

Waikaia District.

Sec.	Block.	Area.	Sec.	Block.	Area.	Sec.	Block.	Area.	Sec.	Block.	Area.
		A. R. P.			A. R. P.			A. R. P.			
6	VII.	143 1 14	39	VIII.	318 0 0	53	I.	19 0 15	9	IX.	10 0 0
7	"	55 1 27	40	"	320 0 0	54	"	39 0 20	10	"	6 0 0
8	"	46 1 28	41	"	306 0 0	55	"	50 0 0	11	"	10 1 0
9	"	49 0 19	42	"	291 0 0	56	"	43 3 13	12	"	10 0 0
10	"	49 0 6		"		57	"	48 0 10	13	"	10 0 0
11	"	49 0 27		"	3,192 3 28	58	"	41 1 0	14	"	10 0 0
12	"	48 2 0		"		59	"	36 2 10	15	"	10 0 0
13	"	50 0 0	1	XI.	197 1 35	60	"	50 0 0	16	"	10 0 0
14	"	46 1 0	2	"	311 1 0	61	"	24 2 39	17	"	10 0 0
15	"	160 0 0	3	"	315 3 24	62	"	34 2 12	18*	"	..
16	"	189 1 22	4	"	157 0 18	63	"	50 0 0	19*	"	..
17	"	201 2 14	5	"	272 2 28	64	"	44 0 16	20*	"	..
18	"	281 3 13	6	"	160 0 0	65	"	24 3 8	21*	"	..
19	"	160 0 0		"		66	"	24 3 26	22*	"	..
20	"	160 0 0		"	1,414 1 25	67	"	27 0 24	23*	"	..
21	"	80 3 0		"		68	"	20 0 0	24	"	71 0 0
			1	XII.	176 2 0				25	"	80 0 0
		1,770 3 10	2*	"				578 0 33	26	"	207 2 10
31	VIII.	159 1 2	3	"	197 1 20				27	"	169 0 32
32	"	304 1 8	4	"	298 2 0	1	IX.	318 3 23	28*	"	..
33	"	251 3 26	5	"	320 0 0	2	"	312 0 0	29*	"	..
34	"	242 0 32	6	"	281 0 0	3	"	214 2 19	30*	"	..
35	"	174 0 0	7†	"	..	4	"	318 1 5	31	"	137 2 0
36	"	228 0 24	8	"	210 3 8	5	"	319 0 4	32	"	54 2 0
37	"	313 3 16		"	1,484 0 28	6	"	319 3 20	33	"	59 0 10
38	"	283 3 0		"				1,802 2 31			865 0 12

* Mining reserve. † Omitted.

Total Acreage.—1,770 acres 3 roods 10 perches, 3,192 acres 3 roods 28 perches, 1,414 acres 1 rood 25 perches, 1,484 acres and 28 perches, 578 acres and 33 perches, 1,802 acres 2 roods 31 perches, 865 acres and 12 perches: total, 11,108 acres 1 rood 7 perches.

No. 26.

The UNDER-SECRETARY for LANDS to the SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS, Dunedin.

SIR,—

General Crown Lands Office, Wellington, 24th May, 1884.

I have the honour, by direction of Mr. Rolleston, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 10th May, in which you forward certain resolutions of the School Commissioners of Otago with regard to the land reserved from the Waikaia runs for settlement. In this letter you state that the area of those lands is about 3,942 acres, and enclose a schedule giving the numbers and the areas of the sections and blocks. I have also to acknowledge the receipt of an amended schedule, forwarded in your letter of 15th May, stating that the total area is 11,108 acres, instead of, as previously stated, 3,942 acres. The resolutions of the Board, as forwarded, recommend, in terms of sections 53–57 of "The Land Act 1877 Amendment Act, 1882," that all the remaining sections in education reserves, Waikaia district, not hitherto disposed of, should henceforth be dealt with in the proportion of one-third for cash and two-thirds for deferred payments. I am directed by Mr. Rolleston to request you to bring the subject again under the consideration of the Commissioners, and to express his hope that they will see fit to recommend that a proportion of the lands now to be dealt with in the Waikaia district should be dealt with by way of perpetual lease, in accordance with the intention of the Legislature as expressed in the Land Act, 1882.

When Mr. Rolleston had the advantage of personally conferring with the Commissioners in the month of January, 1883, he placed before them the reasons which, to his mind, made it exceedingly desirable that the whole of the estate, wisely set aside as an endowment for educational purposes, should not be absolutely alienated. Those reasons have acquired additional strength from the fact that since that date the course that has been pursued in setting aside a proportion of Crown lands and education reserves to be dealt with under the system of perpetual leasing has met with marked success, the amount of sections which have been taken up in this way being as follows: 132 sections, with an area of 23,196 acres.

Mr. Rolleston pointed out, on the occasion referred to above, as well as in his letter of 19th March, 1883, that the primary object of these reserves was to provide a permanent and increasing source of revenue for educational purposes; that the sale of reserves made for the purpose of endowment was only justifiable as far as such sale was rendered necessary in the interests of settlement, and to give value to the remainder which was retained; that on no other supposition would there be good ground for the creation of a trust, or for doing anything more than providing that the returns from land sales in any particular district should be applied to educational purposes. He further pointed out that the Legislature, so far as legislation had taken place upon the subject, had recognized this view both in "The Otago and Southland Education Reserves Leasing Act, 1878," and in the Land Act, 1882. He would earnestly urge upon the Commissioners that, if, as would appear, their own opinions tend in a different direction, they should, at any rate, in the administration of the law, endeavour to give effect to those provisions which are framed on this principle.

Mr. Rolleston would therefore request the Commissioners to reconsider their decision and make such a recommendation as will allow of the course being again adopted which was pursued, as he believes, with considerable advantage with respect to the reserves previously disposed of in this district. On learning from you that they are prepared to reconsider their decision, as suggested, he will at once take the necessary steps to give effect to their wishes.

I have, &c.,

H. J. H. ELLIOTT,
Under-Secretary.

The Chairman, Otago School Commissioners, Dunedin.