

are not usually of a character suitable for close settlement, and the supply from these sources, except for the re-opening of runs, must diminish; hence the future extension of settlement depends upon the opening up of the remaining Crown lands in Auckland, Taranaki, Poverty Bay, Wellington, Nelson, Westland, and to some extent in Southland. In view of the fact that the undisposed of Crown lands comprise as a rule hilly, forest-clad country, remote from centres of population, unconnected by railway or roads, it is imperative that ample funds be provided for opening them up for settlement, and that the Department spares no effort to explore, survey, and prepare the areas for selection as early as possible, having a due regard to the requirements and convenience of the future occupants. This should be supplemented by operations under the Land for Settlements Acts, whereby suitable private estates may be acquired and apportioned to meet the demands of the increasing population of the colony. With a failing supply of Crown land it behoves us to encourage the full development of the resources of the lands already under occupation.

#### LANDS DISPOSED OF.

In pursuance of the recognised departmental practice, Table B has been compiled to illustrate the land transactions for the year, under all systems and phases prescribed by law. Full details of each system are given in the numerous tables in the Appendix and in the reports of the Commissioners of Crown Lands.

TABLE B.

NUMBER of NEW SELECTORS, and AREA taken up, from 1st April, 1901, to 31st March, 1902, and Total Amount of Money received during the Year.

Nature and Tenure of Lands selected.	Number of Purchasers or Selectors.	Area.			Average Holding.			Cash received on Past and Current Transactions.	
		A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	£	s. d.
Town lands sold for cash .. .. .	156	116	1	16	0	2	39 26	22,317	11 0
Suburban lands sold for cash .. .. .	95	432	2	1	4	2	8 4		
Rural lands sold for cash .. .. .	237	26,739	0	31	112	3	11 7		
Perpetual leases made freehold .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40,851	1 2
Deferred payment instalments .. .. .	1	52	0	0	52	0	0	8,288	6 10
Perpetual leases .. .. .	1	10	0	0	10	0	0	8,176	12 3
Occupation with right of purchase .. .. .	447	128,892	3	9	288	1	16 1	28,565	11 2
Lease in perpetuity .. .. .	241	65,468	1	29	271	2	24 5	26,722	18 5
Agricultural lease .. .. .	1	27	3	0	27	3	0	25	16 9
Village settlement, cash .. .. .	21	9	3	9	0	0	22 9	163	4 0
" deferred payment .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	163	16 4
" perpetual lease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	451	15 11
" made freehold .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,127	14 5
" occupation with right of purchase .. .. .	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	11	6 8
" lease in perpetuity .. .. .	32	455	1	28	14	0	37 1	564	2 9
Village-homestead special settlement (lease in perpetuity) .. .. .	30	469	1	25	15	2	28 5	2,865	5 4
Special-settlement associations, deferred payments .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	99	0 2
" perpetual lease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	185	4 9
" lease in perpetuity .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,670	5 10
Improved-farm special settlements (lease in perpetuity) .. .. .	9	1,617	3	26	179	3	2 8	3,185	14 0
Occupation leases, Mining D.L.O. Act .. .. .	71	2,506	3	10	35	1	9 1	514	6 7
Small grazing-runs .. .. .	25	96,708	1	18	3,868	1	13 1	23,828	19 3
Pastoral runs .. .. .	54	572,050	1	26	10,232	0	34 7	71,513	4 1
Thermal springs, Rotorua .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,511	3 10
Miscellaneous leases and licenses .. .. .	440	113,432	2	7	257	0	34 6	22,067	12 0
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30,027	8 8
Cheviot Estate—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lease in perpetuity .. .. .	3	1,422	3	0	474	1	0	6,397	19 5
Village-homestead special settlement (lease in perpetuity) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	800	11 10
Grazing farms .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,285	11 11
Pastoral runs .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	250	13 8
Miscellaneous leases .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	274	8 11
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	51	19 11
Land for Settlements Acts—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cash .. .. .	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	17	15 0
Lease in perpetuity .. .. .	257	49,235	1	3	191	2	1 2	79,022	2 3
" village .. .. .	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	257	15 4
Special-settlement associations (lease in perpetuity) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	157	4 0
Small grazing-runs .. .. .	11	16,239	2	0	1,476	1	10 9	7,272	16 7
Pastoral runs .. .. .	2	953	2	38	476	3	19	60	16 6
Miscellaneous .. .. .	22	17,242	1	30	783	2	39 5	2,376	11 11
Totals .. .. .	2,159	1,094,086	2	27	506	3	0 9	£402,124	9 5

On comparison with the past year's figures, it will be seen that there is a decrease in the number of transactions for the year of 153 selectors, and a falling-off of over half a million acres, principally under the pastoral runs, occupation-with-right-of-purchase, and lease-in-perpetuity systems, and a loss in revenue of about £4,200. A closer investigation shows that the area of cash sales fell from 58,700 to 27,288 acres, and the receipts from £33,987 to £22,317. As might be expected, there is a large reduction in the perpetual-lease and deferred-payment revenue; selections under the occupation-with-right-of-purchase rural system aggregated 447, whilst those under