

Departmental.

The business of this department is steadily increasing, notwithstanding the falling-off of applications for leases under the Land Act, the renewal of agricultural leases under the Gold Fields Act, and the application for gold-mining leases, entailing a considerable amount of work. Every exertion is being made to work up the arrears of applications on the leasing books, and the surveys are now so far advanced that, I am informed by the Chief Surveyor, I may calculate on the issue of at least 200 leases and 200 Crown grants during the year commencing 1st July instant. Under the heading "Miscellaneous" will be found a statement of the number of leases and Crown grants, &c., issued during the year.

The land revenue for the year collected at Nelson by the Receiver of Land Revenue amounted to £11,842 5s. This sum is exclusive of rents on agricultural leases issued under the Gold Fields Act, estimated at £1,970, and rents of gold-mining leases, estimated at £2,430, making a total revenue of £16,242 5s. Of the above sum of £11,842 5s., the sum of £6,959 6s. 7d. was received for rents of leases and licenses.

Miscellaneous.

In addition to the returns asked for and appended hereto, I have appended to this report a statement prepared by the Receiver of Land Revenue, which will better explain the revenues derived from this district.

Statement showing Leases and Licenses in operation on the 30th June, 1879.

	Acreage.			Rental.		
	A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
"Crown Lands Licensing Act, 1865" ..	2,400	2	32	35	16	0
"Crown Lands Licensing Act, 1867" ..	360,391	1	9	2,872	11	1
"Waste Lands Act, 1874" ..	59,279	0	1	1,336	13	3
"Waste Lands Administration Act, 1876"	67	0	0	3	7	0
Waste Lands Act (10-per-cent. clauses) ..	9,413	0	39	579	7	4
Occupation licenses	157,377	2	11	768	7	9
Occupation reserves	6,598	0	2	52	9	8
Mineral leases	9,138	1	33	1,310	14	6
Total ..	604,665	1	7	£6,959	6	7

Amounts collected by Receiver of Land Revenue, Nelson, during Year ending 30th June, 1879.

	£	s.	d.
Land sales	3,223	16	0
Rents of leases, &c.	4,887	2	2
„ Licenses	647	1	9
„ Mineral	2,259	12	6
Royalties	405	0	6
Prospecting licenses	91	13	1
Transfer fees	64	19	0
Fees on Crown Grants—			
Transferred from Deposit Account ..	£142	16	9
Received	120	3	3
		263	0 0
Total	£11,842	5	0

Leases, Licenses, &c., issued during Year ending 30th June, 1879.

	No.	Acreage.			Rental.		
		A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
"Waste Lands Act, 1874" ..	17	6,148	0	4	202	6	9
Waste Lands Act (10-per-cent. clauses) ..	21	2,358	3	34	193	4	1
Occupation licenses	2	1,003	2	11	12	11	0
Licenses over reserves	3	44	1	2	16	0	0
Mineral lease	1	97	0	0	2	10	0
Total ..	44	9,651	3	11	£426	11	10

Leases forfeited during Year ending 30th June, 1879.

	A.	R.	P.
Waste Lands Acts	2,092	2	24
Waste Lands Acts (10-per-cent. clauses) ..	307	3	13
Mineral	4,346	0	7
Total	£6,746	2	4

Crown grants issued during year ending 30th June, 1879—122.

ALFRED GREENFIELD, Commissioner.