliography. Two important recent additions to the literature not included are D. N. Sprague, *Canada and the Métis, 1869-1885* (1988) and Thomas Flanagan, *Métis Lands in Manitoba* (1991).

Most of the book consists of two appendices. The first is a listing of regulations relating to land use passed by orders in council prior to 1930. Appendix II, which makes up three quarters of the volume, is a topical and chronological presentation of selected legislation relating to lands and intended as a legal source

book. Lambrecht has produced a work that deserves a place beside Chester Martin's *Dominion Land's Policy* (1938) as a basic reference on the lands of western and northern Canada.

BARRY KAYE  
Department of Geography  
University of Manitoba