

The sale of the Town of Tokaanu, situated at the south end of Lake Taupo, has been delayed through questions concerning the sufficiency of the Native allotments reserved there; but this matter was settled at a sitting of the Native Land Court held in March last, and the town was to be offered to the public in June of this year. (It has since been offered for sale, when a number of town and suburban sections were let on lease, of an annual value of £179 1s.)

Towns have also been laid out at Waipiro, near Waiapu, and another at Harataunga or Kennedy's Bay, Auckland; both will come in for leasing during the coming spring. Arrangements have also been made to lay out a small town at Potaka on the Hunterville-Tokaanu Road.

The terms on which these Native townships are disposed of are leases for twenty-one years, with right of renewal at the expiry of that date on a revaluation of rental, and they are subject to ordinary sanitary conditions, &c. The regulations will be found in the *New Zealand Gazette*, 1896, page 275.

TERRITORIAL AND OTHER REVENUE.

The Auditor of Land Revenue, Mr. W. G. Runcie, furnishes the following particulars as to revenue collected by the department during the year: The estimated territorial revenue was £250,000, and the actual amount received was £263,296 2s. 3d., being an excess of £13,296 2s. 3d. The above figures represent the actual territorial revenue, but the money collected by the Receivers for rents, &c., on endowments, estates, and other items amounted to £359,086 13s. 9d., as detailed below:—

	£	s.	d.
Territorial revenue	263,296	2	3
Government loans to local bodies (interest on money borrowed on lands for roads)	10,742	1	1
Land for Settlements Account	27,667	0	10
Cheviot Estate	16,277	0	7
State forests	10,995	13	1
Endowments	15,666	11	3
North Island Main Trunk Railway Account... ..	5,174	6	7
Thermal springs	901	3	3
Lake Ellesmere and Forsyth Account	1,642	5	8
Lands and Survey vote	3,744	12	5
Crown grant fees	1,109	13	2
Miscellaneous	1,870	3	7
	£359,086	13	9

The above amount is £1,906 15s. less than that collected in the previous year. Through the decrease in suitable and accessible Crown lands now available for offer to the public, it is only to be expected that the territorial revenue must decrease from year to year. This, taken in conjunction with the gradual extinction of payments under the deferred payments and perpetual leases, will in a short time probably make a considerable shrinkage in the revenue. The decrease for the past period amounted to £9,657 11s. 6d., while the estimated decrease for the ensuing year is somewhat larger.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Receipts on Account of Territorial Revenue for the Years ending the 31st March, 1896-97 and 1897-98.

Land District.	1896-97.			1897-98.			Increase, 1897-98.			Decrease, 1897-98.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Auckland	29,723	17	6	30,889	19	2	1,166	1	8	...	...	...
Taranaki	23,911	12	3	21,407	12	5	...	...	...	2,503	19	10
Hawke's Bay	17,100	14	4	14,512	16	1	...	...	...	2,587	18	3
Wellington	52,751	0	4	49,284	8	4	...	...	...	3,466	12	0
Marlborough	9,399	4	4	13,689	16	7	4,290	12	3	...	...	...
Nelson	14,454	15	1	15,134	11	4	679	16	3	...	...	...
Westland	1,199	4	9	1,159	18	1	...	...	...	39	6	8
Canterbury	48,999	8	6	47,503	4	6	...	...	...	1,496	4	0
Otago... ..	61,333	19	10	55,286	13	10	...	...	...	6,047	6	0
Southland	14,079	16	10	14,427	1	11	347	5	1	...	...	...
	272,953	13	9	263,296	2	3	6,483	15	3	16,141	6	9
	263,296	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,483	15	3
Net decrease	9,657	11	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,657	11	6

The cash balance at the credit of the Receivers' Deposit Accounts on the 31st March amounted to £6,031 5s. 9d., being about the usual amount, whilst the balances to the credit of the Local Bodies Account was £29,220 3s. 6d., which represents "thirds" and "fourths," either not applied for by the local bodies, or transactions passing through the department. In the case of some of the local bodies the amounts are so small that they are left to accumulate until of sufficient amount to make their expenditure beneficial. The total sum paid to local bodies out of "thirds" and "fourths" last year was £41,361 18s. 2d.; ten years ago it was £18,159.