

CROWN GRANTS AND OTHER DEEDS.

The following is a return of Crown grants, warrants, certificates of title, leases, &c., received and issued from the 1st April, 1896, to the 31st March, 1897.

Provincial District.	Number of Grants.	Area in Grants.	Number of Warrants.	Area in Warrant.	Total Area in Grants and Warrants.	Area included in foregoing granted to Natives.	Number of Certificates of Title in lieu of Crown Grant.	Number of Leases.	Area in Leases.	Corrected Grants, &c.	Duplicate Grants, &c.
		Acres.		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.			Acres.		
Auckland ...	6	279	37	153,717	153,996	134,499	162	8	645	4	4
Hawke's Bay ...	1	16,761	10	29,068	45,829	18,916	136	3	67	...	...
Taranaki ...	1	53	14	30,376	30,429	...	153	14	26	5	...
Wellington ...	4	234	31	78,997	79,231	1,293	392	16	492	2	1
Nelson ...	...	...	14	89,495	89,495	...	237	48	28,450	...	...
Marlborough ...	...	...	2	7,630	7,630	...	15	3	840	...	...
Canterbury ...	1	2	15	62,347	62,349	47	86	3	193	2	...
Westland ...	...	...	1	1,567	1,567	...	20	83	5,865	...	...
Otago ...	4	440	12	14,543	14,983	...	106	9	38,673	1	...
Southland ...	1	22	3	837	859	...	60	1	5,360	...	...
Total ...	18	17,791	139	468,577	486,368	154,755	1,367	188	80,611	14	5

ACCOUNTS.

Mr. H. J. KNOWLES, the Chief Accountant, reports:—

The number of vouchers authorised for payment, credit, or refund during the year 1896–97 was—

	£	s.	d.
5,234 charged to Lands and Survey vote, covering gross expenditure of ...	125,598	19	9
289 charged to Lands and Survey, Miscellaneous vote, covering gross expenditure of ...	3,485	1	6
187 charged to State Forests vote, covering gross expenditure of ...	2,472	7	10
1 charged to Cheviot Estate expenses vote, covering gross expenditure of ...	7	4	0
121 charged to Land for Settlements expenses vote, covering gross expenditure of ...	*2,099	5	9
13 charged to Immigration vote, covering gross expenditure of ...	701	6	3
102 charged to Main Roads vote, covering gross expenditure of ...	4,288	16	11
316 charged to Miscellaneous Roads and Bridges vote, covering gross expenditure of ...	11,195	8	11
4 charged to Local Bodies vote, covering gross expenditure of ...	152	2	3
750 charged to Development of Thermal Springs, &c., vote, covering gross expenditure of ...	16,026	3	3
4,263 charged to Lands Improvement Account, covering gross expenditure of ...	108,430	0	0
1,244 charged to Native Land Purchase Account, covering gross expenditure of ...	38,949	19	9
1,006 charged to Government Loans to Local Bodies Account, covering gross expenditure of ...	27,641	14	0
35 charged to Cheviot Estate Account, covering gross expenditure of ...	12,336	12	11
769 charged to Land for Settlements Account, covering gross expenditure of ...	*311,472	13	9
2 charged to Unauthorised Account, covering gross expenditure of ...	216	13	4
49 charged to Civil Service Act and general, covering gross expenditure of ...	4,680	2	5
1,210 charged to Receivers' Deposit Accounts, covering gross refund of ...	37,601	8	4
82 charged to Refunds of revenue, covering gross refund of ...	4,171	8	2
12 charged to Refunds of contractors' deposits, covering gross refund of ...	133	0	0
15,689	£711,660	9	1

* Includes Land for Settlements Department charges.

Details of the *net* expenditure will be found in the various tables on other pages.

In addition, 221 credit vouchers for work done by the department, 505 applications for imprest advances, and about 1,200 letters, memoranda, returns, &c., have been dealt with or prepared.

Two hundred and forty-eight agreements (prepared in triplicate) have been issued, representing grants to local bodies of £60,562 13s. 11d.; and the payments under grants amounted to £32,741 16s. 4d., including payments under grants of previous years.

A seventy-page statement of the expenditure, liabilities, &c., in respect of the 932 separate appropriations, and a full statement from the commencement of the position of the Government Loans to Local Bodies Account, has been issued within the department during seven months out of the twelve, but in consequence of its large increase in volume (from twenty-four pages in 1892–93 to seventy in 1896–97) time would not permit of it being issued monthly.

The authority and expenditure registers have been balanced as between themselves, and the latter have also been balanced with the Treasury.

A complete set of the rules and regulations relating to accounts has been compiled in pamphlet form, and distributed among the officers of the department.

A large amount of work has been performed during the year in preparing returns for departmental information, compilation of reports, statements, and tables for the last annual report,