

Compared with the operations of the preceding year, the following comparisons are submitted: The area opened for selection on the optional system in 1902-3 is about twice as great as that of 1901-2; the cash area is only one-fourth, the village-settlement area about twice, the pastoral runs about three times, and the small grazing-runs nearly double the area of the previous year; the area opened on the lease-in-perpetuity system only was thirteen-fold greater; whilst the gross totals are in favour of the year 1902-3 in the ratio of about 5 to 2.

LANDS DISPOSED OF.

The usual summary, compiled from the Commissioners' returns, shows in a convenient form the nature and volume of transactions under all heads, and also the total receipts from every source, and is appended hereto.

TABLE B.—NUMBER of NEW SELECTORS, and AREA taken up, from 1st April, 1902, to 31st March, 1903, 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	154	168	1	20	1	0	15	12,494	18 0
Suburban lands sold for cash	83	273	2	31	3	1	7		
Rural lands sold for cash	134	16,746	2	6	124	3	36		
Perpetual leases made freehold .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27,250	3 2
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,857	12 1
Deferred-payment instalments .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,513	8 2
Perpetual leases .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,869	3 10
Occupation with right of purchase	403	118,556	3	6	294	0	29	34,502	0 4
Lease in perpetuity	285	108,065	1	33	37	3	26	31,763	15 10
Agricultural lease	3	35	3	37	11	3	29	17	6 6
Village settlement, cash	19	9	1	35	0	1	39	143	16 0
" deferred payment .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	103	2 11
" perpetual lease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	418	14 10
" " made freehold .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	407	6 6
" occupation with right of purchase .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	4 11
" lease in perpetuity	39	598	2	4	15	1	15	566	18 3
Village-homestead special settlement	34	1,511	3	23	44	1	35	3,396	10 5
Special-settlement associations, deferred payment .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	245	15 3
" perpetual lease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	139	2 9
" lease in perpetuity	29	5,761	0	0	198	2	24	6,282	11 6
Improved-farm special settlements (lease in perpetuity)	30	4,031	3	25	134	1	19	4,010	6 1
Occupation leases, Mining D.L.O. Act	52	2,433	2	5	46	3	7	911	10 9
Small grazing-runs	35	93,525	1	14	2,672	0	24	25,788	6 7
Pastoral runs	129	1,050,779	3	18	8,145	2	13	78,700	17 10
Thermal springs, Rotorua	35	304	3	35	8	2	34	1,923	6 9
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	434	106,859	3	35	246	0	35	40,845	12 3
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34,804	11 5
Cheviot Estate—									
Lease in perpetuity	2	34	1	0	17	0	20	6,222	5 0
Village-homestead special settlement (lease in perpetuity) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	915	7 8
Grazing-farms	1	6	2	0	6	2	0	6,956	1 10
Pastoral runs .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	193	3 8
Miscellaneous leases	2	8	0	4	4	0	2	295	10 8
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	0 11
Land for Settlements Acts—									
Cash	3	5	0	32	1	2	37	65	17 6
Lease in perpetuity	286	53,645	3	38	187	2	12	93,735	8 9
" village	1	20	0	0	20	0	0	427	3 10
Special-settlement associations (lease in perpetuity) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	182	8 5
Small grazing-runs	9	20,393	2	19	2,265	3	33	10,983	2 0
Pastoral runs .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	122	2 9
Miscellaneous	45	5,890	2	13	130	3	24	5,116	5 5
Totals	2,247	1,589,667	1	33	707	1	34	£445,205	1 4

Compared with the previous year's figures, it will be seen that the number of selections or transactions (2,247) shows an increase of 88, and the total area dealt with—viz., 1,589,667 acres—is in excess by 495,581 acres; the average area of the holdings (707 acres) is greatly in excess of that of the previous year, which was about 507 acres, but it must be borne in mind that in both instances the averages include extensive areas of pastoral and small grazing runs.

The total revenue collected, £445,205 1s. 4d., exceeds the previous year's by £23,187 6s. 5d. Remarks and comparisons as to the cash receipts are given in the paragraph on "Revenue." (*Vide* page xx.)

Details are given elsewhere as to the Cheviot Estate, including five small transactions of the nature of subdivisions of existing leases, and the letting of a small reserve.

Particulars as to Land for Settlements holdings are also set forth in the tables, showing a total of 344 dealings: the principal items being 286 leases in perpetuity, covering an