

SESS. II.—1891.  
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,— Department of Lands and Surveys, Wellington, 30th June, 1891.  
I have the honour to forward herewith the annual report and returns of the Crown Lands Department for the twelve months ending the 31st March, 1891.

The Hon. J. McKenzie, Minister of Lands. I have, &c.,  
S. PERCY SMITH,  
Secretary for Crown Lands.

REPORT.

DURING the period ending the 31st March last the lands have been administered under "The Land Act, 1885," and the amending Acts of 1887 and 1888, and regulations made thereunder. There are no very prominent features in the transactions of the last year which distinguish it from other years since these Acts came into force, if we except the larger amount of cash sales which have taken place in the Canterbury District, as will be seen by the returns.

The following summary will show at a glance the year's transactions, whilst full details will be found in the appended tables :—

					Number of Purchasers or Selectors	Area.			Cash and Scrip Received on Cur- rent and Past Transactions.		
						A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
Town lands	...	...	...	...	145	102	3	37	102,499	9	5
Suburban lands	...	...	...	...	50	365	1	36			
Rural	"	...	...	...	378	99,545	1	36			
Deferred payment	...	...	...	...	258	34,091	0	25	45,374	7	1
"	village settlement	...	...	...	51	369	2	0	3,290	5	0
Special-settlement associations, deferred payment	...	...	...	...	2	71	0	0	11,148	0	2
Village settlement, cash	...	...	...	...	87	210	0	14	968	2	0
Perpetual lease	...	...	...	...	788	288,916	2	34	32,683	16	8
Village settlement, perpetual lease	...	...	...	...	56	954	0	6	246	2	7
Village homestead special settlement	...	...	...	...	10	349	3	37	1,949	13	1
Agricultural lease	...	...	...	...	4	550	3	6	463	15	5
Small grazing-runs	...	...	...	...	43	86,161	1	20	11,831	9	7
Homesteads	...	...	...	...	9	945	0	0	...	...	...
Pastoral runs	...	...	...	...	195	1,596,600	3	15	125,473	3	9

Table T, attached hereto, will show the tenure under which lands have been taken up since 1881; but, in order to compare last year's transactions with those of the previous period, the summary given above may be stated as follows: Classifying all dealings under the headings of cash, deferred-payments, perpetual-lease, and pastoral leases, we have,—

					1890.		1891.	
					No.	Area.	No.	Area.
Cash	...	...	...	...	702	47,478 acres	661	100,222 acres
Deferred payments	...	...	...	...	426	47,181 "	315	35,081 "
Perpetual lease	...	...	...	...	852	238,904 "	854	290,248 "
Pastoral	...	...	...	...	308	3,794,636 "	195	1,682,761 "

It will be seen from the above that, whilst the total number of cash purchasers for both periods does not differ very greatly, that the area selected during 1890-91 is more than doubled, or, in other words, that the holdings have increased in size; and, taking the rural selections for the two periods as criteria, it will be found that the average size of the selections has risen from 128 acres in 1889-90 to 263 acres in 1890-91. This change in the total amount taken up is due in great