

*Forest Land.*

It will be observed by Return No. 1 that the area of forest land is estimated to be 1,420,000 acres; of course this is a rough approximation, and must be so taken into account. I find that the bush along by the sea-coast, and, indeed, wherever population has become settled, is being much cut up. Endeavours have been made from time to time to adopt measures for its more economical use, but partially without success. Accidental fires have been the principal cause of its destruction, and this it is almost impossible to prevent in parts of the district to which rangers have not been appointed. I have little doubt but that persons are cutting timber without a license, but it would not be easy to obtain a conviction.

*Rabbits.*

The rabbit pest has now spread up the valley of the Clutha to the Lakes, and they are found more or less over all my district. It has been, however, a good deal mitigated by the energetic use of dog and gun. The difficulty of keeping the pest in check in the Clutha Valley arises from the loose subsoil on the ranges, into which the rabbits burrow with ease. The occupants of all cultivated grounds, however, find little trouble with them, as limited-sized holdings can be thoroughly examined and the rabbits destroyed. The pastoral tenants are the principal sufferers. The carrying capabilities of runs have been, I understand, in some instances reduced by about one-third, although in other parts of the district the provisions of the Rabbit Nuisance Act have been successfully employed in lessening the scourge.

There have been fifty sittings of the Land Board, at which the cases disposed of were 1,210.

*Return of Lands and their Classes in the Provincial District of Otago at 30th June, 1879.*

Class.	Acres.
Forest .. .. .	1,421,000
Lakes .. .. .	284,800
Barren .. .. .	2,346,240
Agricultural and pastoral .. .. .	9,308,600
Total area of Provincial District of Otago .. .. .	13,360,640

	Acres.
Area under pastoral leases and licenses .. .. .	6,383,389
Area under deferred-payment licenses and exchange agricultural leases at 30th June, 1879 .. .. .	122,936
Area under deferred-payment pastoral licenses .. .. .	8,910
Area under deferred-payment leases (exchange agricultural leases, including purchased area) .. .. .	26,922
Area under agricultural leases at 30th June, 1879 .. .. .	75,257
Area under coal-mining leases .. .. .	979
Area sold within hundreds .. .. .	1,584,880
Area sold outside hundreds, from 1868 .. .. .	290,463
Area sold outside hundreds previously held under agricultural leases and deferred-payment exchange leases (included in acreage outside hundreds) .. .. .	74,095
Area of hundreds .. .. .	1,863,651
Area unsold within hundreds, including area under deferred-payment licenses and leases .. .. .	278,771

*Miscellaneous.*

Issued during the year ending 30th June, 1879: Number of Crown grants, 532; occupation licenses (*see* Table No. 7), 44; timber licenses issued by Rangers, 135; depasturing licenses within hundreds, 150.

Land revenue from all sources received in Dunedin and in Invercargill for the Invercargill Land District (including £3,208 4s. 7d. deferred-payment rents and issue fees collected by District Land Officers) and passed through Receiver's cash book, Dunedin, per bank vouchers, viz., £147,536 15s. 1d.

This amount does not include the rents of agricultural and gold-mining leases and other gold fields revenue, nor deferred-payment rents collected by District Officers, the revenue from these sources not passing through Receiver's cash book at Dunedin.

J. P. MAITLAND,  
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

## SOUTHLAND.

## REPORT of the COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS for the YEAR ended 30th JUNE, 1879.

DURING the above period there have been sold 79 acres 1 rood 20 perches of town, 435 acres 3 roods 9 perches of suburban, and 29,396 acres 1 rood 20 perches of rural, land. The sums