

The following summary shows the land transactions for the year ended 31st March, 1903 :—

SUMMARY OF LAND TRANSACTIONS, 1902-3.

Nature of Selections, &c.	Transactions during the Year.			Area held under Lease at 31st March, 1903.			Gross Revenue received during the Year.				
	Number.	Area.			Number.	Area.					
		A.	R.	P.		A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
Cash ... ..	22	310	0	12	...	...	...	...	635	2	1
Deferred payments ... ..	...	...	...	...	62	13,669	3	35	720	5	11
Deferred payments made freehold	9	1,542	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Perpetual leases ... ..	...	...	...	...	84	15,087	2	17	622	18	3
Perpetual leases made freehold	5	857	3	12	...	...	...	...	612	8	2
Occupation with right of purchase	28	6,516	0	10	239	50,378	1	22	1,112	10	9
Lease in perpetuity ... ..	13	2,085	3	22	234	69,279	0	30	1,830	0	5
Lease in perpetuity (exchanged from other tenures)	2	207	1	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Occupation leases (Mining Districts Land Occupation Act)	8	436	3	19	44	1,616	0	32	204	9	6
Village settlements—											
Deferred payments ... ..	...	...	...	...	10	205	2	13	72	14	11
Deferred payments made freehold	2	34	1	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Perpetual leases ... ..	...	...	...	...	101	1,394	2	36	209	10	10
Perpetual leases made freehold	3	43	3	12	...	...	...	...	105	17	6
Occupation with right of purchase	...	...	...	...	4	4	0	24	1	11	0
Lease in perpetuity ... ..	17	313	1	14	263	4,052	0	12	337	11	0
Village-homestead special settlement	...	...	...	...	53	568	1	24	166	7	4
Improved-farm settlement ...	4	172	0	25	44	5,307	0	35	261	16	1
Small grazing-runs ... ..	...	...	...	...	18	61,293	0	13	709	11	5
Pastoral runs ... ..	18	299,903	0	0	92	1,416,532	1	0	3,669	7	11
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	40	7,814	0	28	310	42,288	1	5	753	1	10
Timber-cutting ... ..	...	10,027,175 s. ft.	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,176	9	3
Other miscellaneous revenue ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	536	9	6
Total ordinary Crown lands	171	320,237	2	6	1,558	1,681,677	0	18	15,738	3	8
Land for settlements—											
Lease in perpetuity ... ..	11	2,547	1	8	84	22,593	2	9	2,648	3	7
Small grazing-run ... ..	1	1,150	0	0	1	1,150	0	0	38	10	0
Miscellaneous ... ..	5	1,688	2	33	9	3,076	0	39	414	15	1
Total land for settlements	17	5,386	0	1	94	26,819	3	8	3,101	8	8
Endowments ... ..	1	3,468	0	0	73	51,563	3	29	1,550	11	2
Grand totals ... ..	189	329,091	2	7	1,725	1,760,060	3	15	20,390	3	6

*Lands opened for Selection.*—The total area opened for sale or selection during the year was 135,901 acres, of which 117,328 was pastoral land, the balance consisting mainly of lands forfeited and surrendered, and of lands reduced in price and reoffered. No new blocks of land have been offered, the survey of the lands in the Longwood and Waiau districts not being completed.

*Lands remaining open for Selection.*—The total area of surveyed lands was 73,646 acres, comprising the following lands: Town and suburban, 866 acres 3 roods 25 perches; village-homestead settlements, 986 acres 1 rood 18 perches; rural, 62,171 acres and 26 perches; rural, lease in perpetuity only, 1,595 acres 3 roods 19 perches; land for settlements, lease in perpetuity, and small grazing-runs, 8,025 acres 2 roods 34 perches; unsurveyed pastoral runs, 1,153,871 acres: total, 1,227,517 acres and 2 perches.

*Lands proposed to be opened for Selection.*—During the current year I expect to open 9,500 acres in the Waiau and Longwood districts, survey of which is now nearly completed; and about 2,000 acres in the Alton and Lillburn Survey Districts. On Stewart Island, if the land be found suitable for settlement after careful examination, a block of a few thousand acres may be opened. The whole of the lands to be opened are bush lands.

*Reservations for Tourist or Scenic Purposes.*—In addition to the areas already proposed to be reserved for these purposes in Stewart Island, I contemplate submitting for approval the reservation of the whole of what I may term the Sounds district as a national park. It may appear a very