

recommend that several surveyors should be employed to lay off and legalise roads through alienated lands, and to carry standard surveys along roads in use where the original surveys are defective, or in cases where no previous survey has been made of such roads.

*Other Works.*—Under this heading are classed the duties of a miscellaneous though very useful character performed for other departments and the public—such as, back-line pegging of sections sold in former years and under different conditions from those now prevailing, the supervision of road-works, providing guides for intending selectors visiting lands open for selection, valuations, inspections, estimates, and reports on matters of public interest and importance.

*Land Transfer Surveys.*—Plans representing 20,400 acres were tested and passed through the office. I had several of the surveys tested by staff officers, and in the present year I hope to attend to this duty systematically, with Mr. Ll. Smith's assistance. In connection with this class of work there are three fundamental operations demanding immediate attention—namely, (1) the extension of standard traverses throughout those districts which have long been in occupation, and in which, consequently, property is proportionately valuable; (2) the execution of standard surveys in new townships and suburbs; (3) the construction of standard record-maps to represent all the more recent surveys under this system.

*General.*—The following is a summary of the work executed during the year :—

Class of Work.	Number of Plans.	Area, in Acres.
Minor triangulation	1	11,000
Settlement survey	75	197,885
Native Land Court	84	445,133
Land Transfer	104	20,400
Public Works	33	
Sale-plans	32	
Total	329*	674,418 acres

As showing the result of the skill and labour brought to bear by the Wellington survey staff in furtherance of the settlement of the country, I submit the following statement of Crown lands operations for the year ended 31st March :—

				Area thrown open for Selection.	Area disposed of.	Number of Selectors.	Average Area.
				Acres.	Acres.		Acres.
1885	...	...	...	16,494	20,404	82	249
1886	...	...	...	54,989	23,712	149	159
1887	...	...	...	77,546	100,056	645	155
1888	...	...	...	59,993	70,390	494	142
1889	...	...	...	145,495	125,307	587	213
1890	...	...	...	97,146	106,349	386	275
Totals and average				451,663	446,218	2,343	190

The area thrown open during the year which expired on the 30th June amounts to 167,275 acres; whilst the area actually available for selection on the same date was 128,062 acres, and this will soon be increased by 108,000 acres more.

To keep pace with the numerous applications for land, the field staff has been increased to sixteen surveyors, and even then it was found necessary to let fourteen contracts, comprising an area of 47,153 acres, to authorised surveyors. Except in a few exceptional cases, the surveys have been promptly executed, notwithstanding that the large area disposed of consists of forest lands generally remote from settled districts.

*Office Duties.*—The Chief Draughtsman, Mr. James Mackenzie, in his summary of the office-work, reports that the preparation of sale-plans to keep pace with notifications under "The Land Act, 1887," formed an onerous and conspicuous portion of the work. The Native Land Court branch, in addition to the general duties of attending to requirements of the Court, reducing plans, and bringing the same up on the record-maps, prepared and issued 1,006 Court orders and copies; in the Land Transfer branch the number of certificates and copies was 1,642. New county maps are in course of construction, and are well advanced. Owing to the pressure of work resulting from the employment of about thirty surveyors, the office-work has fallen into arrear.

Letters received and despatched number 14,779; vouchers passed, 792; notices despatched, 10,103; applications registered, leases and licenses prepared, 838; warrants, comprising 687 titles and copies, 90; lithographs, posters, and Crown Land Guides despatched, 10,000; circulars to surveyors, 200. In addition to the foregoing a multitude of other duties were attended to, including the keeping of the accounts, and corresponding.

The expenditure for the year is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
For surveys	13,405	1	8
On roads	22,589	12	1
Total	35,994	13	9

\* Including those sent in by authorised and licensed surveyors.