

## AREA of CROWN LANDS, CANTERBURY, available for SETTLEMENT, 31st March, 1897.

County.	System.	Area (First-class).			Area (Second-class).			Total Area.		
		A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.
Geraldine ...	Village lots ...	1	1	0	...	...	...	1	1	0
Ashburton ...	Village homestead ...	71	2	0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Geraldine ...	" ...	57	2	12	...	...	...	...	...	...
Waimate ...	" ...	151	1	15	...	...	...	280	1	27
Selwyn ...	Rural lands ...	33	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Geraldine ...	" ...	309	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ashburton ...	" ...	366	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Waimate ...	" ...	30	0	0	...	...	...	738	0	0
Ashburton ...	" ...	...	...	...	1,400	0	0	...	...	...
Geraldine ...	" ...	...	...	...	1,660	0	0	...	...	...
Mackenzie ...	" ...	...	...	...	1,322	0	0	...	...	...
Waimate ...	" ...	...	...	...	3,658	0	0	8,040	0	0
Mackenzie ...	Small grazing-runs ...	...	...	...	9,749	0	0	...	...	...
Waimate ...	" ...	...	...	...	24,206	0	0	33,955	0	0
Ashley ...	Pastoral lands ...	...	...	...	293	0	0	...	...	...
Waimate ...	" ...	...	...	...	118,523	0	0	...	...	...
Mackenzie ...	" ...	...	...	...	18,550	0	0	137,366	0	0
Totals ...		1,019	2	27	179,361	0	0	180,380	2	27

## SUMMARY of HOLDINGS reported on for the Year ended 31st March, 1897.

Tenure.	Number of Leases.	Area.			Requirements of Act.						How far complied with.						Number of Holdings resided on.	Number of Holdings not resided on.	Number of Partial Defaulters.	Number of Total Defaulters.
					Cultivation.			Improve-ments.			Cultivation.			Improve-ments.						
		A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.	A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.				
Deferred payment ..	22	507	1	4	133	0	39	678	0	6	476	2	8	1,193	17	0	15	7	4	5
Perpetual lease ..	61	13,562	3	1	2,274	1	14	5,478	16	11	7,140	0	0	13,455	12	0	23	38	15	1
Occupation with right of purchase	2	164	0	11	..	..	..	91	9	0	..	..	..	136	0	0	..	2	1	..
Lease in perpetuity ..	35	13,022	2	19	..	..	..	7,396	18	10	..	..	..	8,164	10	0	25	10	9	3
Village-homestead per- petual lease ..	22	433	3	9	227	2	18	..	..	..	342	1	2	2,192	0	0	21	1	1	..
Village-homestead lease in perpetuity	44	2,625	3	13	..	..	..	1,493	17	1	..	..	..	2,928	18	0	28	16	14	2
Cheviot Estate—																				
Lease in perpetuity ..	111	23,846	2	21	..	..	..	6,037	19	4	..	..	..	21,989	0	0	96	15	10	..
Village-homestead ..	91	2,473	1	37	..	..	..	848	18	10	..	..	..	6,360	0	0	70	21	11	..
Grazing-farm ..	31	44,886	2	0	..	..	..	9,143	8	9	..	..	..	10,446	0	0	23	8	4	1
Lands for settlement ..	98	10,942	2	26	..	..	..	1,076	16	8	..	..	..	6,324	19	6	56	42	12	14

## OTAGO.

I forward herewith the annual returns of land-transactions in this district during the twelve months ended on the 31st March, 1897, showing also the position at that date of the several systems of land tenure and occupation. From a perusal of these returns it will be seen that the year's transactions compare favourably with previous years, both as regards selections and revenue.

*Revenue, 1896-97.*—The gross receipts for the year exceed those of the previous year by £4,858 6s. 9d., and were also in excess of the estimated revenue by £9,345 17s. 6d. The principal items of excess were perpetual leases made freehold, deferred payments, and land for settlements. I have already explained, in forwarding the estimates of revenue and expenditure for the current year, that the excess in deferred payments is accounted for by the number of selectors who, having obtained advances under the Government Advances to Settlers Act, have elected to complete their purchases, while, in the matter of the Land for Settlements Account, the excess is to a great extent owing to the fact that the current half-year's rent has been more promptly paid by a large number of lessees than was anticipated. The promptitude of payments may also be attributed in some measure to the better position in which many settlers find themselves as the result of the late favourable harvest and improved prices; but, unfortunately, this cannot be said of all, as in some places in Central Otago, owing to the dryness of the season, the crops have been exceedingly light, and in some instances a complete failure.

*Summary of Transactions.*—The selections during the year, the areas held at the 31st March, 1897, together with the amounts received under the various systems of land settlement and occupation, are concisely compiled, and can be readily seen from the subjoined summary, which in form appears to have been generally adopted as a convenient method of exhibiting the yearly operations:—