1884. NEW ZEALAND.

CROWN LAÑDS DEPARTMENT

(REPORT UPON THE) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1884.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

The Secretary for Crown Lands to the Hon. the Minister of Lands.

Sir.— General Crown Lands Office, Wellington, 17th June, 1884.

I have the honour to forward the annual report and returns of the Crown Lands Department for the twelve months ended the 31st March, 1884.

The Hon. William Rolleston, Minister of Lands.

I have, &c.,

JAMES McKerrow,

Secretary for Crown Lands.

REPORT.

For the twelve months ended the 31st March, 1884, an area of 306,404 acres of Crown lands has been disposed of on sale and settlement conditions. And, although that area is 50,534 acres more than what was disposed of in the previous twelve months, yet the revenue is considerably less than for that period. This is due to a much greater proportion of the land being taken up on the system of deferred-payments than in any former year, and also to the introduction of the perpetual-lease system. Indeed in no former twelve months have there been so many selectors, or so much land taken up on residential and settlement conditions, as during the past year.

The tables in the Appendix give the detail of these transactions, and of the other dealings with the Crown lands; but, without referring to them, the following general statement will show, in

shorter compass, the actual results for the year:—

Land sold on immediate payments-Purchasers. Scrip. Cash received. 159 1 11 sold to 416) Town lands 844 2 24 1,808 2 166,192 - 8 Surburban lands 179 Rural lands 144,589 0 30 882) ... Land sold on deferred payments--Purchasers. 54,735 0 26 5801 sold to *Agricultural 80,868 0 32 44 Pastoral 85,305 2 251 1 19 65 Village settlement Deposits on the above, and instalments current from former years... Agricultural leases on gold fields— 6,410 acres leased to 56 selectors. Rents from these and from) 3.313 0 5 selections current from former years ... Perpetual leases-†14,386 acres leased to 72 selectors. Rents for the part of the year 1,090 5 the leases were current Homestead-4,160 acres, selected by 24 persons Nil. Pastoral rents-From 11,143,671 acres held in 1,155 leases ... 125,634 16 Miscellaneous-Coal and mineral leases, royalties, timber licenses, &c., about 13,330 £394,925 13

LAND SOLD.

The area of Crown lands sold for cash during the twelve months ended the 31st March, 1884, and the revenue arising therefrom have been considerably less than in any previous years. This is due in a great measure to the facilities now given for the easy acquirement of land on deferred payments, perpetual-lease, and other settlement conditions, meeting the requirements of

^{*} This does not include 14,418 acres sold to 57 deferred-payment purchasers on the Otago Education Reserves for the sum of £46,264.

[†] This does not include 13,800 acres leased on perpetual tenure to 60 selectors on the Otago Education Reserves. 1—C.1.

the greater number of those purchasers who take up land with a view to its actual occupation by themselves and families; while there has been almost no opportunity afforded to purchasers for cash acquiring large areas, the land being, as a rule, surveyed into sections not exceeding 320 acres, and these, when offered, have been so interspersed with sections on settlement conditions as to absolutely prevent the aggregation of any considerable number of sections in one large block. Even under this restriction, however, the cash sales would have come nearer the usual average had all the land been offered that was surveyed, mapped, and partially roaded. But in the bush districts this was not deemed advisable, partly from a desire to have more roading done, and partly from the fact that, owing to two unusually wet seasons following each other, the burning of fallen bush has not been a success, and has had the temporary effect of diminishing the demand for that class of land. In open land there are several blocks in Otago, surveyed and otherwise ready for occupation, which would sell, if opportunity were given to purchasers; but the Land Board, with whom, under "The Land Act, 1877," the power solely rests of determining what lands may be offered for sale, has for some time withheld its sanction to the sale of any of the sections in the blocks referred to.

In the causes operating against the sale of land no mention has yet been made of the depression arising from the low prices ruling for wool, wheat, and farm produce generally. While that has, undoubtedly, had its effect, the other causes enumerated have been the more potent; for, wherever any good land has been offered by the department for cash, it has been readily purchased at good prices: thus 4,062 acres in Strath-Taieri, of Dunedin High School endowment, were sold for £16,158, averaging £3 19s. 4d. an acre; and 5,963 acres in the Wakaia, Hokonui, and Wyndham Districts, of the Otago School Commissioners, realized £13,516 14s. 6d., or at the rate of £2 5s. 4d. an acre. In the Canterbury Land District there are considerable areas, along the base and flanks of the hills, and up the sides of the interior valleys running into the great ranges, withheld from sale, that would still be bought at £2 an acre if open on the system of free selection. But any such disposition of that portion of the public estate would be most improvident, in presence of the fact that there is a great preponderance of country at a high altitude, which it would be unwise to detach from the limited area of low-lying land in any future disposal of the country by sale or lease.

Reserves.

1. For education endowment one reserve of 166 acres in the West Coast (North Island) Land District was gazetted, in terms of the 144th and 145th sections of "The Land Act, 1877."

2. Thirty forest reserves, of a total area of 4,277 acres, were gazetted under the 144th and 145th sections of "The Land Act, 1877," during the year. The total areas now reserved for this purpose amount in the aggregate to 593,575 acres. The object of these reserves is explained in the Crown lands report for 1883, C.-1, 1883, page 3.

3. One hundred and twenty reserves, with an aggregate area of 5,692 acres, were gazetted under sections 144 and 145 of "The Land Act, 1877," during the year. Of these, there were 29 school sites, area 438 acres; 18 recreation-grounds, area 1,428 acres; 18 cemeteries, area 154 acres; 9 quarries and gravel-pits, area 107 acres: the remainder being for the various purposes defined by section 144 of "The Land Act, 1877."

SETTLEMENT CONDITIONS.

In contrast to the paucity of land sales for cash during the twelve months ended the 31st March, 1884, there have been more land and more selections disposed of on settlement conditions than in any previous year of the colony's history, there being no less than 1,154 selections, covering 211,824 acres. In this are enumerated, as is fit, the lands disposed of by the department on perpetual lease and deferred payments in the educational reserves, Otago, and also the sections leased by the Native Reserves Trustee on the West Coast, Taranaki Provincial District, the department having had to do with the survey, roading, sale, and office record of these lands in much the same way as though they had been Crown lands: and it will be manifest that, in reviewing the year's progress in the extension of settlement over the virgin soil of the colony, they could not possibly be left out of enumeration.

The various modes of settlement, whether of deferred payments, agricultural leases on gold fields, homestead, and village settlement, Nelson lease or deferred-payment system, have each been described so fully in former annual reports that it will not be necessary to state further regarding them than that they each have had their original special adaptation to provincial or other circumstances which still exist, and therefore they all continue suitable to such circumstances, according to requirements. The deferred-payment system has been largely availed of, and has been the system under which the major part of occupation and settlement has taken place for several years, both in the bush and on open lands. The success of the system is stamped on the face of the country in the numerous clearings and green spots, which, but for it, would still have presented, unbroken, the monotonous sombre hues of fern, brown tussock, or bush.

It is quite true there has been a good deal of trouble and expense in working the settlement systems; and how could it be otherwise, where each of upwards of ten thousand persons have been in account with the department for half-yearly payments lasting from three to fifteen years, and where each holds his portion of an aggregate of more than a million acres, which either has been or still is held on residential and improvement conditions, requiring to be reported on periodically for several years? The perfection of economy and simplicity, so far as office-work and administration is concerned, would be to sell the land wholesale for cash, and have done with it, but it is quite another question if this would settle the country.

The greatest trouble in the administration of the deferred-payment system is to obtain prompt payment of instalments at the appointed times. The very encouragement which is given to obtain land on easy terms, while it is of great advantage to many, enabling them to successfully establish a home, and property also, induces others "to make for land" before they have either the means or

practical knowledge to work it properly. On the 31st March last, of the 3,960 selectors then holding land on deferred payment, 991 were in arrear a sum of £23,898 6s. 3d., being an average of £24 each; or about nine months behind in time of due payment. This cannot be considered very serious, for neither did the selectors themselves nor the Land Board, which administers the regulations as to their holdings, consider that the amount of arrear was other than temporary, or that any selector would either have to forfeit his land or avail himself of the capitalization clauses of "The Land Act 1877 Amendment Act, 1882," which were specially enacted to afford relief to selectors by capitalizing the instalments due, the selector paying 5 per cent. interest, with the right to redeem the principal at any time within fourteen years from the date of the license. This provision has, however, been availed of during the year by 364 selectors, holding 56,135 acres.

Perpetual Lease.

This system became law on the passing of "The Land Act 1877 Amendment Act, 1882." The residential and improvement conditions are the same as in the deferred-payment system, but the tenure, as the name implies, is leasehold, and not freehold, as in deferred-payment. It is more favourable to the settler in the matter of payments than that system, inasmuch as he has only to pay 5 per cent. on the value of the land as rent, whereas the deferred-payment settler has to discharge both principal and interest in the instalments as they become due. The perpetual-lease system, therefore, leaves all the capital of the settler free for improvements on the land, the occupancy of which is secured to him for thirty years, the first term of his lease, at a fixed annual rent, which, being assessed on the land in its wild state, is low to begin with, and should not be oppressive to him when he is least able to afford expense. Towards the end of the thirty years the lessee and the Land Board are each to appoint a valuer, who will make two valuations—one, of the then value of improvements made by the lessee; and the other, of the land—in which, if the valuers disagree, an umpire appointed by them will have to decide. It will then be optional for the lessee to either continue, for a further period of twenty-one years, paying a rental of 5 per cent. on the value of the land as fixed by arbitration, or make way for another tenant, who will have to pay the outgoing tenant the full value of improvements as fixed by the arbitration referred to before being let into possession of the farm. This system was introduced during the year, and, although as yet it has only had trial in the two Land Districts of Otago and West Coast (North Island), its success in attracting the attention of settlers in both has been conspicuous, for it will be seen in what follows that up to the 31st March, 1884, the number of selections made was 132, covering an aggregate area of 28,186 acres. For these 132 selections there were 288 applications by tender, the increase on the upset rentals being an annual sum of £285 10s. Between the 31st March and 16th June twenty-seven more selections have been made, covering 6,853 acres; or, up to that date, a total of 159 selections, covering 35,039 acres. It ought also to be mentioned that, if the land is not within the boundaries of a proclaimed gold field, the lessee has the right to effect the freehold purchase between the sixth and the eleventh years of the first term of the lease. As all the land taken up on the system (with the exception of the seventeen selections, as under, in the West Coast, North Island) has been within the proclaimed Gold Field of Otago, where there is no right of purchase, it would appear as though the permanency and security of the leasehold tenure, with valuation for improvements, is a sufficient inducement for settlers to come under the system without the option of purchase: indeed, now that its merits are becoming known, there have been frequent applications of late from intending settlers to have certain lands opened on the system, so that they might have the opportunity of occupying them on the perpetual leasehold tenure. The results, so far, are as follow:-

	No. of Sections offered.	Area offered.	No. of Sections selected	s selec	eted.	Average Upset Price per Acre of Rent.	
Otago Crown lands Southland Crown lands Dunedin High School	2	Acres. 56,864 519	$\begin{array}{c} 54 \\ 1 \end{array}$	11,473 243	я. р. 1 12 1 21	1s. $11\frac{3}{4}$ d. 1s.	$2s. \ 3\frac{1}{4}d.$ $1s.$
Endowment, Strath- Taieri Education Reserve, Wa-	32	2,855	19	1,974	2 23	$5s. 6\frac{3}{4}d.$	5s. 10¼d.
kaia, Otago School Commissioners Waimate Bush Crown	l 48	13,896	41	11,825	2 6	1s. $11\frac{3}{4}$ d.	2s. $8\frac{1}{4}$ d.
lands, West Coast, North Island Total let up to 31st	77	11,869	17	2,669	1 38	1s. 11d.	2s. $3\frac{1}{4}$ d.
March, 1884 Between 31st March and 16th June, Otago		•••	132	28,186	1 20		
Crown lands Otago School Com-		•••	24	,	0 0	•••	1s. 5d.
missioners Total up to 16th June,			3	924	0 0	•••	2s. 1d.
1884	350	86,003	159	35,039	1 20		

The leasing of agricultural land will become more and more the order of things in the colony as land rises in value. It is acknowledged now, by many intelligent settlers, that it is more profitable to rent a farm and employ all their capital in the working and stocking of it, than to have a smaller or worse place, with a portion of capital sunk in the purchase of the land. This view is borne out by the readiness with which the perpetual-lease land has been taken up, and also the Native lands recently let on the West Coast, North Island. The Native Reserves Trustee, Mr. Thomas Mackay, offered during the year 292 sections, comprising 40,509 acres of open and forest land on lease for thirty years, with, however, no right of renewal or full valuation for improvements as in the perpetual-lease system, but instead a valuation for improvements at the end of the lease not exceeding £5 per acre. On these conditions there were during the year ended the 31st March 196 sections leased, comprising 22,795 acres, at a yearly rental of £4,796 14s. 4d., or an average of 4s. 2½d. per acre. Between the 31st March and the 16th June thirteen more leases have been applied for, covering 2,160 acres, at a rental of £291 17s. 8d., which up to that date gives a total of 209 sections, comprising 24,955 acres.

As affording some idea of the progressive value of land for letting as the colony advances, the following information regarding the reletting of education reserves, kindly furnished by Mr. Colin Macandrew, for Otago, Mr. Royds, for Southland, and Mr. H. H. Pitman, for Canterbury, will prove instructive. In Otago, between the 1st January, 1883, and the 31st March, 1884, the leases of twenty-six primary-education reserves, originally let for a term of fourteen years at an average rental of barely 1s. 1d. per acre, fell in, and were again relet for terms of ten, fourteen, and twenty-one years at an average rental of 4s. 1d. per acre. Similarly for the same period nine leases in Southland, comprising 422 acres, originally leased for fourteen years at an average rental per acre of 2s. 5d., were again relet for fourteen years at an average rental of 8s. per acre. Of the primary-education reserves of Canterbury, comprising about 45,226 acres, 44,100 acres are now let at an annual rent of £11,462 12s. 4d., or about an average of 5s. 2d. per acre, a rate which is likely to be considerably increased as the first leases expire and the land is again relet. Thus, 1,271 acres, held in two leases, at an average rent of 2s. 83d. up to the 1st of May last, were relet from that date for a further term of fourteen years at an average rent of 8s. 2½d. per acre, although the quality of the greater part of the land is poor. In the leases of agricultural education reserves in Otago and Southland there are provisions for renewal of lease in favour of the existing tenant, and for full valuation of improvements on the expiry of lease, in terms almost analogous to the terms of the perpetual-lease system of the Act of 1882. These educational leases, where the soil and situation are good, are, on the above terms, deemed a very valuable property. In Canterbury there is no right of renewal or of valuation, and the leases are relet by tender. This has the effect of inducing in many cases a keen competition for the lands offered, resulting in higher rents than what would be fixed by arbitration, as in the case of the Otago educational leases and the perpetual-lease system of the Land Act of 1882. Although from a revenue point of view it may seem desirable to have the highest rents obtainable, yet in a great national system it would not be wise to exact the utmost penny from the Crown tenants, for the main purpose of the perpetual-lease system is not revenue, but to prevent the aggregation of the agricultural lands of the colony in large estates, so that they may remain for all time in the possession of an industrious and substantial class, analogous to the British farmer, cultivating their farms in peace and quietness, with a sense of perfect security of tenure, at rents mutually agreed on, with tenant-rights under statutory authority, and free from the yoke of middlemen or the exactions of landlords.

Crown Lands held on Pastoral Lease or License.

During the twelve months ended the 31st March, 1884, an area of 1,120,000 acres was disposed of, in 103 runs, for an annual rent of £4,900, or about 1d. per acre. These runs are mostly situated in the inland mountainous districts of Otago, where, from the exposed nature of the country, the rabbit and kea pests, and the expenses of working, there has been frequent abandonment of runs. This tendency has no doubt been much intensified of late years by the low price of wool. But, as the result of observation, it is quite evident that to cope successfully with that sort of country it must be held in large areas and on long leases. The Land Board has now come to recognize that, and in the relettings several small runs are grouped as one, and relet for terms of fourteen and twenty-one years.

The revenue, £125,694 14s., derived from the pastoral rents for the year is about £50,000 under the actual current rents at which the runs are let. The explanation of the apparent deficit in receipts lies in the fact that at the great sales of Otago runs held in February, 1882, and February, 1883, a year's rent was paid in advance in each case on the runs bought, although the leases did not begin for twelve months after day of sale. Consequently, only six months' rent of the runs sold in February, 1882, was paid on the 1st March last, and nothing was due on runs sold in February, 1883, nor is there anything due until the 1st March, 1885, when six months' rent has to be paid. Next year's revenue from runs will therefore show an increase of about £50,000 on the amount received for the twelve months ended the 31st March, 1884.

FOREST-TREES PLANTATIONS.

Under the Forest-Trees Planting Encouragement Acts of 1871 and 1872 land orders of a value of £2,520 were issued during the year, in favour of fourteen persons, for 630 acres 1 rood planted according to regulations in the Canterbury Provincial District, being a bonus of £4 per acre. The total number of land orders issued under these Acts up to the present time are sixty-five, representing, as under, an area of 3,421 acres 2 roods 22 perches planted, of which

								Α.	R.	P
Canterbury l	as had	49	orders	for				2,569	2	4
Otago)) Æ		,,				•	539	2	19
Auckland	. ,,	1	,,					52	0	0
Nelson	,,	2	,,	•				256	1 :	39
Hawke's Bay	,,,	1	,,	•	•••	•••	• • •	124	0	0
·										
Tota	aÌ	65			• • •			3.421	2^{\cdot}	22

There are eight applications from Canterbury for orders representing 469 acres planted, and one application from Wellington, for 79 acres planted, held in abeyance for the present; and the preliminary notices of the intention to plant, in compliance with the regulations, have been given for about 1,000 acres more in Canterbury; so that up to date the colony may be assumed to be committed to land orders on about 5,000 acres planted, at £4 an acre, or, in all, £20,000.

It is no doubt satisfactory that so much attention has been given to planting on private estates, especially in Canterbury, where shelter is so much required. But this feeling of complacency is not enhanced when it is considered that probably as mach, or at all events nearly as much, planting would have been done, from motives of self-interest, by the proprietors of estates, without the bonus as with it. In other words, the inducement held out has not been the cause of so much planting being done: it has rather been a sort of windfall to those who have participated in it. The question may very well be asked if it would not be better to repeal the Forest-Trees Planting Encouragement Acts, and devote more attention and outlay on forest-tree planting on the public estates.

A good deal has been done by the Planting Board of Canterbury on the forest reserves, an area of about 1,159 acres having been fenced in, ploughed, and sown in a number of blocks in different localities during the five years the Board has been in operation. (See Report No. 5 in Appendix.) On a smaller scale, but still with great public advantage, the Lake County Council has promoted for several years a nursery of forest trees in the Cardrona Valley, from which are distributed tree-plants to the settlers and for the adornment of the public reserves over a wide surrounding district, as will be seen from the report of Mr. Robert McDougall, in the Appendix.

The Maniototo County Council has also done good work on the nursery reserve of 100 acres near north end of Rough Ridge. About 45 acres have been fenced, 2 acres trenched and sown with seeds, and several acres ploughed ready for transplanting young trees into. British and American pines, cypresses, red-gum, poplars, and willows are cultivated. There are now ready for distribution about 110,000 two-year old trees, and 60,000 incre coming on for next year. The cost of house,

fencing, and planting has been £470, and about £50 has been realized from sale of plants.

In the recent sectional surveys of Crown lands withheld from the runs in the interior of Otago 25 strips of plantation reserve, aggregating 1,588 acres, have been made at intervening distances of every two or three miles, which, if once successfully planted, would add greatly to the appearance and well-being of the country.

In Canterbury five forest reserves, covering 2,689 acres of native bush, have been made, with a view to its conservation; this (inclusive of a few other small reserves), together with 589,290 acres of bush reserved prior to the 31st March, 1883, makes a total of 593,576 acres reserved in the colony for climatic reasons, and for the purpose of conserving the flow of perennial springs.

AGRICULTURE.—SUBTROPICAL INDUSTRIES.

Although the Land Department primarily exists for the sale and settlement of Crown lands, yet it is no departure from its functions that it should, by the dissemination of useful information not otherwise readily procurable, seek to enhance the value of those lands by making known to the settler what may be raised from the soil, and the best way of doing it. With that design, and in furtherance of the interests of those who have embarked or intend to embark in agriculture, the most important of all our industries, a work on the grasses and forage-plants of both foreign and indigenous kinds best suited for agricultural purposes in New Zealand, on which Mr. Thomas Mackay is engaged, is in course of preparation. It is intended that it shall, in a great degree, form the necessary sequel to the valuable work on the Grasses of New Zealand by Mr. John Buchanan, F.L.S. Lond., Botanist and Draughtsman to the Geological Survey of New Zealand, which was published in 1880 in pursuance of a resolution of the House of Representatives in June, 1876, on the motion of Sir George Grey, K.C.B. As the scope of the work now indicated will naturally embrace a wide field of research, in which much discrimination in the practical selection and illustration of the proper subjects on which it will treat will have to be exerted, it will necessarily be some time before it can be entirely completed; but it is proposed to divide it into three parts, which, in the first place, will be published separately as each is got ready for the printer.

In former reports the cultivation of the olive, orange, lemon, vine, mulberry, and silk-culture have been prominently brought forward as suitable industries, more especially for the North Island of New Zealand. The efforts put forth by the department in this direction, through the agency of Mr. Federli, have established beyond doubt the natural suitability of New Zealand for silk-culture. But, as that industry cannot be entered on to any great extent until there is a sufficiency of mulberry trees grown, the department imported and distributed three years ago 500 plants of the Morus alba from Sydney, and has, through correspondence with nurserymen and settlers, so drawn attention to the importance of the industry that Messrs. Kerr and Barnett, of Christchurch, have already sent away 2,000 mulberry trees of one year old to Auckland, Onehunga, Napier, and other localities in the North Island, and they have orders to supply several thousands more. With the object of raising as quickly as may be the industry from the experimental to the practical commercial scale, the department is now in correspondence with the nurserymen of Auckland, and several other places in the North Island, about their procuring seed of the Morus alba (rose-leaved or Cevennes variety) for the purpose of raising plants to supply the demands of settlers. About eighteen months ago Mr. Federli, as mentioned in last year's report, forwarded per "British King" some silkworm eggs to the Agent-General in London, with the object of seeing if they could be hatched out healthily and in time for the European market. The experiment has not been altogether successful; but, as will be seen from Sir F. D. Bell's memorandum in the Appendix, he has taken great interest in the matter, and given valuable information and suggestions for the guidance of future consignments.

Mr. Federli, who has recently returned from an extended tour through the North Island, whither he was sent to inform the public regarding silk-culture, and the growth of clives, vines, and

other subtropical fruits common to his native Italy, reports a very great interest in those industries, and that orange and lemon orchards are already established in various districts north of Auckland, with every appearance of success. At Whangaroa four orange trees in one garden produced, last year, 320 dozen of finely-flavoured oranges, some of which were brought by him to Wellington; as also bananas grown in the open air at Mangonui. In the district north of Auckland, which stretches for 200 miles between the 37th and 34th parallels of south latitude, there are 3,000,000 acres of a most beautiful country, with numerous picturesque deep-water inlets running in among the hills, opening up fertile well-sheltered valleys, admifably adapted for orchards and vineyards. The time will assuredly come when that country will be so occupied by a numerous population, for a few acres when devoted to subtropical fruit-cultivation is an extensive possession, and will afford scope and reward for the labours of many workers. Thus, at Wanganui, the Messrs. Soler (Spaniards) planted a vineyard of three acres nineteen years ago, and for the last ten years the average yield has been 20 tons of grapes, which, at the low price of 2d. a pound, would amount to nearly £400. These gentlemen manufacture their grapes into wine, for which there is a demand, and it is important to know they have successfully contended with the diseases to which the vine is subject, and are willing to afford others, the results of their experience.

In the matter of olive-cultivation, as was stated in last year's report, olive plants raised in the public domain, Christchurch, from the truncheons imported from South Australia, were sent to the Domain Board of Auckland, which has undertaken to form a nursery for the growth and distribution of plants. As the introduction of subtropical industries has been discouraged by some persons on the score of dear labour preventing such pursuits paying, it is encouraging to refer to the Australasian of the 22nd March, 1884, in which the special correspondent of that paper sent to California to report on the agricultural industries of that country says of the olive-culture that the plantations are rapidly increasing. The trees yield much sooner than in Europe: at six years old the crop is payable; at eight years old the trees yielded 2,000 gallons of berries per acre, yielding

250 gallons of oil, for which there is a ready market at 20s. per gallon.

The orange and lemon culture in the colony is well known to be very profitable to those who were far-seeing enough, or fortunate enough, to plant an orchard ten or twenty years ago. A considerable amount of attention is now being given to the subject, and the department has recently made arrangements to have the orangeries of New South Wales visited and reported on, for the information and guidance of settlers who may be about to enter on this industry.

The tobacco-culture has now got beyond the incipient stage of being cultivated by a few as a curiosity or for private use. A tobacco manufactory has recently been established in Auckland,

and arrangements made with settlers to grow the leaf in quantity.

It is only a question of time, and that not very long, until silk, olive oil, wine, and such-like products will be established extensively in the colony, for the country and climate are suitable, and there is a teeming population coming forward, many of whom will have a drifting, aimless life unless there is a greater variety of industries which they can follow than at present.

THERMAL SPRINGS.

The hot springs, geysers, and solfataras of the North Island are on so great a scale, and the wonders around Rotorua and Rotomahana so challenge admiration, that comparatively few even in the colony ever think or even know of the hot springs at Hanmer Plain, in the Amuri District, Middle Island. Still fewer know that inland from Hanmer Plain to the west there are hot springs to be found here and there over a region of 1,000 square miles. The Hanmer springs have long enjoyed a local celebrity for the cure of rheumatism and cutaneous affections; but, situated in the heart of a pastoral district, and, until lately, difficult of access, but few ventured so far from the populous centres: indeed, the fatigue of the journey was more than an invalid could bear, and hence their healing virtues remained almost unknown. Since the opening of the railway north to Waikari, a distance of fifty miles from Christchurch, the springs are within one day of that city, for Hanmer Plain is only forty miles from Waikari by coach or buggy over a comparatively easy road. If once the railway extension to Red Post, now in progress, were opened, the distance to be done by coach would be reduced to twenty miles. The springs will thus be within six or seven hours of Christchurch, and will assuredly become a place of great public resort. In the Appendix will be found a description by Mr. H. A. Gordon, who planned the works of the bathhouse and other accommodation which have been executed recently, or are still in progress, to render the springs suitable for public use.

ROADS TO OPEN UP LANDS BEFORE SALE.

The satisfactory record of settlement effected during the year is very largely due to the previous opening-out of the lands selected by the clearing and partial formation of road-lines in the various blocks.

There is still a vast amount of this sort of work to do before extensive blocks of Crown lands are rendered available for settlement; for it may be at once assumed as incontrovertible that, until bush lands more especially are made accessible by road-formation, they are not fit for the settler, and that it would be wrong to tempt him to occupy lands on settlement conditions until the preliminary opening out by felling and clearing the timber on the road-lines has been effected.

preliminary opening-out by felling and clearing the timber on the road-lines has been effected.

There are many blocks of valuable Crown lands in both Islands which could be adduced as of no more actual value for the practical purpose of settling a thriving population on them in their present inaccessible state than if they were so much waste or water. But it will suffice to adduce as an illustration that in the extensive area of Crown lands in the Seventy-Mile Bush, on the line between Masterton and Napier, there is an excellent coach-road running through, and a trunk line of railway also in course of construction, but, unless the Land Department is enabled to run cross branch roads from these trunk lines to the Crown lands, the influence of such great and costly lines of communication will have but a very partial effect in settling the lands even in their close vicinity.

DEPARTMENTAL.

No remarks are necessary regarding the ordinary routine of correspondence, of preparing certificates of title, and other miscellaneous work. It may, however, be mentioned that there are many gratifying assurances received from time to time of the extensive interest created in the administration and modes of settlement in operation in New Zealand through the wide circulation of the Crown Lands Guide. No. 6 was issued during the year, and 7,000 copies struck off and extensively distributed in the Home-country, India, and the Australian Colonies. There have been many notices taken of the publication, both in the Home and colonial press, and two of the Australian Colonies have shown their appreciation of the value of such a work by issuing similar Crown Lands Guides for their respective terrifories.

I have to acknowledge with satisfaction the able and zealous co-operation of Mr. H. J. H.

Eliott in the work of the department, and also the cordial relations existing between the head office

and the Commissioners of Crown Lands in the eleven land districts of the colony.

J. McKerrow.

APPENDICES.

No. 1.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the Hon. the MINISTER of IMMIGRATION.

7, Westminster Chambers, London, S.W., 10th December, 1883. Sir,-

I regret to have been prevented by incessant occupation from earlier writing to you on the subject of Mr. Federli's silk graine.

On the arrival of the graine in the "British King" I had it brought up here and surrounded for a time by ice, so as to prevent its being exposed to any sudden rise of temperature; but, at the season of the year when it came into my hands, it was very difficult to meet the requirement,

mentioned by Mr. Federli, of the atmosphere in which it was placed being both dry and cool.

I was just then going to Paris, and endeavoured to see M. Pasteur there about the graine; however, I was not fortunate enough to meet him. On my return I communicated with the President of the Royal Society (Mr. Huxley), and I then decided to send some of the graine to Captain Mason, of the Manor House, Yateley, who is well known in sericulture, and had had much experience in rearing eggs sent to him from Australia, besides possessing a good magnanerie of his own. Captain Mason was in doubt whether the graine could be hatched out by artificial means in less than about seven months from the time they were laid. The graine reached him in a generally sound condition, though the cards "showed some little sign of damp." It was clear that it had taken no harm from being cent in the refrigerenters, but with regard to the transpriser of any further even no harm from being sent in the refrigerator; but, with regard to the transmission of any further ova, there is no risk in simply sending them by post, as a number of eggs which came from Sydney at the end of last year by the San Francisco mail arrived safely and hatched out perfectly well within a few days of seven months.

From time to time Captain Mason and I corresponded on the progress of the experiment, and at last, on the 30th July, the December and January eggs began to hatch out, the January eggs taking six months and fifteen days from the time they were laid, which was earlier by a fortnight than any Captain Mason had ever succeeded in hatching. He did his best to carry them on to cocooning, but, as it would not pay him to give fuel and attendance in his magnanerie for so small a quantity, I undertook to defray this expense, which however only came in the end to a couple of pounds. He gave the experiment the best chance, but, although successful at first, the difficulty was, as usual, in the later stages. In one instance (of Australian graine), where the hatching had been perfect, and the insects had fed well without any loss happening in the first ages, they died off rapidly afterwards, and only a few cocoons were saved. This result Captain Mason attributed to the difficulty of properly drying the air of his room (45 feet) in such wet summers as there have been in England of late years, and it led him to fear that the experiment of acclimatizing the Bombyx mori would fail.

Seeing that the experiment promised at first to be a success, I sent Captain Mason a second supply of Mr. Federli's graine early in August; and, although the cards had naturally absorbed a good deal of damp meanwhile, some of the December and January eggs from this second supply began to hatch out on the 23rd August, and the bivoltini of March on the succeeding day. The first card of bivoltini began in five months and two days, while those of the annual (15th January) took six months fourteen days, and (24th December) seven months six days. Captain Mason feels sure that, even with the stimulus of artificial hibernation, it will be "impossible to force nature much further than rousing the insects from their dormant state in about seven months." All the worms looked healthy at the end of August, and a few days afterwards he wrote to me that, although he could not yet give a more decided report, they had hatched well; but there was still the last age (on which they were just entering) to be feared. Early in October there were a few bivoltini alive, but the weather was not dry, and by the middle of that month all had ceased to feed except two. The result in the end was therefore unsuccessful. The following are extracts from Captain Mason's letters to me stating what had happened: "Three cards of graine were placed in the magnanerie at a temperature of 75°. The eggs laid on the 24th December and the 15th January began to hatch on the 30th July, and finished on the 16th August. One card of bivoltini of the 1st March began on the 3rd August, and ended on the 31st. Of the three cards (second supply) sent in August (with greater signs of damp), bivoltini began hatching on the 21st August, and ended on the 30th September; those of December and January began on the 23rd August, and finished on the 11th September.

The hatching was almost perfect, though very slow, particularly the bivoltini. The weather until the last fortnight of the experiment was favourable, the hygrometer averaging 68° to 69°, while at midsummer it was 62°. The worms, though unequal in size, looked healthy, and rose well in their changes until the fourth and fifth ages, when they fell off in their feeding, and gradually died off. Though many mounted the hurdles with every appearance of spinning, only one formed a perfect cocoon, with little floss, though small. Whether the eggs were injured by damp, or were unsound, is doubtful. I have received eggs from Sydney in good order by the San Francisco mail, on paper rolled in a strong cover of cardboard, and think this may be safer than an ice-room. From this experiment, as well as former experience of Australian stock, I feel convinced that it would not be safe to force the vitality of the ova earlier than about seven months by any artificial means, and, if so, the eggs would be too late for the market in Italy and France. As the managers of filatures will not buy cocoons unless in very large weight, any company in New Zealand or Australia should establish a filature of their own, which would give employment to women and children, and afford a market for live or dried cocoons to private growers."

When the above notes were written only one cocoon had been formed; a second was, however, formed afterwards. Both were spith on the leaves, and one produced a moth, an average-sized male, which completed its vitality, notwithstanding the supposed injury to the egg. On the 24th November "Land and Water" published a letter from Captain Mason containing some interesting information; I enclose a copy herewith. In his last communication to me, on the 28th November, Captain Mason repeats the expression of his own conviction that a company in each of the Australian Colonies should take up the industry, as soon as the plantations of trees have been sufficiently extended. He has a son at Whangarei, to whom a nephew has just taken out some seed of the

Morus alba.

I wish I could have given you a better and more encouraging account for Mr. Federli than is contained in this letter. It seems to me that Captain Mason's experiments go to show that the hatching-out of graine sent here from New Zealand takes from six and a half to seven months, and that the cocoons will therefore not be in time for the markets in France and Italy, even if the filatures there would buy except in large quantity. But if Mr. Federli will send another supply, Captain Mason will be very pleased to repeat the experiments, with the aid of the experience now gained. I would certainly recommend any new graine being simply sent by post in a cardboard roll, for, when ova have been for six or seven weeks in an ice-room at a temperature below freezing-point, it is very difficult to raise their temperature slowly after being taken out without more or less risk of damping-off.

I have, &c.,

The Hon, the Minister of Immigration, Wellington.

F. D. Bell.

No. 2.

["Land and Water." 24th November, 1883.]
THE SILKWORM IN ENGLAND.

Now that, by artificial hibernation, the hatching of ova of the Bombyx mori can be retarded until the danger of spring-time is passed and the leaf of the Morus alba is ready for the worm, the only obstacle to rearing this caterpillar on a practical scale presents itself in the fifth or last stage, for this reason: that Nature has provided it with a profuse cutaneous transpiration as the only means of relieving its body of the great quantity of liquid drawn from the leaf of the mulberry; and, as Count Dandolo's magnanerie for about 195,000 worms, the produce of five ounces of eggs, measures only 45 feet by 18 feet, in a wet summer it is necessary to use double caution in driving off the moisture of the atmosphere and this excessive evaporation. From the 17th June last five ounces of eggs imported from Sydney and Stettin, with my own, hatched well, and went through their changes without loss, until the fifth age. The season was most unfavourable: we could not admit the outer air, and one stove had not power to dispel the double moisture from the magnanerie. As usual in a low index of the hygrometer, the feeding of the worms fell off, and I only saved a few hundred perfect cocoons. When we consider the record left to us by the late Mr. Plant, that for thirteen summers in succession the sun has ceased to shine with its usual power in drying the atmosphere, we cannot wonder that an insect so sensitive of moisture as the silkworm should have hitherto failed. Now, if we view this only as an unaccountable sport of nature in the cycle of the seasons, there appears hope in the future, as the last splendid harvest-time in the southern counties gave promise of an entry on a brighter cycle. Yet, supposing the atmosphere to be cold and damp in midsummer, when we have reared, say, worms from five ounces of eggs to within nine days of maturity, with little loss, though a heavy mortality may set in, we find many of the stronger worms resist the evil influences and spin perfect cocoons; some few become gross from overfeeding, yet the majority of these, put on a low diet, give good produce; while those which have lost the power of rising and forming the cocoon, furnish the angler with the gut, which is the only line sufficiently clear and strong, when joined on to the most tempting fly, which would deceive the youngest or hold the oldest salmon. Some fine specimens of this valuable produce will have attracted notice in the Fisheries Exhibition, No. 435. In the last few years I have found that neither the health of the silkworm nor the respiration of the attendants have been affected even in close proximity with a cast-iron stove. If, by the use of a second stove, with perfect ventilation and fumigation, we cannot raise the index of the hygrometer, we may still call in the aid of modern science. Deep-rooted prejudice has grown stronger in the past seasons; although, from experience of some progress, I feel convinced that the Bombyx mori may be reared in its artificial life with profit in England. No doubt a company in this country, or in our eastern colonies, which are making good progress in this industry, would have the double advantage of commanding a market for cocoons or silk and aiding small growers; yet, in a temperate climate, we have a decided superiority in the produce of eggs, and good sound stock is always saleable. The Morus alba can be imported from France at little expense, and, from its rapid growth, would return an early

profit, whether in satin, paper, fodder, or fuel, as the produce of waste lands unsuited for other crops.

G. Mason.

No. 3.

EXTRACT from Forest Committee's Annual Report on Forest Nursery, County of Lake.

Gentlemen,—

Pembroke, 23rd May, 1884.

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the annual report of the Forest Committee.

During the year 1883, 25,500 seedling tree-plants were removed from the seed-beds into nursery-lines. They consist of—Pinus insignis, Pinus muricata, Pinus tuberculata, Pinus maritima, Pinus austriaca, Pinus sabiniana, Cupressus macrocarpa, Cupressus lawsoniana, Wellingtonia gigantea,

Abies douglassaii, Norway spruce, ash, sycamore. In shifting them from the seed-beds a loss of 2 per cent. was sustained. They now range in height from 1ft. to 4ft., and are in excellent condition for distributing and permanently planting out. Thirty thousand two-year-old quicks once transplanted, and a hundred thousand still in the seed-beds, are also ready for distribution; five acres of the reserve were planted permanently, and seed-beds, are also ready for distribution, here acres of the reserve, and enable the Council to claim, under the free-Planting Act, a hundred acres of Crown land. The Committee suggest that as soon as possible this step be taken, and the proceeds accruing from such property devoted to the spread of forestry. The seed-beds contain 18,000 seedling tree-plants, which will be transplanted during the present year. Acting upon the resolution passed by your Council last year, tree-plants were then offered gratis to all the school and church committees, municipal bodies, hospitals, and police authorities in the county, as well as to similar establishments in Vincent County, extending as far as Naseby. To Inspector Hickson, of the Constabulary Department, Clyde, great credit is due for the attention bestowed upon plants supplied to the several stations under his supervision. Police Sergeants McLeod, of Cromwell, and Brown, of Arrow, have been exceptionally successful in their treatment of plants allotted to their establishments, and are consequently worthy of the highest praise, in their case the loss being about 4 per cent. only. Taking together the Police departments of Arrow, Cromwell, Clyde, Ophir, St. Bathan's, and Naseby the loss has been under 10 per cent. This result clearly demonstrates the fact that, where reasonable care is bestowed, plants grown in the interior may be removed a hundred miles or more, and, by such tardy locomotion as that afforded by drays and wagons, with a loss, if any, merely nominal. The church, school, and hospital management ranging over the same territory-Queenstown to Naseby-have not been so successful. This, in my opinion, is to be attributed in a great measure to a want of sympathy with the efforts being made to enrich and beautify their properties and districts in so far as trees can do so. Your decision to again place upon the free list the many public bodies and departments alluded to is most commendable. On this subject of tree-growing the public mind certainly requires educating, and I take leave to think that, through them, and under existing circumstances, no better machinery for that purpose is at present available.

procedit witarranto.								
The expenditure for t	the year has	been-				£	s.	$\mathrm{d}.$
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The balance is unfortunately against you: the excellent services, however, rendered to the State in your prosecution of this most useful and necessary work should honestly justify your appeal to Government for a subsidy of, say, £150, for the year 1884-85, out of the vote for the encouragement of tree-planting. In this institution you now have the materials for primarily stocking the several forest reserves in the interior of Otago recently proclaimed by the Government; and I beg to suggest that you advise the Minister of Lands that you are now prepared to supply, gratis, such tree-plants as are at your disposal, with the view of their forming the nucleus of forests to clothe the reserves last mentioned, thereby converting them into a living reality.

I have, &c.,

ROBERT McDougall,

The Lake County Council.

Chairman, Forest Committee.

No. 4.

HOT SPRINGS, HANMER PLAINS.

28th May, 1884.

It is only within late years that the hot springs at Hanmer Plains have become generally known as a bathing place for invalids suffering from rheumatic complaints and skin diseases; and even now 2—C. 1.

C.-1.

there are many who are not aware of the existence of hot springs in that part of the colony, which are said to possess as great curative properties as those in the vicinity of Lake Rotorua in the North Island. Several people are reported to have been cured of cutaneous diseases and rheumatism by bathing in these waters, and almost every one who has made use of them has received considerable relief.

The growing importance of these springs, and their healing properties, have induced the Government to build a bathhouse, enclose the principal pools where the springs are, and to construct works in connection with them, so that they can be utilized to their fullest extent. They are situated on a large flat terrace near the foot of the ranges on the Hanner Plains, about four miles from the upper crossing of the Waiau River, near its junction with the Hanmer, and on the side of the bridle-track leading from St. Helens Station to Jack's Pass. Formerly people used to bathe in two of the pools; but this was objectionable in many respects, and besides there was no privacy for any one using them. These two pools, which are about 30ft. in diameter at the surface of the water, with a depth of about 4ft. 9in. in the deepest place, are now utilized entirely for supplying the baths. The temperature of the water varies considerably, ranging from about 84° to 100° of heat. The pools are always the hottest during close sultry weather and rain with north-easterly winds. Owing to their situation on a flat terrace and in low ground there was some difficulty in getting the water laid on to the baths without placing the latter a considerable distance from the pools. This seemed the greatest obstacle to utilizing the water, as it was feared that the loss of temperature after flowing through pipes would be considerably reduced, and there was likewise a danger, in cutting into the pools, that loose drift might be encountered and tend to cut off their supply or drain them. Considerable care had therefore to be exercised in constructing any works or tampering with the springs, and experiments had to be made to ascertain the amount of heat that would be lost in the transit of the water through the pipes before commencing to erect the bathhouse, or to construct any works in connection After these experiments were made it was found that the loss of heat in the water would be very small. A trench was therefore extended into each of the pools, and a 2½-in. gas-pipe laid therein to conduct the water to the baths. After cleaning out one of the pools and banking-up or raising the sides, so as to allow the water to rise about 9in. higher than formerly, it was found that the temperature of the water was lowered about $1\frac{1}{2}$ °. The experiment therefore of placing a large wooden cover 20ft. long 12ft. wide and 5ft. 9in. high over the other pool was tried, and the effect was that it increased the temperature of the water from an average of 92° to an average of about 117°. The 2½-in. gas-pipe used as a hot-water supply pipe to the baths is placed across both pools about 3ft. below the surface of the water, and has a down-pipe about a foot in length over the principal spring in each, so as to get the water from as near the bottom as possible. These hot-water supply pipes, after coming through the bank or dam in the excavated trench, which is about 12ft. in thickness, were placed inside glazed earthernware pipes 5in. in diameter, and held in the centre with wooden wedges, so that the gas-pipe does not touch the earthernware pipes at any place. The earthernware pipes have connected joints, and are covered over with the ordinary gravel and mullock that came from the excavation. This method of bringing the hot-water supply pipes from the springs to the baths (one of which is 240ft. distant) has the effect of delivering the water without any perceptible loss of temperature. It is doubtful whether the iron gas-pipe will stand the action of the water, which is to some extent impregnated with sulphur, but, if it is found that corrosion takes place quickly, small glazed earthernware pipes will be got to replace them. The open pool that supplies the baths has a galvanized-iron fence 6ft. high all round, in order to prevent people from damaging it or getting into it to bathe. There is likewise a swimming pool excavated, about 27ft. in diameter and 5ft deep, with a galvanized-iron fence 6ft. high all round, and door leading inside. The temperature of this pool averages about 87° Fahr. Inside the enclosure there is a shed for dressing, and wooden gratings with steps leading down to the bottom of the pool. There is also another pool excavated, about 16ft. in diameter and 5ft. 6in. deep, with platform and steps leading down to the bottom. The temperature of this pool averages about 88°; it can be used to bathe in, but it has no fence round it. There are altogether ten springs within a radius of 150ft., of which two only are cold, all the others being hot; but there are only five of the springs utilized at present, they being the principal ones. The discharge of water from the whole of these springs amounts to about thirty gallons per minute, while the discharge from those in use is as follows:-

Total discharge of water per minute $\dots 26\frac{3}{4}$ gallons

The remaining five springs are very small, as they only contribute three and a quarter gallons per minute.

The bathhouse consists of four bath-rooms, each 13ft. long and 8ft. wide, having a corridor or passage at one end of the building, and doors leading out of that into two bath-rooms; and at the other end, and front of the building, there is a verandah, with doors leading into the other two bath-rooms. The bottoms of the baths are 4ft. 6in. below the floor of the main building, and have a staircase leading down to them in each room. Each bath is 8ft. long, 2ft. wide at bottom, 2ft. 6in. at the top, and allows the water to rise 2ft. in depth, and has a seat 12in. wide extending their whole length. Two of the baths are supplied with water from the open pool and the other two from the covered one, and the hot-water supply pipe is capable of filling each bath in about three minutes. There is a cold-water supply pipe fitted with brass cock and rose, fixed at the end of each bath, where the staircase leads up to the floor of the bath-room, so that any one can turn on a cold-water

shower when requiring it. Each bath-room has a large ground-glass window, double hung and fitted with blinds; but these are not required, except when the windows are open, as no one can see through the ground glass. There is likewise a circular ventilator in the ceiling of each room, and one side of the room for 2ft. below the ceiling is so fitted that it can be opened or shut at pleasure, in the form of venetian blinds, so as to allow any steam from the baths to escape, and to prevent the room from being uncomfortably hot or moist. The building is constructed so that four more bath-rooms can at any time be added, if required, without destroying its symmetrical appearance.

11

A cold-water supply has been brought in a "lead," 34 chains long, from a branch of Dog Creek. It runs partly in two open trenches, having a short tunnel between them of 1½ chains. At the end of this "lead" a wooden tank is placed as a small reservoir, and from which 2½ in. galvanized-iron pipes are laid to the bathhouse, a further distance of 19 chains. The head of water at the bathhouse is about 22ft. It is not altogether certain yet whether a sufficient supply of water can be got in dry weather from the present source; but a line of water-race has been laid out to the main branch of Dog Creek, where a permanent supply can be obtained. The length of this additional work will be about 40 chains, and can be carried in an open trench all the way. A substantial galvanized-iron wire fence, with barbed wire on top, has been erected around an enclosure of five acres where the hot aprings and bathhouse are situated, and the ground inside the enclosure is now being broken up and levelled, so that it can be laid down in grass, with a border of ornamental trees all round it. It is proposed to offer sufficient inducement for a commodious accommodation-house to be erected by private enterprise, so that invalids and visitors can réceive proper care and attention; but in the meantime, until these arrangements are completed, a four-roomed cottage will be erected inside the enclosure, and a person placed in charge of the baths.

The cost of the whole of the works up to the present time is about £1,300, but when those that are in hand have been completed, including the cottage, planting, &c., the total cost will be about

£1,700.

The Surveyor-General, Wellington.

HENRY A. GORDON.

No. 5.

REPORT of the CANTERBURY PLANTATION BOARD.

Sir,— Christchurch, 20th June, 1884.

I have much pleasure in reporting that the work of establishing plantations in Canterbury

is progressing satisfactorily.

Already, the earliest of the plantations formed by the Board have made sufficient growth to afford a pleasing relief to the landscape, which, a few years back, was an almost unbroken expanse of tussock.

The area fenced and sown with blue-gum- and wattle-seed during 1883 comprised 250 acres, equally divided between the Counties of Selwyn and Ashburton, in which districts the larger number of the reserves are situated.

The total area fenced and sown to the end of 1883, is — in the county of Ashburton, 483

acres; in the county of Selwyn, 676 acres.

Experience has proved that the season most favourable for the sowing of gum-seed, that is, from the middle of September to the middle of November, is too late for the sowing of wattle-seed; and the Board have decided that the wattle plantations shall in future be sown not later than the end of August, and be restricted to the black and silver wattle, which are the most robust, whilst the

bark is much sought after for tanning purposes.

During last year the Board took steps to secure the leasing of the reserves under their control upon terms calculated to secure a larger revenue. By granting leases for a term of fourteen years, and reserving to the Board the right of re-entry over such portions as they may from time to time desire to plant, they have succeeded in more than doubling their former rent-roll. The rents obtained range from 1s. to as much as 2s. 6d. per acre for the grazing of tussock land, and as high as 7s. per acre for portions of the agricultural land, which rents must be considered highly satisfactory, when it is borne in mind that, in order to preserve the land clean for sowing with gumand wattle-seed, the tenants are precluded from breaking up more than one-half of the total quantity for which they pay rent, and are also subject to other necessary restrictions.

The tenders received for some of the reserves which are available only for grazing purposes were as low as 3d., 6d., $7\frac{1}{2}$ d., 9d., and 10d. per acre. The Board, however, declined all such; and, having fixed upon 1s. per acre as the minimum rent which they would receive for any reserve,

finally succeeded in obtaining that rental.

The nurserymen throughout Canterbury have during the last two or three years raised large quantities of young pine trees, which they are now offering at very low prices, ranging from £2 per thousand upwards, according to age and quality; and the Board intend during the present season to avail themselves of this opportunity, and to plant as large an area as possible with mixed pines, larch, and birch, selecting the sorts most suitable for the soil and situation of the several reserves, from the sandhills at New Brighton to the heavy lands near the foot of the ranges. With the increased revenue now available the Board will be able to plant at least five hundred acres annually. Yours, &c.,

EDWARD G. WRIGHT,

The Secretary for Crown Lands, Wellington.

Chairman,

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No. 1.—Summary of Lands disposed of from the Foundation of the Colony, with Total Cash received, &c., for the Year ending 31st March, 1884.

Total Area remaining for Future Disposal, exclusive of Area in preceding Column and of Native Lands.	A. R. P. 2,872,109 0 29 245,409 0 0 520,490 8 32 197,586 0 0 1,229,207 2 23 1,069,388 0 0 2,667,813 1 2	12,871,412 34 8,801,954 0 6 the Year ending 31st March, 1884.		Lands disposed of without Sale by Grants or in any	other Manner.
Total Area open for f Selection.	A. B. P. 183,651 0 0 8,508 1 23 11,627 0 1 10,169 2 39 832,389 0 0 546,711 1 22 253,672 1 20 175,000 0 0 495,709 3 30	412 34 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		Consideration.	Scrip.
	A. 133,651 8,508 11,627 10,169 5,83,158 5,83,839 546,870 4,345,711 253,672 175,000	12,871,412 the Year e	**	Cons	Cash.
Total Cash received.	81,773 7 9 8. d. 73,529 1 2 8.3,968 17 0 966,476 14 11 827,529 16 0 67,759 0 0 67,759 1 10 60,263 2 1 19 421 1 9 48,81 1 1 9 48,81 1 1 9 48,81 1 1 9 48,81 1 1 9 48,81 1 1 9 48,81 1 1 9 48,81 1 1 9 48,81 1 1 9 48,81 1 1 9 48,81 1 1 9 48,81 1 1 9 48,81 1 1 9 48,81 1 1 9 48,81 1 1 9 48,81 1 1 9	30 17,477,765 0 31‡ 12,397,609 12 0 Cash, Scrip, or in any other Manner, during		,	Country.
f Total Cash received.	531,773 473,552 233,968 206,476 827,753 367,753 274,581 5,964,248 60,263 2,319,421	12,397,609 12		Rate per Acre.	Suburban.
Total Area sold or otherwise disposed of from the Foundation of the Colony.	H48 0 31 123 3 71 123 3 71 591 2 23 776 2 7 776 2 7 601 0 32 651 0 0 672 3 34 449 2 30 274 1 18 550 1 21 620 1 28	765 0 31 1		Ŗ	Town.
1	A. 443 1,156,123 201,591 207,776 2,121,901 1,053,661 936,372 3,547,449 124,274 2,880,550 1,305,620	17,477,765	LANDS SOLD.		Number of Purchases.
Total Area granted or reserved under Acts.	H. P. 600 119 8857 0 885 0 885 0 885 0 17 652 8 27 652 2 21 653 2 28 653 2 38 6441 3 29 6521 3 29 6473 2 15	for	LAI		Country.
Total A	A. 156,600 154,337 47,462 152,560 479,839 14,623 155,053 155,053 566,632 72,441 805,521	4,904,621 DISPOSED OF f		.g.	
sold.	8. P. P. 12. 2. 11. 2. 2. 2. 2. 2. 2. 2. 2. 2. 2. 2. 2. 2.	H4:		Number of Acres.	Number of Purchases
Total Area sold.	A. 1,605,844 1,001,736 214,129 55,215 1,642,092 1,039,038 781,781 2,980,766 51,832 2,175,028	12,564,143		Ntmb	Suburban.
		ROWN LAN	- **	-	Number of Purchases.
ots.		TENT Of C	,,		Town.
Land Districts.	Auckland Hawke's Bay Taranaki West Coast (North Island) Welington Nelson Marlborough Canterbury Westland Ötago	Totals 12,564,148 2 1 No. 2.—Summary of Extent of Crown Lands absolutely		Land Districts.	

this a sum of £13,221 14s. 1d. was refunded for 6,610 acres 3 roods 16 perches deficient upon survey. ŏ

882

30

0

144,589

179

C4

416

Ξ

159

Totals

Otago ... Southland ..

No. 3.—LAND SELECTED up to 31st March, 1883.

Payments.	ether Ag	Nature of Selection: whether Agricultural Lease, Deforred	bease, Del	forred	Number of Appli-	Number 80-	Area salected	ctod.	Average to	Fees payable	Land in Oc Previous	Land in Occupation under Previous Transactions.	Total Land granted for Conditions	forfeited for Breach of
·	or as the	Fayments, or as the case may be.	• <u>•</u>		cations made.	<u> </u>			Selection.	rearly.	Number of Acres.	Rents paid.	fulfilled up to Date.	Conditions up to Date.
							Α.	Р.	A. B. P.	£ s. d.	A. B. P.	£ 8. Å.	₽.	
Auckland-														
Deferred payments	:	:	:	:	. 193		21,650		181 3 29	:	:	5,826 11 5		(
Homesteads	:	:	:	:	400		65,423		C4 -		:	:	4,847 0 0	3,435
Agricultural leases	:	:	:	:	220	116	5,726	ස 2	-	287 0 0	:	•	:	- -
Agricultural deferred payments	nts	:	:	:	:	:	:		:	:	:	:	:	,
Pastoral deferred payments	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	•	:	:	:	:	:	
Hawke's Bay—					;				•	dia	1		(•
Deferred payments Tunnigrants Land Act	:	:	:	:	. 543	531	48,425	3 3 4 5 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	91 0 31	:	×4.	;	21,564 2 38 193 9 26	4,214
Taranaki—	:	:	:	:)) 			4	:	•		ı	
Deferred payments	:	:	:	:	670	536	49.217	70	91 3 12	9,739 0 8	:	29,028 18 5	6,384 1 22	2,599
West Coast (North Island)—										,				
Deferred payments	:	:	:	:	1,122	370	33,255		89 2 18	12,812 17 7	:	24,172 9 3	:	835
Wellington—							1		•	,		ď	(2
Deferred payments	:	•	:	:	435	381	77,255	27 28 28	201. 0 0	5,228 .1 7	:	61,240 8 9	* 5. M. 880 0 28	
Leasing Acts	;	;	:			766	36 567	61 6		893 18 4			co	27.
10-per-cent. clauses	: :	: :	2	: ;	,	376	37.700	1 26	100 1 3		: :	. :	710, 0 7	2,899
Reserves	:	:	•	:	2,014	Υ_	344	0.28	0	9	:	:		~
Mineral leases	:	:	:	:		98 }	10,539	0			`	:	•	5,322
Mariborougn—							,	,	•	(÷			
Deferred payments	:	:	:	:	. 27	27	2,312	0.14	85 2 39	761 8 0	:	•	: 4:	
Cantorhum.	:	:	:		· ·			 > >)	:	:	:	>	
Immigrants Land Act					746	977	V 750	٠. ور	10 0 11	Q 75 P	00 0 024 0	8 994 10 . 0	180 3.96	592
Westland-	:	:	:		-		CO1 '#	>	4	-	>)	
Homesteads	:	:	:	•	10		1.040		_	,			:	
Deferred payments		: :	: ;		75.	25.	3,141	21.6	65 0	441 19 6		: :	195 2 0	
Agricultural leases	: :	: ;	: :		})			: :		
	:			•	•	:	•	***	:	•	•	•		-,
Deferred payments	,	;	;				-						.,	•
2	: :	: :												
Deferred payments, exchange	a	:	:	•	[K 674	1 524	905 570	0.16		47 958 4 113	111176 984 0 9	149 918 15 01	72.039 1.34	47.255
suburban	. :	: :		:	1		20,031		•	4	>	ì		
Village settlements	: :		•			-								
		:		•	200	900 1	065 740	1 20	98	2 515 10 6	98 155 9 38	119 816 3 7	151 835 0 39	85.717
Southland—	:	:	:	:	0,000		250,132		>	7	001107	0	>	}
Deferred payments	:	:	:	:	1.333	873	115.499	3 34		•	:	:	20,119 0 1	9,567
, mi							201	- 1						
r Totals	;				10 676	10 098	1 074 090	9.97		28 899 19 01	1908 101 8 97	885 228 5 51	51 360, 207 3 39	193,051

No. 3 continued.—Land selected during the Year ended 31st March, 1884.

on serection	Nature of Selection: whether Agricultural Lease, Deferred	Agricultur	al Lease,	Deferred	N A	Number of Appli-	Number	Area selected		Average to	Fees payable	Land in C Previou	Land in Occupation under Previous Transactions.	Total Land granted for Conditions	land led itions	
Fayn	Fayments, or as the case may be.	ie case me	ay be.		E & E		proved.			Selection.	Yearly.	Number of Acres.	Rents paid.	fulfilled up to Date.	d up	
										꼂	r.	Å, B.	P. £ s.			
Deferred payments	:	:	:	:	:	6	6	8	1 16	176 2 33	174 12 10	:	2,911	6 239	0 0	
Agricultural leases	:	:	:	:	:	20	:	:		:	:	:	•	•		
Homesteads	:	:	:	:	:	22	22	3,720 (0 0	169 0 0	:	:	:	7,936	1 0	
Hawke's Bay—								3			,	(
Deterred payments	:	:	:	:	:	55 4	34	3,059	2 13	:	348 I5 8	22,520 03	33 2,339 3	1 773	м Э	
Deferred payments	;	:	;	:	:	31	31	2.357 (0 27	75 3 15	406 19 6	;	7.326 11	6 1.977	0.34	
West Coast (North Island)	(þì	:	•	:												
Deferred payments	:	:	:	:	:	50	8		0 31	6 0 66	15	:	Н	11 948	1 31	
Agricultural leases	:	:	:	:	:	œ	5	1,438		က	93 19 0	1,298 31	15	: en		
													مر	3ª.		
Leasing Acts	:	:	:	:	_						, <u>}</u> -	٠.		, reg		
10-per-cent. clauses	:	:	:	:		169	140	16,070	2 26	:	1,121 4 6	:	4,812 17	3 2,366	1 33	
Reserves under 500 acres	res	:	:	:	_		-						,	,A		
Mineral leases.	:	:	:	:	:	:	0	3,144 (0 30	:	793 11 0	:	6,013 10	: 6		
							9			(9			*		
Deferred payments	:	:	:	:	:	ခွ	30	4,362	3 25	0 0 121	or or og).	•	3,540 5	င္မေလး 🔻 🙀 ဌ	0	
attibotougu Deferred navmants						c	c	166	0	0 0 886	. 93 . G	9 966 0 14	4 907 10	· ·		
ay mornos	:	:	:	:	:	1	1			>	•)				
Agriculture defended normante	opacomia ou		¥			04	202		a	G	ď		5	**		
Pastoral deferred parments	payments	:	:	:	:	1 4	7 7	20,210		0 158 9 0	3 859 17 0	:		230	3 10	
Village settlements	··· samon	:	:	:	:	78	197		ç	10	a a	:	1 200 1	9	5	
nemenra	:	:	:	:	:	Q#	2		4	3	0	:	T, 920 TO	:		
Homesteads		,				6	6	440			;	C			•	
Deferred navments	•	:	•	•	•	1 10	1 10		800	84 9		9 941 9 1	17 1 285 0	390	C C	
Agriculture losses	:	:	:	:	:	o a	οα	240			54 16 50	1	1			
al teases	:	:	:	:	:	0	0			9	7	4	:	:		
						7	0				9		,			
Deferred payments	:	:	:	:	:	711	200	102,7		:	٦.	:	E G	10 9,445	N →	
" ba	pastoral	:	:	:	:	200	So. :			:		:	N			
", ex	exchange	:	:	:	:	20	.o		222	:		:	ರಾ	1,73	60	
ns	suburban	:	:	:	:		-		0 4	:	0	:	ıO			
Village settlements	:	:	:	:		19	18		33	•	126 2 8	:	C)			
Agricultural leases			:			801	48			113 9 93	10	19 959 1 3	4	5 967	86 0	
TOTAL TOTAL	:	:	:	:	:	2	}			1	2	1	1 2216			
Deferred payments	:	:	;	;	-:	200	144	14.346	1 26	99 2 20	2.920 18 4	70.857 2.3	37 23.623 7	$7 \mid 13.295$	0.13	
								- 1	- 1		1					
	Totals	:	:	:		1,065	783	151,007	2 34	:	20,593 2 10	120,590 0	98 94,975 13	0 45,901	1 30 24,306	
	Totals under previous transactions	previous	transactio	su	19		10,236			•	3	208,191 3	385,228	$5_{2 360,207}$	33	
	Totals	,			િ	90 741	11 010 1	11 010 1 995 087	0 21		100 418 18 101	0 004 006	95 ARD 903 18	21 408 100	6	917 358
		:	:	•	:	-	1 010:11			•	2	040,040	HCO, 1200			_

No. 4.—Particulars of Applications to exchange Agricultural Leases for Leases on Deferred Payments, and to convert Leaseholds into Freeholds, during the Twelve Months ending 31st March, 1884.

To exchange A Leases on	agricultural L Deferred Pay:	eases for ments.		Ţ	o con	vert Leasehol	ds into	Fre	eh	olds.				
Land Districts.	No. of Applications.	Extent.	Land	Districts.		No. of Applications.	Exte	nt.		Valu Impi mei	ove-	cu	lxten ltivat	
Westland Nelson Otago Southland Totals	 5 	A. R. P. 956 1 2	Westland Nelson Otago Southland			2 101 98 201	A. 125 3,268 12,765 13,925 30,084	0 3 1 0	19 12 13			0 298	••	P. 0

No. 5.—Number and Area of Pastoral Licenses issued during the Year ending 31st March, 1884.

Land Di	istricts		Number of Holders.	Area		Number of Stock.	Rent.		icens Fees fany			nd Rent Acre.
Auckland Hawke's Bay			4 4	A. 16,775 25,173	R. P. 0 0 2 0		£ s. d 119 10 (244 7	1		d. 0	£ s. d. 119 10 0 210 13 2	\$\psi \text{acre.} \\ \text{1\frac{1}{2}}\text{d.} \\ \text{2d. to 5d.} align*
Taranaki West Coast (1	 North I	sland)	· · ·			••	•••				••	••
Wellington Nelson Marlborough	• •	••	13 10	55,779 20,135	2 16 0 0	2,958	169 19 10 138 15 10		22 10 27 0	0	•••	•••
Canterbury Westland	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		65,000	0 0	4,590	65 0 (1		Ü	• •	••
Otago Southland		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	52 5	915,674 22,358	0 0		4,047 18 6 54 7 10	1,		5 0	•••	••
Total	ls	•	93	1,120,895	0 16	2,958	4,839 19	4,70	33 5	5	380 3 2	• •

No. 6.—Lands held under Pastoral License or Lease on 31st March, 1884.

Land Districts.	Number of Holders.	Area approxima		Averag			Stock depastured.	Rent p	aid	•	Licer Fee		Tot Paym		- 1	Average per Acre.
Auckland Hawke's Bay Taranaki West Coast (N.I.) Wellington Nelson Marlborough Canterbury Westland Otago Southland	22 9 1 122 96 351 49 441 64	A. 125,547 49,632 500 749,956 1,062,903 2,734,313 580,370 5,392,450	R. 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	A. 5,706 5,515 0 0 0 11,071 0 9,248 0 11,845 0 12,228 0 7,000 0 62,613	0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	800 149,000 6,000	£ 317 359 52 8,249 8,832 50,206 593 54,278 2,699	0 9 19 1 18 6 18	d. 0 5 0 11 0 0 4 4 1 1	27 6 62 8	0 0 0 3 11	317 375 52 8,249 8,859 50,268	0 12 0 9 19 9 18 6 18	d. 0 5 0 11 0 11 4 4 1 0	s. d. 0 0½ 0 1¾ 2 1 0 2¾ 0 1·9 0 4·42 £1\p1000 acres. 0 2½

No. 7.—Number and Area of Leases and Licenses, other than Agricultural and Pastoral, issued during the Year ending 31st March, 1884, and Revenue therefrom.

Land Distri	cts.	Object for which leased.	Area lea	ased.	Rent.
Auckland		Kauri gum, coal, timber, quarry, and other licenses	A. 92,378	R. P. 3 17	£ s. d. 1,428 15 G
Wellington Nelson	••	Grazing purposes	$ \begin{array}{c} 5\\ 3,144\\ 10\\ 18,000\\ 238 \end{array} $	$\begin{array}{cc} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{array}$	8 0 0 793 11 0 2 0 0 51 0 0
Marlborough		Timber, firewood, and other licenses	200 200 400 310	0 0	£10, and a tithe of 6d. per 100 feet. 1 13 4 6d. per ton of coal raised.
Canterbury	••	Grazing	110		23 5 2 97 15 0
Westland	}	Cattle licenses (grazing) Saw-mill Slaughter-yard	 3 3	0.0	116 6 0 3 0 0 6 0 0
Otago	••	Timber, lignite, quarry, mineral, and other licenses	3,615		299 16 9
Southland	••	Timber, lignite, quarry, mineral, and other licenses	7,043	1 29	2,088 18 11
		Totals	125,451	0 31	4,947 5 2

No. 8.—Number of Licenses revoked during the Year ending 31st March, 1884.

Land Districts.	Description of License forfeited or revoked.	At Licensee's Request.	For Non- payment of Fces.	Non- compliance with and Violation of Conditions	Total Number.	Extent.
Auckland Hawke's Bay Taranaki West Coast (N.I.) Wellington Nelson Marlborough Canterbury Westland Otago Southland	Deferred-payment Pastoral	 5 1 1 	4 2 1 7 4 1 2 8 28* 	1 5 15 3 12 14	4 3 1 12 24 2 3 8 30 12 14	A. R. P. 911 2 0 356 0 31 19,500 0 0 1,195 1 22 2,398 3 33 172 1 18 2,115 0 0 7,878 3 5 37,265 2 35 8,845 1 7 1,031 0 17

^{* 11} pastoral, 17 deferred-payment.

No. 9.—Statement of Amounts due to the Crown on the 31st March, 1884, on account of Crown Lands held under any System of Deferred Payment.

					<u> </u>									
				Selec	tors still h	olding.			Selec	tors in Arre	ar,	31st Marcl	h, 1	884.
District and Nature of	f Holding.	Number.	Acreage	held.	Amou accrue in Instaln	Futur	Total Pay made to 31st March	the	Number.	Amoun of Arrea		Area h	eld	
Auckland—	1		A.	R. P.		s. d		s. d.		£ s.	d.	Α.	R.	Р.
Deferred payments, ,, Village settlements	suburban pastoral	130	14,805 67 6,229	3 30 3 11 0 0 1 12	259 $6,425$	≱9 8 - 9 €	292 I 897	8 10	- 35	966 2	8	8,173	2	8.
Hawke's Bay— Deferred payments	••	132	15,838	0 21	14,087	1 10	5,530	3 0 1 7) 15	114 9	4	1,078	0	5
Village settlements Taranaki—	••	12 450	131	1 27 2 32	1			8 9		000.11		0.000	^	4.4
Deferred payments Village settlements West Coast (North Isl	and)—	16	51,568 97	1 21				19 8 0 4	33	376 11	. 6	2,686	2	14
Deferred payments Village settlements Welllington—	•••	329	$28,154 \\ 1,670$	3 27 3 1		7 9	34,071 4,462	6 7 4 7	18 4	303 0 31 6	11	2,485 105		$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 25 \end{array}$
Deferred payments Nelson—	••	163	22,292				,	7 9	12	239 2	0	• •		
Agricultural leases Marlborough— Deferred payments	••	496 26	50,118	1 38 1 9	2,052		11,981 1 658	1	••	••		••		
Canterbury— Deferred payments	••	1455	34,347			Ar :	į	3 11	173	988 12		1 500	^	0
Village settlements Westland—	••	455	970 3,665	2 11 2 5				[173	988 12	8	1,738	0	O,
Deferred payments Agricultural leases Otago—	••	55	156	0 19		7 0	, , , , , , , , , , , , ,	7 6	5 20	276 7	9	1,162	2	6
Deferred payments Village settlements Agricultural leases	••	} 764 { 239	235,116 199 24,714	2 17 0 26 1 37	710	9 4		0 10	$\left. \left. ight\} 455$	17,720 11	10	140,686	2	7
Southland— Deferred payments,	rural	433	86,256	1 6 0 5			38,655	4 3	155		3	81,512		
Village settlements	suburban	105 155	1,061 2,482	1 33	4,673	4 11	1,879	8 1	30 41	173 3 169 17	10 10	297 687	3 2	11 5
Totals	•••	3,960	582,433	0 5	732,658	14 2	285,338	8 11	991	23,898 6	3	190,613	2	30

No. 10.—Capitalization.

	Numb	per of Application Board.	s made to the	Numbe	Amount due			
Land District.	Number. Area.		Amount due under the Deferred- payment System.	Number.	Area.	Amount due under the Deferred- payment System.	under Capitalization System.	
Auckland	13	A. R. P. 1,190 0 26	£ s. d. 1,861 19 9	13	A. R. P. 1,190 0 26	£ s. d.	£ s. d. 1,560 11 9	
Hawke's Bay Taranaki West Coast (N.I.)	39 67	3,836 2 23 6,028 2 19	4,916 8 9 19,461 8 6	39 65	3,836 2 23 5,856 0 0	4,916 8 9 18,807 8 6	4,178 13 10 15,621 17 1	
Wellington		••	••	••	••		••	
Marlborough Canterbury	1	320 0 0	576 0 0	1	320 0 0	576 0 0	487 4 0	
Westland Otago Southland	107 139	20,324 2 23 24,606 3 33	22,427 16 7 30,920 18 5	107 139	20,324 2 23 24,606 3 33	22,427 16 7 30,920 18 5	19,161 0 0 26,829 14 4	
Totals	366	56,307 0 4	80,164 12 0	364	56,134 3 25	79,510.12 0	67,839 1 0	
	<u> </u>		ļ			1	•	

No. 11.—Return of Crown Grants, Schedules, Certificates of Title, &c., from 1st April, 1883, to 31st March, 1884.

Provincial Distr	icts.	No. of Grants		Gra	nts.	No. of Sche- dules.	Area Sched		Total A Sched and Gr	lules	No. of Certi- ficates.	Cor- rected Grants.	Can- celled Grants.	Dupli- cate Grants.	Ante- veste Grant
			Α.	В.	P.		Α.	R. P.	A.	R. P.					
Auckland		74	26,941		33	115	305,887		332,829	3 14	277		3	4	1
Hawke's Bay		4	5,026	2	3	6	15,236	3 36	20,263	1 39	80				
Taranaki		1,227	104,623	0	0	7	2,434	0 0	107,157	0 0	700	٠.	2		5
Patea						14.	13,060	0 0	13,060	0 0	1 1				
Wellington		50	9,375	0	0	A 21	17,015	0 0	26,390	0 0	151	1	1	3	
Nelson	٠.	5	262	0	0	7	2,830	1 31	3,092	1 31	27	1	6	3	
Marlborough						1	5,329	2 10	5,329	2 10	9				
Canterbury		103	20,870	3	0	100	235,020	0 9	255,890	3 0	950	5	2		
Westland						3	3,100	2 4	3,100	$2 ext{ } 4$	36				T
Otago		250	18,872	.3	4	66	84,726	0 0	101 598	3 4	257	2	1		- 2
Southland	••	4	2,108	0	0	20	32,197	2 23		23	400	1	••	• •	
Totals		1,717	188,080	0	0	360	716,938	0 5	905,018	0 5	2,887	10	15	10	: 8

By Authority: George Didsbury, Government Printer, Wellington.—1884.