

Rongoiti is adjoining the Mataroa Township and the main trunk line, and comprises eight sections, all of which are well improved and resided upon. The total population is twenty-three souls. The total value of improvements is £1,362 2s. 3d.; out of this £27 has been advanced by the Crown for bushfelling, &c., during the year. The areas of three of the holdings have been increased by 100 acres each, thus making them large enough to enable the settlers to eventually make a living off without the aid of outside employment. Better road access is much wanted to several of the sections.

During the year I have visited a considerable portion of the district, on three special occasions being accompanied by certain members of the Land Board, and am pleased to be able to confirm by personal observation the reports from the various Crown Lands Rangers on the substantial progress of *bond fide* settlement throughout the district.

Clerical Branch.

During the year the correspondence has increased in all its branches, the grand total being 64,000 letters, &c., received and despatched, as against 55,000 last year, or an average of about 213 per working-day. The largest increase is in the number of lithos and "Land Guides" distributed, which account for about 6,000, the balance being made up of increases in the letters received and sent out. The cheques drawn on imprest account numbered 458, for £3,790, for wages of survey parties, &c., and 1,293 vouchers, representing £32,385, were passed through the books.

JOHN STRAUCHON,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

NELSON.

The following table shows in concise form the land transactions of the past year:—

System.	Transactions during the Year.			Area under Lease at 31st March, 1903.			Revenue received during the Year.				
	Number.	Area.			Number.	Area.					
		A.	R.	P.		A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
Cash	42	2,506	0	34	...	...	...	...	1,730	17	1
Deferred payment ... ..	...	...	...	...	255	26,370	1	16	1,861	0	4
Deferred payment made freehold	51	6,613	2	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Perpetual leases ... ..	...	...	...	...	24	4,958	2	27	86	8	7
Perpetual leases made freehold	3	1,310	0	0	...	...	...	...	395	14	0
Occupation with right of purchase	6	2,203	2	1	197	39,962	2	11	656	18	7
Lease in perpetuity	10	6,527	2	11	176	54,043	3	21	782	19	0
Mining districts land occupation	...	...	...	...	8	342	0	11	9	12	10
Small grazing-runs ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	1,088	0	0	7	0	0
Pastoral runs	4	3,100	0	0	77	317,060	0	0	640	13	6
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	52	4,748	0	8	285	28,586	1	3	670	12	11
Other sources ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	936	6	6
Totals	168	27,009	0	13	1,023	472,411	3	9	7,778	3	4
Endowments.											
Deferred payments ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	106	1	23	9	8	5
Village - homestead special settlement	...	...	...	...	20	100	3	7	17	5	3
Mining districts land occupation	6	51	2	36	58	1,171	2	14	65	11	0
Miscellaneous leases ... ..	...	...	...	...	210	5,457	1	19	2,214	13	9
Royalty on coal and timber ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,700	8	11
Totals	6	51	2	36	290	6,836	0	23	14,007	7	4
Grand totals	174	27,060	3	9	1,313	479,247	3	32	21,785	10	8