

During the year sales of leases were held at Wanganui, Marton, Palmerston North, Pahiatua, and Carterton, and 9,916 acres 3 roods 4 perches were let to forty-six tenants at an annual rental of £281 0s. 3d. A large portion of this is rabbit-infested country, and the Commissioners are therefore relieved of an annual expenditure in poisoning. Several of the sections now let have been lying open for selection for a considerable time at a merely nominal rental, the land being of little value except to adjoining holders, and this chiefly to save fencing.

The Commissioners have much pleasure in drawing your attention to the smallness of the amount of rents in arrear, and trust that it may be an indication of the prosperity of the district and the welfare of their tenants.

I have, &c.,

J. R. BLAIR, Chairman.

The Hon. the Minister for Education, Wellington.

GENERAL STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE for the Year ended 31st December, 1899.

	Primary.	Secondary.	Total.
<i>Receipts.</i>			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balances ... ..	74 5 11	105 10 5	179 16 4
Receipts on account of previous years ... ..	70 7 7	0 0 3	70 7 10
Receipts on account of year 1899 ... ..	3,123 14 6	745 16 6	3,869 11 0
Receipts on account of year 1900 ... ..	130 10 5	0 0 5	130 10 10
Interest and sinking fund on improvements ... ..	37 11 7	...	37 11 7
Preparation and registration of leases ... ..	85 10 6	...	85 10 6
Deposit received from H. G. Leach ... ..	9 12 6	...	9 12 6
Total receipts ... ..	3,531 13 0	851 7 7	4,383 0 7

<i>Expenditure.</i>			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Payments to Boards—			
Wellington Education Board ... ..	1,813 0 0	...	2,800 0 0
Wanganui Education Board ... ..	987 0 0	...	
Wellington College ... ..	...	226 5 9	
Wellington Girls' High School ... ..	...	226 5 9	
Wanganui Girls' High School ... ..	...	246 8 0	
Napier High School ... ..	...	1 0 6	700 0 0
Salaries of officers ... ..	246 14 0	53 6 0	300 0 0
Printing, stationery, and office contingencies ... ..	79 5 8	17 2 0	96 7 8
Allowances to Commissioners ... ..	9 13 4	2 2 0	11 15 4
Commissions on sales of leases ... ..	14 9 6	...	14 9 6
Advertising... ..	84 0 9	...	84 0 9
Fencing ... ..	6 0 0	...	6 0 0
Law (including renewals and transfers of leases) ... ..	7 3 6	...	7 3 6
Preparation and registration of leases ... ..	85 10 6	...	85 10 6
Crown-grant fees ... ..	21 4 3	...	21 4 3
Travelling-expenses of Secretary ... ..	27 19 7	...	27 19 7
Masterton Town Lands Trust ... ..	2 0 0	...	2 0 0
Rabbit-poisoning ... ..	25 0 0	...	25 0 0
Refund of deposit ... ..	9 12 6	...	9 12 6
Valuation and arbitration ... ..	10 9 0	...	10 9 0
Balance ... ..	102 10 5	78 17 7	181 8 0
Total expenditure ... ..	3,531 13 0	851 7 7	4,383 0 7

<i>Assets.</i>			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balances ... ..	102 10 5	78 17 7	181 8 0
Arrears of rents ... ..	59 7 4	0 2 9	59 10 1
Total... ..	161 17 9	79 0 4	240 18 1

<i>Liabilities.</i>			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Land Purchase Account ... ..	70 18 6	...	70 18 6

NAT. J. TONE, Secretary.

Examined and found correct.—J. K. WARBURTON, Controller and Auditor-General.