

### THE LAND SUBDIVISION IN COUNTIES ACT, 1946

This is an Act of twenty-two sections amending the Land Act, 1924, with respect to the subdivision of land outside boroughs and town districts. It is referred to in some little detail in the annual report on surveys (C-1A).

#### RECEIPTS

The receipts for the year from all sources totalled £3,249,531. The receipts for the previous year totalled £2,445,659. Details are as follows :—

Heading.	Year ended 31st March, 1947.	Year ended 31st March, 1946.
	£	£
Rents, royalties, and interest .. .. .	906,133	890,577
Rates and miscellaneous receipts from drainage areas	39,843	34,276
Administration charges, fees, and other departmental receipts	119,165	97,094
Sales of land, improvements, repayment of advances, &c.	1,228,114	666,169
Farming receipts from development schemes	955,787	748,367
Miscellaneous .. .. .	9,489	9,176
	3,249,531	2,445,659

#### POSTPONEMENTS, REMISSIONS AND ARREARS OF RENT AND INTEREST

Rents and interest the payment of which remained postponed at 31st March, 1947, amounted to £5,895. Arrears of rent and interest (including arrears in respect of the current half-yearly charge) totalled £131,716 while remissions for the year totalled £11,308.

#### THE SERVICEMEN'S SETTLEMENT AND LAND SALES ACT, 1943

This report gives an account of the operations under this Act for the third complete year.

#### APPLICATIONS

Applications numbered 46,995, showing an increase of 3,096 over the figures for the previous year. Urban properties accounted for 40,348 applications, while those made in respect of rural land amounted to 6,647.

#### DESPATCH OF WORK

In spite of the increased number of applications received, it will be noted from the return appended that the number disposed of is only 43 fewer than the numbers received during the year, a fact which indicates that not only the Committees, but also all those concerned with the administration of the Act, have made a good effort to cope with the increased volume of work.

In the report for the year ended 31st March, 1946, there was mention of the tendency for prices between the contracting parties to become higher. In that year the amount by which contract prices was reduced was £1,593,404. During the current year the reductions total £2,525,564.

#### APPEALS

It is now, happily, possible to say that appeals are up to date. Never at any time is there a substantial number of decisions outstanding, a fact which is favourably commented on by counsel for the parties and others concerned in sales.

During the year 342 appeals were filed; in addition, there were some awaiting hearing. Of these, 33 were allowed in full, 128 allowed in part, 96 dismissed, 114 withdrawn and 35 referred back to Committee. There were 406 disposed of and 34 remain to be dealt with.