

1889.
NEW ZEALAND.

CROWN LANDS DEPARTMENT

(ANNUAL REPORT ON).

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, 30th June, 1889.

I have the honour to transmit herewith the annual report and returns of the Crown Lands Department for the twelve months ending on the 31st March, 1889, and to express my hope that any shortcomings in the report will be set down to the fact of my having so recently taken over from my able predecessor the duties of Secretary of Crown Lands.

I have, &c.,

S. PERCY SMITH,
Secretary for Crown Lands.

The Hon. G. F. Richardson, Minister of Lands.

REPORT.

THE past year has witnessed a further amendment of the Land Acts, the effect of which has not, however, been very noticeable in the transactions of the period.

The principal alterations were in the direction of tending to make the residential clauses of the previous Acts somewhat easier to those selecting under settlement conditions, and to bringing the classification of pastoral lands more into accord with the wants of settlement and with the topographical features of the country. Under this latter provision large areas were successfully reclassified and offered in the Canterbury Land District in the months of May and June, the results of which, however, will not appear till next year's report.

The amending Act of 1887 has, however, during the past twelve months, had time to illustrate its full operation in the settlement of the country, as will be seen by the tables appended hereto. It is unnecessary to do more than call attention to its distinguishing feature, which is that of placing in the hands of the selector the choice of tenure under which he shall hold his land. That this concession is a popular one is proved by the figures to be found in the various tables attached.

The returns for the past year bear out the anticipatory figures given in last report relating to the first selections held under the Act—viz., that the so-called perpetual-lease system is the most popular of those which are, more strictly speaking, the settlement clauses of the Act. It will be seen that by including all forms of perpetual lease 828 selectors took up 205,716 acres under this tenure, with an average area of 248 acres each, and that the total area selected during the year amounts to not far short of two-thirds of the whole area held under this system within the colony. The increased popularity of the perpetual-lease system is no doubt due to two causes—firstly, to the facilities it offers in securing a freehold after the few and easy conditions as to improvement and residence are completed; and, secondly, to the low rental of 5 per cent. on the capital value of the land—thus setting free the capital of the selector for improving his property.

There are two other alterations in the land-laws effected by the Act of 1887 to which brief attention should be drawn. The one is, that under its provisions considerable areas of land have been thrown open for selection before survey, thus avoiding some of the delays caused by making the surveys first; but there are certain well-known conditions which must be attended to before any land can be offered in this manner. It is, for instance, essential that a full knowledge of the character and value of the land, the future lines of main roads, the location of town- or village-sites, and reserves for public purposes be acquired before it is safe to throw lands open to selection before survey. Under the clauses of the Act providing for this system 248,888 acres have been declared open, and 74,354 acres have been selected, under various tenures, at the option of the selector. Settlement has no doubt been facilitated to a considerable extent by this change in the law.

The other alteration is the substitution of the ballot for the auction or tender system—excepting in cases which come under the heading of "Lands of Special Value," or town, village, and

suburban lands, which are still submitted to auction. The result of the ballot system is no doubt in favour of the selector, who no longer has to compete at auction against the man with the longest purse; but, at the same time, he is met with another difficulty which detracts very much from the advantages of the system, and this difficulty is contained in the fact that for choice allotments it is frequently found that large numbers of applications are put in for the same section, some of which, it is often suspected, are not of the *bona fide* character they should be. In the case of the Horowhenua Block, for instance, where sixty-three sections were declared open for selection, 499 applications were lodged for the different lots. Many applicants were therefore disappointed in not obtaining the land they wanted.

The amending Act of 1888 further provides for the issue of licenses to dig gum on the Crown lands outside State forests; but hitherto the clauses effecting this change have not been brought into operation, as difficulties were found in carrying them into practice, owing to the very dispersive nature of the gumfields and the great cost of an efficient system of inspection.

Under the same Act also was effected the incorporation of the rest of the outlying islands belonging to the colony with the Southland Land District, so that land affairs affecting any of these various groups of islands are now administered by the Commissioners of either the Auckland, Wellington, or Southland Land Districts.

The table below gives in brief form the result of the year's transactions summarised under each of the systems in force within the colony, full details of which will be found in the appendices.

In some respects these results are noticeable and also encouraging, as showing that the restored confidence in our resources is taking the direction of one of the most permanent of all sources of wealth and well-being—viz., the settlement of the land; and this demand for land for settlement, far from exhibiting any signs of abatement, is apparently increasing—so much so that the resources of the department are considerably taxed to meet it.

It is somewhat important also to note the sources from whence this demand for land arises. The published returns for the past year would go to prove that immigration does not exceed emigration—on the contrary, there have been more people leaving the colony than have arrived in it. It seems to follow, therefore, that the lands are being settled by the younger generation of colonists to a large extent, than whom, no better class of settlers could be found. The gradual cessation also of the public works expenditure no doubt tends to induce people to take advantage of the liberal tenure now offered for occupying the public lands.

It will be seen, if the small grazing-runs are included in lands held under enforced-settlement conditions—which they properly should be—that 1,779 selectors took up 444,742 acres—a greater number and larger amount than in any previous period for some years past; and, if the 81 selectors of small grazing-runs are excluded, there will be found 1,698 selectors who have taken up 283,090 acres on conditions binding themselves to perform more or less improvement on their lands—a result which compares very favourably with that of the previous year. Although not showing so many selectors as the year 1887, when the village-homestead system was in full force, the result must be considered a satisfactory outcome of the year's transactions. The great increase, as already pointed out, is in the perpetual-lease selections, though the deferred-payment selections total a number of 705, absorbing 75,506 acres, 209 of these being in special settlements where the holdings are small. The purchasers for cash numbered 756, of whom 244 were purchasers of town, village, and suburban lots, whilst 512 purchasers absorbed 68,498 acres of rural lands.*

SUMMARY of LAND DISPOSED OF and SELECTED during the Year ending the 31st March, 1889.

Land Fund.

	Area.		No. of Purchasers or Holders.	Scrip.			Cash.		
	A.	R. P.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Town lands	55	3 27	97	5,393	3	0	58,479	6	10
Suburban	409	3 24	4						
Rural	68,498	1 18	512						
Village settlement, cash	664	2 16	143	...	...	...	1,796	8	6
Village settlement, deferred payment	1,182	1 21	99	...	...	...	3,816	12	3†
Rural, deferred payment	54,419	0 29	397	...	...	...	43,955	15	8†
Special settlement, deferred payment	19,905	3 17	209	...	...	...	9,851	7	3†
	145,136	0 32	1,461	5,393	3	0	117,899	10	6

* During the twelve months ending the 30th June, 741 persons took up on all systems of tenure small areas of from one acre to fifty acres.

† Current and previous transactions.

Territorial Revenue.

	Area.		No. of Purchasers or Holders.	Scrip.	Cash.
	A.	R. P.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Agricultural lease	150	0 0	11	...	1,154 14 10*
Perpetual lease, rural	204,533	2 29	757	...	11,813 2 9*
Capitalisation, interest on ... ..	...	...	...	...	1,532 8 10
Small areas (section 161)	216	2 32	11	...	148 19 10*
Village homestead special settlement	345	1 27	24	...	1,398 11 4*
Village settlement, perpetual lease ...	622	0 10	36	...	64 17 7*
Small grazing-runs	161,652	0 22	81	...	7,767 9 1
Pastoral runs taken up prior to March, 1888 ... ..	...	...	1,145	...	148,675 4 4*
Pastoral runs taken up during the year ending March, 1889	1,767,787	0 0	137	...	149 2 6
Homestead	1,050	0 0	11	...	9,988 3 4
Coal and mining leases	32,118	2 16	...	...	8,269 0 3
Rents, licenses, &c. ... ..	...	...	...	...	1,200 10 10
Crown-grant fees ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
	2,168,475	2 16	1,168		192,162 5 6

LAND REVENUE FOR THE YEAR.

It will be seen from the tables above that the total of land and territorial revenue amounts to £310,061 16s., whilst that for the previous year amounted to £274,783 17s. 7d.; thus showing an increase of £35,277 19s. 5d., which is principally due to the larger area of rural land disposed of this last year. It is obvious that, so long as perpetual leasing remains a distinguishing feature of the land policy, no very great increase in the Land Fund can take place, whilst the territorial revenue, on the other hand, will show a constant tendency to expansion. It is quite within the bounds of possibility that the Land Fund may so decrease that it will not meet the expenses of administration and survey—that is, so long as the whole cost of both services is charged to the one fund. Properly speaking, a due proportion of the costs of administration and survey of lands, the proceeds of which are credited to territorial revenue, should be a charge on that revenue. Had this course been adopted during the period just passed, a sum of £17,560 10s. 11d. would have been added to land revenue, making a total of £135,460 1s. 5d. The Land Fund is further reduced by the amount of £5,393 3s., representing scrip exercised in the purchase of land, and which appears in the table as cash received.

The sum of £117,899 10s. 6d., derived from the first-named source shown above, would have been materially augmented during the period just passed but for the increase in the arrears of amounts due to the Crown, principally from deferred-payment selectors—a matter which is referred to later on.

RESERVES.

During the twelve months ending 31st March last there were 358 reserves for various purposes made in the interests of the public, as follows:—

	A.	R. P.
120 primary-education reserves	15,219	3 25
4 municipal reserves	12	3 10
26 recreation reserves	7,699	0 36
206 miscellaneous reserves	6,499	3 6
2 forest reserves	601	0 9
Total	30,032	3 6

SETTLEMENT CONDITIONS.

As far as can be gathered from the reports of the Commissioners, the improvement conditions under which so much of the land is now being taken up are fairly well carried out; but complete returns are not to hand. The work of inspecting the holdings under deferred-payment, perpetual lease, small grazing-runs, and other systems of improvement tenure is increasing, and is likely to continue to do so. The conditions under any of the systems in force are in no sense of an onerous nature, but it is somewhat remarkable that the particular system under which title to land is obtained on the easiest of all terms—the homestead—shows probably the greatest departure from the regulations laid down as to such improvements. This is to be accounted for possibly by the fact that a free gift is not sufficiently valued, and also by the fact that the lands offered on this system are not usually of the best class. There can be no doubt that the settlement of the country is making considerable strides under the present Land Acts, and that great changes are taking place in the appearance of many districts by the disappearance of the forest under the axe of the selector. This is more marked, perhaps, in Wellington than in

* Current and previous transactions.

any other part of the colony. Generally speaking, settlement on improvement conditions and in the smaller areas is increasing more rapidly in the North than in the South Island: for the period under consideration the proportions were, about half as many more settlers secured holdings in the North Island as in the South Island, a very large proportion of such selections being in forest-covered country. The enhanced prices which have prevailed for some time past for nearly all agricultural produce is also causing more attention to be paid to land-occupation, and, should these continue, settlement will proceed with greater strides, and will, let us hope, be augmented by an inflow of persons from outside the colony, who will again be attracted to our shores.

SMALL GRAZING-RUNS.

During the last period eighty-one runs, containing 161,652 acres, were taken up, thirty-nine of which were in the South Island. In the North Island the lands so selected all require more or less clearing and grassing before any return can be expected, as most of them are covered with scrub and fern. Included in the above area are three runs, containing 3,910 acres, situated at Sunday Island, Kermadec group, 600 miles to the north-east of Auckland. New Zealand's latest territorial acquisition is therefore in a fair way of producing some revenue. The settlers who have determined to brave the difficulties in the way of settlement there will have their work cut out for them. There are extensive areas in the colony, but more especially in the North Island, where this system of settling the lands could be adopted; but the great advantage of obtaining a freehold offered by the perpetual-lease system under the increased area of 2,600 acres now allowed will probably not cause it to be very popular, unless in those parts which can only be dealt with in considerable areas, and where some particular inducement is required to foster settlement.

VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS.

Under this general heading may be included a system of small-farm selection, with the various tenures of cash, deferred payment, and perpetual lease. There were in all 313 selectors, who absorbed 3,029 acres under these different tenures—143 of them being cash purchasers of village or suburban lots, and who are not bound by law to improve their holdings, whilst the remaining 170 settlers selected their lands under settlement conditions. A return will be presented to Parliament showing the position of the village-homestead special settlements, or those in which the Government, whilst providing land at a low rental, advances, in addition, the money to build a cottage, clear twenty acres of land, and partially fence and grass it. Under these favourable circumstances settlement ought to flourish, and, if the conditions are such as in all cases they should be, ultimate success will be attained.

The essential conditions to the success of such settlements are good land, feasibility of obtaining employment in the near vicinity, and good access. Neglect of these three requisites will lead to failure, partial or entire, dependent on the character of the settler himself. In some of the settlements instituted under this system a large measure of success has attended their formation, whilst in others this is not nearly so marked a feature.

In Canterbury, for instance, the twenty-two settlements established there have, from the presence of the necessary conditions, been almost self-supporting from the beginning; whilst in other parts, notably in the North, assistance in the shape of road-works has been a necessity from the first, and will continue to be so for some time longer. In the excitement which attended the first initiation of this scheme—started at a time when the wave of depression was at its greatest amplitude—numbers of people came forward and offered themselves as settlers, who from education, habits, physique, and inexperience were quite unfitted to cope with the difficulties of founding a home in the wilderness. This was followed by the inevitable result of failure in a number of cases, but at what cost of mental and physical discomfort, only those who have gone through it can properly gauge. In the North, many of the early settlers under this scheme have by transfer quitted themselves of their sections, their places being taken by those who are more fitted to endure the hardships of early settlement, whilst in other cases, where sections have been forfeited for non-compliance with the conditions, settlement has again taken place under the ordinary tenures of perpetual lease or deferred payment. The figures given below are summarised in brief from those given in greater detail in the return already referred to:—

Number of Original Settlers.	Area selected.	Number of Original Settlers still remaining.	Number of Sections transferred to New Settlers.	Number of Sections forfeited and now selected under Ordinary Tenure.	Total Area in Crop.	Advances on Land and Houses, &c.	Amount spent on Road-works.	Total Annual Rental and Interest.	Total Rents and Interest paid.	Arrears of Rent and Interest.	
1,159	28,368	614	275	120	Acres. 6,766	£ 19,040	£ 12,089	£ 2,693	£ 2,134	£ 1,648	s. d. 1 11

There are about 150 sections—originally selected by village homesteaders, but since abandoned or forfeited—now in the hands of Government, some of which are open for selection under ordinary tenures. It will be remembered that two municipal endowments at Hokianga were taken over by arrangement in 1886 in order to place village settlers on them. The Government pays a yearly rental for the 2,500 acres comprised in these, amounting to £150; whilst at the 31st March last the sections still remaining in the hands of selectors numbered only forty-two, bringing in a sum of £135 yearly. As the lands are held under perpetual lease from the Government, without the right of purchase, it follows that there is an annual loss arising from the transaction of £15 a year, without reckoning the interest on advances. So far, none of the abandoned or forfeited sections have been reselected.

In the blocks of land now being offered to the public it is the intention of the department to reserve, at convenient localities, sufficient areas to meet the wants of the smaller class of selectors, so that under one or other of the systems of village settlement they can obtain homesteads; whilst the progress of the surrounding country will, it is hoped, afford them an opportunity of obtaining some employment, without which so many of these settlements are partial failures.

CROWN LANDS HELD UNDER PASTORAL LEASE.

A considerable area has been dealt with by the department during the period under consideration—137 runs, of a total area of 1,767,787 acres, having been relet. Ninety-seven of these are in Otago, and most of them are runs relet at reduced rentals. The opportunity has been taken, wherever practicable, of adjusting the boundaries to a more workable form, in accordance with the features of the country. An attempt should be made as soon as possible to lease some of the commonages in the South Island, in order to secure a more effectual preventative of the rabbit-pest, which is daily increasing in magnitude, and is difficult and expensive to deal with under present arrangements. In connection with and in the interests of pastoral matters, a further extension of the rabbit-proof fence has been made in South Canterbury, of which the following is a brief description. So far, it has proved successful:—

In October, 1887, a contract was entered into with E. W. Mills and Co., Wellington, to deliver forty-two miles of rabbit-fencing material at £87 2s. 6d. per mile. In September, 1888, a second contract was made with the same firm for forty-five miles, at £87 1s. 6d. per mile.

The South Canterbury rabbit-fence, consisting of seventy-five miles, commences at a point on the left bank of the Tasman River about five miles above its junction with the Jollie River, and proceeds along the eastern bank of the Tasman River until it reaches the northern shore of Pukaki Lake. The fence again starts at the southern shore of Pukaki Lake, and proceeds south-easterly across Tekapo River to Gray's Hill Station; thence along the right bank of Stoney Creek to a point near and south-east of Round Hill; thence in a south-westerly direction to a point on the left bank of the Waitaki River about three miles above the junction of that river with the Hakateramea River, where it terminates. The Akatarawa fence also consists of six miles, commencing on the left bank of the Waitaki River about a mile and a half south of the junction of the Ohau River with the Ahuriri River, and proceeding south-east and south-west for a distance of six miles, to the Waitaki River, where it terminates. It will thus be seen that eighty-one miles have been erected, at a total cost of £11,308 12s. 3d., up to the end of May last, at which date it was estimated that a further sum of £1,100 would be required to complete the first fence.

ARREARS.

At the date of last year's report there were about 2,306 selectors indebted to the Crown for rents and instalments in the sum of £33,767, and owing to various causes these figures have considerably increased during the twelve months ended the 31st March last. As pointed out by my predecessor, many of these are only technically in arrear. All rents and instalments due to the Government are by law payable in advance, generally on the first days of January and July; but very many selectors do not consider themselves in arrear so long as their payments are made some time within the six months before the next rent is due. Therefore, in considering the very large sum outstanding on the 31st March last this fact should be borne in mind, and especially so in the case of pastoral, deferred-payment, and small-grazing runs, the rents of which are only due on the 1st March preceding.

The total amount of arrears due on the 31st March last was £44,553, an increase of £10,886 over that of the year previous; whilst the number of selectors in arrear had increased from 2,306 to 3,862.

This increase is in a great measure due to the expectation on the part of the selectors of some relief being afforded them by Parliamentary action—for which, indeed, they had some warrant in the introduction of the Fair Rent Bill of last session—and is not due entirely to their inability to pay up; a fact which has lately been proved, as the result of measures threatened to be taken in the law-courts, the outcome of which was that some who had been in arrear for a long time came forward and paid up all that was due. Whilst there are many cases of undoubted hardship, where selectors have, through competition, during more favourable times, been induced to take up land at prices which are far above those at present ruling, there are also a large number who, but for the depression which has so lately prevailed in all agricultural matters, would have been quite equal to meeting their engagements.

Under the more prosperous state of affairs which seems now to have set in, a large number of these arrears should be recovered without inflicting hardship on the selectors, whilst at the same time relief can be afforded in many cases by taking advantage of capitalisation or the extension of the licenses—in the case of deferred payment—for a further term of four years. By this latter means the deferred payment settler spreads his payment over fourteen instead of ten years. The Government has ordered a revaluation of most of the cases where payments were greatly in arrear, and this has proved that a certain measure of relief is demanded, but probably not to so great an extent as is generally supposed.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands for Otago has furnished for his district a somewhat instructive return, which is briefly summarised here. Under all systems of deferred payment and capitalisation there were in arrear—

163 selectors owing one half-yearly instalment,					
75	"	"	two	"	"
66	"	"	three	"	"
55	"	"	four	"	"
37	"	"	five	"	"
22	"	"	six	"	"
8	"	"	seven	"	"

Under all systems of perpetual lease—

	307	selectors	owing	one	half-yearly	instalment,
	161	"	"	two	"	"
-	105	"	"	three	"	"
	74	"	"	four	"	"
-	46	"	"	five	"	"
	29	"	"	six	"	"
	10	"	"	seven	"	"

THERMAL SPRINGS.

Until lately the Lands Department has had the control of the Rotorua and Hanmer Plains hot springs, but since the 1st December last the Colonial Secretary's Department has assumed the entire charge of those at the first-named place, as it was found more convenient to manage them in connection with the hospital already under its administration. During the year a few town and suburban lots at Rotorua were offered for lease under the provisions of the Thermal Springs Act, resulting in the disposal of one town lot for £10 per annum and three suburban lots of ninety-five acres for an annual rental of £25, the proceeds of which go to the Maori owners of the soil.

Hanmer Hot Springs and Baths.—These springs are now attracting the attention of those residing in the Middle Island as a resort for invalids suffering from rheumatism, sciatica, eczema, gout, or any scrofulous complaints. The medicinal and curative properties of the water from these springs are similar to those of the water at Rotorua, and are fully appreciated by all those who use them for the beneficial effects they produce; indeed, very few have come away without receiving considerable relief. Last year an additional bath-house, containing eight bath-rooms and two waiting-rooms, was erected in order to afford more accommodation to visitors and invalids. The two bath-houses, pools, and bath-keeper's residence are enclosed by a substantial wire-fence, and the grounds are laid with gravel-walks so that a carriage can bring invalids to the doors of the bath-houses, while the number of trees that are planted within the enclosure, and flowering shrubs along the sides of the gravel-paths, gives the place a pleasant appearance. The total cost of the improvements in connection with these springs is about £2,700. The number of baths taken last year was 4,277, and the revenue received amounted to £138. Seeing that the number of visitors is increasing year after year, and the accommodation for bathing is also improved, it is contemplated to place a married couple in charge of the bath-houses, so that lady visitors and invalids can have a female in attendance.

Taupo Hot Springs.—During the year great improvements have been made in the two groups of hot springs under lease—the first to Mr. Joshua, the second to Mr. Ross—both gentlemen having incurred a heavy expenditure in improving, adorning, and making these sanatoria attractive to the public.

Waiotapu Hot Springs.—In this locality the Government has acquired a considerable area of land on which are a very great number of hot springs, fumaroles, lakelets—hot and cold—salses, and other volcanic wonders, which, now that the valley is opened up by a driving-road from Rotorua, will prove of very great interest and attraction to the tourist.

STATE FORESTS.

The total area of forests reserved in the colony up to the 31st March last amounts to 1,385,104 acres, scattered in innumerable localities from end to end of the Islands, some of which are for timber-conservation, others for climatic purposes, and others again for the preservation of springs at the sources of streams. Since the abolition of the State Forest Department the continuance of its functions has devolved on the Land Department; but, with reduced means, very few works in extension of the previous operations have been undertaken: indeed, the efforts of the department have been directed more to the preservation of what had already been done than to incurring further responsibilities in the matter. The nurseries and plantations are at the following places: One at Papatawa, Whangarei; one at Kioreroa, Whangarei; one at Waerenga, Waikato; and another at Maniototo, Otago. The operations at each during the year are briefly summarised from the reports as follows:—

Waerenga.—Operations have been confined to keeping the young trees free from overgrowth of fern, thinning out and pruning of black wattles, which in some parts have made an astonishing growth, planting out over five thousand oaks and many eucalypti to fill up gaps in last year's planting, altering some fences, gates, &c., and turning up and sowing with wattle and other trees a further area of thirty-four acres.

Papatawa.—About one hundred and thirty thousand young seedlings of various kinds (mostly pines) were raised here; but, owing to the want of water, the fungus, and depredations of birds, about fifty thousand did not take. There are at present about a hundred thousand seedlings in the nursery. The area of cultivation has been further extended, and preparations made for seed-beds.

Kioreroa.—A number amounting to eighty-three thousand three hundred young trees have been planted out in various parts of the reserve. They consist principally of acacias, jarrah, catalpa, eucalyptus, sumach, taxodium, oak, fruit, and miscellaneous. Further planting of seeds for future extension of the plantations has also taken place. The whole time of the nurseryman is taken up in these operations, and in keeping the native vegetation down in the parts already planted.

Maniototo.—In this place an area of 142 acres was fenced with rabbit-proof fencing and planted with various tree-seeds, which, however, owing to the lateness of the season, all failed. Nothing whatever has been done to this reserve during the past year.

In the State forests proper—i.e., those which contain valuable timber—the three Rangers in the North have continued their constant work of guarding against fire and trespass. Happily no fire of

any consequence has taken place during the year, nor have any serious cases of trespass been reported except from Puhipuhi, in which instance proceedings were taken against the trespassers, and a verdict obtained, but with an amount of difficulty which points to the urgent need of an amendment in the State Forest Regulations. During the year an estimate of the amount of timber in the largest and most valuable forests of the North has been commenced; but, as it is not yet quite complete, no further reference is here made to it than to state that the great fire of 1887 destroyed over 75,000,000ft. of fine kauri in the Puhipuhi Forest, all of which is yet available for profitable working if taken in hand soon. Setting on one side the actual monetary loss which may arise herefrom, the sight of this noble forest burnt, charred, and blackened, and utterly deprived of any green leaf, is one of the most melancholy possible to the lover of sylvan scenes. The ground is strewn thickly with a mass of fallen branches, with here and there a prostrate stem, over which the eye wanders through vistas of magnificent columns in countless numbers, whose beautiful symmetry cannot but strike the most unobservant. It is in these fallen branches, saturated as they are with the kauri resin, that the great danger lies of future fires. Should the forest ignite again, the result will be that the trees themselves will burn. The denseness of the forest is something remarkable—it is not an uncommon thing to find from thirty to forty fine trees to the acre, though, of course, such a number cannot be taken as an average.

With a more complete knowledge, it is found that some of the lands reserved as State forests contain no timber. In such cases it is proposed, where the land is suitable, to withdraw certain areas from reservation for settlement purposes. Nor need there be any fear in so doing that we are encroaching too much on the total area of forest in the colony, which indeed is larger, probably, than is generally conceived of.

As bearing on the popular idea that forests have the effect of increasing the rainfall, the following quotation from the review of a work by Major Powell, the Director of the United States Geological Survey, is interesting, and goes somewhat towards proving that this prevalent idea is not quite in accordance with fact: "There is an opinion widely existing in the popular mind, and springing up in the popular literature of the West, which is contrary to this—namely, that the dryness of the climate (of the Western States) is the result of the lack of forests. An argument in favour of tree-planting and forest-culture is often based on this error. The effect of forests on rainfall has been investigated by many methods, in many countries, and at many times, and the result of all this investigation shows, according to Major Powell, that the presence or absence of trees influences the general rainfall or amount of precipitation only to a very limited extent. It is, in fact, not certain that their presence increases the rainfall, but it is certain that, if it does, the increase is so slight as to play but an insignificant part as a climatic factor. Yet forests, or abundant trees, exert an influence upon climate in its relations to agriculture: while it is not probable that forests diminish or increase the amount of rainfall in any country, yet it appears they regulate this rainfall . . . and provide against its speedy evaporation."*

The speedy utilisation of the Puhipuhi Forest seems to be desirable on all accounts, for, notwithstanding the constant watchfulness of the Ranger, it is ever open to danger from fire; whilst, at the same time, the burnt portion is rapidly deteriorating in value through the action of the worm. Its sale would also enable the Government to redeem the eight thousand pounds' worth of debentures issued under the State Forests Act.

The licenses to dig kauri-gum within the State forests realised a sum of £254 10s.

The illustrated work on the forest-trees of New Zealand undertaken for the department by Professor T. Kirk, F.L.S., has recently been published. In it will be found information of the most varied and exhaustive character bearing on our forest wealth, and which must prove of great utility to all engaged in pursuits dealing with our timbers in any shape or form. It is likely to remain the standard work on the subject.

Since the publication of last year's report, Part I. of "A Manual of the Grasses and Forage-plants useful to New Zealand," by Mr. Thomas Mackay, has been published. This part treats of "The Foreign Grasses and Forage-plants which have been, or should be, cultivated in New Zealand," and has been very favourably reviewed by the leading newspapers of the colony, as well as by many practical farmers and stockowners, as a work of great practical utility. Part II., a portion of which is now in the hands of the printer, will treat of those kinds that are indigenous to New Zealand. Part III. will give the particulars of the special experiments of a practical nature which are being carried on at the School of Agriculture, Lincoln, Canterbury, concerning the cultivation, as well as the respective nutritive values, of both imported and native kinds of grasses for pasture or fodder. The results of these experiments, it is expected, will establish full and reliable data on these important subjects for the future guidance of the agriculturists of New Zealand.

DEPARTMENTAL.

The increase in the number of selectors necessarily involves an augmentation of the clerical and other work performed by the Land Department staff; and it is greatly to the credit of all concerned, notwithstanding the reductions in their numbers and emoluments, that the work is kept fairly under. The account-keeping and correspondence in connection with the numerous and various kinds of tenure now in force is very great and ever on the increase. During the past year another edition of the Land Guide (No. IX.) has been published, and nearly three thousand copies distributed over the Australasian Colonies and India, to the ocean and intercolonial steamers, to newspapers, hotels, clubs, and to libraries innumerable.

* "Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society," 1888, page 793.

No. 1.—SUMMARY OF LANDS DISPOSED OF FROM FOUNDATION OF THE COLONY, WITH TOTAL CASH RECEIVED, &c., FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1889.

Land Districts.	Total Area sold.		Total Area granted or reserved under Acts.		Total Area sold or otherwise disposed of from the Foundation of the Colony.		Total Cash received.		Total Area open for Selection.		Total Area remaining for Future Disposal, exclusive of Area in preceding Column and of Native Lands.	
	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	£	s. d.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.
Auckland	1,707,294	2 36	2,757,424	3 39	*4,212,951	0 21	596,261	7 10	137,874	2 0	2,467,100	1 1
Hawke's Bay	1,033,257	0 4	1,158,114	0 33	*1,443,139	3 11	511,374	11 0	31,420	0 30	399,915	3 33
Taranaki	1,196,876	0 27	514,980	2 30	711,856	3 17	550,326	7 8	69,456	0 0	575,560	0 0
Wellington	1,687,068	1 24	639,895	0 8	2,886,963	1 32	925,671	10 3	110,793	1 22	1,017,187	1 18
Nelson	1,056,568	3 35	141,508	0 37	1,198,077	0 32	383,285	13 3	5,784,183	3 8	..	..
Marlborough	785,256	3 21	177,970	0 7	963,226	3 28	278,275	11 3	520,000	0 0	1,070,000	0 0
Canterbury	3,008,919	2 20	632,800	0 29	3,661,719	3 9	6,038,292	14 9	3,515,681	2 2	1,468,967	2 3
Westland	53,795	3 23	74,778	2 27	128,574	2 9	62,915	3 5	32,853	2 0	2,884,831	3 31
Otago	1,976,383	0 26	571,764	1 36	2,548,147	2 22	2,058,680	2 8	182,803	1 37	7,323,667	0 0
Southland	1,353,227	1 37	536,830	1 9	1,889,557	3 6	1,594,960	8 0	5,613,547	3 8	..	..
Totals	12,858,648	1 12	6,285,566	3 15	19,144,215	0 27	13,000,043	10 1	16,048,614	0 27	17,156,730	0 6

* An area of 251,768 acres 2 roods 14 perches was transferred from Auckland to Hawke's Bay.

No. 2.—SUMMARY OF EXTENT OF CROWN LANDS ABSOLUTELY DISPOSED OF FOR CASH, SCRIP, OR IN ANY OTHER MANNER, DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1889.

Land Districts.	LANDS SOLD.						Lands disposed of without Sale, by Grants, or in any other Manner.	
	Number of Acres.			Rate per Acre.			Consideration.	
	Town.	Number of Purchases.	Suburban.	Number of Purchases.	Rural.	Town.	Suburban.	Rural.
Auckland	A. R. P.	15	A. R. P.	5	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Hawke's Bay	5 0 7	11	9 1 12	12	25,620 1 1	30 0 0	5 10 0	0 11 6
Taranaki	4 3 11	9	18 2 35	22	8,381 3 31	36 10 9	(25 1 8)	0 10 2
Wellington	6 2 10	59	131 0 18	..	425 2 27	16 10 9	11 10 3	1 4 0
Nelson	54 0 33	7	..	..	11,296 2 38	29 6 8	3 0 0	1 0 8
Marlborough	5 0 14	..	..	..	1,014 1 22	37 6 0	..	0 11 7
Canterbury	..	28	3 2 1	24	513 3 13	24 16 7	3 0 0	0 17 9
Westland	30 1 3 ⁴ ₁₀	1	67 0 14	..	5,216 2 39	40 0 0	4 0 0	1 18 7
Otago	0 0 30	26	307 3 1	23	1,010 2 30	40 4 1	..	1 0 2
Southland	13 3 34	6	220 3 5	19	10,917 3 9	30 4 1	4 8 0	0 17 2
Totals	1 3 35	162	758 1 6	107	4,345 1 33	48 8 0	3 1 2	0 14 7
	122 0 25 ⁴ ₁₀				63,743 2 3	..	..	..
					Village settlement included.	60,275 15 4	5,393 3 0	92,819 2 15

No. 3.—LAND SELECTED during the Year ended 31st March, 1889—continued.

Land Districts.	Nature of Selection.	Number of Applications made.	Number approved.	Area selected.		Average to each Selector.	Fees payable Yearly.	Land in Occupation under previous Transactions.		Total Land granted for Conditions fulfilled.	Total Land forfeited for Breach of Conditions.
				A.	R. P.			A.	R. P.		
Otago	Agricultural lease	6,093	4,139	279,070	1 17	65 0 0	£ s. d.	280,202	1 0	125,496	8 0
"	Village settlement	..	..	..	..	..	..	307	0 20	239	8 4
"	Village homestead special settlement	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,779	3 26	..	..
"	Homestead ..	22	22	918	3 14	15 0 0	..	2,860	0 0	..	..
Southland	Deferred payment	1,975	1,406	172,334	0 39	122 2 11	14,498	9 3	..	62,846	2 36
"	Perpetual lease	16	16	5,206	0 35	32 2 0	..	..	..	..	..
"	" small areas	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,487	0 1	..	..
"	Village settlement	29	29	348	1 21	12 0 0	..	291	0 0	16	6 0
"	" homestead special settlement	75	68	669	2 14	9 3 13	..	8,347	2 18	6,793	10 6
Totals	..	24,547	15,894	1,652,220	1 6	..	85,228	2 1	..	320,416	1 8
								667,636	1 5	209,585	2 33

No. 3—continued.—LAND SELECTED during the Year ended 31st March, 1889.

Auckland	Deferred payment	89	65	7,287	0 0	111 1 0	1,033	0 0	33,923	2 21	1,033	0 0	3,650	0 20
"	Perpetual lease	189	185	28,640	0 0	154 3 9	153	3 9	34,356	3 0	551	14 9	..	..
"	Village homestead special settlement	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26,779	0 17	248	14 6	..	..
Hawke's Bay	Special-settlement association	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Deferred payment	26	22	4,047	1 3	183 3 34	391	14 9	41,547	2 29	308	16 1	..	..
"	Perpetual lease	88	88	45,094	1 39	512 1 10	237	5 5	39,186	2 35	5,689	19 3	168	3 26
"	Village settlement	3	3	60	3 9	20 1 13	354	5 2	..	..	2,258	5 6	..	..
"	" homestead special settlement	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	82	17 10	..	..
Taranaki	Special-settlement association	58	58	5,120	3 31	88 0 0	..	..	..	..	673	16 0	..	..
"	Deferred payment	140	84	11,894	0 29	141 3 33	1,364	7 8	68,795	0 35	10,447	14 3	685	2 20
"	Perpetual lease	155	76	14,583	1 14	191 3 22	733	8 0	22,252	2 6	1,404	9 2	443	0 0
"	Deferred payment village	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	675	1 12	205	17 0	20	0 0
"	Village homestead special settlement	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50	0 0	3	2 6	..	..
Wellington	Deferred payment	80	36	12,548	1 6	348 2 10	1,220	12 8	10,527	1 9	6,503	16 4	269	1 8
"	Perpetual lease	176	176	74,738	3 6	424 3 34	..	..	..	..	3,640	11 2	..	..
"	Village settlement	16	16	204	0 32	12 3 0	36	16 2	..	..	36	16 2	..	..
"	deferred payment	12	12	127	3 35	10 2 26	314	2 11	..	..	314	2 11	..	..
"	Village homestead special settlement	3	3	15	3 27	5 1 9	..	..	..	..	310	5 0	..	..
Nelson	Special-settlement associations	149	149	14,784	3 26	99 0 36	..	..	93,408	3 30	8,868	15 1	..	..
"	Leasing under 500 acres	10	10	1,122	3 31	112 1 8	41	13 0	..	..	808	15 8	997	1 22
"	10-per-cent. clauses	74	74	8,169	1 14	110 1 22	454	7 0	141,548	3 7	7,044	5 11	2,088	0 27
"	Reserves ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	892	16 8	..	..
"	Mineral ..	6	6	8,290	0 0	1,381 2 26	414	10 0	..	..	4,723	2 0	4,268	0 20
"	Perpetual lease	2	2	806	2 33	403 1 16	93	8 6	..	..	46	14 3	..	..
Marlborough	Deferred payment	3	3	221	0 0	73 2 26	17	1 11	2,736	1 25	190	14 10	..	..
"	Village settlement	2	2	13	1 4	6 2 22	5	5 0	..	..	23	14 0	..	..
"	Perpetual lease	5	5	643	0 34	138 2 22	33	3 0	51	0 30	..	..	..	..

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, 1889.

To exchange Agricultural Leases for Leases on Deferred Payments.			To convert Leaseholds into Freeholds.			
Land District.	No. of Applications.	Extent.	Land Districts.	No. of Applications.	Extent.	Extent cultivated.
		A. R. P.			A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Otago	7	1,535 0 32	Nelson	55	4,086 0 18	.. ..
			Westland	4	370 2 36	350 0 0
			Otago	30	2,627 3 13	.. ..
			Southland	56	3,240 1 20	820 0 18
Totals	7	1,535 0 32	Totals	145	10,325 0 7	1,178 0 18

No. 5.—NUMBER and AREA of PASTORAL LICENSES issued during the Year ending 31st March, 1889.

Land Districts.	Number of Holders.	Area.	Rent	License Fees (if any).	Total, and Rent per Acre.
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d. p acre.
Auckland	2	11,180 0 0	26 0 0	.. ..	26 0 0 2½d.
Hawke's Bay	3	13,892 0 0	71 0 2	3 3 0	74 3 2 2½d.
Taranaki	1	800 0 0	30 16 8	1 1 0	31 17 8 18½d.
Wellington	3	3,400 0 0	43 6 8	3 3 0	46 9 8 *
Nelson	8	7,063 0 0	56 6 8	6 6 0	62 12 8 19d.
Marlborough	1	88 0 0	4 0 0	1 1 0	5 1 0 11d.
Canterbury	6	80,000 0 0	94 0 0	6 6 0	100 6 0 028d.
Westland	97	1,463,178 0 0	17,556 16 6	101 17 0	17,658 13 6 2879d.
Otago	16	188,186 0 0	176 11 10	18 18 0	195 9 10 ½d.
Southland					
Totals	137	1,767,787 0 0	18,058 18 6	141 15 0	18,200 13 6 ..

* 1,400 acres at 6d. per acre, and 2,000 at 1d.

No. 6.—LANDS held under PASTORAL LICENSE or LEASE on 31st March, 1889.

Land Districts.	Number of Holders.	Area approximately.	Average Area to each.	Rent paid.	License Fees.	Total Payments.	Average per Acre.
		A. R. P.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.
Auckland	25	130,287 0 0	6,033 0 0	105 8 5	.. ..	105 8 5	0 2½
Hawke's Bay	11	80,246 2 0	7,349 2 20	600 13 2	3 3 0	604 1 2	0 1½
Taranaki	22	27,049 2 0	1,229 2 4	347 13 9	22 1 0	630 14 9	0 3½
Wellington	118	808,701 0 0	6,853 0 0	9,302 0 6	.. ..	9,302 0 6	0 2½
Nelson	114	1,069,507 0 0	9,381 0 0	8,372 11 3	6 6 0	8,378 17 3	0 187
Marlborough	445	2,789,869 1 1	6,269 1 19	49,043 18 0	1 1 0	49,044 19 0	0 4½
Canterbury	47	573,120 0 0	12,194 0 0	506 5 10	17 2 11	523 8 9	0 021
Westland	376	4,414,814 2 26	11,741 0 0	74,616 7 11	116 11 0	74,732 18 11	0 456
Otago	124	1,181,949 0 0	9,531 0 0	5,780 1 6	18 18 0	5,798 19 6	0 1½
Southland							
Totals	1,282	11,075,543 3 27	.. ..	148,675 5 4	185 2 11	148,860 8 3	..

No. 7.—NUMBER and AREA of LEASES and LICENSES, other than AGRICULTURAL and PASTORAL, issued during the Year ending 31st March, 1889, and REVENUE therefrom.

Land Districts.	Object for which leased.	Area leased.		Rent and Royalties.		
		A.	R. P.	£	s.	d.
Auckland ..	Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	275	10	0
Hawke's Bay ..	"	1,216	0 34	93	16	2
Taranaki ..	"	141	2 9	27	17	2
Wellington ..	Pilot Reserve, Rangitikei	58	0 0	20	0	0
Nelson ..	Coal leases, royalties, timber and other leases	19,394	2 8	5,168	6	8
Marlborough ..	Miscellaneous	607	0 0	10	0	0*
Canterbury ..	"	1,176	3 33	100	7	0
Westland ..	"	1,520	3 29	323	15	6
Otago ..	"	4,164	0 32	191	13	0
Southland ..	"	8,839	0 31	382	13	9
Totals ..	.. .. .	32,118	2 16	6,598	19	3

* And tithes.

No. 8.—NUMBER of LICENSES REVOKED during the Year ending 31st March, 1889.

Land Districts.	Description of License forfeited or revoked.	At Licen-see's Request.	For Non-payment of Fees.	Non-compliance with and Violation of Conditions.	Issued in Error.	Total Number.	Extent.
Auckland ..	Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	2	2	..	4	A. R. P. 189 0 0
Hawke's Bay ..	" .. .. .	..	..	10	..	10	41,949 0 26
Taranaki ..	"	3	5	..	..	8	705 2 20
Wellington ..	" .. .. .	..	..	2	..	2	269 1 8
Nelson ..	" .. .. .	..	7	..	..	7	4,298 2 0
Marlborough ..	" .. .. .	..	2	4	..	6	1,481 0 22
Canterbury ..	" .. .. .	..	18	26	..	44	82,530 3 34
Westland ..	"	16	46	..	..	62	84,438 2 27
Otago ..	"	85	14	10	..	109	748,964 0 1
Southland ..	"	10	4	12	..	26	2,191 0 2
Totals ..	.. .. .	114	98	66	..	278	967,017 1 20

—What are they generally.

No. 9.—RETURN of SELECTORS under the Village Homestead Special-settlement Regulations, for the Year ended 31st March, 1889.

Land Districts	No. of Applications.	No. of Selectors.	Area allotted.	Average Area to each Selector.	Average Rental per Acre.	Amount advanced to Selectors.						Payments made by Selectors during the Year.	Selectors in arrear on 31st March, 1889.	
						For Houses.		For Bush-felling.		Total Advances.			No.	Amount.
			A. R. P.	A. R. P.	s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Auckland ..	..	..	..	..	..	1,666 2 62	429 2 64	4,095 5 0	248 14 6	477 1326 14 4
Hawke's Bay ..	3	3	60 3 39	20 1 13	2 6	..	..	..	82 17 10	3 5 4 0	
Taranaki ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3 2 6	.. ..			
Wellington ..	3	3	15 3 27	5 1 9	3 10½	940 0 0	809 16 11	1,749 16 11	310 5 0	83 114 14 0				
Nelson ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 15 0	.. ..			
Marlborough ..	..	..	..	..	..	10 0 0	..	10 0 0	20 4 4	1 1 5 0
Canterbury ..	3	3	85 0 0	28 1 13	2 6	..	..	..	558 14 4	.. ..			
Westland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.. ..
Otago ..	..	..	..	..	..	220 0 0	78 15 0	298 15 0	73 5 11	33 42 7 8
Southland ..	15	15	183 2 1	12 0 39	3 6½	108 0 0	86 13 9	194 13 9	101 19 4	34 45 17 6				
Totals ..	24	24	345 1 27	..	..	2,944 2 63	404 8 26	3,348 10 8	1,398 11 4	631 1,536 2 1		

No. 10.—STATEMENT of AMOUNTS DUE to the CROWN on the 31st March, 1889, on account of Crown Lands held under any System of Deferred Payments.

Districts, and Nature of Holding.	Selectors still Holding.							Selectors in Arrear, 31st March, 1889.						
	Number.	Acreage held.		Amount to accrue in Future Instalments.		Total Payments made to 31st March, 1889.		Number.	Area held.		Amount of Arrears.			
		A.	R. P.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.		A.	R. P.	£	s. d.		
Auckland—														
Rural	169	19,087	2 0	18,882	1 0	13,181	8 8	49	10,807	2 0	1,080	10 9		
Pastoral	5	69,000	0 0	4,120	0 0	2,466	10 11	5	69,000	0 0	137	18 6		
Hawke's Bay—														
Deferred payment ..	249	27,952	1 36	25,095	6 7	14,466	0 9	13	1,484	3 22	79	17 1		
Village, deferred payment ..	86	924	0 36	1,247	8 0	635	12 3	11	72	2 30	15	19 0		
Special-settlement associations	57	5,016	2 21	3,554	18 11	1,696	1 3	5	417	0 14	20	10 4		
Pastoral	4	4,617	1 3	3,368	15 4	2,010	14 1	2	2,400	0 0	57	15 0		
Taranaki—														
Suburban and rural ..	750	81,375	0 4	86,877	1 10	135,038	19 2	195	20,621	1 4	1,931	11 9		
Village settlement ..	26	675	1 12	2,368	4 3	9,956	8 7	12	346	1 16	43	3 6		
Wellington—														
Deferred payment ..	259	49,950	2 23	44,010	18 10	34,460	17 2	43	8,070	1 34	383	18 10		
Village, deferred payment ..	60	636	1 2	1,371	12 1	984	7 4	15	235	1 26	77	18 6		
Special settlement ..	788	78,374	2 31	68,631	5 3	17,390	8 6	166	21,160	0 6	1,269	19 7		
Nelson—														
Sundry Acts	928	90,420	1 18	53,792	1 6	37,655	8 6	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough—														
Deferred payment ..	34	2,970	2 29	1,608	12 9	1,533	11 8	3	432	3 22	11	11 9		
Canterbury—														
Village sections	82	33	3 6	591	3 5	353	8 4	13	6	1 0	18	16 0		
Small farms	175	2,655	3 12	8,138	16 5	8,921	6 2	36	598	2 35	356	2 10		
Rural	40	6,763	2 20	13,073	4 7	7,987	3 5	16	2,378	2 2	390	12 0		
Pastoral	8	18,539	2 0	15,352	0 4	5,386	17 1	..	..	..	..	..
Westland—														
Deferred payment ..	83	3,590	3 25	2,693	8 6	2,249	2 6	50	2,481	3 34	120	7 6		
Otago—														
Deferred payment ..	547	114,930	2 22	129,848	0 4	61,850	8 5	426	98,200	3 3	11,785	6 6		
Agricultural lease ..	105	9,338	3 36	13,306	19 7	3,239	0 3	54	7,232	3 1	1,391	13 5		
Village homestead special settlement	79	1,038	2 22	42	7 3	120	19 5	33	549	3 38	42	7 3		
Small grazing-runs ..	116	263,331	2 19	1,644	6 6	11,377	2 4	42	91,858	3 19	1,644	6 6		
Southland—														
Rural, deferred payment ..	408	76,658	1 11	86,262	11 9	49,262	1 8	367	69,946	1 34	10,240	11 10		
Suburban, " ..	139	1,168	0 27	3,469	10 6	3,416	17 2	114	930	0 38	1,145	6 3		
Village, " ..	148	2,374	2 29	3,590	17 4	2,886	1 11	118	1,997	2 31	975	5 6		
Exchange, " ..	5	312	1 35	125	19 7	258	3 10	4	217	0 6	26	6 4		
Pastoral, " ..	3	7,423	0 0	6,951	4 11	1,358	8 10	3	7,423	0 0	1,554	6 3		
Totals	5,353	989,161	0 39	600,018	17 4	430,143	10 21	1,795	418,870	3 15	34,802	2 9		

No. 11.—CAPITALISATION.

Land Districts.	Number of Applications made to the Board.			Number of Applications granted by the Board.			Amount due under Capitalisation System.
	Number.	Area.	Amount due under the Deferred-payment System.	Number.	Area.	Amount due under the Deferred-payment System.	
Auckland ..	5	A. R. P. 801 2 10	£ s. d. 826 10 4	5	A. R. P. 801 2 10	£ s. d. 826 10 4	£ s. d. 3,108 1 6
Hawke's Bay ..	3	408 0 4	285 3 11	3	408 0 4	285 3 11	250 13 4
Taranaki ..	33	2,838 3 1	2,557 19 1	33	2,838 3 1	2,557 19 1	2,063 8 6
Wellington ..	51	6,411 2 7	5,556 1 9	51	6,411 2 7	5,556 1 9	4,587 9 1
Nelson ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury ..	63	3,283 3 0	9,445 13 6	63	3,283 3 0	9,445 13 6	8,003 3 0
Westland ..	38	2,876 1 31	2,768 18 4	38	2,876 1 31	2,768 18 4	2,268 9 4
Otago ..	24	3,310 2 25	3,848 15 5	24	3,310 0 25	3,848 15 5	3,104 18 6
Southland ..	6	1,010 1 1	1,328 6 9	6	1,010 1 1	1,328 6 9	1,121 19 8
Totals ..	223	20,940 1 39	26,617 9 1	223	20,940 1 39	26,617 9 1	24,508 2 11

No. 12.—RETURN of the Number of PERPETUAL LEASES taken up during the Year ended 31st March, 1889.

Districts.	Number of Holdings.	Area.	Rental.		Total Rents received during the Twelve Months, both from Land taken up during Previous Years and during the Current Year.	Area taken up Previous Years.		Total Area now in Occupation under Perpetual-lease System.	Selectors in Arrear, 31st March, 1889.		
			Upset.	Obtained.		Number of Holdings.	Area.		Number.	Area held.	Amount of Arrears.
		A. B. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	A. B. P.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland ..	185	28,640 0 0	0 0 9	0 0 9	551 14 9	54	5,116 3 0	34,356 3 0	29	5,640 0 0	182 10 1
Hawke's Bay ..	88	45,094 1 39	0 0 9	0 0 9	2,258 5 6	90	39,186 2 35	84,281 0 34	13	3,483 3 7	104 0 0
Taranaki ..	76	14,583 1 14	0 1 1	0 1 1	1,404 9 2	150	22,252 2 6	33,355 2 25	57	9,308 3 13	400 14 10
Wellington ..	176	74,793 3 6	0 0 11	0 0 11	3,640 11 2	101	19,830 0 4	105,465 2 7	46	6,897 1 13	431 15 2
Nelson ..	2	806 2 33	0 2 2	0 2 3	46 14 3	..	..	806 2 33	..	..	..
Marlborough ..	5	643 0 34	0 10 3	0 10 3	23 14 0	..	51 0 30	694 1 24	..	..	..
Canterbury ..	57	5,783 1 8	0 1 4½	0 1 4½	1,304 8 8	30	1,942 1 11	6,552 3 24	16	1,515 0 21	112 1 1
Westland ..	..	..	..	..	14 4 7	1	60 0 0	739 2 9	8	532 1 32	24 5 7
Otago ..	117	21,892 2 12	0 0 10½	0 0 10½	2,771 11 7	395	89,672 1 26	87,214 1 24	231	50,328 3 34	3,885 9 11
Southland..	51	12,296 1 3	0 0 9½	0 0 9½	468 9 11	39	8,526 3 17	20,053 1 8	40	8,913 2 2	420 2 6
Totals ..	757	204,533 2 29	..	..	12,484 3 7	860	186,587 2 19	373,520 1 28	440	86,570 0 2	5,560 19 2

No. 13.—RETURN of HOMESTEAD LANDS SELECTED, &c., during the Year ending 31st March, 1889.

Land Districts.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Freeholds acquired.		Forfeitures.	
			Number of Selectors.	Area.	Number of Selectors.	Area.
		A. R. P.		A. R. P.		A. R. P.
Auckland	11	1,050 0 0	27	4,081 2 10	5	710 0 0
Hawke's Bay .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Taranaki .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland .. .. .	..	..	19	690 0 0	..	..
Otago .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	69 1 9
Southland .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	11	1,050 0 0	46	4,771 2 10	6	779 1 9

No. 14.—RETURN of CROWN GRANTS, SCHEDULES, CERTIFICATES of TITLES, &c., issued from 1st April, 1888, to 31st March, 1889.

Land Districts.	Number of Grants.	Number of Acres in Grants.	Number of Schedules.	Area in Schedules.	Total Area in Grants and Schedules.	Number of Certificates.	Cancelled Grants.	Corrected Grants.	Antevested Grants.	Duplicate Grants.
		Acres.		Acres.	Acres.					
Auckland	129	24,021	130	78,075	102,096	511	5	6	1	2
Hawke's Bay	56	13,716	20	110,172	123,888	171	..	..	..	..
Taranaki	2	187	13	7,118	7,305	100	1	..	..	..
Wellington	7	1,906	38	109,781	111,687	197	..	2	..	..
Nelson	1	21	7	3,966	3,987	96	..	..	..	..
Marlborough .. .. .	..	..	3	908	908	14	..	..	..	..
Canterbury	32	821	30	17,568	18,389	274	..	9	..	..
Westland .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	81	..	..	..	..
Otago	18	114	32	21,231	21,345	233	..	..	..	..
Southland	1	*	12	14,181	14,181	128	..	3	..	..
Totals	246	40,786	285	363,000	403,786	1,805	6	20	1	2

* Less than an acre.

No. 15.—RETURN of SPECIAL SETTLEMENTS under Clause 163 of "The Land Act, 1885," for the Year ending the 31st March, 1889.

Land Districts.	Survey District.	Name of Special Settlements.	Total Area of Block.	Number of Selectors.	Average Area of each Selector.	Price per Acre.	Total Amount received to 31st March, 1889.
			A. R. P.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland	Onewhero	Tuakau	186 0 10	2	93 0 5	1 0 0	308 16 1
Hawke's Bay	Norsewood	Waipawa	3,221 1 39	33	97 2 19	1 0 0	696 0 5
"	"	Danevirke	1,899 1 32	25	75 3 36	1 2 6	
Wellington	Apiti	Feilding	101 3 0	1	101 3 0	1 0 0	10 3 6
"	Mangahao	Woodville-Mangatainoka	4,560 0 0	46	99 0 20	1 10 0	684 0 0
"	"	Masterton-Hawera ..	3,074 3 32	32	96 0 15	1 10 0	461 5 0
"	Apiti	Pemberton	7,048 0 34	70	100 0 30	1 0 0	705 0 0
Totals .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	20,091 3 27	209	..	..	2,865 5 0

No. 16.—RETURN of VILLAGE-SETTLEMENT LANDS disposed of for CASH and on DEFERRED PAYMENTS during the Year ending 31st March, 1889.

Land Districts.	Cash.										Deferred Payments.									
	Village Sections.					Small-farm Sections.					Village Sections.					Small-farm Sections.				
	Number of Selections.	Area.	Amount realised.	Number of Selections.	Area.	Amount realised.	Number of Selections.	Area.	Amount realised.	Number of Selections.	Area.	Number of Selections.	Area.	Amount realised during the Year.	Number of Selections.	Area.	Number of Selections.	Area.	Number of Selections.	Area.
Auckland ..	..	A. R. P. ..	£ s. d. ..	..	A. R. P. ..	£ s. d. ..	..	A. R. P. ..	..	A. R. P. ..	..	..	A. R. P. ..	£ s. d. ..	..	A. R. P. ..	..	A. R. P. ..	..	A. R. P. ..
Hawke's Bay ..	6	3 1 8	38 0 0	..	..	..	..	58 3 22	3	..	..	..	2 0 0	354 5 2	2	2 0 0	6	49 0 5	..	1 1 0
Taranaki ..	6	5 1 15	55 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	235 13 6	..	..	16	111 0 36	..	1 20 0 0
Wellington ..	55	50 3 32	355 10 0	22	131 0 18	189 0 0	..	127 3 35	12	..	..	..	..	314 2 11	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough ..	1	0 2 0	5 0 0	1	6 0 36	21 14 4	..	13 1 4	2	..	..	..	..	2 12 6	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury ..	12	9 2 8	201 0 0	14	97 1 30	360 12 0	14	10 1 29	11	174 3 33	57 7 10	14	4 1 19	387 0 29	1	0 1 0	43	387 0 29	1	0 1 0
Westland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago ..	2	2 0 0	10 0 0	15	214 0 22	178 13 8	..	602 1 23	41	..	..	..	..	323 9 3	..	..	6	24 3 39	..	..
Southland ..	3	0 3 5	23 15 0	8	143 1 2	358 3 6	..	194 1 35	16	..	..	..	..	508 15 3	..	..	25	221 0 14	..	4 63 3 14
Totals ..	83	72 1 28	688 5 0	60	592 0 28	1,108 3 6	14	10 1 29	85	1,171 3 32	1,796 6 5	16	6 1 19	793 2 3	1	0 1 0	96	793 2 3	1	0 1 0
																				94 3 7

No. 17.—RETURN of VILLAGE-SETTLEMENT LANDS disposed of on PERPETUAL LEASE during the Year ended 31st March, 1889.

Districts.	Village Sections.		Small-farm Sections.		Amount realised during the Year.	Forfeitures.			
	No. of Selections.	Area.	No. of Selections.	Area.		Village.		Small Farm.	
						No. of Selections.	Area.	No. of Selections.	Area.
		A. R. P.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.		A. R. P.
Auckland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hawke's Bay ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Taranaki ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington ..	..	..	16	204 0 32	36 16 2	..	..	..	..
Nelson ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury ..	2	2 0 0	11	300 2 39	21 6 8	..	..	..	..
Westland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago ..	..	..	3	42 2 27	1 3 3	..	..	..	..
Southland ..	..	..	4	72 1 32	5 11 6	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	2	2 0 0	34	620 0 10	64 17 7	..	..	..	..

No. 18.—RETURN of the Number of SELECTORS of SMALL AREAS on PERPETUAL LEASE, under Clause 161 of "The Land Act, 1885," for the Year ended 31st March, 1889.

Land Districts.	Number of Holdings.	Area.	Rental.		Total Rents paid.	Area taken up in previous Years.		Total Area now in Occupation	
			Upset.	Obtained.		Hold-ings.	Area.	Hold-ings.	Area.
Auckland .. ..	..	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.		A. R. P.
Hawke's Bay ..	7	57 3 14	..	..	5 15 10	..	..	7	57 3 14
Canterbury ..	2	74 0 18	9 18 2	9 18 2	4 19 1	19	731 0 15	21	805 0 33
Westland .. ..	..	..	..	..	3 5 0	3	140 0 0	3	140 0 0
Southland	2	84 3 0	0 2 2	0 2 2	21 10 0	6	291 0 9	8	375 3 9
Totals	11	216 2 32	..	..	35 9 11	28	1,162 0 24	39	1,378 3 16

No. 19.—RETURN of SMALL GRAZING RUNS taken up during the Year ended 31st March, 1889.

Land Districts.	No. of Holders.	Area.	Average Rent per Acre.	Total Rent received during the Twelve Months ended 31st Mar., 1889.	Area taken up during previous Years.		Total Area in Occupation.		Arrears on 31st March, 1889.	
					No. of Holders.	Area.	No. of Holders.	Area.	No.	Amount.
		A. R. P.	s. d.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.		A. R. P.		£ s. d.
Auckland ..	7	16,385 0 0	0 3	76 14 0	..	..	7	16,385 0 0	..	..
Hawke's Bay ..	14	38,997 0 26	0 13	695 6 8	26	55,195 0 1	40	94,192 0 27	18	336 2 10
Taranaki ..	4	3,164 0 0	0 3	41 1 8	2	1,617 0 0	6	4,781 0 0	2	20 4 3
Wellington ..	17	10,441 0 1	0 6	1,175 13 8	51	50,257 1 37	68	60,698 1 38	32	643 17 4
Marlborough ..	3	1,172 0 0	0 3	18 14 7	3	1,029 0 0	6	2,201 0 0	1	2 10 3
Canterbury ..	5*	10,142 0 0	..	205 15 6	2	3,207 3 27	7	13,349 3 27	..	..
Westland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago ..	81	81,350 3 3	6 7	5,554 3 0	97	205,695 0 29	116	263,331 2 19	42	1,644 6 6
Southland ..	..	..	..	..	1	200 0 0	1	200 0 0	1	7 10 0
Totals ..	81	161,652 0 22	..	7,767 9 1	182	317,201 2 14	251	455,339 0 31	96	2,654 11 2

* Exchanged from pastoral deferred payment.

[Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, nil; printing (1,800 copies), £21 5s.]