1904.

NEW ZEALAND.

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND SURVEY

(ANNUAL REPORT ON).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

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DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND SURVEY

(ANNUAL REPORT ON).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

The Secretary for Crown Lands and Surveyor-General to the Hon. the Minister of Lands.

Sir,— Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, 7th July, 1904.

I have the honour to submit herewith the annual report on the operations of the Department of Lands and Survey for the twelve months ended the 31st March, 1904.

I have, &c.,

J. W. A. Marchant,

Surveyor-General and Secretary for Crown Lands.

The Hon. T. Y. Duncan, Minister of Lands.

It will be convenient, for the purposes of comparison and arrangement, to adhere to the order of the last annual report. The first point calling for attention is,—

The Crown Lands opened for Selection.

In pursuance of the determination of the Government that the settlements throughout the colony should be extended until every acre suitable for grazing or agricultural purposes not otherwise required for reservation or utilisation should be brought into profitable occupation, the whole staff of the Lands and Survey Department continued to be concentrated upon explorations and surveys, with the object of completing the scheme of roads and subdivision of the various blocks of land according to their position, character, and suitability, with the result that very large additions were made to the areas, which have been mapped and properly defined. These steps were followed up by the publication of schedules of the areas and prices, illustrated by plans, and the whole placed before the public in order that those who so desired might lodge applications and secure holdings to which they could devote their energies and capital.

Attention has been drawn in previous annual reports to the fact that it is more difficult as the years go by to maintain a supply of Crown lands sufficiently good in quality, and also reasonably accessible, to meet the requirements of that large section of the people who are eager to undertake their reclamation and cultivation. When it is remembered that vast areas of the excellent lands with which New Zealand is endowed have passed from the Crown, it will be realised that the class of land which the Department now places upon the market is not, either by quality or position, attractive, or easy of development by those who take it up. The Chief Surveyors and their staffs did all that was possible under the circumstances to maintain the supply, and there are few parts of the colony where it is not possible to freely make selections from the available Crown lands. Many of the blocks of land which were hurriedly thrown open last year so as to meet the urgent demands of selectors have since been either completely or partly surveyed, thereby greatly facilitating and assisting settlers in making their choice.

Reference to the following table shows the areas and manner in which the Crown lands were opened for selection during the past year:—

TABLE A.—MANNER in which CROWN LANDS were OPENED for SALE or LEASE.

Ordinary Crown Lands.

District.	Optional System.	Cash by Auction.	Lease by Auction and Application.	Village Allotments.	Pastoral Runs.	Small Grazing-runs.	Lease in Perpetuity only.	Native Towns.	Totals.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Auckland—									
Offered for first time ..	94,088	112	..	..	531,566*	40,020	6,241	85	672,112
" previously ..	80,017	144	946	2,673	..	..	2,787	..	86,567
Hawke's Bay—									
Offered for first time ..	75,065	..	..	..	..	9,146	..	338	84,549
" previously ..	11,905	..	..	..	..	20,375	..	..	32,280
Taranaki—									
Offered for first time ..	32,081	24	77	..	..	..	59,342	..	91,524
" previously ..	20,565	..	53	..	..	..	1,403	..	22,021
Wellington—									
Offered for first time ..	29,608	690	81	94	100,301	1,780	..	..	132,554
" previously ..	47,904	7	28	130	..	..	380	95	48,544
Nelson—									
Offered for first time ..	12,235	164	13	..	..	..	21,245	..	33,657
" previously ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough—									
Offered for first time ..	361	..	..	..	..	16,020	2,564	..	18,945
" previously ..	..	..	775	..	..	..	..	..	775
Westland—									
Offered for first time ..	..	7	..	196	550,640	..	17,301	..	568,144
" previously ..	..	4	..	..	41,150	..	..	..	41,154
Canterbury—									
Offered for first time ..	..	..	40	10	..	..	..	..	50
" previously ..	8,275	29	1,053	..	190,623	..	..	..	199,980
Otago—									
Offered for first time ..	476	197	10,678	..	33,180	27,506	3,014	..	75,051
" previously ..	13,571	803	2	..	254,070	10,955	354	..	279,755
Southland—									
Offered for first time ..	..	..	868	..	14,500	..	8,626	..	23,994
" previously ..	51,802	132	3,165	293	93,788	3,143	6,837	..	159,160
Totals	477,953	2,313	17,779	3,396	1,809,818	128,945	130,094	518	2,570,816

First time	1,700,580 Acres.
Previously	870,236 "
Total	2,570,816 "

*Inclusive of 266,874 acres opened under Hauraki Pastoral Regulations.

Land for Settlements.

Land District.	Lease by Auction and Application.	Pastoral Runs.	Small Grazing-runs.	Lease in Perpetuity only.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Auckland—					
Offered for first time	..	..	..	12,336	12,336
" previously	..	..	..	18	18
Hawke's Bay—					
Offered for first time	..	..	8,034	35,615	43,649
" previously	..	..	..	1,101	1,101
Taranaki—					
Offered for first time	..	..	..	1,141	1,141
" previously	..	..	..	87	87
Wellington—					
Offered for first time	..	..	..	8,734	8,734
" previously	..	..	..	545	545
Marlborough—					
Offered for first time	..	..	..	246	246
" previously	..	..	..	170	170
Westland—					
Offered for first time	..	..	..	..	..
" previously	..	..	..	1,333	1,333
Canterbury—					
Offered for first time	..	..	28,310	42,385	70,695
" previously	..	..	..	549	549
Otago—					
Offered for first time	..	..	..	548	548
" previously	..	..	..	677	677
Southland—					
Offered for first time	..	..	..	..	..
" previously	..	..	..	1,502	1,502
Totals	..	..	36,344	106,987	143,331

First time	137,349 Acres.
Previously	5,982 "
Total	143,331 "

SUMMARY.

	Acres.
Ordinary Crown lands—	
First time	1,700,580
Previously	870,236
Land for settlements—	
First time	137,349
Previously	5,982
Grand total	2,714,147

The chief points disclosed are that the gross total of the Crown lands opened for lease and sale amounted to 2,570,816 acres, and if the estates acquired under the Land for Settlements Acts be added, the aggregate is 2,714,147 acres for the year. This, again, may be separated into 1,837,929 acres never previously offered and 876,218 acres reopened after reclassification and valuation.

Deducting 2,313 acres submitted on the cash tenure, and 1,809,818 acres as pastoral runs, and on the other hand including the Land for Settlements estates area of 143,331 acres, it will be seen that 902,016 acres were thrown open on settlement conditions or in small areas. This, however, included 294,868 acres reopened during the year.

No fewer than 477,953 acres were opened on the optional system, conferring the right of choice of three tenures—viz., cash, occupation with right of purchase, and lease in perpetuity, as provided in Part III. of "The Land Act, 1892." Only 3,396 acres were found suitable for holdings on village-settlement conditions.

The principles relating to small grazing-runs were applied to 128,945 acres. This is the system which provides for periodic revaluation of the land and improvements and adjustment of rents as between landlord and tenant. On this tenure an additional area of 36,444 acres were opened under the provisions of "The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900."

The area of Crown lands proper opened under section 121 of "The Land Act, 1892," on the lease-in-perpetuity tenure only, because the lands contain, or are believed to contain, minerals, metals, or valuable stone, amounted to 130,094 acres; whilst 106,987 acres were offered on the same tenure in compliance with the Land for Settlements Acts.

The districts and localities where the principal blocks were thrown open for selection are as follows:—

In the *Auckland Land District* 758,679 acres were opened, including 531,566 acres on the pastoral-license tenure, of which 266,874 acres were within the Hauraki Goldfields, the balance being situated in the Taupo, Rotorua, and Clifton Counties, which are not suitable for close settlement. Numerous blocks of land were opened on the "optional system," comprising nearly 90,000 acres of surveyed land in the Piako, Rotorua, and Ohinemuri Counties, and smaller areas throughout the whole district. The provisions of section 121 of "The Land Act, 1892," were applied to 9,000 acres in the Coromandel, Kawhia, and Tauranga Counties. An area of over 83,000 acres was opened on the "unsurveyed" system under Part III. of the Act, the localities being East Taupo, Hokianga, Opotiki, Tauranga, and Whakatane Counties. Small grazing-runs to the extent of 40,000 acres were offered for selection, comprising blocks in the East Taupo, Rotorua, and Whakatane Counties; in addition, 2,673 acres were opened on the village-homestead system in the Kinohaku Village Settlement, Kawhia County. Besides these areas, 12,336 acres of Land for Settlements estates were offered on the lease-in-perpetuity and small-grazing-run tenures, comprising the Bickerstaffe Settlement of 11,936 acres, near Maungaturoto, and the Waari Hamlet, of 400 acres, at Avondale, Auckland.

In *Hawke's Bay* the area thrown open for selection on settlement conditions amounted to 116,829 acres, including 84,549 acres which had not previously been advertised. Of this about 70,000 acres were offered for the first time under the optional system, situated principally in the Motu, Waitahaia, and Hangaroa Districts; 9,000 acres on the small-grazing-run tenure in the Tuahu District; besides small blocks in various parts of Hawke's Bay. In addition, there was an area of 32,000 acres opened under the optional and small-grazing-run systems distributed throughout the district, which had been reclassified and brought under the provisions of "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903." The Argyle and Wigan Estates, comprising 43,648 acres, were submitted to public competition under the lease-in-perpetuity and small-grazing-run tenures, as defined by the Land for Settlements Acts. The Department, acting for the Native owners, offered the Waipiro Native Township for lease under the provisions of "The Native Townships Act, 1895."

The *Taranaki Land District* produced the most attractive blocks of forest lands which were submitted for settlement; no less than 113,545 acres, the greater part of which were situated in the central and northern parts of the district, and also one large block inland from Patea

and Waverley. Included were 30,000 acres which had been offered in previous years; and 59,000 acres were offered subject to the conditions of the lease-in-perpetuity tenure, as the country was reported to be coal-bearing. The throwing-open of the Mokau-Ohura District was the chief event of the year. The area dealt with in this remote locality amounted to 74,000 acres, and, notwithstanding the drawbacks of bad roads, numerous selections were made, and it is anticipated that a large and prosperous community will be established thereon.

The Crown lands in the *Wellington Land District* which were prepared and advertised for application amounted to 181,000 acres, embracing 132,000 acres not previously available. Of the latter 31,500 acres were opened on settlement conditions and in small areas; but the quality of the lands and the localities where most of the land is situated—viz., northern Waimarino District and between the Wanganui and Waitotara Rivers—were not conducive to competition. Numerous sections, comprising a total of 48,000 acres, were classified under "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903," and reopened, principally under the optional system. The bulk of these lands was situated in the Kaitieke Block, Waimarino. Pastoral runs, comprising 100,000 acres, in the Murimotu District, were put up for competition. Under the provisions of "The Maori Lands Administration Act, 1900," there were 57,000 acres opened in the Ohotu District, between the Wanganui and Wangaehu Rivers, the lands having been partly surveyed and prepared for sale, which was conducted by the Aotea Maori Land Council. In addition to the foregoing lands, the Longbush and Tablelands Estates, in the Wairarapa District, containing nearly 7,000 acres, were successfully offered under the Land for Settlements Acts, together with the Normandale Settlement, near the Lower Hutt.

The total area submitted in the *Nelson Land District* summed to 33,000 acres, made up of 12,000 acres opened on the optional system, and 21,000 acres under the lease-in-perpetuity tenure only, so as to conserve the right of mining. The chief localities where the lands are situated comprise the Tadmor, Motupiko, Inangahua, Westport, Rintoul, Buller, and Kaiteriteri Districts.

In *Marlborough* 16,000 acres at Mount Patriarch were opened as a small grazing-run, and 3,700 acres near Blenheim and Kaikoura, principally on the lease-in-perpetuity tenure, together with 240 acres in the Rainford Settlement, near the latter place, under the Land for Settlements regulations.

The large aggregate of 610,000 acres were dealt with in the *Westland Land District*, though no less than 592,000 acres were offered under the pastoral-license tenure, comprising runs throughout the length and breadth of the district, especially in the vicinity of the goldfields, where the application of more permanent tenures would hamper the operations of the miner. The lease-in-perpetuity tenure was prescribed for 17,000 acres included in various blocks also scattered throughout Westland.

In *Canterbury*, once so famed for the extent and rich quality of Crown lands available for selection, only 50 acres could be found which had not previously been opened for application; 190,000 acres of pastoral areas were resubmitted; and an area of 8,000 acres on the plain near Oxford, released by the removal of the Midland Railway restrictions, was withdrawn from a run and opened on the optional system, inducing keen competition amongst local farmers.

In *Otago* also, where the immigrant and selector formerly had an extensive choice of lands, the year's supply which was gazetted for disposal included sections and blocks of land scattered throughout the district—a considerable portion being in Central Otago—which were made available by subdividing areas previously held under pastoral license (including Patearoa and parts of runs at Matakanui and St. Bathan's), together with areas of waste land, unoccupied township lands, &c. By these means 76,000 acres were offered, of which the principal tenures are as follows: Pastoral licenses comprised 33,000 acres; small grazing-runs amounted to 27,000 acres; the lease-in-perpetuity tenure 3,000 acres in the St. Bathan's and Tapanui Districts; and miscellaneous licenses 11,000 acres distributed in various localities. The area reopened after revisal and application of the Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act aggregated 280,000 acres, made up of blocks and sections distributed throughout Otago.

The supply of lands suitable for settlement falling within the limits of the *Southland Land District* are summarised as follows: 900 acres put up to lease by auction; 14,000 acres on pastoral license in Stewart Island; 8,600 acres on the lease-in-perpetuity tenure opened for the first time, of which 5,800 acres are on the east side of the Waiau River, the balance being north of Orepuki. About 161,000 acres were reopened in the following manner: On the optional system, under Part III. of "The Land Act, 1892," 52,000 acres, the greater portion being from twenty to fifty miles east of Invercargill, in four blocks; on the lease-in-perpetuity tenure only, 6,800 acres, mostly east of Invercargill; and under the pastoral-license tenure, 94,000 acres, in areas adjoining the railway-line between Kingston and Invercargill. In addition, there were small areas offered on the cash and village systems.

In last year's report attention was drawn to the fact that regulations had been issued, taking effect within the Hauraki Mining District, to allow miners and others to secure extended holdings, thereby enabling them to obtain sufficient returns from utilising the lands for farming and grazing, so as to counterbalance the falling-off in their incomes, which formerly depended upon mining and its associated employments. Similar regulations were issued in October and December of last year, and made applicable to the Marlborough and Westland goldfields, with results to be specified hereafter.

LANDS DISPOSED OF.

The year's transactions are summarised below:—

TABLE B.—NUMBER of NEW SELECTORS, and AREA taken up, from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904, and Total Amount of Revenue received during the Year.

Nature and Tenure of Lands selected.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Average Holding.	Cash received on Past and Current Transactions.
		A. R. P.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Town lands sold for cash	196	202 2 13	1 0 5·3	25,797 15 4
Suburban lands sold for cash	74	219 3 22	2 3 35·4	
Rural lands sold for cash	161	22,053 2 37	136 3 36·7	
Perpetual leases made freehold	..	..	..	17,129 8 1
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	..	..	..	14,567 7 8
Deferred-payment instalments	..	..	..	5,381 4 2
Perpetual leases	..	..	..	5,281 9 3
Occupation with right of purchase	402	146,952 3 37	365 2 8·7	37,135 8 0
Lease in perpetuity	489	102,370 3 27	209 1 15·5	35,296 5 11
Agricultural lease	2	13 1 0	6 2 20	88 9 1
Village settlement, cash	10	8 0 6	0 3 8·6	453 14 0
" deferred payment	..	..	..	135 0 5
" perpetual lease	..	..	..	375 5 11
" " made freehold	..	..	..	293 8 6
" occupation with right of purchase	1	0 1 0	0 1 0	11 11 2
" lease in perpetuity	21	513 2 5	24 1 32·6	607 17 7
Village-homestead special settlement	23	272 1 25	11 3 15	3,307 8 1
Special-settlement associations, deferred payment	..	..	..	161 4 5
" perpetual lease	..	..	..	116 4 7
" lease in perpetuity	4	729 0 0	182 1 0	6,008 10 2
Improved-farm special settlements (lease in perpetuity)	106	19,435 3 14	183 1 17·1	4,401 19 8
Occupation leases, Mining Districts Land Occupation Act	97	4,971 3 32	51 1 1·1	944 10 6
Small grazing-runs	39	105,049 3 22	2,693 2 13·8	27,336 18 6
Pastoral runs	129	956,581 1 32	7,415 1 17·6	70,388 2 3
Thermal springs, Rotorua	2	11 1 36	5 2 38	24 2 9
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	593	111,622 3 8	188 0 37·4	11,144 11 6
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	68,282 6 9
Cheviot Estate—				
Lease in perpetuity	..	..	..	6,205 3 1
Village-homestead special settlement	..	..	..	773 11 1
Grazing-farms	..	..	..	6,292 3 9
Pastoral runs	..	..	..	193 3 8
Miscellaneous leases	2	6 1 0	3 0 20	311 16 0
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	1 7 6
Land for Settlements Acts—				
Cash	4	4 1 32	1 0 18	83 13 3
Lease in perpetuity	406	92,144 1 35	226 3 33	128,116 9 3
" (village)	..	..	..	381 6 0
Special-settlement associations (lease in perpetuity)	..	..	..	163 11 8
Small grazing-runs	19	39,735 3 0	2,091 1 16·8	15,680 7 4
Pastoral runs	..	..	..	124 5 2
Miscellaneous leases	33	22,045 1 28	668 0 6·9	4,214 1 11
Totals	2,813	1,624,946 1 11	577 2 24·9	£497,211 3 11

The total transactions show an increase of 566 compared with those of the year 1902-3, the area an excess of 35,279 acres, and the gross receipts, £497,211, show an advance of £48,831. The average area of the selections is 577 acres, arrived at as in former years by dividing the total area by the number of selectors; but by omitting the cash, small grazing-runs, and pastoral-runs, the number of holdings is reduced to 2,181 and the aggregate area to 501,090 acres, which gives an average of about 229 acres per selection. An examination in more detail and comparison with the previous year's figures shows that the sales of land for cash realised £25,789, or just about double those of 1902-3. As might be expected, the purchase of perpetual-lease freeholds fell off more than one-third, whilst the receipts from the purchase similarly of areas held under the occupation-with-right-of-purchase licenses increased fivefold.

The shortage in the amounts collected as instalments and rentals respectively on the deferred-payment and perpetual-lease tenures follows as a matter of course upon the reduction of holdings. The occupation-with-right-of-purchase selections during the year, 402, is within one of the previous

year's; the gross area is 28,396 acres more; and the average of the holdings, 365 acres, exceeds that of the previous year by 71 acres, because the class of lands was not so good. The lease-in-perpetuity selections, 489, increased by 204, but the area is 5,694 acres less. The average holding, 209 acres, corresponds with the position and quality of the lands dealt with; the rentals collected on both the latter tenures show a corresponding increment, and are only exceeded by the receipts on pastoral licenses and miscellaneous leases. The failing supply of suitable Crown lands accounts for the falling-off in village-settlement selections from ninety-two to fifty-five lots, and in area from 2,120 acres to 794 acres. Only four lots were allotted on the special-settlement system, comprising less than one-seventh the area of the year 1902-3. On the other hand, the area allotted as improved farms was about five times greater; the occupation leases about double those of the year before. The disparity under the head of small grazing-runs is in favour of the year under review; the number of pastoral runs is the same; the combined receipts in 1903-4 on both tenures were less by £6,764; the miscellaneous leases and licenses and miscellaneous receipts generally are much the same for both years. Passing over numerous subordinate items, the Cheviot Estate returns show a satisfactory reduction in the capital cost, and the Land for Settlements receipts a considerable increase.

The land transactions for the financial period 1903-4 are represented in a concise form in Table C.

TABLE C.—COMPARISON of OPERATIONS during Year, under PRINCIPAL HEADINGS, with those for previous Year.

Tenure.	1902-1903.		1903-1904.	
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Number of Selectors.	Area.
		Acres.		Acres.
Cash sales*	393	17,203	445	22,489
Deferred payment		...	...	...
Perpetual lease	...	...	...	...
Occupation with right of purchase	403	118,557	403	146,953
Lease in perpetuity†	706	173,669	1,049	215,466
Pastoral and small grazing runs	174	1,164,705	187	1,101,367
Mining and occupation leases	55	2,469	99	4,985
Miscellaneous leases	516	113,064	630	133,686
New transactions	2,247	1,589,667	2,813	1,624,946
Forfeitures and surrenders	410	293,572	466	415,701
Net increase	1,837	1,296,095	2,347	1,209,245

* Inclusive of subdivisions of town and suburban lands.
† " subdivision of land for settlements.

The total number of selectors under the tenures as grouped is 2,813, an increase of 566 upon the previous year. The gross area disposed of, 1,624,946 acres, is 35,279 acres in excess of last year's total. There was an increase in the number and area of lands disposed of for cash; but the greater part of this area was taken up by those applicants for land under Part III. of "The Land Act, 1892," who prefer purchasing the freehold. Though the number of selectors under the occupation-with-right-of-purchase tenure is identical with that for the preceding year, there was a considerable increase in the area taken up under this tenure. The greatest increment is shown under the head of lease in perpetuity, there being an excess of 343 selectors and 41,797 acres, due, no doubt, to the fact that large areas of Crown lands were opened upon this tenure only and because all the leases of the same class under the Land for Settlements Acts are included. The pastoral and small-grazing-run tenures show an increase in number, but a reduction in the area disposed of. Not much importance can be attached to this, as pastoral runs comprise areas of land reclassified and reopened on the expiration of licenses.

The number and area of leases within mining districts are nearly double the previous year's figures. This is an indication that there is desire on the part of residents within goldfields to secure homesteads and areas of land for cultivation.

A considerable increase in miscellaneous leases is mainly due to the attention which the Department has given in recent years to the duty of leasing remnants of Crown lands and the numerous public reserves, so as to bring them into profitable use and save the Crown the expense of rabbiting and the destruction of noxious weeds.

The 2,813 selections are classified in Table No. 4 according to the area acquired; thus it will be seen that there were 432 selections or purchases under 1 acre each, and for the maximum area of 1,000 acres or over there were 166.

Deducting the cash sales, we obtain 2,368 lease selections, and though these include 630 miscellaneous leases, as well as pastoral runs relet, the whole represents a very substantial increase both in number and area.

Omitting the sales of town and suburban lands, pastoral and grazing leases, and miscellaneous leases, the average area selected is 225 acres, whilst the figures for the preceding two years were respectively 228 acres and 230 acres.

In regard to forfeitures and surrenders, which amount to 466, and include an area of 415,701 acres, it will be noticed that these figures exceed those of 1902-3 by fifty-six cases, and in area by 122,129 acres; yet the net result is to add no less than 2,347 transactions to the registers.

It is interesting to compare the volume of land business effected over a series of years. This is more readily shown in the following manner:—

TABLE D.—SUMMARY of LANDS SELECTED.

Year.	Number of Selectors or Purchasers.	Area taken up during Year.	Territorial Revenue.	Total Revenue collected.	Number of Leasehold Tenants on the Books.
		Acres.	£	£	
1891–92	2,519	1,453,082	320,483	324,470	12,735
1892–93	3,071	1,663,339	274,399	310,523	14,261
1893–94	2,876	1,393,918	282,067	347,343	15,081
1894–95	2,547	1,015,577	338,166	375,879	15,326
1895–96	2,865	2,662,344	291,673	345,331	15,683
1896–97	2,173	1,600,695	272,954	360,993	15,527
1897–98	2,058	2,451,062	263,296	359,086	16,365
1898–99	2,542	1,357,466	273,799	385,145	16,572
1899–1900	2,310	1,573,823	262,228	382,943	17,191
1900–1901	2,312	1,667,744	270,203	431,338	18,050
1901–1902	2,159	1,094,086	249,619	427,138	18,521
1902–1903	2,247	1,589,667	252,278	448,380	19,594
1903–1904	2,813	1,624,946	247,842	497,211	21,101

Notwithstanding the increasing shortage of land suitable for settlement, and the other difficulties to which attention has been drawn for several years past, it is submitted that the record of land operations for the year under review is satisfactory as regards the number of tenants, the area of lands taken up, and the amount of revenue collected. The total number of selectors upon the books of the Land Offices now number 21,101; they occupy an area of 16,885,868 acres under various tenures, and pay therefor an annual rent of £389,329. Of these tenures the only ones which may be considered permanent are all classes of lease in perpetuity, whether rural, village settlement, or improved farms, and the lease-in-perpetuity holdings and small grazing-farms of the Cheviot and Land for Settlements estates. In addition to these, occupation leases in mining districts, though not permanent, may be renewed for further terms, as may also the small grazing-runs of ordinary Crown lands.

The total revenue for the year, £497,211, shows an increase of £48,831 over that collected in 1902-3, whilst a comparison of the amounts for the past thirteen years discloses that there has been a fluctuating, though marked, decrease in the territorial revenue, due chiefly to less sales of land for cash and acquirements of freeholds under the perpetual-lease and deferred-payment tenures, and an equally gradual increase of amounts received under special Acts such as the Land for Settlements and Cheviot Estate Disposition. The increased number of tenants every year adds to the rentals payable, and in this manner counterbalances the falling-off of receipts derived from the former large sales of freeholds.

The following table has been compiled to show the selections during the past twelve years under Part III. of "The Land Act, 1892" (the optional system):—

TABLE E.—LANDS SELECTED ON "OPTIONAL" SYSTEM, showing Preference of Tenure.

Year.	Occupation with Right of Purchase.		Lease in Perpetuity.		Cash.	
	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.
		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.
1892–93	161	54,271	126	55,320	325	35,785
1893–94	461	108,133	447	151,324	249	33,200
1894–95	398	75,477	336	87,374	174	33,323
1895–96	431	84,967	415	89,144	169	26,030
1896–97	277	59,647	278	62,229	90	9,835
1897–98	380	81,414	299	76,953	65	6,680
1898–99	458	109,949	362	99,262	114	17,824
1899–1900	395	117,771	348	111,108	95	16,510
1900–1901	673	262,729	295	97,138	127	37,862
1901–1902	447	128,893	241	65,468	237	26,739
1902–1903	403	118,557	285	108,065	79	15,348
1903–1904	402	146,953	97	30,710	113	20,087
Totals	4,886	1,348,761	3,529	1,034,095	1,837	279,223

More markedly than in any previous year the fact is brought out that the selections under the occupation-with-right-of-purchase tenure far outweigh those under the lease-in-perpetuity or cash tenures. The proportions for each tenure are respectively about 66 per cent., 16 per cent., and 18 per cent.

Cash (Table 5).

The alienation of Crown lands by absolute sale comprised 431 lots, of 22,476 acres, which realised £25,798, and included 270 town and suburban allotments (aggregating 422 acres put up to public competition by auction), and 161 rural sections, containing 22,054 acres (the latter comprising small lots sold without competition to adjacent owners under sections 114 and 117 of "The Land Act, 1892"), and 113 selections under the optional system of the Act, amounting to 20,087 acres. Only 2,313 acres of all classes were offered for sale by auction for cash, the policy of the Land Boards being, as previously, to offer Crown lands for selection on terms involving as little demand as possible upon the capital of the applicants, and to insure the occupation thereof on improvement and residential conditions, so as to secure *bonâ fide* successful and productive settlement. The total area made freehold since the foundation of the colony is 14,816,478 acres, comprising cash sales, 12,798,711 acres; purchases of deferred-payment lands, 923,435 acres; perpetual-lease holdings, 732,170 acres; agricultural leases, 140,896 acres; village-settlement lands, 21,248 acres; special-settlement sections, 91,347 acres; homestead areas granted without payment, 80,275 acres; occupation-with-right-of-purchase holdings, 21,693 acres; part of Cheviot Estate, 6,691 acres; and Land for Settlements areas, 12 acres.

Deferred Payment (Table 6).

This one of the popular systems of previous Land Acts calls for little remark. The record of transactions comprises 18 additional capitalisations of payments to reduce holders' immediate payments; 84 licensees made the final payments, and acquired the freehold of 8,957 acres; the number who have acted similarly since the initiation of the system is 7,044, and the area 923,435 acres; the total amount paid thereon is £1,112,193; those remaining upon the registers are 402 holdings, aggregating 70,774 acres, on which £3,350 yearly instalments are payable. This tenure will ere long cease to appear in the returns.

Perpetual Lease (Table 7).

In common with the preceding system, no selections were made during the year, the business recorded, including 17 exchanges of tenure to the lease-in-perpetuity system, covering an area of 3,344 acres. There were 5 forfeitures of leases, 2 surrenders. The chief operation was the purchase by 103 tenants of the freehold of 26,547 acres, which added £16,968 to the revenue, bringing the number of holdings so purchased since the introduction of the tenure to 2,200, embracing 732,170 acres, of a capital value of £580,178. There are still 704 lessees on the books, occupying 130,128 acres, on which annual rentals to the amount of £5,121 are payable.

Occupation with Right of Purchase (Table 8).

Selections on this tenure, as is well known, occur principally when Crown lands are opened under the provisions of Part III. of "The Land Act, 1892," which allows each applicant to decide whether he prefers the cash, lease-in-perpetuity, or the tenure under discussion. The result for the period 1903-4 gives 402 holdings taken up, and a gross area of 146,953 acres. The Department now deals with 3,989 occupiers under the system, who hold 1,107,128 acres under conditions as to payment of rental, improvements, and residence, their annual rentals amounting to £39,510.

This tenure is evidently much favoured in the Auckland District, where no less than 275 selections were made during the year, covering 94,250 acres. A preference was also manifested in the Hawke's Bay, Wellington, and Nelson Districts for the tenure, which confers the right after the lapse of ten years to purchase the fee-simple of the land.

One selector exercised the right of changing his license to a lease in perpetuity, in terms of section 152, subsection (3), of "The Land Act, 1892." This is noted as the first instance of such an exchange occurring under the Act. The effect is to reduce the rental payable upon such holdings by one-fifth.

As might be expected of a tenure largely availed of and comprising so many recent selections, the number of forfeitures (94) and surrenders (17), together with selectors in arrears with rent (166), are proportionately larger than those tenures longer in force.

Seventy-five holders took advantage of the power to purchase the freehold of 18,223 acres, and it may be anticipated that as the right extends by lapse of the ten-years bar, under the provisions of section 156 of "The Land Act, 1892," the number of such purchases will increase yearly.

As holdings under this tenure are interspersed throughout the colony with holdings on the older tenures, it will be more convenient to refer to the improvements effected and the progress and the position of the selectors in another part of this report.

Lease in Perpetuity (Table 9).

This tenure, as stated previously, is one which may be indicated by an applicant for land under the optional system. It has already been mentioned that considerable areas of Crown lands are opened for selection wholly on the lease-in-perpetuity tenure under section 121 of "The Land Act, 1892," where the presence of minerals or valuable stone is known or even believed to exist. The principal blocks of land which were opened solely in the latter manner during the year are situated, as previously mentioned, in the Coromandel, Kawhia, Taranaki, Nelson, Westland, and Southland Districts, the reason being that the Crown's interests might be secured, and also to maintain all requisite powers and privileges to the miner for the prosecution of his operations.

The selections during the year amounted to 489, covering 102,371 acres, the annual rental payable thereon being £3,460. In addition to these there were 31 exchanges from other tenures, which were more than counterbalanced by 64 forfeitures and 21 surrenders. The net area held on the 31st March last by 4,004 selectors was 1,138,868 acres, with an annual rental of £36,972. The foregoing figures do not refer to the Land for Settlements holdings, which are treated of elsewhere.

Agricultural Lease (Table 10).

This once important system is fast disappearing, owing to the acquisition of the freehold by the licensees. The transactions for the year comprise two small selections. There only remain on the registers 18 holdings, containing 563 acres, almost the whole area being in Otago. On these selections £31 is payable by way of annual rental.

"The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894" (Table 11).

The provisions of this Act were utilised to meet the requirements of land-selectors within the goldfields. Ninety-seven selections were approved, including a gross area of 4,972 acres. The Department has to deal with 471 licensees, who occupy 20,313 acres, paying therefor £1,181 as annual rentals, the bulk of the holdings being in the Auckland and Otago Districts.

Village Settlements (Table 12).

These fall under various tenures. The transactions under the cash system covered only 8 acres; those on the deferred-payment, perpetual-lease, and occupation-with-right-of-purchase tenures were practically nil; but the principle was applied under the lease-in-perpetuity system in the Hawke's Bay, Westland, Otago, and Southland Districts to an aggregate area of 513 acres.

The total selections for the year on all tenures comprise 55 holdings, 794 acres, with an annual rental of £98. The total number of selectors on the registers of the Land Office is 1,801, who occupy 35,233 acres, and pay the State an annual rental of £5,497.

I have had occasion to draw attention in previous reports to the fact that it is almost impossible to provide Crown lands of sufficiently good quality for the establishment of village settlements. The conditions which I consider necessary for this class of settlement are land of good quality, allotted in suitable areas, in localities where the villagers could find a ready market for their labour and produce. Where these conditions have not prevailed it will be observed that the reports of the Commissioners and Rangers show that the villagers have had to go away from their homes seeking employment, and that they are unable to work their holdings to the best advantage; but, on the other hand, settlements in the Wellington and Canterbury Land Districts, which fortunately comprise the bulk of the sections held under this system, have made excellent progress, and the settlements have served admirably the purpose for which they were established, and those persons who were able to take advantage of the system have been greatly benefited, inasmuch as they and their families have comfortable homes, they obtain profitable employment upon their holdings, and derive great assistance and gain from the returns therefrom. A report by the Superintendent of Village Settlements will be found in the appendices, accompanied by tables and comparisons of a most interesting nature. Full particulars will be found therein as to the villages, population, and the improvements, &c., all of which will be found to prove that on the whole great success has attended this system.

Special-settlement Associations (Table 14).

This one-time favourite system is not much in vogue because of the lack of suitable lands. The desire is occasionally manifested by persons with community of interests to obtain blocks of land upon which to establish themselves; but the scarcity of Crown lands compels the Government to refuse to sanction preference where so many are in need of holdings. The exception is represented by 4 selections of 729 acres during the year, 3 of these being in the Auckland and 1 in the Wellington District. The number of freeholds acquired for the period is 7, and since the introduction of the system 921 holdings, embracing a gross area of 91,347 acres. There remain 646 tenants on this system, and the total area of their holdings is about 118,000 acres, the annual rental thereon being £6,067.

Settlements under this heading are now, generally speaking, surrounded by holdings on other tenures, and their identity is more or less merged in the latter, consequently questions relating to improvements, progress, and prospects of the settlements will be dealt with in the paragraph relating to this phase of settlement.

Homestead System (Table 15).

Prior to the passing of "The Land Act, 1892," the Land Boards were empowered to approve of individual applications for Crown lands to the extent of 50 acres of first-class or 75 acres of second-class land, whilst smaller areas were allotted to children. Families could thus secure a maximum of 200 acres of first- or 300 acres of second-class land. The selections were subject to conditions as to improvements and residence, which, if complied with, entitled the selectors to free grants of the lands comprised in their holdings.

One selector acquired the freehold of 30 acres during the year. The registers show that there only remain two selectors (in the Otago District), holding 158 acres in all. Those who acquired the fee-simple since the commencement of the system number 522, aggregating 80,274 acres.

It has been suggested that the system might be revived and applied to the Auckland District, so as to encourage gum-diggers and others to establish more permanent homes and give their attention to farming and grazing.

Improved-farm Settlements (Table 32).

There was greatly increased activity in settlement under this heading, in consequence of the decision of the Government that special consideration should be given to the claims of the co-operative workers engaged upon the North Island Main Trunk Railway Line and the contiguous roadworks.

The steps taken to give effect to the Government's decision will be found outlined in last year's report. An examination was made of all Crown lands in the colony, when it was ascertained that none were to be found in the South Island suitable for subdivision into holdings of 200 acres, and the reports received from the several Commissioners of Crown Lands in the North Island demonstrated that no settlement of this class could be established upon Crown lands in Hawke's Bay.

The only lands suitable in the Auckland District comprised several small blocks, which were subdivided into 27 holdings, with an area of 4,667 acres. Taranaki provided the largest area of land for the purposes—viz., 19,014 acres, divided into 102 allotments—whilst Wellington could only supply 19 selections, containing 3,378 acres.

No less than 588 co-operative workmen applied for land under this system, and it would have taken 111,660 acres to satisfy their requirements. It being found impossible to do this, preference was given in most cases to married men. A selection was made of 418 applicants, the number being still further reduced in consequence of several leaving the works or obtaining land otherwise. The available sections were put up to ballot, when 123 married men and 20 single men, or 148 in all, secured holdings containing 27,059 acres.

It is unfortunate that at least 200 of the applicants were unprovided-for; but it was thought inadvisable to offer them land unless its quality was sufficiently good and the conditions necessary to successful settlement were obtainable. Arrangements have since been completed to enable the fortunate applicants to take possession of their holdings, and they will have the advantage of the most favourable conditions applicable to the lands of the colony, inasmuch as they will receive advances of money direct from the Crown to assist them to erect houses and fence off their gardens, besides receiving payment for the felling of bush and scrub; and they will also be provided with grass-seed to sow on the burnt areas. By this means it is hoped that a large number of the co-operative labourers will be removed from the labour-market and afforded an opportunity of establishing themselves and families in comparative comfort and independence.

A comprehensive and interesting report by Mr. J. E. March, Superintendent of Village Settlements, will be found in Appendix V. This officer was deputed by the Government to make the necessary inquiries to ascertain which of the co-operative labourers were desirous of taking advantage of the liberal terms offered by the Crown. Mr. March carried out his duties with zeal and discretion, and with the most satisfactory results.

The total number of selections made during the year 1903-4 was 106, covering an area of 19,436 acres. There are 43 distinct settlements, containing 510 holdings, of a total area of 61,664 acres. There are, in addition, 48 sections which have been allotted but not yet registered, of an aggregate area of 7,664 acres. The number of souls upon the settlements is 1,722. The lessees have felled 28,958 acres, of which they have laid down in pasture 28,598 acres, and there are 19,885 cattle and other stock grazing on the allotments. The value of the improvements amounts in all to £106,416, including Government advances of £54,127.

Some particulars were furnished in last year's report as to the localities and extent of the then-existing settlements of this class throughout the colony.

Small Grazing-runs (Table 16).

As will be seen by the table, this tenure was more in vogue in some districts than in others. Of the 39 runs taken up in 1903-4, comprising 105,050 acres of ordinary Crown lands, for which an annual rental of £1,599 is paid, 11 are in Hawke's Bay, 4 in Wellington, 5 in Nelson, and 15 in Otago. In addition, there were 19 selections under the Land for Settlements Acts, aggregating 39,736 acres, including 5 in Hawke's Bay and 12 in Canterbury. This tenure is well adapted to pastoral country of a superior class, such as is to be found in the South Island, and also to areas in the North Island which are not suitable for occupation in holdings under 2,000 acres. It is not clear why the tenure has not been more extensively availed of in the Auckland Land District.

The lessees on this tenure in the colony number 642, who occupy 1,338,490 acres of Crown lands, paying £26,921 yearly. Though there are only 72 tenants of small grazing-runs under the Land for Settlements Acts, holding 128,648 acres, they pay £17,398 annually, plainly indicating the superiority of the lands in the acquired estates under the latter Acts.

Grouping Crown lands, Land for Settlements, and the Cheviot Estate holdings of this class, we obtain a grand total of 762 tenants, occupying an area of 1,513,116 acres, the annual rental thereof being £50,944.

When the small-grazing-run tenure was first devised under "The Land Act, 1885," it was evidently intended that the right of renewal was to be dependent upon the conditions prevailing at the end of the first term of twenty-one years, and it was provided that should the land in the run be required for close settlement the lessee was to be compensated for his improvements, and the land subdivided and opened for selection in smaller areas. These conditions were modified by "The Land Act, 1892," inasmuch as a lessee thereunder has a right to renewal of his lease at

a valuation, and, further, under "The Land Act Amendment Act, 1895," the exchange of a small-grazing-run lease to a lease in perpetuity is provided for under certain conditions. Numerous applications of the latter class have been received by Land Boards, and their consideration leads to the conclusion that the relative position of the Crown and the tenants requires clearer definition.

Pastoral Licenses (Table 17).

This tenure is specially applicable to the vast areas of pasture lands for which Canterbury, Otago, and Southland Land Districts are noted. During the past financial period the system was extended to 531,566 acres in the Auckland District; to 100,301 acres in the Wellington District; to 550,640 acres in the Westland District; and to 33,180 acres and 14,500 acres in the Otago and Southland Districts respectively. In addition, considerable areas of runs were reopened for competition, with the result that 129 runs were disposed of, containing a total of 956,581 acres, with an annual rent of £7,414. Auckland heads the list with 46 sales, Westland claims 43, Otago 20, and Canterbury 10; but the largest addition to the revenue resulted from the disposal of the runs in the Otago, Canterbury, and Wellington Districts.

The pastoral-license tenure, of course, exceeds all others in the magnitude of the area and annual rentals. The figures for the 31st March last stand at 872 licenses, covering 11,583,324 acres of ordinary Crown lands, on which the State receives £73,626 annually. Roughly speaking, Canterbury and Otago combined are credited with a little less than seven-tenths of the gross area, and with more than eight-tenths of the total revenue.

Under the Hauraki Pastoral Regulations 36 selectors took up 8,701 acres during the year, for which £165 is payable as annual rental. These figures are included in those for the Auckland Land District. There were no selections under similar regulations in the Marlborough, Nelson, and Westland Districts.

Miscellaneous Leases and Licenses (Table 18).

Special attention was given to the remaining Crown lands, and also to public reserves, with a view to leasing them. This is usually effected by putting the lands up to public auction or tender, for terms ranging from one year to fourteen years, at upset rentals; another method is to allow contiguous landowners to obtain leases on fair terms. The result for the year shows 593 leases, embracing 111,623 acres, and yielding an annual rental of £1,977. The lands held in this manner, as recorded in the Land Office books, comprise 2,765 lots, of a total area of 552,026 acres, which return £11,354 per annum to the Crown.

In addition to the foregoing, there were 33 selections of miscellaneous leases within Land for Settlements estates, aggregating 22,045 acres, for which an annual rental of £3,066 is payable; together with 2 holdings in the Cheviot Estate, comprising 6 acres, and yielding a yearly rental of £1.

The gross figures for the year under all conditions, therefore, total 628 selections, with an area of 133,674 acres, and a rental of £5,045 per annum.

The conditions usually prescribed for the leases, in addition to payment of rentals, provide that the lands are only to be used for depasturing purposes, rabbits have to be destroyed, and noxious weeds eradicated. There are no limitations or disabilities in regard to applicants, no conditions as to residence, and rarely as to improvements to be complied with.

The occupation of such lands by responsible persons is a convenience to the adjacent owners with respect to fencing, &c. As the position and interests of tenants under these licenses have not always been satisfactorily provided for the question is under consideration.

Native Townships (Table 23).

The following townships were opened under the provisions of "The Native Townships Act, 1895," during the year under review: Parawai, Te Puru, Karewa, all near Kawhia, on the west coast of the Auckland District; and Waipiro, in the Poverty Bay portion of the Hawke's Bay Land District.

There was a good demand for sections in the three latter townships, and the results of the sales were satisfactory. There was a total number of 101 sections, comprising 426 acres, leased for an annual rental of £440, whilst the gross number of leases under the Act from the commencement of the system is 281, totalling 988 acres, for which the lessees pay £1,199 per annum.

The Lands and Survey Department acts as agent for the Native owners of the lands comprised within the 14 townships which have been established, and has carried out the surveys, prepared and published the sale plans, and conducted all the business connected with the sales and subsequent collection of the rentals. The expenses are recouped the Department by instalments extending over a series of years.

Endowments (Tables 27 and 28).

There is nothing calling for special remark under this head. Table 27 shows the sales and leases which the Department effected on behalf of the various bodies in whom the endowments are vested. There were six lots sold on behalf of the Auckland Museum trustees, and 102 sections, containing a total of 2,696 acres, were let for £390 a year under the principal tenures of the Land Act in the interests of educational and other boards. No less than 91 leases of endowments were issued in the Nelson Land District, all comprising lands vested in the Westport Harbour Board, only seventeen other leases being issued in the remaining districts of the colony.

INSPECTIONS AND RANGERS' REPORTS.

The duties under this head are summarised as under:—

TABLE F.—RETURN of NUMBER of INSPECTIONS made by the Rangers for Five Years from the 1st April, 1899.

Year.	Number of Properties visited.	Area.	Value of Improvements.		Number of Defaulters.			
			Required.	Actually made.	For Improvements.	For Non-residence.	For other Reasons.	Total.
		Acres.	£	£				
1899–1900 ...	5,926	1,159,202	369,627	887,998	447	695	54	1,196
1900–1901 ...	6,028	1,173,093	368,474	876,363	363	449	64	876
1901–1902 ...	7,464	1,980,586	623,498	1,147,495	826	910	146	1,882
1902–1903 ...	8,551	2,110,542	742,307	1,654,845	653	629	97	1,379
1903–1904 ...	8,886	1,928,804	745,671	1,683,674	609	631	59	1,299

The number of inspections, 8,886, is a record, and exceeds those of the previous year by 335. The area of the holdings inspected is less; this is no doubt accounted for by fewer pastoral runs having been included. The value of the improvements effected on the holdings is one and a third millions sterling, being rather more than two and a quarter times the requirements under the leases. Notwithstanding the increased number of the holdings inspected, it is satisfactory to observe that the tenants who failed to comply with the improvement, residential, and other conditions are less in number. This state of affairs may be anticipated to become more satisfactory, as the holdings are certain to grow more valuable and reproductive in common with the surrounding lands and settlements.

POSITION AND PROGRESS OF SETTLEMENT.

It is not necessary on this occasion to enter into so much detail as in the previous report, as the Commissioners of Crown Lands and Rangers have furnished in most instances complete and interesting reports upon the settlements throughout the colony.

It will be observed that, for the first time, the order and arrangement of these reports for the ten land districts are more uniform and systematic, and therefore convenient for reference and comparison.

Auckland.

From a perusal of the Commissioner's report, it is reasonable to claim that as regards progress, present position, and prospects the Auckland reports are in these respects very satisfactory. The exceptions are given by the Rangers, and are accounted for by the bad state of the roads and other difficulties with which the settlers in certain localities are confronted. The position and future of Crown tenants in the northern land district are better than at any previous time; the only drawback was the fact that the east coast portion of the district was unfortunately subjected to heavy rains and floods last March.

Taking into consideration that the Auckland Land District is favoured with a diversity of climate, a variety of soils, which are capable of producing all kinds of fruit, grain, and root crops, and that it is endowed with vast areas of forests and kauri-gum fields, together with tracts where gold, coal, and other minerals are obtainable, an extensive seaboard and inland waterways, and improved road and railway communication, it is not surprising that its people are now reaping their harvest, and that their material prosperity and future prospects are so thoroughly sound and satisfactory.

Hawke's Bay.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands for Hawke's Bay and Poverty Bay states that settlement advanced rapidly, and that the progress is evidenced by increased revenue, reduction of arrears, the great value of improvements, and the large quantity of stock carried. The seasons have been good; there were good yields of cereal and root crops, and grass was plentiful. Dairying has extended, and after one of the most prosperous years the settlers generally are in a very good position.

Taranaki.

The year as a whole was favourable in this district, but floods caused some damage and loss to farmers and local bodies. The felled bush was burnt satisfactorily; pasture was plentiful; good headway was made with improvements. This being the most important seat of the dairying industry, it is almost needless to say that wherever this pursuit is followed the settlers are prosperous and contented. There has been a great increase and expansion in settlement; indeed, in no part of the colony has progress been greater, and it is anticipated that the future will see these good results much exceeded, and that the district will advance until the whole area, including the wild bush lands of the mid-district, are all brought under cultivation, and the back country is covered with homesteads.

Wellington.

The position of settlement in the Wellington District is very fully discussed by the Commissioner and Rangers. They show that the progress, position, and prospects of any settlement are mainly dependent upon the class of roads which give access thereto and intersect it. Districts which a few years ago were inaccessible and undeveloped are now well provided with good roads, at least in the summer. In several localities the settlers and local authorites have raised and are raising loans for road-construction, the "thirds" and "fourths" being applied to meet the charges thereof. The roads being completed, the settlers take to dairying with the best of financial results to themselves and families. The report shows that the ordinary settlements, including the special settlements and improved farm and village settlements, are on the whole in a satisfactory position; some are exceptionally progressive and prosperous. There are, of course, cases where these conditions do not prevail, but, taken as a whole, there is every reason to anticipate even a more successful and prosperous future for the Wellington settlers than they have experienced in the past.

Nelson.

The Commissioner reports that the Crown tenants' holdings comprise hilly country, best adapted for grazing sheep and cattle; the settlers' general condition and the progress made are satisfactory, and this is confirmed by the prompt payment of rents, the small amount of arrears, and the reduced number of forfeitures and surrenders. An evident impetus has been given to settlement throughout this land district. The large areas of Crown land which have been submitted for selection have afforded an opportunity for the expansion of settlement in several localities, and the inauguration of the same in other parts where hitherto opportunities have not been so plentiful. Scattered throughout the district are vast areas of forest, large tracts are mineral-bearing, the climate is favourable for the production of fruit, hops, &c., and there is every reason to believe that the future of the settlers is of a most satisfactory character.

Marlborough.

The settlements in Marlborough are shown to be in a healthy state. The improvement conditions have been amply complied with. Some of the settlements are reported as well established; their present position and prospects are good, except in a few instances where the quality of the soil is not of the best. The subdivision of estates acquired under the Land for Settlements Act in the middle portion of the district, supplemented by the encouragement of settlement wherever possible upon Crown Lands, tends to the establishment of permanent and prosperous centres of industry and cultivation, and an increase in the returns of stock and produce. The proposed extension of the railway will add largely to the rural population, and thereby greatly enhance the wealth and importance of the whole community.

Westland.

The Westland Crown tenants have complied fairly with conditions. The amount of rent in arrears is very small. The improvements effected on the holdings are considerably in excess of those prescribed, and, generally speaking, the position of the tenants is very satisfactory. The Commissioner enlarges upon the fact that the seasons have been exceptionally favourable, grass and hay abundant, cereal and root crops good. Cattle, sheep, and horses realised good prices; attention

is given to better breeds of stock; large areas of bush have been felled; there is more cultivation; the homesteads have been improved; population has increased; dairying is extending; there is plenty of employment in connection with sawmills and flax-mills, all of which has conduced to substantial progress and improved conditions, and has created confidence in the future.

Canterbury.

The Canterbury reports and statistics will be found to afford conclusive evidence of the satisfactory progress settlement has made in that district. The conditions and requirements of the leases have been well attended to by the tenants; the improvements in buildings and more comfortable homesteads testify to the better position of the owners. A severe winter and exceptionally heavy snowfalls in the inland districts of south and mid Canterbury, which caused much suffering and loss of sheep, was compensated for somewhat by a favourable spring and summer, which produced plentiful pastures and good yields of grain and root crops. With the exception noted, pastoralists and agriculturalists had a profitable year. There can be no question as to the solid progress made in settlement, the assured position of the farmers and graziers, and the future prospects of the settlers.

Otago.

In Otago also the tenants' improvements greatly exceed those prescribed in their leases. Settlers as a whole had a successful and satisfactory year's work; but the inland country was visited by an exceptionally heavy fall of snow last July, followed by intense cold for a prolonged period, which caused heavy losses in sheep to large property-owners, runholders, and small farmers. These disastrous conditions were followed by a dry spring, a spell of cold weather in November, subsequently by heavy rainfall, which destroyed many lambs and delayed and damaged the harvest in some localities. Taking Otago as a whole, grass was abundant, crops generally were plentiful and excellent in quality, and the settlers benefited by the good prices for the stock and wool. Dairying operations were also successful, and their wider extension should insure improved conditions and the comfort of the settlers. The Crown tenants throughout the Otago Land District have the benefit of being associated with a numerous and wealthy community of farmers and pastoralists, and are thus provided with convenient and profitable markets for labour and produce. It is almost needless to say that in this extensive and important district of the colony, well served by railways and roads, and possessing great natural advantages, the progress of settlement has been satisfactory, and that the future outlook is most cheering.

Southland.

The Southland settlements are reported to be prosperous; they made good progress last year, and their prospects are very good. A favourable season, plenty of employment for the settlers on small holdings, and the excellent prices for products conduced to these ends. As the holdings in the district are improved year by year by more effective draining, liming, and working, it is safe to predict that few parts of the colony will carry more population proportionate to area; and when the settlers have brought their holdings into a perfect state of cultivation and increased the output of their lands, we may reasonably anticipate that they will find themselves in an established and prosperous condition. The report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, in common with several of the others, is replete with information and statistics of a most interesting and gratifying character.

General.

The general tenor of the foregoing reports demonstrates that the requirements as to improvements have in the main been amply complied with; indeed, a large excess in value is the general characteristic. The failures in this respect, and also as to residence, are usually accounted for by difficulty of access, want of roads, and the necessity the settlers are under in many instances to leave their holdings in search of employment. The tenants have, with some specified exceptions, added largely to their improvements, especially as regards buildings, the reclamation of forest and swamp lands, and the cultivation of their holdings. In some districts they joined with the Government in completing or improving the road access. Remarkable advancement in this respect is to be found, especially in the Wellington Land District, where the "thirds" and "fourths" have been applied to provide interest and sinking funds on the capital cost of converting bridle-tracks into dray-roads, and metalling the same. All suitable country, particularly in the North Island, opened up in this manner has become the scene of dairying operations. This has resulted in greatly enhanced land-values, and has placed the settlers in a position of comfort and independence. Facility of communication has led to the erection of stores, schools, churches, and other meeting-places, and also to the opening of post and telegraph offices. These essentials, combined with the

numerous advantages due to the improved conditions, have materially accelerated the progress of the settlements, insured their position, and made the outlook hopeful and promising. The tendency has been to cultivate poor lands, even if it be only to grow inferior grasses, to increase the pasture upon the better class of soils, and to develop to the utmost the productiveness of rich agricultural lands, so as to take full advantage of the payable and, in some cases, the high prices which are obtainable for the stock and crops produced by the industry of the agriculturalist and grazier. All this has led to more demand for land and the desire to reclaim unproductive and waste areas. There is no lack of employment, as the rural population have, in addition to the ordinary work found upon the lands in building, fencing, bushfelling, and cultivation, an opportunity, according to the locality, of taking part in mining, gum-digging, sawmill and flax-mill operations, &c., and also of obtaining employment upon the various public works carried out by the Government and local bodies.

The foregoing very imperfect summary of the position of the Crown lands settlements and their occupants shows conclusively upon what a secure foundation the long-continued prosperity of this colony has been built. It must be remembered that the older and well-established settlements are intermixed with the new ones, from the North Cape to the Bluff, extending over a range of latitude between 34 degrees and 47 degrees, and have the advantages of diversity of climate, physical characteristics, geological formation, soils, vegetation, minerals, and other essentials necessary to the maintenance of a race commensurate to the task of developing and utilising to the utmost Nature's resources and gifts. Hence New Zealand, with its tracts of rich agricultural and pastoral lands, its wealth in coal and other minerals, and its great advantages and facilities in water and land carriage, backed by the skill and industry of its people, as concentrated on agriculture, pastoral pursuits, and manufactures, stands secure in the abundance and variety of its industries and products, confident that a falling-off in the demands for or value of any one of these could rarely seriously impede the general progress and advancement of the colony.

"The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903."

This Act, passed last session, came into operation at the end of 1903 and provided more liberal conditions for the selection and settlement of bush and swamp lands. The principal provisions are as follows: Land opened under the Act is divided into three classes—(*a*) heavy-bush lands, (*b*) light-bush or swamp lands, and (*c*) scrub land, according to the nature of the vegetation existing on the lands opened for sale or lease. On heavy-bush lands the selector, after payment of his first half-year's rent, is exempt for further rent for a period of four years, whilst no rate can be levied or collected by any local authority on the land for the same period; on light-bush lands or swamp lands three years' exemption from rent and rates is allowed, whilst residence for the first five years may be dispensed with on swamp lands; on scrub lands two years' exemption from rent and rates is given.

In accordance with the above conditions, large areas of Crown lands in the ten land districts were reclassified and reopened for selection, together with several blocks of land opened for the first time. The Commissioners of Crown Lands for the districts have reported as to the manner in which the liberal provisions were availed of, and that in many instances areas of land were taken up that probably would not otherwise have been selected. In the Wellington District alone 14,625 acres were disposed of as a result of the Act, and it seems undoubted that the inducements now offered to selectors of bush lands will tend to settle the back portions of the country more readily and satisfactorily.

Revenue.

The Auditor of Land Revenue's report for the year, which is attached, brings into prominence the principal and more important points disclosed by his analysis of the revenue.

The territorial revenue amounts to	£247,842 7s. 5d.
and the non-territorial to	£249,368 16s. 11d.
making a gross total of	£497,211 3s. 11d.

The distinction between the two classes is that the former includes cash sales, deferred-payment-land sales, rents from pastoral runs, small grazing-runs, perpetual leases, leases in perpetuity, occupation with right of purchase, miscellaneous leases, reserves, together with timber royalties, transfer, lease, and survey fees; whilst the non-territorial comprises revenue from the State Forests Account, and receipts under special Acts such as the Cheviot Estate, Land for Settlements, Government Loans to Local Bodies, Native Township, Mining Districts Land Occupation, North Island Main Trunk Railway, Thermal Springs, Timber Floating, &c., and miscellaneous items under the heads of endowment revenue, Lake Ellesmere and Forsyth Railway, Crown grant and office fees, refunds to various votes, &c.

The total revenue exceeds the previous year's by £48,831 7s. 11d., which is accounted for principally by the increase under the Land for Settlements Acts.

There was a falling-off of £4,435 7s. 8d. in the territorial revenue in consequence of the great diminution in the receipts under the head of "deferred-payment" and "perpetual-lease" tenures.

Analysing the revenue as derived from each land district (*vide* Table 1 of the Auditor's report), it will be observed that there was an increase in all the districts excepting Taranaki and Canterbury, and that the increase was very substantial in the case of Auckland, Hawke's Bay, Wellington, Marlborough, and Otago.

Taking the various items of the revenue (*vide* Table 2 of the Auditor's report), the following were approximately the principal increases under the various headings:—

	£
Land for Settlements	40,251
State forests	12,855
North Island Main Trunk Railway Account	1,535
Native townships	232
Endowments	669

On the other hand, the principal decreases were as follows:—

Territorial revenue	4,435
Cheviot Estate	830
Government Loans to Local Bodies Account	1,106

Rebate of Rent.—The Commissioners of Crown Lands and the Receivers of Land Revenue in each land district, who jointly decide the amount of rebate to be allowed to Crown tenants, have evidently extended the provisions of the Acts and allowed the tenants reductions in their payments to the extent of £13,604 13s. 4d., which is £4,391 16s. 4d. more than the amount in the previous twelve months. This is partly due to the fact that the number of tenants has increased, and the rentals paid are correspondingly greater.

Deposits.—No less a sum than £141,445 4s. 11d. was received by way of deposit, being made up principally of deposits on applications for land.

Thirds and Fourths.—The local bodies received from the Lands and Survey Department the sum of £32,774 11s. 7d. on account of "thirds" and "fourths," to be expended in providing road access, or improving the same for the benefit of the selectors from whose holdings the amount was derived. No less a sum than £42,926 4s. 10d. remains to the credit of the local bodies, only awaiting submission by such authorities to the Land Board of suitable proposals for the expenditure of the amount in the manner prescribed by the Land Act for the advantage of the settlers affected. Instead of there being a decrease of this amount since the end of the previous year, there has been an increase of £1,724, though it might have been expected that advantage would have been taken of the opportunity afforded to assist the settlers in the back country, where, as a rule, the roads remain unfinished, to their great disadvantage and inconvenience.

Loans to Local Bodies.—Under the provisions of "The Local Bodies Loans Act, 1901," nineteen blocks of Crown lands, comprising 137,057 acres, valued at £81,857, were loaded with £23,490 to provide the necessary funds for the construction of roads to open up and make these lands accessible. Full particulars relating thereto will be found in Table 45 in the Appendix.

The Auditor of Land Revenue was occupied during the greater portion of the year in visiting not only the principal offices of the Department, but also the various branches, in each of which he made a thorough investigation and examination of the accounts, ledgers, and procedure therein, and furnished in each case detailed reports and returns disclosing the results of the tests applied; and I am pleased to be able to report that on the whole the offices and the work were found to be in a satisfactory condition. The Auditor's suggestions were forwarded in due course to the Commissioners of Crown Lands and Receivers of Land Revenue in each district, and have had the effect of removing anomalies and conducing to the better conduct of the business of those branches of the Department.

The work of the Auditor's office has necessarily expanded, as the number of tenants, amounts of rentals, and dealings of the Department have multiplied.

Arrears (Table 31).

The arrears of rent and instalments upon all systems total 766 selections, and £8,611 in amount. This, according to the practice of many years past, is exclusive of the half-year's instalment which accrued on the 1st January, three months before the expiration of the financial year, and the comparison is thus brought into line with the ordinary practice in regard to private lands where the rent is not payable until the end of the term.

The following particulars of the arrears for the past four years show that there has been a reduction of the number by nearly one-half as compared with the previous year, and that the

amount is less this year by £11,798. This is a record, both as regards the number of selectors in arrears and the comparatively small amount which they owe the Crown. The satisfactory result is attributable to the fact that more systematic attention has been devoted to the collection of the revenue, but above all is due to the greatly improved financial condition of the Crown tenants throughout the colony. The figures are:—

Year.	Selectors.	Arrears. £
1900-1	1,664	19,630
1901-2	2,061	23,575
1902-3	1,362	20,409
1903-4	766	8,611

Forfeitures and Surrenders (Table 21).

The forfeitures of Crown tenants' interests under all tenures of Crown lands amounted to 309, covering an area of 264,899 acres; deducting seventy-five pastoral and small grazing-runs and miscellaneous leases and licenses comprising 212,423 acres, the remaining 234 leases, containing 52,476 acres, are mainly under the settlement conditions of the Land Act. Reference to the table will show that the greater part of the forfeitures occurred amongst the occupation-with-right-of-purchase and lease-in-perpetuity tenures, as might be expected, being the more recent selections, which for numerous reasons are subject to abandonment or forfeiture in the earlier stages after being taken up. The annual rental of the whole amounts to £2,391.

The forfeitures of holdings under the Land for Settlements Acts number forty-four; the area thereof is 5,621 acres, and the rental £1,341 per annum.

The surrenders by tenants under all tenures of their leases and licenses by arrangement with the Land Boards total 109, and the area amounts to 144,853 acres, on which the annual rental is £1,389.

This latter class of transaction is usually for the relief or benefit of the tenants, as more fully explained in previous reports.

There were nine forfeitures of Native township lots, and one surrender of an endowment lease.

The sections which fall into the hands of the Boards are, after revaluation, submitted again for selection; but in certain cases the former tenant obtains a new lease under another tenure.

Reserves (Table 20).

The total area of reserves set aside in conformity with various Acts amounted to 43,134 acres. Of this, nearly 16,000 acres, all in the Auckland, Taranaki, and Wellington Land Districts, come under the head of Primary Education; 5,000 acres were reserved in areas distributed throughout the districts as sites for accommodation-houses and resting-places for stock; provision for the plantation, preservation, and growth of timber absorbed 2,750 acres; forest, climatic, and kindred reservations comprised 11,307 acres; scenery preservation was attended to by the setting aside of 6,050 acres; and the usual provision was made for the erection of schools, for municipal, defence, railway, recreation, and various other public purposes.

These additions bring the total area reserved or granted under various Acts, without payment, since the foundation of the colony to 9,816,682 acres.

Inquiries have been made about the area of 2,500,000 acres proposed to be set aside for the Sounds National Park. There are some areas held under lease or license which fall within the proposed park, and the Commissioner of Crown Lands is now engaged in negotiations with a view to their termination, so as to bring the control of the whole area into the hands of the Crown. Steps now in progress to gazette extensive areas of forest and scenic reserves upon Crown lands will result in a very large addition to the conservation areas in the colony, and will afford additional security for the maintenance of the timber supplies and the preservation of the indigenous flora and fauna, together with the scenery of New Zealand.

It is proposed to publish in appendix form a summary of the proposals of the Commissioners of Crown Lands for the conservation of forests and preservation of scenery for each land district of the colony.

Extracts from a diary kept by Mr. Richard Henry, the caretaker of Resolution Island, will be found in Appendix VI., and will be read with interest, as containing a graphic description of the habits of bird life as observed by him. It has been suggested to Mr. Henry that he should, if only for a time, return to civilization, and give us the benefit of his investigations and observations in fuller and more complete manner than he has hitherto done.

Domains.

The public domains of the colony vested in various local bodies are administered under the provisions of "The Public Domains Act, 1881," and its amendments. "The Public Domains Act Amendment Act, 1903," enacts (1) that local bodies may apply a portion of their ordinary funds towards the management, improvement, and maintenance of domains, though the same may

not be situated within such local bodies' districts; (2) that no portion of a recreation reserve shall be leased for building purposes; (3) that no natural bush upon a recreation ground shall be cut down or destroyed without the approval of the Governor in Council; and (4) that every Domain Board shall annually report and furnish a statement of receipts and expenditure for the year for the information of the Minister of Lands.

The Department issued a circular letter to the 351 Domain Boards, calling attention to the provisions of the above Act, and requesting to be supplied with the prescribed reports and statements. Of these Boards, 287 complied with the request, and steps are being taken to obtain reports from the remaining sixty-four Boards, as it is necessary that the Government should exercise some control over the valuable public estates which have been set aside for the use and recreation of the people.

Forests.

The Departmental officers in the various land districts continued throughout the past year investigations with a view to classifying the remaining Crown forests, with the result that in nearly all the districts proposals to this end have been agreed upon, and steps are now being taken to have the areas gazetted and set aside permanently. It has been thought advisable not to take these final steps until full and definite information is available. This applies specially to the forest lands contiguous to Crown lands suitable for settlement or to lands in the occupation of settlers. Persons in remote localities usually begin in a small way, and after some years' successful work find themselves in a position to enlarge their holdings to an extent commensurate with their increased responsibilities, especially where the children have grown up, and desire to obtain lands in the vicinity of their parents' holdings. As Crown lands become scarcer it is found that persons are willing to go further back and select high and rough lands, which in former years were not much in demand. It is therefore necessary to retain for the extension of settlement all areas of bush lands suitable for the purpose, and to consider conservation of forests, except where milling-timber is involved or special beauty spots are to be found, as secondary to the profitable occupation and utilisation of land.

In several localities it has already been ascertained that existing reservations of forest lands are detrimental to the progress of settlement. It becomes a question, therefore, whether portions of these reservations might not be released and allotted at a fair valuation to the adjacent owners, in order that they may be able to maintain themselves and families. In some instances within the goldfields, where the miners can no longer obtain a living wholly from following their original occupation, and where the families have increased and the demands upon the parents are heavier, it is obvious that attention must be given more to agriculture and grazing to supplement the incomes. Each locality will, of course, require to be considered according to the special circumstances, and I think it could be demonstrated that in many cases scenery is not everything, but that the welfare, advancement, and happiness of the people should be given first consideration.

A remarkable instance of the clashing of the two interests above named is to be found in the Southland District; and proposals are about to be submitted for the removal from the State forests in that district of a total area of 49,039 acres. This is in consequence of the present Commissioner of Crown Lands having discovered that no less than 24,962 acres of these reserves had already been alienated by sale or lease. The balance of 24,077 acres comprises various blocks and sections, formerly covered with forest, which have been operated on by sawmills. These lands have been inspected by the Rangers and the Commissioner, and reports and certificates have been received showing that the lands are no longer required for State forest purposes, are not suitable or necessary for replanting, that they have become overrun or are likely to become overrun by blackberry and other noxious weeds, which if allowed to take possession will render the lands hopelessly and irretrievably useless for the farmer or grazier. The proposal is startling in its magnitude; but it is contended that the necessity for the expansion of settlement in the district far outweighs all other consideration. There will still remain considerable areas of forest reserves in the Southland District.

Another instance showing how settlement is restricted is to be found in the Wakamarina and Pelorus Valleys (Marlborough), where the once flourishing mining industry was all in all to the community, and especially to the town of Havelock. Unless the residents are encouraged and given an opportunity of diverting their attention and labour to the utilising of lands, there is a risk of the population becoming more and more sparse. Here, too, the sawmills have cut out areas of land within the State forests, noxious weeds have taken possession, and annual fires make still further encroachment upon the standing bush. Wherever this occurs it will not be possible to reclaim the class of land to be found in this locality and bring it into reproductive use after it has been overrun with noxious growths. The only hope there is of preventing such lands from becoming practically waste and useless is at the proper moment (that is, after the sawmills have cut out the timber) to place the lands in the hands of those with energy and inclination to undertake

the work of the complete destruction of the remaining valueless timber and laying the areas down in grass. If the holdings are then judiciously stocked, grazed, and looked after, there is every possibility of the settlers obtaining a living therefrom.

These suggestions will, no doubt, be considered revolutionary and altogether contrary to the views of those who advocate conservation of forest and preservation of scenery, but as I claim to have always been in the front rank of enthusiasts and workers to this end, I can only say that I have been forced to the above conclusion by actual observation and from a conviction that *bonâ fide* settlement is the first consideration in New Zealand, and that we should do everything in our power to improve the position of settlers and to meet their altered requirements, and also generally to bring about the expansion, development, and progress of settlement and the increase of productions to the utmost limit throughout the whole colony. This can be done, and yet ample provision made for maintaining sufficient of our unique forests, fauna, and scenery for the enjoyment of the colonists, and to continue to attract large numbers of Australians annually to our shores.

The total receipts on account of the sale of timber amounted to £30,948, of which £13,739 was derived from Crown forests and £17,209 from State forests. The amount standing to the credit of the State Forests Account on the 31st March last was £32,672.

"The Scenery Preservation Act, 1903," passed during last year, provides for the appointment of a Commission, comprising not more than five persons, who are required to report upon all lands possessing scenic or historic interest, or on which there are thermal springs, and to recommend suitable reservations of such areas. The Act also authorises the setting aside and reservation of such lands, and the fencing and preservation thereof. There is also power to take Native and freehold lands for the purposes of the Act under the provisions of "The Public Works Act, 1894."

To enable the aforesaid reservations to be effected and the requisite land to be purchased, the sum of £100,000 is authorised to be expended at the rate of £25,000 a year.

Reserves made under the Act may be vested in a local authority or a special Board. Penalties are provided in case of interference with or damage to the reserves.

The Commission appointed in terms of the Act comprised the following members: Messrs. S. Percy Smith, F.R.G.S. (Chairman); J. W. A. Marchant, Surveyor-General; H. J. Matthews, Chief Forester; Major Tunuiarangi, Wairarapa; and W. W. Smith, Ashburton.

Milling-timber.

The kauri forests of the North received special attention during the past twelve months. Closer inspections and valuations were made by selected persons under the direction of Major Lusk, whose estimate of the Crown kauri timber is about 448,000,000 superficial feet. This is a considerable reduction upon all previous estimates. It is computed that in addition to the Crown's property in kauri there are about 664,000,000 superficial feet of kauri upon freehold and Native lands. This gives a gross total of about 1,112,000,000 superficial feet.

It will be interesting to consider the position of the industry in the Auckland District, and the following are a few figures which have been quoted upon the subject: Last year there were about thirty-six kauri mills, with an estimated annual cutting-capacity of 195,000,000 superficial feet. The output for the year was 144,000,000 superficial feet. If the present output of kauri is maintained, the supply would be exhausted in about eight years.

This greatly reduced estimate of the quantity of kauri timber causes an undoubted sense of disappointment, if not alarm; but it is most satisfactory to be able to report that the rimu, matai, and totara forests in the North are now found to contain a quantity of timber far in excess of previous anticipations. Major Lusk's preliminary investigations have not been completed in the East and West Taupo Counties, but there is every reason to believe that in these districts and in various other parts of the Auckland Land District additional supplies of the above classes of timber will be found, besides those amounts given in the schedule on the following page.

The quantities of other timbers upon Crown lands within the Auckland Land District, with the exceptions above stated, are: Rimu, 954,000,000 superficial feet; kahikatea, 159,000,000 superficial feet; totara, 164,000,000 superficial feet; matai, 99,000,000 superficial feet; miscellaneous and inferior timbers, 30,000,000 superficial feet. This gives a gross total of about 1,854,000,000 superficial feet. Taking Crown, Native, and freehold lands together, the estimated quantity of timber of all kinds is 7,465,000,000 superficial feet. This, it is hoped, will be supplemented by the remaining forests in the Taupo and other districts.

Major Lusk also states that the sawmillers in the North are giving more attention to the conversion of other classes of timber than kauri, and he very properly urges that they should be required to cut out all varieties of timber in any bush they operate on, instead of being allowed as heretofore to cut only kauri. It has long been the practice in other districts to insist that sawmillers shall not pass over or waste any millable or marketable timber within their sawmill areas. By this means it is hoped that the great milling industry of the North will be maintained, that

manufactories will be kept going, and that the building trade and other industries dependent upon timber will not suffer any inconvenience or diminution.

Similar information has been obtained from the Commissioners of Crown Lands and Rangers for all the other land districts. This has been entered in the following table:—

SCHEDULE showing the approximate quantity of MILLING TIMBER ON CROWN LANDS.

District.	Kauri.	Rimu.	Kahikatea.	Totara.	Matai.	Birches.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.
Auckland ..	447,880,000	954,320,000	159,490,000	163,780,000	98,524,000	..	*30,000,000	1,853,994,000
Hawke's Bay ..	..	663,000,000	226,000,000	62,000,000	144,000,000	2,000,000	..	1,097,000,000
Taranaki ..	..	1,131,451,200	285,720,000	5,714,000	5,714,400	..	..	1,428,599,600
Wellington ..	..	1,860,629,700	478,193,300	85,186,600	874,381,800	..	†993,080,000	4,291,471,400
Marlborough ..	..	91,216,000	46,037,000	2,270,000	12,374,000	..	..	151,897,000
Nelson ..	..	1,394,666,000	147,000,000	..	..	4,260,436,000	..	5,802,102,000
Westland ..	..	3,747,800,000	327,000,000	51,000,000	28,000,000	..	‡294,000,000	4,447,800,000
Canterbury ..	..	500,000	2,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	49,000,000	15,500,000	70,500,000
Otago ..	..	457,175,000	13,399,000	6,251,000	72,905,000	56,445,000	§294,318,000	900,493,000
Southland ..	..	179,000,000	31,500,000	8,970,000	12,000,000	100,000,000	‖90,000,000	421,470,000
	447,880,000	10,479,757,900	1,716,839,300	386,671,600	1,249,399,200	4,467,881,000	1,716,898,000	20,465,327,000

* Miro, tanikaha, maire, mangaio, and tawera. † Miro, kaikawaka, maire, hinau, &c. ‡ Silver and black pine. § Miro. ‖ Miro and kamahi.

It will be noticed that Nelson heads the list with a volume of 5,802,102,000 superficial feet of timber of all varieties; Westland comes next with 4,447,800,000 superficial feet; Wellington is third with 4,291,471,000 superficial feet; and that Hawke's Bay, Taranaki, Otago, and Southland have very considerable quantities of timber available. Marlborough is only credited with about 152,000,000 superficial feet, whilst Canterbury is last with 70,500,000 superficial feet. The gross total of milling-timber upon Crown lands in the colony, therefore, results in 20,465,327,000 superficial feet, which is equivalent to fifty-five years' supply. Excepting in Auckland, Wellington, and Westland, no estimate has been made of the quantity of milling-timber upon freehold and Native lands.

It must be borne in mind, however, that much of this timber is to be found in sparse quantities over large areas, in many cases difficult of access, remote from railway-stations and ports, and consequently would not be worked except under circumstances which do not now prevail in the colony.

As regards the timber upon Native and freehold lands, investigations and proposals have yet to be completed. An endeavour has been made to arrive at the output of all the mills in the colony—that is to say, the rate at which the forests are being reduced—and it is believed that the output is about 372,000,000 superficial feet per annum. If this be maintained, as doubtless it should be, the Crown and other forests, if all availed of and utilised, would not last more than seventy years.

It will be seen in Major Lusk's interesting report that the experiment of tapping kauri-trees has been continued, and it is estimated that the gum so derived is valued at 14s. per tree per annum. It yet remains to be seen whether the operation has not injuriously affected the trees.

NURSERIES AND PLANTATIONS.

From a perusal of the report of Mr. H. J. Matthews, the Chief Forester of the Department, it will be seen that during the past twelve months considerable progress was made in planting operations and in the ordinary work of the nurseries under his control. No less than 6,644,259 trees were raised in the nurseries and plantations during that period, as against 4,000,000 for the preceding year. This makes the total number of trees raised since the inauguration of the Forestry Branch of the Department, in 1896, 18,293,682, which are valued at £25,873. Of the aforesaid number 2,392,939 trees were planted out in the various plantations throughout the colony on an area of 1,040 acres, the value of same being £6,739, though included in the amount are 19,693 trees, valued at £194, supplied to local bodies.

The outlay for the year 1903-4 connected with the Forestry Branch amounted to £18,196, which brings the total expenditure since its inception to £55,886; but against this the nurseries and plantations (including trees, buildings, plant, &c.) are valued at £81,641.

Reference should be made to the Chief Forester's clear and compendious report, which furnishes information as to the important and interesting work carried out under his directions. The employment of prison labour has proved a great success, and has evidently been very beneficial and advantageous to the men so engaged.

The Chief Forester has now completed the manual on tree-planting, and the work is now being printed and will shortly be available for publication. Having been appointed a member of the Scenery Preservation Commission, he was engaged during the latter part of the year in attending its meetings at the various centres, his duties being carried on by Mr. H. A. Goudie, Nurseryman at Rotorua.

Sand-dunes and Drifting Sands.

The passing of "The Sand-drifts Act, 1903," has aroused considerable interest in the above subject.

In response to Circular No. 584 of the 12th August last, reports have been obtained from the Commissioners of Crown Lands as to all areas of drifting sands throughout the colony. It is satisfactory to note that the total area is comparatively limited; that it is found almost entirely adjacent to the coast-line; and that, generally speaking, its encroachment is not of a serious character.

The following is a statement of the position of the several areas so affected:—

There is almost a continuous strip of sand-dunes about eighty miles in length from Cape Maria Van Diemen to Hokianga Harbour. The breaks are at Ahipara Bay and a little north and south of the Herekino River. The next locality affected extends from a point opposite Aratapu, on the Wairoa River, thence following the sea-shore to the Kaipara entrance, and continues southwards to the Waitakarei River, a distance of about seventy miles. Proceeding further south along the west coast there is an area sixteen miles in length immediately to the northward of the Waikato River; then there are patches at Whangaroa, Aotea, and Kawhia Harbours, and south of these at the North and South Taranaki Bights; and on the shores of Cook Strait and Porirua Harbour there are sand-dunes and drifting sands more or less.

Taking now the east coast of the North Island, we find that from the North Cape to Rangaunu Bay, a distance of thirty-six miles, there are sand-dunes at nearly all points along the shore. The same is a feature of the lands contiguous to the Bay of Plenty for a distance of ninety miles from Katikati to a point eastward of Opotiki. There are areas similarly affected at Poverty Bay and in the vicinity of the Mahia Peninsula, with small strips at Waimarama, Porangahau River, and Cape Turnagain, whilst there are limited areas of sand in the vicinity of the Hutt and Wellington.

The chief portions of the South Island where sand-dunes are to be found are at Cape Farewell, and the great sandspit which extends fourteen miles to the eastward therefrom. Small areas are also to be found at West Wanganui, at the south end of Golden Bay, and at Rabbit Island, near Nelson. About twenty miles of the coast from Ure River to the Clarence River, in the Marlborough District, is more or less effected. There are also small areas southward of the Kaikoura Peninsula and at Gore Bay, Cheviot. Twenty-two miles of the coast, from the Ashley River to Sumner, are characterised by low shores, sand-dunes, and drifting sands. The north-east shore of Lake Ellesmere, and for twenty miles along the bar which separates that lake from the ocean, are also sand-drift areas.

The other points on the east and south shores of the South Island affected in this way are Otipua Lagoon, north of Timaru, and between Taiaroa Head, Otago Peninsula, and the Taieri River, a distance of thirty miles. Newhaven Harbour, between Waikawa Harbour and Orepuki, in the Southland District, contains small areas and strips of land contiguous to the ocean affected in a similar manner. A peculiarity in the Otago District is that sand areas exist remote from the sea-shore at Tarras, Lowburn, Cromwell, Clyde, and Alexandra.

In response to inquiries made by the Hon. the Minister for Native Affairs, Mr. A. S. Hitchcock, Acting Agrostologist to the United States Department of Agriculture, was good enough to forward an interesting pamphlet upon the subject of sand-binding grasses and operations to counteract the drift of sand-dunes, wherein he affords particulars of the reclaiming processes, the fencing, and the various plants and trees which are utilised in the United States in coping with sand-drifts. It is evident that the sand-drifts in both countries are very similar, and in America are not only successfully prevented from spreading, but are also converted into forests and fertile land, to the great advantage and benefit of the State and the agricultural industry.

Mr. Hitchcock expresses great interest in the conditions prevailing in New Zealand upon this subject, and is about to be furnished with plans and full information as to the areas, localities, and peculiarities characteristic of sand-areas in this colony. By the mutual exchange of ideas and reports as to the success or otherwise of operations, it is believed that the whole of the sand tracts in this colony will ultimately be reclaimed, converted into forest, and subsequently prove a benefit to the Government and community, besides altering the whole face of the landscape and adding to the beauty thereof.

The more important and interesting points in Mr. Hitchcock's pamphlet, together with the reports of the Commissioners of Crown Lands and Rangers, will be published in a separate report.

By the courtesy of Mr. Gordon, of the Native Department, particulars regarding the manner in which sand-areas are utilised and reclaimed in the various Continental and foreign countries were also furnished to the Department, and help to still further assist the Government in dealing with similar lands.

Medical Assistance to Settlers.

Amongst the varied monetary assistance which the Hon. the Minister of Lands is called upon to render none is more helpful to the settlers scattered throughout the far back portions of the

colony than that of aiding them to procure the services of a resident medical man. It is well known that the dread of having no medical man near often acts as a deterrent to settlers when making up their minds to live in out-of-the-way districts. An amount of £550 was voted during the past year by way of subsidy for this most necessary help, but of this only £169 was claimed under the conditions specified—viz., that the district requiring such help should form a committee, who will guarantee to raise the additional amount for which a doctor will undertake to reside and practice in the district. After such committee, or local body acting as the committee, has certified to the amount so guaranteed, the Government subsidy is paid over.

The following are the subsidies either granted or available for a resident medical officer: Whangaroa, £25 (of which £12 10s. was paid during the year); Kaitaia, £50 (all paid); Waimarino, £75 (£56 5s. paid); Tinui, £50 (£50 paid); Wanaka, £100 (not claimed); Catlin's, £150 (not claimed); Cromarty, £50 (not claimed); and Kawhia, £50 (not claimed).

Cheviot Estate.

As will be seen by the following extract from the account-books of the Department, this splendid settlement continues to improve its financial position:—

	£	s.	d.
Dr.			
Original cost of the estate, including roads, surveys, landing service, &c., in 1893...	324,908	19	7
Interest to the 31st March, 1904	96,124	6	11
	421,033	6	6
Cr.			
Land sold	38,754	18	10
Rents, interest, royalties, and other charges	152,414	7	0
Cost of estate at the 31st March, 1904	229,364	0	8
	£421,033	6	6

For a full conception of the progress made and the present position of the selectors, attention is directed to the report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands for Canterbury, Mr. Thomas Humphries, when it will be seen that, notwithstanding an unfavourable season for lambing, the settlers received some compensation in the high prices obtained for stock; while the harvest returns were fair, enabling them to effect considerable improvements, especially by erecting a better class of buildings, fences, and in extending and improving their orchards, plantations, &c. The settlers have been induced to give more attention to sheep-farming and less to dairying. As an indication of the prosperity of the settlement, it is noticed that several of the settlers so improved their circumstances that they found themselves in a position to sell out, with the intention of securing larger holdings elsewhere. There has been keen competition when opportunities offered for buying out the original tenants' interests. Another proof of progress is to be seen in the Mackenzie Township, where several new places of business have been opened.

The total value of improvements on the leasehold areas is £91,817, more than double the requirements under the leases. The population, exclusive of the town and freehold settlers, is 757, whilst the number of souls on the settlement is 1,030.

Nearly 8,000 acres are under cultivation; the tenants possess about 86,000 sheep, and 2,000 cattle, horses, &c. The settlers are reported as being prosperous, in a good position, and with every expectation of a bright and successful future. With the completion of the railway from Waipara, now so well advanced, it is reasonable to anticipate that this magnificent settlement will exhibit even a greater expansion in the output of stock and produce. Experts have reported that the capabilities of the central area for dairying are excellent.

The landing service at Port Robinson has been maintained. The expenditure in connection with working the slip, goods-shed, machinery, repairs, &c., amounted to £1,008 13s. 8d., whilst the revenue upon inward and outward cargo totalled £1,051 5s. 4d.

The trade of the port is represented by the landing of 1,282 tons of general merchandise, 586 tons of coal, 365,587 superficial feet of timber, 2,213 posts, 339 parcels, &c., and nearly 13,000 bricks. The export comprised 2,926 bales of wool, 63 bales of skins, 295 parcels, &c., and 1,638 sacks of corn. As compared with the preceding year, there was a general falling-off, due, no doubt, to the diversion of the traffic to the roads and railway.

Land for Settlements.

The Chairman of the Board of Land Purchase Commissioners transferred to this Department the following eight estates: Bickerstaffe, on the Otamatea River, near Maungaturoto (Auckland District), containing 12,480 acres; Wigan, inland from Tologa Bay, north of Gisborne (Hawke's Bay District), with an area of 10,072 acres; Clandon, near Toko (Taranaki District), 881 acres; Normandale, adjoining the Lower Hutt (Wellington District), 1,623 acres; Rainford, north of Kaikoura (Marlborough District), 246 acres; Annan, north-east of Waiau, 32,858 acres, and Rose-

will, inland from Timaru, 38,683 acres (Canterbury District); and St. Helen's, twelve miles from Oamaru (Otago District), 547 acres. Their aggregate area is 97,390 acres.

Very complete sectional and topographical surveys were made of the properties, which were followed by an elaborate detailed classification, estimation, and valuation of the lands and improvements comprised in each subdivision or allotment. This was effected by surveyors and agricultural and pastoral experts, and duly revised by the Land-tax Valuers; the estimated cost of all road, bridge, and drainage works was furnished by the Roads Department's engineers. The capital cost of each estate was ascertained by adding to the amount paid the former proprietors the whole of the expenses incurred in connection with the survey, construction of roads, classification and valuations of the lands, and in addition the interest on the purchase-money, land-tax, local rates, Court and other legal expenses, as well as the cost of advertising and the publishing of maps and pamphlets illustrative of the properties.

As the Department had in hand on the 1st April, 1903, other estates which had not been submitted for selection, the number of estates actually opened to application was thirteen, representing a total of 140,356 acres. With the exception of the Bickerstaffe Estate and two hamlets, the public as usual manifested great interest, flocked in numbers to inspect the lands, lodged applications, and attended the ballots, practically taking up all the holdings, as the greater portion of the lands which were unselected at the close of the financial year have now been taken up. The unallotted areas in the Longbush and Tablelands Settlements comprise the two homestead sections which are still in the occupation of the former lessees.

The net result is, that 470 selectors secured 153,930 acres of these chosen properties, representing a capital value of £753,760, an average of about £1,603 per holding, and an annual rental of £37,688, affording facility for the employment and maintenance upon the land of, say 2,200 souls, besides providing profitable occupation for a considerable number of others. If to the selections of 1903–4 be added those made in preceding years, we obtain a total of 129 estates, on which are located 2,745 selectors who lease from the State 576,674 acres, assessed at £3,030,462, and yielding a revenue of £151,458 per annum. The average capital value of the holdings works out to about £1,110, and an annual rental of £59 10s. 5d. The population carried by the whole of the settlements established upon these reacquired lands amounts to 8,255, who own 2,076 dwellings. It will be observed that these producers already equal in number the population of a considerable town.

Reference to Table No. 33 will disclose the following comparison: Canterbury, with 1,107 selections, comprising 242,586 acres, on which the annual rental of £66,695 is payable, is easily first as regards the number, area, and value of holdings under the Land for Settlements Acts; Hawke's Bay comes next with 364 holdings, containing 109,561 acres and £33,311 annual rental; Otago third with 470 selections of an aggregate area of 62,562 acres and rental of £20,704; Marlborough, with 194 holdings, 66,815 acres and £9,709 rental, is fourth, if area and value are the basis of comparison; Wellington comes next with 225 selections, 22,645 acres, and annual rental of £8,489; Auckland is sixth in the scale, with 228 holdings, 36,265 acres, and £5,654 rental; Southland Taranaki, and Westland follow with 98, 33, and 26 holdings respectively; whilst Nelson does not possess any settlements on this system.

The annexed Table H has been compiled to show in a concise form the principal features and results developed by the establishment of the settlements which have been founded since the adoption of the policy of close settlement upon freehold lands repurchased by the Crown. The reports of the Commissioners of Crown Lands and Rangers afford full and detailed information in regard to each settlement. Shortly stated, it may be said that only six ordinary settlements and six hamlets are not in a satisfactory and prosperous condition. The area of unallotted lands is 29,114 acres; but it must be remembered that this includes balances of estates which were submitted for selection late in the year, which, as already indicated, have since been quitted to a large extent. It is anticipated that, as the opportunities for securing holdings on Crown and land-for-settlements estates grow less, more attention will be bestowed by would-be settlers upon the remnants of estates which they now reject.

A careful consideration of the reports and statistics furnished by the Commissioners leads to the conclusion that with the few exceptions previously mentioned the settlements have made fair to excellent progress during the period under review, that their condition is satisfactory, and that the future prospects of the tenants are, on the whole, most hopeful and encouraging. Every one interested in close settlement must view with satisfaction the results disclosed herein and agree that the Land for Settlements policy has resulted in the founding of numerous homes, provided the tenants with healthy, congenial, and profitable occupation, improved their condition in life, added to the material wealth of the community, and strengthened and consolidated the colony's position.

TABLE G.—ESTATES OFFERED for SELECTION during the Year ending the 31st March, 1904, under "The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900."

Land District, and Name of Estate.	Area of Estate.	Number of Selectors.	Area unselected, 31st March, 1904.	Annual Rental payable on Lands leased.	Date of Opening.
	A. R. P.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	
Auckland—					
Waari	427 2 32	5	378 0 14	8 1 2	20 April, 1903.
Bickerstaffe	12,480 0 19	10	9,484 0 20	486 6 0	7 Dec., 1903.
Hawke's Bay—					
Argyll	33,705 1 30	60	1,650 0 0	8,171 2 10	23 June, 1903.
Wigan	10,072 1 37	16	462 2 0	2,652 4 6	15 Dec., 1903.
Taranaki—					
Spotswood	310 3 23	14	187 1 31	243 2 2	5 May, 1903.
Clandon	881 0 13	5	40 3 29	542 6 0	16 Nov., 1903.
Wellington—					
Longbush	3,021 3 26	6	318 2 18	727 1 6	16 June, 1903.
Tablelands	5,496 3 30	8	1,338 2 0	998 4 4	16 June, 1903.
Normandale	1,623 0 9	15	1,495 0 0	155 7 10	15 Dec., 1903.
Marlborough—					
Rainford	246 0 21	11	..	315 15 4	31 Aug., 1903.
Canterbury—					
Annan	32,858 2 33	37	..	5,129 10 2	15 June, 1903.
Rosewill	38,683 2 15	137	1,344 2 31	13,284 7 4	7 Mar., 1904.
Otago—					
St. Helens	547 3 20	3	..	224 11 0	29 June, 1903.
Totals	140,355 3 28	327	16,699 3 23	32,938 0 2	

TABLE H.—SUMMARY of the SETTLEMENTS established upon ESTATES ACQUIRED and DEALT WITH, under the Provisions of the Land for Settlements Acts, up to the 31st March, 1904.

Land District and Name of Settlement.	Selectors.	Residences.	Principal Purpose for which Holdings are utilised.	Progress during Year.	Present Position.	Prospects.
Auckland—						
Opouriao ..	86	70	Dairying and mixed farming	Satisfactory ..	Prosperous ..	Good.
Okauia ..	8	7	Grazing	Not satisfactory	Not satisfactory..	Not promising.
Rangiatea ..	18	17	Dairying and cropping ..	Satisfactory ..	Thriving ..	Good.
Karapiro ..	17	10	Dairying	Good ..	Prosperous ..	"
Fencourt ..	34	33	"	Fair ..	Good	"
Whitehall ..	10	10	Grazing and dairying ..	Good ..	Fair	"
Cradock Hamlet	7	6	These were subdivided for the purpose of providing workmen's homes near the City of Auckland. Only a few of the sections have been selected. Up to the present, position is unsatisfactory.			
Hetana Hamlet..	10	6				
Kitchener Hamlet	8	6				
Methuen Hamlet	11	8				
Plumer Hamlet..	4	1				
Waari Hamlet ..	5	3				
Bickerstaffe ..	10	..	Only recently selected.			
Hawke's Bay—						
Raureka ..	19	18	Dairying, fruit-growing, and crops	Good ..	Good	Good.
Elsthorpe ..	45	27	Sheep- and cattle-farming and cropping	Satisfactory ..	Prosperous ..	"
Waimarie ..	18	16	Dairying	" ..	Good	"
Poupare ..	9	9	Dairying and growing of maize, &c.	Successful ..	Successful ..	"
Tomoana ..	13	12	Dairying, fruit-growing, &c.	Very satisfactory	Good	"
Mahora ..	33	28	Dairying and mixed farming	Satisfactory ..	"	"
Willows ..	22	18	Grazing sheep and cattle; growing maize, potatoes, &c.	" ..	"	"
Hatuma ..	62	57	Grazing sheep and mixed farming	" ..	"	"
Manga-a-toro ..	25	22	Sheep-farming	" ..	"	"
Kumeroa ..	14	13	Dairying and sheep-farming	" ..	"	"
Forest Gate ..	28	23	Sheep- and cattle-farming ..	Very satisfactory	"	"
Argyll	60	38	Grazing sheep and cattle ..	"	"	"
Wigan	16	..	" ..	..	..	..
Taranaki—						
Tokaora ..	14	13	Dairying	Steady ..	Satisfactory ..	Good.
Spotswood ..	14	9	Residential, poultry-farming, &c.	Not satisfactory	Fair	"
Clandon ..	5	5	Dairying	Good ..	Good	"
Wellington—						
Paparangi ..	37	35	Residential, dairying, and poultry-farming	" ..	"	"
Ohakea ..	15	15	Dairying, mixed farming, &c.	" ..	"	"
Te Matua ..	13	12	Dairying	" ..	"	"
Aorangi ..	37	37	Dairying, mixed farming, and market-gardening	" ..	Very satisfactory	"
Carried forward	727	584				

SUMMARY of the SETTLEMENTS established upon ESTATES ACQUIRED and DEALT WITH up to the 31st March, 1904—*continued.*

Land District and Name of Settlement.	Selectors.	Residences.	Principal Purpose for which Holdings are utilised.	Progress during Year.	Present Position.	Prospects.
Brought forward	727	584				
Wellington—*contd.*						
Langdale ..	28	20	Grazing and cropping ..	Good ..	Good	Good.
Mangawhata ..	7	8	Dairying and mixed farming	Satisfactory ..	"	"
Epuni Hamlet ..	39	39	Residential and market-gardening	" ..	"	"
Maungaraki ..	15	15	Ditto	Good ..	"	"
Linton	5	4	Dairying and grazing ..	Fair ..	"	"
Longbush ..	6	1	Only recently selected.			
Tablelands ..	8	2	"			
Normandale ..	15	2	"			
Marlborough—						
Blind River ..	19	16	Sheep-farming	Satisfactory ..	Good	Good.
Omaka ..	13	12	"	Fair ..	Moderately prosperous	Fair.
Puhipuhi ..	2	1	"	" ..	Fair	Good.
Starborough ..	125	66	Sheepfarming and cropping	Satisfactory ..	Good	"
Richmond Brook	11	10	Sheep-farming	" ..	Fair	
Waipapa ..	4	4	"	" ..	"	Fair.
North Bank ..	9	4	Grazing	" ..	"	Good.
Rainford ..	11	..	Dairying	" ..	"	Fair.
Westland—						
Poerua ..	19	14	Dairying and mixed farming	Goo ..	Prosperous ..	Good.
Kokatahi ..	7	6	"	" ..	" ..	"
Canterbury—						
Pareora ..	28	26	Grazing	Satisfactory ..	Good	"
Studholme Junction	4	3	Mixed farming	" ..	"	"
Kapua	11	12	Agriculture	" ..	Well established	"
Rosebrook ..	14	13	Dairying and cropping ..	" ..	"	"
Otaio	9	9	Dairying, fruit-growing, &c.	Very good ..	"	"
Patoa	4	2	Grazing	Poor ..	Fair	Fair.
The Peaks ..	12	1	"	" ..	"	"
Roimata ..	26	26	Residential, gardening, and fruit-growing	Good ..	Very satisfactory	Good.
Kereta ..	4	4	Grazing and dairying ..	Satisfactory ..	Fair	"
Braco	14	14	Residential and market-gardening	Successful ..	Well established	"
Epworth ..	2	1	Mixed farming	Satisfactory ..	Fair	"
Ashley Gorge ..	10	12	Dairying	" ..	Prosperous ..	"
Omihi Valley ..	1	..	Only twenty acres; let temporarily.			
Orakipaoa ..	27	19	Mixed farming	Satisfactory ..	Good	Good.
Highbank ..	76	56	Grazing and cropping ..	Good ..	Very satisfactory	"
Otarakaro ..	7	7	Mixed farming	" ..	Satisfactory ..	"
Wharenui ..	26	26	Residential, market-gardening, and fruit-growing	" ..	Prosperous ..	"
Rakitairi ..	22	19	Agriculture	Satisfactory ..	Satisfactory ..	"
Waiapi ..	15	14	"	Good ..	" ..	"
Horsley Downs ..	27	24	Grazing and cropping ..	" ..	Prosperous ..	"
Albury ..	79	62	Dairying and cropping ..	" ..	Satisfactory ..	"
R.S. 1862 ..	1	1	Homestead site	..	..	..
R.S. 2682 (Part) ..	1	..	"	..	..	..
R.S. 36469, Cannington	1	..	"	..	..	..
R.S. 36231 ..	1	1	"	..	..	..
R.S. 36056, 36057	1	..	"	..	..	..
R.S. 36228 ..	1	1	"	..	..	..
Marawiti ..	13	13	Agriculture, &c.	Satisfactory ..	Satisfactory ..	Good.
Hekeao ..	16	13	Agriculture and dairying ..	Good ..	Good	"
Pawaho ..	26	24	Grazing and gardening ..	Satisfactory ..	"	"
Waikakahi ..	186	149	Mixed farming and grazing	Good ..	"	"
Tamai ..	41	37	Residential	Satisfactory ..	Fair	Fair.
Takitu ..	5	5	Grazing	" ..	Good	Good.
Pareora No. 2 ..	33	32	Cropping, &c.	Steady ..	"	"
Rautawiri ..	6	6	Mixed farming	Fair ..	Satisfactory ..	"
Papaka ..	9	9	Agriculture	Good ..	" ..	"
Punaroa ..	17	17	Dairying and cropping ..	" ..	" ..	"
Lyndon ..	9	7	Grazing and cropping ..	" ..	" ..	"
Kohika ..	17	15	Mixed farming	" ..	" ..	"
Tawawahi ..	23	21	Residential	" ..	" ..	"
Raincliff ..	1	1	Grazing	" ..	" ..	"
Puhuka ..	9	8	Residential	" ..	" ..	"
Kaimahi ..	12	11	Agriculture	Unsatisfactory	Fair	Fair.
Kapuatohe ..	10	8	Mixed farming	" ..	"	"
R.S. 36278 ..	1	..	Homestead site	..	..	..
Rapuwai ..	5	5	Grazing	Satisfactory ..	Good	Good.
Part R.S. 30791 ..	1	..	Homestead site	..	..	..
R.S. 36226 ..	1	1	"	..	..	..
Lyndon No. 2 ..	10	7	Grazing	Fair ..	Fair	Fair.
Mayfield ..	12	10	Mixed farming	Satisfactory ..	Good	Good.
Eccleston ..	4	4	"	" ..	Fair	Fair.
Carried forward	1,961	1,564				

SUMMARY of the SETTLEMENTS established upon ESTATES ACQUIRED and DEALT WITH, up to the 31st March, 1904.

Land District and Name of Settlement.	Selectors.	Residences	Principal Purpose for which Holdings are utilised.	Progress during Year.	Present Position	Prospects.
Brought forward	1,961	1,564				
Canterbury—*contd.*						
Mead	21	16	Grazing	Satisfactory ..	Fair	Fair.
Chamberlain ..	21	19				
Annan ..	37	..	Only recently selected.			
Rosewill ..	137	..				
Otago—						
Pomahaka Downs	21	24	Mixed farming and grazing	Poor ..	Unsatisfactory ..	Poor.
Teaneraki ..	23	18	"	Fair ..	Fair	Fair.
Tahawai ..	8	8	Dairying	Good ..	Satisfactory ..	Good.
Maerewhenua ..	72	61	Mixed farming and grazing	" ..	Good	"
Puketapu	11	9	Dairying	" ..	Satisfactory ..	"
Ardgowan ..	65	54	Mixed farming, dairying, and grazing	" ..	" ..	"
Makareao ..	31	18	Mixed farming and grazing	" ..	" ..	"
Makareao Extension	3	3	"	" ..	" ..	"
Momona ..	14	28	Dairying	" ..	Very prosperous ..	"
Tokarahi ..	80	45	Dairying and mixed farming	" ..	Satisfactory ..	"
Janefield ..	20	27	Mixed farming	" ..	" ..	"
Elderslie ..	33	24	Grazing and agriculture ..	" ..	Well established	"
Barnego ..	20	31	Dairying, mixed farming, and grazing	Fair ..	Fair	Fair.
Earnscleugh ..	12	16	Fruit-growing, &c. ..	Satisfactory ..	Good	Good.
Windsor Park ..	37	21	Agriculture and grazing ..	" ..	"	"
Windsor Park No. 2	10	8	" ..	" ..	" ..	"
Duncan ..	7	4	Dairying and mixed farming	Fair ..	Satisfactory ..	Very fair.
St. Helens ..	3	3	Grazing	" ..	" ..	Good.
Southland—						
Merrivale ..	48	39	Dairying, farming, and grazing	" ..	Good	"
Otahu	7	4	Grazing	" ..	Unsatisfactory ..	Poor.
Beaumont ..	8	4	"	" ..	" ..	"
Ringway ..	6	8	Mixed farming	" ..	" ..	Doubtful.
Glenham ..	29	20	Dairying, farming, and grazing	" ..	" ..	"
Totals ..	2,745	2,076				

SURVEYS.

The operations of the Survey Branch of the Department were directed, as in the previous year, almost solely to surveys for the purposes of extending and completing the laying-out of roads to give access to and open up Crown lands for settlement. The strength and disposition of the staff in the ten land districts were as follows:—

District.	Staff Surveyors.		Contract Surveyors.	Total.
	Permanent.	Temporary		
North Island—				
Auckland...	10	19	32	61
Hawke's Bay	4	4	3	11
Taranaki...	5	6	3	14
Wellington	9	10	3	22
	28	39	41	108
South Island—				
Marlborough	2	3	...	5
Nelson	5	7	...	12
Westland	1	6	4	11
Canterbury	4	1	1	6
Otago	4	...	5	9
Southland	3	1	7	11
	19	18	17	54
Totals	47	57	58	162*

* Including one Ranger occasionally employed.

Owing to the numerous and extensive areas of Crown lands which still remain in the North, Auckland claimed the first attention. This was the more necessary because two extensive estates —Bickerstaff and Matamata—comprising 51,462 acres, were handed over to this Department to survey and prepare for selection and allotment, consequently sixty-one surveyors were employed by the Department in that part of the colony. The other North Island land districts found active employment for eleven, fourteen, and twenty-two surveyors respectively in executing important surveys in the Ohura and Mokau Districts of Taranaki; the inland districts of Wanganui, Rangitikei, and Waimarino, of Wellington; and in the back country at Tolago Bay and Gisborne, in the Hawke's Bay District, together with the important Land for Settlements properties of Argyll and Wigan. The surveyors on the Nelson and Westland staffs were employed almost without exception upon similar surveys, so as to make all the Crown lands available for selection. A small staff was maintained in Marlborough to cope with the survey of the Flaxbourne and Rainford Estates and the subdivision of resumed areas and remnants of Crown lands. The Canterbury staff had to be supplemented to make headway with urgent surveys of the Levels and Highfield Estates, which were also acquired under the Land for Settlements Acts. Similarly, the Edendale Estate taxed the energies of the Southland staff for part of the year. Subdivision of resumed pastoral runs and other pressing surveys sufficed for the Otago staff. The distribution of the staff plainly indicates the localities where settlement on Crown lands is in progress. Concentration of effort has still to be directed towards the North Island and the west coast of the South Island.

Following the usual practice, the results of the surveys under the principal heads for the year 1903-4 are as under:—

SUMMARY OF FIELD-WORK EXECUTED.

	Acres.
Minor triangulation with topography	42,950
Topographical survey only	688,079
Rural and suburban section survey (1,836 lots)	594,535
Town-section survey (1,932 lots)...	2,131
Native Land Court surveys (151)	197,691
Mining surveys (57)	5,823
Roads and railway surveys (411·345 miles), cost per mile	£15,754
Miscellaneous surveys, &c. (cost)	£14,056

MINOR TRIANGULATION AND TOPOGRAPHICAL.

Triangulation was in abeyance, according to instructions, until settlement requirements had been satisfied. The area returned, 42,950 acres, comprises three small areas to control settlement surveys, and was consequently executed at a higher rate than if carried out in a systematic manner and on a large scale. Now that the great pressure is removed, I strongly advocate the resumption of triangulation in those localities where there is an undoubted demand and urgency for its prosecution. The Chief Surveyors, it will be observed, and, indeed, surveyors generally, are agreed that this class of work is an absolute necessity for the due and proper control of settlement surveys upon which are based the titles to land throughout the colony. One dispute involving appeal to the Courts might represent an expenditure and loss to individuals and the Government which would more than defray the cost of a trigonometrical survey of the whole of the adjacent district.

TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY.

There was a greatly increased out-turn under this head, which includes the preliminary surveys of roads and topography, and resulted in the preparation of plans of about 690,000 acres of land, and thus facilitated their classification, valuation, and subdivision prior to opening the same for settlement. The gross area is made up of 193,000 acres in the Auckland District; 42,000 acres defined by the Hawke's Bay staff in the back country of the Poverty Bay District; 114,000 acres returned in Taranaki, consisting principally of the Ohuru and Mokau lands, which were opened for selection recently; the Marlborough surveyors contributed 35,000 acres in the Flaxbourne Estate, for the purpose of supplying reliable information as to that property, which was the subject of adjudication by the Compensation Court. A large output of topographical and sale maps is claimed by the Nelson District, where nearly 227,000 acres were partly surveyed in several blocks throughout the land district; the remaining 76,680 acres includes some previously unknown lands in Westland, which had not been classified as regards soil, forests, &c. These operations were of great advantage, as they expedited the opening of Crown lands for selection through widely distant localities, and placed a large and varied choice of lands before intending settlers. From this class of survey we pass to the consideration of

Rural and Suburban Surveys.

Under this category falls the sectional or settlement operations, and it represents the complete detailed surveys of virgin lands, whether forest-clad or open, as well as the subdivision of properties acquired for closer settlement under the provisions of the Land for Settlements Acts, and also takes account of various surveys such as endowments and Native lands for the Maori Councils. The volume of work approximates to the previous year's output; the subdivisions number 1,836, as against 1,188 in 1902-3, whilst the area, 594,535 acres, is only 13,000 acres less; the cost is higher, because, amongst other reasons, the average area of the subdivisions of 1903-4 is much smaller. A large area of remote forest-clad lands is included, and more care has been bestowed in several of the districts on the location and survey of roads. Auckland heads the list with 175,000 acres, and include the elaborate detailed survey of the Bickerstaffe and Matamata Estates. Hawke's Bay furnished the large area of 102,000 acres, which was executed by staff and contract surveyors, and included rough forest land in the Motu and other inland districts and the Argyll and Wigan Land for Settlements estates; the 35,000 acres in Taranaki cover the new settlements in the northern part of that district; the Wellington contribution of 48,000 acres embraces several inland blocks and the Normandale Settlement near the Hutt; the 27,000 acres in Marlborough include surveys of blocks of land in the Awatere Valley, Onamalutu, Kaituna, Heringa, and other districts; the Nelson staff completed the subdivisional surveys and plans of 31,000 acres, the principal localities being Inangahua, Tadmor, Kawatiri, Ngakawau, Takaka, Matere, and Tutaki Districts; the 30,000 acres in Westland are scattered throughout the district; Canterbury contributes about 71,000 acres, of which about 63,000 acres are included in the Chamberlain, Rosewill, and Annan Estates, and the balance, 8,183 acres, takes in the plains near Oxford. All the foregoing Canterbury lands have been disposed of. The Otago output is also about 71,000 acres, made up of subdivisions of the Patearoa and Keenan Runs and various scattered surveys; the 2,200 acres credited to Southland include mining, sawmill, and other small areas.

Town Surveys.

There is a considerable increase in the area subdivided as towns and villages, due to the opening-up of the back country and the requirements of the settlers. Three of the townships—viz., Otorohanga, Taumarunui, and Te Kuiti—are on the North Island Main Trunk Railway, and one —the Waiotapu Settlement—is in the Rotorua District. All are upon Native lands, and were surveyed for the Maori Land Councils. Seven small areas were cut up in the inland Taranaki District. The 915 acres in Westland are contained in the Township of Runanga, laid off on the State Coal-mine Reserve, near Greymouth, and the Kokotahi Village, near Hokitika. The Otago quota represents additional subdivisions in old townships. As has been mentioned in previous reports, there is little scope or opportunity for laying off new townships upon the remaining Crown lands. When such occur they are availed of.

Native Land Court Surveys.

This class of survey has also fallen off in consequence of the vast operations in past years. Only 198,000 acres were defined, at a less cost, as compared with 400,388 acres in the preceding year. The great bulk of the area is credited to the Auckland surveyors; although 64,000 acres thereof is represented by a traverse survey of the Island of Niue, in the Cook Group, effected by Mr. District Surveyor Haszard, whilst on sick-leave. There are also included four Native blocks, defined near Lake Omapere and Waiotapu for the Maori Land Council. The areas in Hawke's Bay and Wellington are the work of staff and licensed surveyors upon various scattered blocks.

Gold-mining Surveys.

The gross area, 5,823 acres, of this class of work shows an increase on that of the year 1902-3, but fewer lots were defined, the respective figures being 57 and 66. The cost is in favour of the year 1903-4. Auckland and Westland claim 2,046 acres and 2,366 acres respectively; Otago and Southland are each represented by about 560 acres; and the Nelson area is 292 acres. It is reported that there was not great activity in this branch of the work during the year.

Magnetic Survey.

The Government were deprived of the able services of Dr. C. Coleridge Farr, who resigned the position of Magnetic Observer on the 31st March, 1904, in order to accept an important appointment on the staff of the Canterbury College. He had the direction of the magnetic survey of the colony since its initiation. The Magnetic Observatory in Hagley Park, Christchurch, was erected and equipped on his advice; and Dr. Farr carried out or superintended the whole of the

observations and investigations, including those in connection with the Antarctic Expedition, to the date of his retirement. Mr. H. F. Skey, B.Sc., has had charge of the Observatory since Dr. Farr retired, and has furnished a very complete and interesting report for the year 1903-4 (see Appendix), setting forth the work of the Magnetic Branch and the chief results obtained, the principal features of which are that the Observatory has attained a high position in the world of science, and has from time to time supplied valuable data to scientists elsewhere. The magnetic and other work and the standardisation of the instruments were duly attended to throughout the year; the principal magnetic storms are discussed by Mr. Skey. Some interesting notes are given as to the joint work carried on by the Hagley Park Observatory and the Antarctic Expedition officers, who returned at the close of the financial year, after what is admitted to have been one of the most successful and ably conducted expeditions to the Antarctic regions. The seismograph was kept in continuous operation, and eight photographs of the most marked seismograms are appended. The magnetic survey was continued by Mr. Skey from September, 1903, to February, 1904, in the northern part of the South Island, but, unfortunately, had to be abandoned upon Dr. Farr's retirement. The work should be resumed as soon as possible. It would only take one officer three months to do this, and thus would bring to a conclusion the splendid magnetic survey of the colony, the elements and results of which would then be available and be of immense value to navigators and scientists.

Road and Railway Surveys.

The output under this head is 411 miles, at a cost of £6,480, while equals £15 15s. per mile: 224 miles, which is more than half the total, is credited to the Auckland surveyors; 52 miles to Wellington; over 30 miles to Taranaki, Marlborough, and Nelson respectively; and 26 miles to Westland. The greater part of the work was done in connection with the survey of new roads through Crown and Native lands. The previous year's work of this class was only 301 miles, and the cost was slightly less.

Other Work.

This comprises duties which are undertaken by the staff in connection with inspections and reports, explorations, estimates, and valuations for various purposes, small surveys, unfinished work carried forward to the following year, and services too numerous to particularise of a very very useful and necessary character which are rendered to other Departments and local bodies. The total cost amounted to £14,057, as against £13,518 in the year 1902-3.

Inspection of Surveys.

One of the cardinal principles of the New Zealand survey system, as inaugurated by the late Mr. J. T. Thomson, is the co-operation of the Chief Surveyors and their staffs in carrying out the various classes of surveys. That able administrator and his successors in office directed that the staff and licensed surveyors should be visited at frequent intervals, in order that all surveys, plans, field-books, and mathematical reductions might be examined, tested, and reported upon. Regulations and instructions have from the first been issued, and the requirements are distinctly specified and known. Since assuming office I have reminded the Chief Surveyors of the necessity of attending to this important subject; but they have with much reason represented the difficulties which interfere with a thorough performance of the duty, especially the demands upon their attention connected with the multifarious Land Board and other matters to be attended to. The following is a summary of the action taken by the Chief Surveyors, who are required to submit for the confirmation of the Surveyor-General detailed reports, with diagrams, &c., as to the result of inspections effected to insure that each surveyor is thoroughly well equipped with field and office instruments, tents, tools, horses, conveyance, &c.; that he is conducting his operations efficiently and satisfactorily at a minimum of cost, and with due expedition; that in settlement surveys the roads are well laid out; that the scheme of subdivision, valuations, and descriptions, &c., are suitable and sufficient; that the area under survey is dealt with so as to conserve the Government's interests in respect to the selection and reservation of town-sites and of all areas required for public purposes, and that the subdivisions are the best possible for future settlement; and that the survey-work proper is executed correctly and thoroughly. The Inspector is expected to confer with, advise, and assist the field officers in every possible manner. Such a practice is of infinite advantage to the Crown and public, and is much appreciated by the profession.

Auckland: Five satisfactory reports were received at the Head Office relating to the surveys of four surveyors. Owing to the unfortunate death of the excellent officer who acted as Inspector in this district, it was decided that the inspections were to be carried out by five District Surveyors

in their respective localities. Effective arrangements are being made to this end by Mr. James MacKenzie (Chief Surveyor), who attended most effectively to this duty in the Taranaki District last year, where he had charge. All but one surveyor's work was inspected; several of the surveyors were visited on more than one occasion; fifty-three check diagrams, showing the results of technical inspections of staff and private surveyors' work, were received; and the reports show that the surveys were, on the whole, satisfactory. The exception was in the case of a surveyor not now in the service. In the Poverty Bay District Mr. F. S. Smith made nineteen inspections, but the reports and diagrams are not yet to hand.

The Wellington Inspector, Mr. J. D. Climie, furnished reports and very complete particulars relating to twenty-six surveys, including those of twenty Land Transfer and six staff surveyors, and states that they were generally satisfactorily performed. The Chief Surveyor of Marlborough made eight visits of inspection. Twelve inspections were carried out in Westland, and the Surveyors are reported to have been well equipped and to have done good work. In Canterbury twenty field checks were applied by the Chief Surveyor, Mr. T. N. Brodrick (District Surveyor, Timaru), and Mr. J. W. Davis (Land Transfer Draughtsman). The work is reported as excellent, except in the cases of two surveyors. The Chief Surveyor of Otago made fifteen visits to the three staff surveyors, applied no technical check, but otherwise reports the work as satisfactory.

It is expected that all the Chief Surveyors will attend to this important duty even more carefully in the future, and that all will apply technical tests to all classes of surveys. Work of all descriptions is never so well executed as when carried out under close supervision and the best of advice and experience.

Land Transfer Branch.

The ten branch offices of this Department, which deal with the examination of plans and surveys executed under "The Land Transfer Act, 1885," were unusually busy through the year 1903-4. The licensed surveyors' plans which were checked and passed were 1,190 in number; the detail duties comprised the passing of 10,954 deeds, &c.; 15,507 plans were placed on titles, and 181 plans were compiled or drawn. There were, in addition, 9,919 copies of certificates of title, leases, &c., prepared, and 12,535 plans placed upon instruments of title in the District Survey Offices. The work executed in Wellington and Canterbury Districts is about half of the total for the colony.

While dealing with the important surveys that are executed in connection with subdivision of private properties, and which are of very great value, inasmuch as they comprise extensions of present cities and towns, I cannot refrain from emphasizing the opinion which I have previously expressed that standard surveys should be taken in hand at an early date to supplement those already in existence and meet the growing necessities and requirements. In order that all may understand what I mean by "standard surveys," I hope I may be excused for entering into more detail. After alienation by the Crown, land becomes occupied and utilised for town, suburban, and rural purposes, and such occupation necessarily involves the removal, obliteration, or destruction of all the original survey pegs and marks, their place being taken by buildings, walls, fences, &c., and the results of various operations carried out by the Government and local bodies. Notwithstanding the obliteration of the original survey pegs and marks, lands continue to be held under Crown grants, certificates of title, and leases which are referred to plans delineating their bounds and limits; and upon these maps will be found the positions of the original survey pegs previously referred to. In the absence of the latter it will be understood how difficult it is for the owner of a property to verify the position and exact limits of any particular lot or lots. It will also be admitted that any rough-and-ready definition in an arbitrary way and the erection of valuable buildings upon such land involves great risk of disputes and costly litigation. Hence it becomes necessary to make resurveys, so as ascertain precisely any definite area of town, suburban, or rural lands as actually indicated by walls, fences, or buildings. The method adopted is to design a scheme of standard or traverse lines, marked permanently by stone, concrete blocks, or iron tubes, and such a scheme should be symmetrical and uniform. The stations are selected so as to fall in the same relative positions in the streets and roads, and so that the standard lines shall be equidistant and parallel, as far as practicable, to the occupation-lines of the properties. The actual survey-work is carried out with great care and precision, so as to insure that the bearings and measurements shall be correct. Elaborate measurements are made, so that every corner, break, or variation in the buildings, walls, and fences are ascertained and known with reference to the standard traverse-lines and permanent stations. Full particulars and information are simultaneouly ascertained regarding all other artificial and natural features, and connections are invariably made to fix original and existing survey stations, if any are to be found. From the data derived from the survey accurate plans are constructed, usually upon a scale of not less than

1 in. to the chain, and upon these are delineated the survey stations, standard lines, and the buildings, walls, fences, &c. Then a comparison is made with the maps from which the titles formerly issued, and as far as practicable the boundaries of the original sections, subdivisions, and titles are indicated upon the new standard plans. It then becomes possible to deal with any portion of a district or town, or even with any small area held or occupied by a building or allotment, and to clear up all questions regarding conflicting boundaries or interests, or at least to make perfectly plain the position or nature of the latter. It is also easy and inexpensive for any property-owner to cause a survey to be made of his land, and to indicate to the District Land Registrar his wishes in regard to the issue of a title or titles. I hope that all persons interested in this subject will realise from the foregoing that standard surveys are of the utmost importance, and are absolutely essential in the interests, not only of the Government, the Land Transfer Department, and local authorities, but also that they are even of more vital interest to all those who own or deal with lands and titles. It will be understood and admitted, I think, that the cost of such standard reference surveys should no longer be borne wholly by the Lands and Survey Department, and that it is fair to claim that the great Land Transfer Department on the one hand and the owners of the property on the other, as represented by municipal Councils and other local bodies, should recognise their liability to share in the cost, especially as standard surveys should form the basis for all plans required by such authorities for the numerous purposes coming under their administration.

Miscellaneous.

The surveys which were in progress in connection with the definition of the Piako Swamp were continued, especially as regards the drier lands on the western side. The Chief Engineer of Roads has had the engineering surveys in hand, and it is anticipated that plans and definite proposals will soon be available, and that works which should be undertaken to drain and render the land fit for settlement or grazing purposes will then be decided upon.

The surveyors, especially in the Auckland District, gave considerable attention to explorations and inspections of forest lands. They acted under definite instructions to select and report upon all areas of milling-timber, and also on those portions of the forest which should be conserved for the various purposes defined in my Circular No. 507 of the 10th March, 1902, and subsequent memoranda upon the subject. During my tour of inspection I discussed the object of conservation with many members of the staff, and enlisted their entire sympathy and cordial support, and by pointing out particular localities and spots made the whole scheme perfectly intelligible and plain. The result was the withdrawal of several forest areas from sale or selection, and the submission of suggestions and definite proposals for the setting-aside and reservation of areas of valuable forest and beauty-spots. The surveyors also undertook to supervise and assist in the estimation of the milling-timber to be found in their respective districts. As mentioned previously, this latter duty throughout the Auckland Land District was carried out under the general direction of Major Lusk. The field officers also were frequently employed in executing small surveys and upon inspections and reports for local bodies and public Departments. The services rendered to "other Departments" involved an expenditure of £19,616. At the request of the Public Works Department, additional reports and information were forwarded as to the rivers and waterfalls of the colony, with a view to their utilisation for the generation of electric power (*vide* map in Appendix). The manner in which this work was carried out was much appreciated by the Department for which the work was undertaken. The map will also be appreciated by engineers and local bodies, and be useful in connection with the designing and carrying-out of harbour and river-protection works, and the provision to be made in the erection of bridges for the maximum flow of the rivers.

The Chief Surveyor of Westland had an inspection made of a large block of land in the vicinity of Kumara, and prepared and submitted an estimation of the quantity of milling-timber standing thereon.

Inspections were also made and reports sent in by the staff in regard to sand-dunes and waste tracts in the several land districts.

The Department has continued to afford every possible assistance and information to the President and Councils established by "The Maori Lands Administration Act, 1900," especially as regards the Rotorua district and the territory from Otorohanga to Taumarunui. Mr. Carkeek and other surveyors continued the surveys of the Ohotu Block, which is administered by the Aotea Maori Land Council.

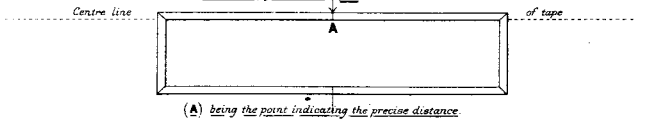
Proposed Operations for 1904-5.

The work on hand comprises 915 square miles of triangulation, 1,076,627 acres of settlement surveys, 70,496 acres of Native lands, 405 miles of road-surveys, 757 acres of town lands requiring

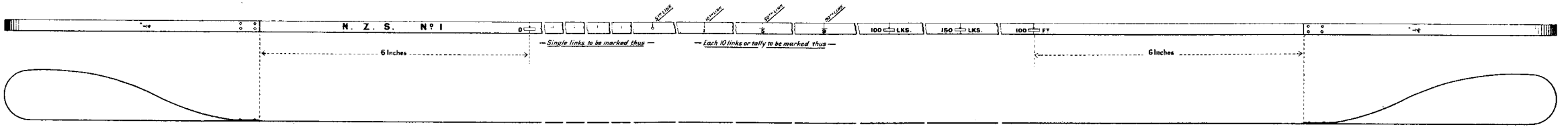
DIAGRAM REPRESENTING THE NEW ZEALAND STANDARD STEEL BANDS.

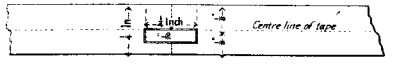
These Bands were manufactured by Messrs. Chesterman & Co., Ltd., and tested and certified to by the Superintendent of Weights and Measures, Standards Department, Board of Trade, London, 18th June, 1903

Note – The steel tape is 103ft. x 4 m. x $\frac{5}{8}$ in. The slots are openings made by cutting pieces out of the tape: the lines indicating the division are to extend to the lower edge of the slot, thus



(A) being the point indicating the precise distance.





Enlargement of tape shewing slot

survey, and 14 acres of mining leases needing definition on the ground, as will be seen by the figures furnished by the Chief Surveyors and appearing in Table No. 43 in the Appendix. The areas of triangulation are by no means all represented in the foregoing table, the reason being that several of the Chief Surveyors have considered this class of work to be still in abeyance. To my knowledge, there are districts in Auckland, Hawke's Bay, Wellington, Nelson, and elsewhere which should be covered by major or revision triangulation. It is very desirable that a few specially selected surveyors should be detailed to undertake the work, especially as with the greatly improved means of transport the cost can be kept within reasonable limits. The surveys of settlement and Native Land Court blocks in progress average about 15,055 acres for each of the seventy-six surveyors, and the 414½ miles of roads are about 5½ miles per officer.

It is proposed to give the first place to the prosecution of the settlement surveys, in order that every opportunity and facility shall be afforded for the acquisition and occupation of the Crown lands by *bonâ fide* settlers, consequently the field staff will be concentrated in those districts which contain the largest areas and most suitable lands for the purpose.

These remarks apply especially to the Crown lands scattered throughout the Auckland Land District, the northern portion of the Taranaki District, the inland parts of Poverty Bay, and the upper Rangitikei and Waimarino Blocks, in the Wellington Land District. A very considerable area in the valleys throughout the Nelson Land District will be thoroughly surveyed and opened for settlement; and the Westland staff has been strengthened with a view to doing all that is necessary to still further encourage the occupation and development of all suitable areas of Crown lands throughout the length and breadth of the coastal lands.

It is very desirable that arrangements be made for the extension of the "standard surveys" previously referred to, and I recommend that at least four surveyors be instructed to take up and give their whole attention to this duty.

Another important work which must receive the attention of the Department at an early date is the completion of the road-system throughout the Native lands in the North Island. There can be no question that the roads in the settled districts should be extended through these lands in order that the trunk or main roads, district or subsidiary roads, shall be defined once for all, and be ready at any moment for the operations of the Roads Department as funds and the demands for lands for settlement under the Maori Lands Administration Act permit. The opportunity should be taken while these roads are being laid off to obtain full topographical and other information relating to the character of the country, the quality of the soils, and the nature of the forest and other vegetation growing thereon. Such information would facilitate the duties of those who are intrusted with the opening-up and utilisation of the large tracts of Native lands still lying unused and unproductive.

Standard of Length.

In pursuance of arrangements made in 1902, twelve standard steel bands have been procured by the Department. Each band is 103 ft. in length by ¼ in. in width and 1-55 in. thick. Their form and construction are delineated in the diagram to be found in the Appendix.

Shortly, it may be stated that the purpose they serve is to furnish a uniform and consistent standard for the surveys of the colony—that is to say, they are to be used as a basis for the minor triangulation and the traverses and other linear measurements in connection with settlement surveys. They are not in any way intended as refined and precise standards such as are used on great national surveys.

The divisions in length which are indicated upon the bands are the "zero" point, the first five links, and each subsequent ten links, to the extent of one chain. There are also defined lines or marks determining the exact limits of 150 links and 100 ft. The principal divisions have been marked by cutting longitudinal slots in the centre of each band, the precise point in each case being indicated by a fine line extending by a fiducial edge to the centre line or longitudinal axis of the band. The bands are of the type and practically the same dimensions as those used upon the United States and other important surveys in base-measurements. It is considered that it will be an advantage that these standards of reference shall accord in every respect with the actual bands used in the practical work of the Department, and that there will, therefore, be less liability to differences and discrepancies arising from a diversity in the form and dimensions of bands. Moreover, it is considered that these new standards of length (ten of which have been intrusted to the custody of the Chief Surveyors and two retained in the Head Office) will be less subject to alteration or change in length than the so-called permanent standards which are to be found in the vicinity of the various survey offices. It has frequently been reported that the latter have been affected by settlement of the stone or concrete blocks and foundations, and great difficulty

has always been experienced in comparing steel bands with them owing to the fact that that it is almost impossible to ascertain what the real temperature of the bands is at the time of comparison.

When the order was intrusted to Messrs. Chesterman and Sons, of Sheffield, they demurred to undertaking to supply twelve bands which would not only be in accord but also be true to the Imperial standard. This condition was waived; the bands were manufactured and duly delivered to the Agent-General, to whom the Department is much indebted for his great interest and kindly co-operation in connection with this matter. The bands were then forwarded by the Agent-General to the Standards Department, Board of Trade, to be tested and certified to. The tests were duly carried out, and the following certificate and particulars were issued by that Department:—

Dated 18th June, 1903.

THIS is to certify that twelve standard subdivided steel measures, riband form, each graduated at 66 ft. or 100 links, 150 links, and 100 ft. for the Lands and Survey Department of New Zealand (together with twelve spring balances for use therewith) have been compared with and verified by the Imperial standards in the custody of the Board of Trade, and have been stamped as correct. The ribands were tested when subjected to a pull of 15 pounds at the temperature of 62 degrees Fahrenheit, or 16.660 degrees centigrade, such temperature being measured in terms of the standard thermometers of the Board of Trade reduced to the hydrogen scale.

The errors of the twelve measures, or differences from Imperial standard at 62 degrees Fahrenheit, are shown on the back of this certificate.

H. J. CHANEY,
Superintendent of Weights and Measures.

Board of Trade, Standards Department.

The subdivisions have been found to have no error greater than ± 0.015 inch on each link (the breadth of each defining-line being nearly 0.006 inch.—H.J.C. 18th June, 1903.

The results testify to the wonderful accuracy with which Messrs. Chesterman and Sons executed the order given to them. It may be stated as regards the one important length—viz., the 66 ft. or 100 links—that the greatest discrepancy between any one of the bands and the Imperial standard is 0.013 in., and that there is splendid accord between them all. As mentioned, ten bands have been distributed to the Chief Surveyors, with full and detailed instructions as to their custody, care, and the manner in which they are to be used for comparison, and it is proposed that, as far as practicable, only one standard of length shall be used throughout the length and breadth of the colony in connection with ordinary survey operations upon Crown and private lands.

It is of interest to note that the new standard of length was compared with the 1-chain distance laid down by the late Surveyor-General upon the concrete base at the south side of the Government Buildings, Wellington, with the result that the latter is found to be 0.0105 in. longer than the new standard band No. 2, and it is therefore 0.0085 in. longer than the Imperial standard in Old Palace Yard, London.

My own ¾ in. steel standard band, which is well known throughout New Zealand, has been found to practically agree with the new standard. Through the good offices of the Hon. G. F. Richardson (President of the Institute of New Zealand Surveyors) it has been possible to effect a comparison also with the 100 links light steel band (No. 15) obtained from New South Wales, and furnished by Mr. McDowall, the then Surveyor-General of Queensland, with the result that the said band is apparently 0.0165 in. shorter than the Imperial Standard as represented by the New Zealand standard band No. 2.

A comparison of all the twelve standard bands was made by myself, the Chief Draughtsman, and two other officers of the Department. This was carried out upon the floor of the General Government offices, and confirmed in a satisfactory manner the certificates of the Superintendent of Weights and Measures. It is very gratifying to the Department to know that as the result of these comparisons the original standard as laid down in 1876 under the directions of Mr. James McKerrow, formerly Surveyor-General, from the Elliott standard brass scale, and the standard of length subsequently laid down by Mr. S. Percy Smith, ex-Surveyor-General, are for all practical purposes in accordance with the Imperial Standard of Length.

It may also be mentioned that three special thermometers of special construction and a spring balance with each band were simultaneously supplied by the Agent-General, and that these also have been duly tested and certified to by the Standards Department, Board of Trade, London.

OFFICE.

The duties under this head were summarised in last year's report, and complete information will be found in the report of the Chief Draughtsman and also those of the several Chief Surveyors. From these it will be observed that the main work of the Department consists in the examination and passing of the working-plans furnished by the surveyors, and their utilisation for the purpose of opening Crown lands for sale and selection, the issue of titles, and the proclamation or

gazetting of reserves for all necessary public purposes. A great volume of business was thus attended to, but owing to increasing pressure more or less arrears have accumulated in some offices. At the same time credit must be given for the overtaking of arrears of duties which had accrued during previous years. In this respect considerable headway was made with the compilation and completion of maps and registers relating to Crown, Land Transfer, and various other survey-work effected at the different branches of the Department.

Attention was given to the renovation and repairing of plans and other documents, and their better custody and preservation in the future. The indoor staff was taxed at times to comply with the requirements of other Departments, such, for instance, as the furnishing of plans for the purposes of the Valuer-General. A large amount of work was done in connection with the delineation of forests and scenery, much of which was placed at the disposal of the Scenery Preservation Commission. The efforts of the clerks and draughtsmen were supplemented by those of the surveyors and rangers who made inspections, valuations, and reports in connection with the same subject.

As far as the every-day work of the Department permits, the Chief Surveyors and their staffs are doing their utmost to bring about uniformity in every detail of the work, and to place the whole business upon as sound a footing as possible. Unfortunately the pressure above mentioned has made it quite impossible for the Department to carry on the publication of all classes of maps for the purposes of the Government and the general public. There is no question that if time permitted very valuable and useful maps could be prepared, and it is to be regretted that the mass of technical and topographical information deposited in the survey offices cannot be fully utilised. It may be that when the present pressure relaxes more attention can be given to this very important subject.

A marked feature of the year's output included a large number of sale maps and pamphlets illustrative of areas of Crown lands and Land for Settlements estates which were opened for selection.

The Chief Draughtsman makes a suggestion that statistical maps of national interest should be part and parcel of the duty of the Department. There can be no question that this is most desirable, and the attention of other Departments interested in the subject is respectfully requested. It is a mere matter of ways and means and sparing the services of the necessary draughtsmen.

Another duty which taxes the time and ability of the Chief Surveyors and this office is the consideration and passing of plans of towns which are laid off upon private properties. My remarks in last year's report upon this subject in regard to the absence of authority and power to deal with the matter thoroughly hold good.

The Surveyors' Board.

The Board constituted under "The New Zealand Institute of Surveyors and Board of Examiners Act, 1900," held sixteen meetings, extending over twenty days, and conducted two examinations. Seven candidates passed the examination satisfactorily, one of them obtaining first-class honours with 99 per cent. of the total marks, and all received licenses from the Board.

In compliance with the arrangements entered into with the Surveyors' Board of the Australasian States, uniform and simultaneous examinations were conducted throughout Australia and New Zealand in September, 1903, and March, 1904. The papers for these examinations are set by the various Boards in rotation. For the September, 1903, examination the papers were supplied by the Tasmanian Board, and in March, 1904, the Victorian Board performed the duty.

As a result of negotiations with South Africa, the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal Colony have issued Ordinances relating to the admission of surveyors; but from private advices from New Zealand surveyors in South Africa it would appear that these Ordinances do not yet work as smoothly as was expected. It is anticipated that arrangements will be made to bring about reciprocity between the survey authorities in the South African Colonies and the Australasian and New Zealand Surveyors' Boards.

As the result of negotiations with Fiji, that colony has decided to admit to practice licensed surveyors of New Zealand and Australasia. Suggestions were made to bring about a conference of Surveyors' Boards in Dunedin at the meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science in January last; but with the exception of the Victorian and South Australian Boards, for whom Mr. J. M. Coane, member of the Victorian Board, acted, none of the other Boards were able to send a delegate. Nevertheless, an interesting informal discussion was held with Mr. Coane on the business of the Boards and on professional matters generally.

The new regulations for conducting the survey of land were completed during the year, and, after approval, will be issued to the profession.

The only change in the *personnel* of the Board is the appointment of Mr. Thomas Ward, who, with the Hon. G. F. Richardson, was nominated by the Council of the Surveyors' Institute. Mr. O'Donahoo, whose place was filled by Mr. Ward, was a capable and efficient member of the Board since it was first set up in 1901.

Conclusion.

During the recess I took the opportunity of obtaining a personal knowledge of some portions of the colony which I had not previously visited, and in bringing up to date my knowledge of other localities. It was a great satisfaction to meet the Chief Surveyors and their officers to discuss numerous questions of public importance and interest, and to make arrangements for the conduct of surveys, the valuations and classifications of Crown lands, and the opening of the same for settlement. These inspections and interviews led to an adjustment and settlement of many matters, and were mutually advantageous and, I trust, satisfactory.

I have again to express my appreciation of the zealous and able co-operation of the Under-Secretary for Lands, the Chief Surveyors, and the members of their staffs. My thanks are specially due to the officers immediately associated with me at the Head Office, and it affords me great pleasure to place on record my sense of the satisfactory and efficient manner in which they performed their duties.

Attached will be found the usual reports by Mr. F. W. Flanagan (Chief Draughtsman), Mr. F. T. O'Neill (Chief Clerk), Mr. W. G. Runcie (Auditor of Land Revenue), and Mr. R. A. Paterson (Accountant).

Departmental Changes.

Deaths.

It is with great regret I have to record the fact that the Department was deprived by death of the services of Messrs. L. Cussen, G. P. Doile, and C. T. Kelly during the past year. Appreciative references as to their services and work will be found in the reports of the Chief Surveyors for Auckland and Taranaki respectively.

Mr. Lawrence Cussen, District and Inspecting Surveyor at Hamilton, Auckland, served the colony during a period of thirty-two years, and took part in the earlier operations of the Railways and Mines Departments. Since 1875 his services have been devoted wholly to the Lands and Survey Department, for whom he carried out extensive trigonometrical and settlement surveys, especially in the King-country, under very great difficulties and privations just at the time when it was reopened to Europeans. The zeal, ability, and thoroughness with which he performed all his duties have been the subject of report and commendation by the heads of the Department. The records of services testify to these qualities, and it is recognised that the Government has lost one of its ablest officers by his death on the 9th November, 1903. His colleagues throughout the Department are united in their recognition of Mr. Cussen's high personal worth and his kindly and genial character.

Mr. George Peter Doile, Receiver of Land Revenue for Taranaki, who died in October last, entered the Department in 1880, and was employed in the Head Office till 1891, after which time he served in Napier and New Plymouth. As will be seen from the report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Taranaki, the late Mr. Doile stood high in the estimation of his late fellow-officers and the public, and was noted for the ability and industry with which he attended to his duties, and I can testify that his loss is much deplored throughout the Department.

It was unfortunate that the New Plymouth office also lost the services of Mr. Charles Thomas Kelly, Draughtsman, on the 19th December last. Mr. Kelly had served for seven years in that branch of the Department, and the Chief Surveyor, who was immediately connected with him, has placed on record his high appreciation of the manner in which Mr. Kelly performed his duties, and the great respect and estimation in which he was held by his fellow-officers.

Retirements.

On account of having reached the age-limit of sixty-five years, the following five officers retired from the Department on the 30th September, 1903. I have received from the Chief Surveyors in whose offices these gentlemen served appreciative references to their services, and expressions of regret that it was found necessary to sever their connection with the Department.

Mr. E. R. Foster, Land Transfer Draughtsman, Auckland. This officer served the Government both under the Nelson and Wellington Provincial Councils, and since the abolition of the provinces in 1876, in this Department. Up to 1882 his services were altogether in the field, during which time he carried out numerous and extensive surveys of all classes. Since 1884 his long and varied experience was availed of as the officer in charge of land transfer work, Auckland office.

Mr. Joseph Bird, Draughtsman, Auckland, who retired after a service of twenty-nine years, was formerly a surveyor on the Taranaki staff, and subsequently attained the position of Chief Draughtsman in the New Plymouth office. From 1894 he served in the Auckland office, and efficiently carried out the duties intrusted to him.

Mr. Henry Skey, Draughtsman, Dunedin office, served both in the Otago Provincial Government and the Lands and Survey Department for a total period of forty-two years. In addition to draughting-work, he has acted as Meteorogical Observer for Dunedin since 1865.

Mr. J. M. Nicholson, Draughtsman, Dunedin office, has been an officer of the Survey Department since the year 1862, and during the whole of his career manifested zeal and ability in the execution of his duties.

Mr. C. M. Igglesden, Draughtsman, Nelson office, had a service of thirty-seven years to his credit, having served in the Wellington and Canterbury Provincial Governments and in the General Government since 1876. He was a capable and efficient officer, with varied experience, and his retirement caused a gap in the Nelson branch of the Department.

In addition to the above officers, the Department lost the services, for other reasons, of the undermentioned:—

Dr. C. Coleridge Farr, who resigned his appointment on the 31st March last to become Lecturer on Electricity and Magnetism at the Canterbury College. A further reference to his services will be found under the heading "Magnetic Survey" in an earlier part of this report.

Mr. A. Hodgkinson, Assistant Surveyor, Southland District, whose services extended over fifteen years in the Department, was compelled to retire in September, 1903, on account of continued ill health. During his career he carried out several surveys, and performed other duties to the satisfaction of his immediate chiefs.

Mr. Joshua Rutland, Crown Lands Ranger for the Marlborough District, after twenty-four years' faithful and zealous work in that position, retired from the Department at the close of the year. A reference to his personal worth will be found in the report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Marlborough.

The fact that the above gentlemen have severed their connection with the Department is universally regretted by their colleagues.

Promotions.

During the year the following Assistant Surveyors, who had completed a long period of service in that capacity, were promoted to the rank of District Surveyor: Mr. D. A. I. Barron (Auckland District), Mr. J. F. Frith (Taranaki), Mr. R. S. Galbraith (Auckland), Mr. H. Maitland (Southland), Mr. W. T. Morpeth (Taranaki), Mr. J. D. Thomson (Nelson), Mr. William Wilson (Westland). Mr. A. G. Allom (Auckland) was appointed an Assistant Surveyor. Mr. F. A. Cullen succeeded the late Mr. Doile as Receiver of Land Revenue for the Taranaki District. Mr. H. F. Skey, B.Sc., was appointed in charge of the Magnetic Observatory, Christchurch, in succession to Dr. Farr, who resigned that position.

Head Office.

Mr. F. W. Flanagan, Chief Draughtsman, reports:—

The special feature of the year's work has been the increase in the volume and variety of the duties discharged by the draughtsmen in preparing the necessary data—clerical and technical—relating to special subjects of correspondence. This, together with the activity in preparing land for settlement, which necessitated the expeditious publication of detailed information for the public, and the performance of every-day routine duties kept the officers very busy. Notwithstanding this pressure and the "breaking-in" of new men to a grip of the work, there are few arrears of any importance.

The publication of 40-chains-to-the-inch district maps for reduction by photo-lithography to the mile-to-the-inch scale has, with your concurrence, been discontinued at the Head Office. The two draughtsmen who have been employed exclusively on this work will be engaged in the compilation of statistical maps of national interest relating to the density of population, industries, &c. Owing to the growing importance of the colony, maps of this nature are frequently in request by visiting Commissioners. Nine mile-to-the-inch maps of survey districts have been published—viz., Tone, Upcot, Molesworth, and Tapuaenuku, all in Marlborough (drawn at the District Office); Arowhenua (Canterbury); Maniototo and Rock and Pillar, in Otago (drawn at the Head Office); and Wyndham and Preservation, Southland (drawn at the District Office).

New editions of mile-to-the-inch maps of Rolleston, Tuturau, Glenkenich, and Tuapeka East Survey Districts have been published.

The following maps of towns have been published—viz., New Plymouth, Hawera, Whanganomona, Mangaroa, Aria, Tatu, and Matire (Taranaki); Havelock (Marlborough); Reefton (Nelson); Papatowai (Otago); and Lumsden (Southland).

Amongst miscellaneous maps published the following may be noted: viz., standard map of Palmerston North, in six sheets, topographical map of Mount Egmont and Pouakai Range, in colours, chart of the world, and new corrected edition of the sixteen-mile map showing the counties of New Zealand, in colours.

A map of the City of Dunedin and the surrounding municipalities, on a scale of 5 chains to an inch, in six sheets, is in hand and well advanced towards completion.

Very satisfactory progress has been made with the photo-lithographing of the provisional index county maps of the colony on the mile-to-the-inch scale. Maps of the following counties have been printed and published, viz.: Hawke's Bay, Woodville, Weber, Patangata (part of), Waipawa (part of), Clifton (part of), Egmont, Rangitikei, Kiwitea, Pohangina, Oroua, Manawatu, Kairanga, Horowhenua, Hutt, Patea (part of), Marlborough (part of), Kaikoura, Waimate (part of), Waitaki (part of), Levels, and Vincent. The county maps now in hand and almost completed are Waiapu, Patea (part of), Taranaki, Hawera, Stratford, Marlborough (part of), Geraldine (part of), Lake, Tuapeka (part of), and Waitaki (part of). These will be published in the course of a few weeks. Data for the following maps have not yet been forwarded by the Chief Surveyors, viz.: Cook, Wairoa, Buller, Inangahua, Waimea, Collingwood, Westland, Grey, Mackenzie, and Cheviot. The publication of county maps has proved of immediate practical value, not only to the Government Departments, but also to settlers and local bodies.

The duties in connection with the preparation, compilation, and publication of land-sale poster maps have occupied almost the whole time of two draughtsmen, notwithstanding that a larger number than formerly of the original maps of lands scheduled for opening have been drawn in the district offices. The following are the numbers of land-sale maps published for each land district: For Auckland 49, for Hawke's Bay 7, for Taranaki 14, for Wellington 33, for Nelson 5, for Marlborough 8, for Canterbury 19, for Westland 10, for Otago 33, for Southland 33; total, 211 maps. One hundred and seventeen thousand copies of these maps have been printed and widely distributed through the agency of the district offices, and in many instances direct from the Head Office. Following the usual custom, photo-lithographic reductions to the mile-to-the-inch scale of all the more important of these maps have been printed and supplied to the district offices, where they are used in place of tracings, thus obviating the employment of draughtsmen in reducing and drawing data for compilation of county maps and for illustrating correspondence.

"The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900": Twenty-three thousand pamphlets containing directions to applicants, maps, illustrations, and detailed information in regard to the disposal of the following estates purchased by the Government have been compiled, printed, published and circulated for general information, viz.: Waari and Bickerstaffe, in Auckland Land District; Argyll and Wigan, in Hawke's Bay Land District; Spotswood and Clandon, in Taranaki Land District; Tablelands, Longbush, and Normandale, in Wellington Land District; Rainford, in Marlborough Land District; Annan and Rosewill, in Canterbury Land District; and St. Helen's, in Otago Land District. The number of pamphlets printed for each of the estates named has varied from 800 to 5,000.

Forty-two plans of towns have been examined, reported on, passed (after considerable correspondence had taken place), and approved by His Excellency the Governor under section 18 of "The Land Act, 1892." The following are the names of the towns: Tupuni, Balgownie, Johnsonville Extension, Whenuahau, Cashmere Extension No. 2, Waihao Downs, Marama, Tynron Extension, Tynron Extension No. 1, Fairholme, Archerville, Chilman, Ariki, Dunollie, Westvale, Chislehurst, Eastown, Tutanekai, Miramar East, Okiwi-iti Extension No. 1, Johnsonville Subdivision No. 1, Turi, Naerui, Collingwood Extension No. 4, Whitford, Westone, Castellan, Taradale Extension, Subdivision No. 3 (part of Eastown), Cornwall, Taskerville, Cardington, Middlepark, Collingwood Extension No. 5, Taradale Extension No. 1, Linwood Extension, Taradale Extension No. 2, Taihape Extension, Aria, Mangaroa, Matire, and Tatu.

The work relating to the preparation of Proclamations, Warrants, Orders in Council, which includes the keeping of registers, plans, and conducting of the correspondence in connection therewith, has been unusually heavy. The following are the details:—

"The Land Act, 1892": Ninety-eight Warrants temporarily reserving land for various purposes, 4 Warrants permanently reserving land for various purposes, 3 Warrants amending descriptions of reserves, 1 Proclamation reserving land for primary education, 2 Proclamations resuming land for purposes of State forest and public school, 3 Proclamations setting apart land for improved-farm settlement, 46 Proclamations taking and closing roads.

"The New Zealand State Forests Act, 1885": One Proclamation declaring land State forest.

"The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900": One Warrant closing roads in Bickerstaffe Settlement.

"The Public Works Act Amendment Act, 1900": One Proclamation closing streets in Kokatahi Township.

"The Timber-floating Act, 1884": One Warrant.

"The Kauri-gum Industry Act, 1898": Four Orders in Council setting apart land.

"The Kauri-gum Industry Amendment Act, 1902": Two Orders in Council withdrawing land.

"The Local Bodies' Loans Act, 1901": Six Proclamations relating to land already set apart, and 19 Proclamations setting apart the following blocks for settlement, viz.: Huehue, Maukoro, Ngutunui, Otanake, Oumauku, Ouruwhero, Pukenui, Raetea, Taumata-Whakauma, Te Kauri, Tokatoka No. 3, all in Auckland Land District; Moanui, Tuahu, Waitahaia, and Whakapaupakihi, all in Hawke's Bay Land District; Raupiu and Taihape, in Wellington Land District; Waro, in Taranaki Land District; and Bartlett's Creek, in Marlborough Land District.

There has been an increase in the amount of work done for other Departments of the service. The requisitions consist not only in supplying maps, tracings, and descriptions of boundaries, but also in satisfying inquiries on departmental matters. The following sixteen Departments have been benefited in these respects: Police, Marine, Native, Land for Settlements, Justice, Public Health, Registrar-General's, Colonial Secretary's, Education, Defence, Agricultural, Customs, Premier's, Mines, Maori Lands Administration, and Labour.

For the Local Bills Committee of the House of Representatives twenty-nine schedules of local Bills have been examined and certified.

Two hundred and thirty-four descriptions of boundaries have been written.

Two hundred and two tracings have been made, and thirty-eight maps coloured for permanent record files and to illustrate outwards correspondence.

Five hundred and forty tracings and maps have been mounted.

The brochure on "Flightless Birds," by R. Henry, caretaker of the sanctuary for birds at Resolution Island, has been printed and widely circulated. It is now out of print. There has been a very great demand for this publication, and a second edition could be easily disposed of at a price which would return the cost of the printing.

The publications of the Department relative to the land laws, &c., have been freely distributed throughout the Australian Commonwealth and Great Britain and Ireland. Four hundred and twenty copies of "The Settlers' Handbook" have been mailed direct in response to individual applications to the Head Office. A complete set of maps of New Zealand illustrative of the New Zealand system of survey and publications explanatory of the New Zealand land laws have been forwarded to the St. Louis Exposition.

Correspondence, etc.

Mr. F. T. O'Neill, Chief Clerk, reports:—

Correspondence.—The correspondence of the Department was greater than for the previous year. The total number of letters and telegrams received and recorded was 18,500, the number despatched being 17,300; 67 circular letters of instructions were also issued. The number of new subjects dealt with amounts to 3,152. The references from other Departments upon which information was obtained or action taken totalled 476.

"*The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903.*"—Owing to the reclassification of the unselected Crown lands under the provisions of "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903," the necessary Warrants were prepared and published notifying the lands under the Act. Fifteen hundred copies of a pamphlet and 11,000 copies of 21 land-sale posters containing detailed information were published and circulated to make known the concession and the land that could be selected under the favourable conditions of the Act.

Land Guides.—During the year 28 Land Guides for the ten land districts were printed and circulated. The guides have been revised, and the necessary information inserted to include the latest particulars and conditions. They are now published in two divisions: one relating to North Island lands and the other to lands situated in the South Island. A large supply of each issue is sent to the Agent-General in London, and copies have been distributed throughout Australia.

Land-sale Posters.—In addition to the Land Guide, 20,000 copies of 4 large general posters were printed at intervals during the year. These supplied particulars of the Crown lands remaining for selection, and were extensively circulated. Five hundred copies of a large poster were also printed, dealing exclusively with the lands in the Westland District. Twelve monthly posters were printed, calling attention to the lands that would be open for selection during each month. These posters were exhibited at prominent post-offices and railway-stations throughout the colony.

Returns.—The usual monthly and quarterly returns were compiled, and several special returns were prepared during last session of Parliament.

Registers.—In addition to those relating to the correspondence, the registers relating to the reservation of lands for public purposes were maintained in an up-to-date condition, and any alteration in the purpose of or in the dealing with any reserve was noted.

A new register was also compiled, showing the officers of the Department and their services, &c.

Proclamations, &c.—The number of Proclamations, Orders in Council, Warrants, &c., prepared and issued during the year under specified Acts was as follows:—

Under "The Land Act, 1892": Twenty-two Proclamations, setting apart or withdrawing village-settlement lands, improved farms, and small grazing-runs; 8 Orders in Council, fixing terms and conditions of lease of village-homestead lands; 94 Warrants, opening lands for sale or selection; 2 Warrants, making timber regulations; 4 Warrants, authorising the taking of land for roads.

Under "The Public Domains Act, 1881": Seventy-four Orders in Council, delegating the powers of the Governor to trustees; 4 Orders in Council, revoking delegation of the Governor's powers.

Under "The Cemeteries Act, 1882": Two Orders in Council, revoking the delegation of powers to local authorities for appointing trustees; 1 Warrant, revoking the appointment of trustees; 63 Warrants, appointing trustees.

Under "The Public Reserves Act, 1881": Eleven Orders in Council vesting reserves; 13 Orders in Council, bringing reserves under "The Public Domains Act, 1881"; 6 Orders in Council, changing the purpose of reserves; 3 Orders in Council, authorising the exchange of reserves for other lands.

Under "The New Zealand State Forests Act, 1885": Two Orders in Council, making regulations.

Under "The Public Works Act, 1894": Eleven Warrants, authorising the taking of land for roads.

Under "The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894": One Warrant amending regulations.

Under "The Timber-floating Act, 1884": One Warrant notifying rivers for timber-floating.

Under "The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900": Two Warrants amending regulations.

The summary appended gives the number of Crown grants and other titles issued during the year.

Land District.	Number of Crown Grants.	Area in Crown Grants.	Number of Warrants.	Area in Warrants.	Number of Certificates.	Area in Certificates which are not included in Warrants	Area in Grants, Warrants, and Certificates.	Area granted to Natives.	Number of Leases and Licenses.	Area in Leases and Licenses.	Number Crown Grants corrected.	Number of Duplicates of Lost Grants issued.
		Acres.		Acres.			Acres.	Acres.		Acres.		
Auckland ..	10	224	41	33,050	247	27,900	61,174	13,718	51	5,008	8	6
Hawke's Bay	..	..	3	8,640	102	7,955	16,595	7,955	1	27	..	..
Taranaki ..	..	..	3	5,193	72	31,471	36,664	31,471	11	1,106	2	..
Wellington ..	1	1	14	19,643	240	5,500	25,144	3,430	7	15	3	..
Nelson ..	..	..	4	5,257	78	..	5,257	..	66	12	..	..
Marlborough ..	..	..	2	16,762	22	74	16,836	74	6	2,736	..	..
Canterbury ..	1	350	6	1,400	108	120	1,870	..	41	33,650	..	..
Westland ..	..	..	3	3,112	17	2,000	5,112	..	73	12,151	..	..
Otago ..	5	44	27	11,395	299	29	11,468	..	6	54,329	2	..
Southland ..	1	5	5	6,562	170	42,700	49,267	..	6	5,695	..	..
Totals ..	18	624	108	111,014	1,355	117,749	229,387	56,648	268	114,729	15	6

In addition to the leases above noted, which have been executed by the Governor, 1,239 leases in perpetuity, executed by Commissioners of Crown Lands, have been received for record and filing, also 40 leases for the Governor's consent to assignment, and 221 deeds to the Crown for deposit.

Accounts.

Mr. R. A. Paterson, Accountant, reports:—

Number of vouchers authorised for payment	4,484
Imprest vouchers authorised for credit	4,932
Credit vouchers against other Departments	147
Vouchers for imprest advances	530
Total	10,093

as against 8,620 in the previous financial year.

A detailed statement of the expenditure in respect of each of the appropriations for the year, including a full statement from the commencement of the Land for Settlements Account, has been prepared and issued within the Department. The various accounts have also been balanced with

the Treasury books. The following is a summary of the expenditure of the various appropriations and accounts for the year, and it shows also the revenue placed to the credit of the State Forests, Cheviot Estate, and Land for Settlements Accounts:—

Summary of Statement of Expenditure of Lands and Survey Department for the Twelve Months ended the 31st March, 1904.

Number and Name of Vote or Account.	Amount voted.	Expenditure (Gross).	Recoveries.	Expenditure (Net).	Receipts.
	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
82. Lands and Survey	157,490	160,744 18 9	10,840 1 7	149,904 17 2	..
83. Lands and Survey, Miscellaneous	17,846	10,899 8 0	..	10,899 8 0	..
102. Immigration	4,300	793 8 4	800 0 0	Cr. 6 11 8	..
113. Improved-farm Settlements ..	6,000	804 10 0	..	804 10 0	..
114. Lands, Miscellaneous	1,500	1,214 13 11	..	1,214 13 11	16,726 3 5
115. State Forests	30,298	15,616 9 7	32 7 5	15,584 2 2	..
Land for Settlements Expenses*..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	217,434	190,073 8 7	11,672 9 0	178,400 19 7	16,726 3 5
Consolidated Fund: Unauthorised Account	..	533 7 1	406 4 10	127 2 3	..
Cheviot Estate Account.. ..	..	8,866 2 6	..	8,866 2 6	13,779 12 1
Land for Settlements Account (including Votes Nos. 117 and 118)	..	†623,314 0 9	56 4 1	623,257 16 8	‡164,491 15 8
Permanent Charges	..	6,637 14 6	..	6,637 14 6	..
Special Acts, Deposit Accounts, &c.	..	2,181 7 4	..	2,181 7 4	..
Totals	..	641,532 12 2	462 8 11	641,070 3 3	178,271 7 9
Grand totals	217,434	831,606 0 9	12,134 17 11	819,471 2 10	194,997 11 2

* Included in Land for Settlements Account. † Includes purchase-money, £468,615 10s. 10d. ‡ Includes £13,608 from Investment Account (interest earned).

The amount advanced to imprestees during the year was £73,836. In addition to the above, a large amount of correspondence was prepared, and records dealt with in various forms.

The following amounts were paid during the year on account of the subsidies granted for resident medical officers in outlying districts:—

District.	Annual Subsidy.	Amount paid, 1903–4.
	£	£ s. d.
Whangaroa: Comprises practically the Whangaroa County (Dr. Scott resigned in July, 1902, and another officer was not obtained until the 18th August, 1903.)	25	12 10 0
Kaitaia: Portion of the County of Mongonui, extending as far as Herekino (Dr. Reekie resident). (Also £50 from Justice Department for Maoris)	50	50 0 0
Waimarino: The County of Waimarino, with Raetihi as a centre (Dr. Gardner resident)	75	56 5 0
Tinui: Generally the County of Castlepoint, with Tinui as a centre (Dr. Hunter resident)	50	50 0 0
Wanaka: Portions of the Counties of Lake and Vincent, with Pembroke as a centre. The residents have not been able to obtain the services of a doctor	100	...
Catlin's: The southern portion of the County of Clutha, with Owaka as headquarters. The district is very scattered, and it is difficult to get a doctor to reside. Dr. Sale accepted the district and resided for six months, to August, 1901. Neither the residents nor the Commissioner of Crown Lands at Dunedin have been able to secure the services of another. The nearest doctor is at Balclutha, twenty miles distant	150	...
Cromarty: Portion of the Fiord County around Preservation Inlet, with Te Oneroa as a centre (Dr. Fox resident)	50	...
Kawhia and surrounding country (Dr. Jenkins resident from 1st March, 1904)	50	...
Total	550	168 15 0

In granting a subsidy to a district the people are usually asked to form a guarantee committee, and payments are made quarterly or as otherwise desired on the chairman certifying that the conditions have been duly carried out. In some cases the local County Council acts in the place of a committee. In cases where no committee is appointed the duty devolves on a Government officer residing in or near the district.

AUDIT.

Mr. W. G. Runcie, the Auditor of Land Revenue, reports that the gross receipts are ranged under the following heads:—

	£	s.	d.
Territorial revenue	247,842	7	5
Government Loans to Local Bodies	27,195	4	10
Land for settlements	150,883	4	5
Cheviot Estate	13,779	12	1
Mining Districts Land Occupation Act	943	10	6
State forests	16,726	3	5
North Island Main Trunk Railway	10,931	12	10
Endowments	20,722	18	9
Lakes Ellesmere and Forsyth	1,635	3	1
Native townships	933	16	9
Lands and Survey vote	1,627	8	2
Crown grant fees	826	7	4
Rotorua Town Council	1,772	14	0
Thermal springs	24	2	9
Miscellaneous	1,366	17	7
	497,211	3	11

The Auditor states,—

The total receipts show an increase of £48,831 7s. 11d. upon last year's, which is mostly accounted for in the sum received under the Land for Settlements heading. As long as estates are being acquired for close settlement so will the receipts under this item increase. The decrease in territorial revenue is £4,435 7s. 8d. I expected this would have been greater, as every year that comes round the lands held under the deferred-payment system are being finally paid off, and the lands held under the perpetual-lease tenure also can at any time be made freehold.

I attach the following tables of comparison: No. 1, comparative statement of land district receipts; No. 2, comparative statement of detailed receipts; No. 3, comparative statement of territorial receipts; No. 4, comparative statement of land-tenure receipts.

The following are the balances of deposits, &c., at the credit of the Ordinary Deposit Account of the Receivers of Land Revenue:—

	£	s.	d.
Auckland	6,295	4	2
New Plymouth	317	10	11
Napier	242	12	6
Gisborne	1,578	16	9
Wellington	1,345	1	3
Blenheim	615	13	3
Nelson	1,286	11	2
Reefton	70	16	9
Westport	224	13	6
Hokitika	959	0	10
Ahaura	29	0	0
Christchurch	918	3	10
Dunedin	865	13	11
Invercargill	863	18	0
	15,612	16	10
New Zealand Midland Railway	6,170	16	5
	21,783	13	3

Without the Midland Railway amount there is a very great increase in the amount held in suspense in every office, with the exception of Christchurch.

There was a great increase in the deposits passed through the hands of the Receivers during the year. In 1902-3 the sum was £84,023 1s. 10d.; in 1903-4, £141,445 4s. 11d.: increase, £57,422 3s. 1d.

During the year the Land Boards of the various district offices passed payments to local bodies amounting to the following:—

	£	s.	d.
Auckland	7,199	0	8
Taranaki	2,080	6	2
Hawke's Bay	2,962	6	0
Wellington	9,482	19	10
Marlborough	663	6	7
Nelson	900	13	3
Westland	402	5	6
Canterbury	2,744	1	4
Otago	4,761	8	10
Southland	1,578	3	5
	32,774	11	7

During the year I visited the following offices: Westport, Reefton, Hokitika, Gisborne, Napier, Wellington, New Plymouth, Blenheim, Nelson, Auckland, Christchurch, Invercargill, and Dunedin. From the settlers' ledger accounts I indiscriminately chose 117 cases and examined them with the records of the office, and forwarded them to you with my remarks. I also in each office audited the accounts and books of the Receiver of Land Revenue, and compiled a balance-sheet of the transactions.

The work of this office is increasing very rapidly, and must continue to do so as fresh settlements are opened up. The cash-books from the Receivers are enlarging very much in size, and it is only by diligent application that the examination and audit can be kept well in hand. Since I took charge of this office the Public Account revenue has increased by £151,867 19s. 8d. In 1895-6 the gross deposits received amounted to £35,513 2s. 9d., and during the year under report £141,445 4s. 11d., being an increase of £105,932 2s. 2d., which means dealing with £257,800 1s. 10d. more money than was dealt with in 1895-6, consequently very much increased examining, checking, and posting to credit. In the course of the year 2,987 new cards, 1,056 Commissioner of Crown Lands returns, and 448 memoranda were received; and there were despatched 545 memoranda, 1,741 queries, and 160 parcels. Fifty-three refund vouchers were examined and certified to. The errors and omissions disclosed by the queries sent for the year were 1,799.

I have much pleasure in testifying to the industrious and painstaking manner in which the staff perform their respective duties, and therefore beg to recommend them to your favourable consideration.

Table No. 1.—Comparative Statement of the Gross Receipts in each District Office for the Years 1902–3 and 1903–4.

Land District.	1902–3.	1903–4.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland	71,440 18 2	74,937 18 6	3,497 0 4	...
Taranaki	21,666 3 1	20,340 5 1	...	1,325 18 0
Hawke's Bay ...	33,748 13 4	57,898 11 7	24,149 18 3	...
Wellington	50,365 10 2	60,776 13 0	10,411 2 10	...
Marlborough ...	20,713 6 1	24,798 12 9	4,085 6 8	...
Nelson	22,199 6 3	23,366 19 2	1,167 12 11	...
Westland	4,933 19 9	6,928 16 10	1,994 17 1	...
Canterbury	123,978 0 10	123,417 8 5	...	560 12 5
Otago	78,676 4 11	83,769 19 9	5,093 14 10	...
Southland	20,657 13 5	20,975 18 10	318 5 5	...
	448,379 16 0	497,211 3 11	50,717 18 4	1,886 10 5
		448,379 16 0	1,886 10 5	
Increase, 1903–4 ...	...	48,831 7 11	48,831 7 11	

Table No. 2.—Comparative Statement showing Source and Amount of Gross Receipts for the Years 1902–3 and 1903–4.

Nature of Receipt.	1902–3.	1903–4.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Territorial revenue ...	252,277 15 1	247,842 7 5		4,435 7 8
Land for settlements ...	110,632 8 8	150,883 4 5	40,250 15 9	...
Cheviot Estate	14,609 9 9	13,779 12 1	...	829 17 8
State forests	3,870 14 10	16,726 3 5	12,855 8 7	...
North Island Main Trunk Railway	9,396 14 7	10,931 12 10	1,534 18 3	...
Thermal springs ...	77 4 9	24 2 9	...	53 2 0
Rotorua Town Council ...	1,846 2 0	1,772 14 0	...	73 8 0
Lakes Ellesmere and Forsyth	1,631 17 10	1,635 3 1	3 5 3	...
Crown-grant fees ...	804 1 6	826 7 4	22 5 10	...
Lands and Survey vote ...	1,713 19 9	1,627 8 2	...	86 11 7
Native townships ...	702 2 10	933 16 9	231 13 11	...
Mining Districts Land Occupation Act	911 10 9	943 10 6	31 19 9	...
Miscellaneous	1,550 6 7	1,366 17 7	...	183 9 0
Government Loans to Local Bodies Act	28,301 7 4	27,195 4 10	...	1,106 2 6
Endowments	20,053 19 9	20,722 18 9	668 19 0	...
	448,379 16 0	497,211 3 11	55,599 6 4	6,767 18 5
		448,379 16 0	6,767 18 5	
Increase ...	...	48,831 7 11	48,831 7 11	

Table No. 3.—Comparative Statement of Receipts on Account of Territorial Revenue for the Years 1902–3 and 1903–4.

Land District.	1902–3.	1903–4.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland	40,802 2 11	45,189 19 0	4,387 16 1	...
Taranaki	14,005 12 5	11,648 4 4	...	2,357 8 1
Hawke's Bay ...	15,788 13 10	20,941 11 2	5,152 17 4	...
Wellington	34,596 4 11	29,291 8 5	...	5,304 16 6
Marlborough ...	9,675 7 4	9,693 16 11	18 9 7	...
Nelson	7,962 13 4	7,563 18 5	...	398 14 11
Westland	4,385 10 8	6,289 17 11	1,904 7 3	...
Canterbury	58,954 11 2	50,619 9 11	...	8,335 1 3
Otago	54,084 19 1	54,153 17 4	68 18 3	...
Southland	12,021 19 5	12,450 4 0	428 4 7	...
	252,277 15 1	247,842 7 5	11,960 13 1	16,396 0 9
	247,842 7 5			11,960 13 1
Decrease, 1903–4	4,435 7 8	...	...	4,435 7 8

Table No. 4.—Comparative Statement of Land-tenure Receipts for the Years 1902–3 and 1903–4.

Tenure.	1902–3.	1903–4.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cash land-sales	37,445 17 1	50,566 8 0	13,120 10 11	...
Deferred payments ...	6,702 2 2	5,505 2 9	...	1,196 19 5
Pastoral and miscellaneous rents	83,311 3 10	75,370 2 9	...	7,941 1 1
Perpetual leases				
Leases in perpetuity ...				
Occupation-with-right-of-purchase licenses	87,437 19 2	91,654 10 6	4,216 11 4	...
Small grazing-runs ...				
Miscellaneous	37,380 12 10	24,746 3 5	...	12,634 9 5
	252,277 15 1	247,842 7 5	17,337 2 3	21,772 9 11
	247,842 7 5			17,337 2 3
Decrease, 1903–4	4,435 7 8	...	...	4,435 7 8
Under special Acts—				
Cheviot	14,609 9 9	13,779 12 1	...	829 17 8
Land for settlements ...	110,632 8 8	150,883 4 5	40,250 15 9	...
State forests	3,870 14 10	16,726 3 5	12,855 8 7	...
	129,112 13 3	181,388 19 11	53,106 4 4	829 17 8
		129,112 13 3	829 17 8	
Increase, 1903–4...	...	52,276 6 8	52,276 6 8	
Miscellaneous items ...	66,989 7 8	67,980 16 7	990 8 11	...
Territorial	...	...	...	4,435 7 8
Special Acts	...	...	52,276 6 8	...
Miscellaneous	...	...	990 8 11	...
			53,266 15 7	4,435 7 8
			4,435 7 8	
Increase, 1903–4...			48,831 7 11	

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.—ADMINISTRATION.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CROWN LANDS ON SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS DURING THE TWELVE MONTHS WHICH ENDED ON THE 31ST MARCH, 1904.

AUCKLAND.

THE demand for land in the Auckland District has been very great during the year, and for selections easy of access there was great competition.

The land transactions for the year are shown in the subjoined summary:—

SUMMARY OF LAND TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1903-4.

Class of Selection.	Transactions during the Year.		Leasehold Area held on 31st March, 1903.		Revenue received during Year.
	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	
		A. R. P.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Cash—					
Town	53	79 2 30			
Suburban	6	13 3 13			
Rural	66	7,199 3 13			
Total cash	125	7,293 1 16	...	...	7,624 8 6
Deferred payment	...	...	54	6,144 3 30	271 5 11
Deferred payment made freehold	18	2,185 2 27	...	..	326 1 7
Perpetual lease	...	...	260	50,366 0 11	1,359 9 8
Perpetual lease made freehold	51	10,933 1 5	...	...	6,210 4 4
Occupation with right of purchase	275	94,250 0 39	1,977	522,020 2 24	11,748 6 8
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	44	7,715 0 22	...	...	4,713 14 9
Lease in perpetuity ...	113	27,802 2 23	1,174	273,332 2 20	6,863 4 8
Lease in perpetuity, land for settlements	45	2,526 0 8	212	35,637 0 28	5,824 13 0
Mining Districts Land Occupation Act	30	1,892 2 18	183	9,074 1 19	371 12 4
Agricultural leases... ...	...	...	1	20 2 0	...
Village homestead, special settlement	...	...	44	1,634 0 10	199 5 6
Special - settlement associations	3	610 0 0	86	14,852 2 38	255 6 4
Improved-farm settlements ...	...	...	37	3,750 1 17	482 9 9
Homestead	...	...	1	30 0 0	...
Small grazing-runs ...	...	...	9	57,711 2 0	416 12 0
Pastoral runs	46	126,283 2 0	70	212,009 2 27	425 0 0
Land for settlements, miscellaneous	1	6 0 0	16	628 1 18	908 17 1
Miscellaneous leases ...	22	1,494 0 18	206	43,063 3 31	988 16 1
Royalties—					
Coal	...	...	...	...	339 3 2
Flax	...	...	...	...	197 17 0
Timber, Crown lands ...	...	...	...	...	7,131 17 8
State forests	...	...	...	...	13,296 7 7
State forests: Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	210 17 0
Thermal springs	2	11 1 36	284	6,071 1 24	1,796 16 9
Native Townships Act ...	49	18 3 5	65	23 3 5	112 4 6
Other sources, miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	1,670 8 3
Endowments	1	249 1 0	45	24,039 0 8	732 8 4
Endowments made freehold	8	272 1 3	...	...	244 7 9
Total	833	283,544 1 20	4,724	1,260,411 0 30	74,721 16 2

Cash Sales.—The total amount received for cash sales is £7,624 8s. 6d., being fifty-three selectors of town land, with an area of 79 acres 2 roods 30 perches, six selectors of suburban land with an area of 13 acres 3 roods 13 perches, and sixty-six rural selectors of 7,199 acres 3 roods 13 perches.

Deferred Payment.—There are fifty-four selectors still on the books, with an area of 6,144 acres 3 roods 30 perches, giving a rental of £202 14s. 11d.; also eighteen selectors made their sections freehold with an area of 2,185 acres 2 roods 27 perches, paying £326 1s. 7d.

Perpetual Lease.—There are 260 selectors under this tenure, with an area of 50,366 acres and 11 perches, with a revenue of £1,337 7s. 3d. Fifty-one holdings were made freehold during the year with an area of 10,933 acres 1 rood 5 perches, paying £6,210 4s. 4d.

Occupation with Right of Purchase.—There are 1,977 selectors under this tenure; there being 275 selectors of 94,250 acres and 39 perches for the year. Forty-four freeholds were acquired with an area of 7,715 acres and 22 perches. The gross revenue for the year was £16,462 1s. 5d.

Lease in Perpetuity.—There are 1,174 selectors under the ordinary lease-in-perpetuity tenure, and 212 under the Lands for Settlements lease-in-perpetuity tenure. One hundred and thirteen of the former, with an area of 27,802 acres 2 roods 23 perches, and forty-five of the latter, with an area of 2,526 acres and 8 perches were selected during the year, bringing in a rental of £1,500 7s. 2d.

Leases under the Mining District Land Occupation Act.—There were thirty selections made during the year with an area of 1,892 acres 2 roods 18 perches. The total number of selectors under this tenure is 183, with an area of 9,074 acres 1 rood 19 perches, with a rental of £676 5s. 10d.

Agricultural Leases.—No selections during the year, only one selector being on the books, with an area of 20 acres 2 roods.

Village Homestead.—There are forty-four on the books, with an area of 1,634 acres and 10 perches, with a rental of £135 19s.

Special Settlement Association.—Three selectors during the year, of 610 acres. There are eighty-six selectors on the books, with an area of 14,852 acres 2 roods 38 perches, with a rental of £362 7s.

Improved-farm Settlements.—Thirty-seven selectors now hold an area of 3,750 acres 1 rood 17 perches. The revenue for the year was £482 9s. 9d. There have been no fresh selections during the past year.

Homestead Lands.—There is only one holding of 30 acres.

Small Grazing-runs.—No selectors during the year. There are nine selectors of 57,711 acres 2 roods, with a rental of £458 3s. 5d.

Pastoral Runs.—Forty-six selections during the year, of 126,283 acres 2 roods. There are seventy selectors in all of 212,009 acres 2 roods 27 perches, with a rental of £627 15s. 6d. Thirty-six of these selectors are under Hauraki Mining District Pastoral Run Regulations, with an area of 8,701 acres.

Lands for Settlement Miscellaneous.—One selection during the year of 6 acres. Total on the books being sixteen selectors of 628 acres 1 rood 18 perches, with a rental of £124 0s. 6d.

Miscellaneous Leases.—Twenty-two selections during the year of an area of 14,494 acres and 18 perches. The total number of selectors under this heading is 206, holding 43,063 acres 3 roods 31 perches, with a rental of £1,193 16s. 6d.

Thermal Springs.—Two transactions with an area of 11 acres 1 rood 36 perches. There are 284 selectors of 6,071 acres 1 rood 24 perches, with a rental of £1,979 16s. 4d.

Native Townships.—Forty-nine selectors during the year of an area of 18 acres 3 roods 5 perches; 65 selectors in all, with a rental of £235 2s. 6d.

Timber Royalty,—Crown Lands.—£7,131 17s. 8d. has been received during the year.

Timber Royalty,—State Forests.—£13,507 4s. 7d. has been received during the year.

Flax, Royalty.—£197 17s. received during the year.

Coal, Royalty.—£339 3s. 2d. received.

Transfers.—The number of transfers dealt with by the Land Board during the year was 356, of which 332 were granted and 24 refused.

Inspection by Rangers.

During the year the five Crown Lands Rangers inspected 1,628 holdings, and estimated 29,674,817 ft. of timber. The total area involved in such inspections was 342,792 acres.

The amount of improvements required according to the various tenures under which the land was held was £104,321 8s. 9d., and improvements to the value of £238,411 3s. were effected, showing a surplus of £134,089 14s. 3d. in excess of actual requirements by the Land Act.

The number of defaulters during the year was 417, of whom 281 were for non-compliance with improvement conditions, and 136 for non-residence. In every instance the names of the defaulters came before the Land Board, together with the Ranger's report, each case being dealt with upon its merits.

The main cause of default as regards improvements and non-residence is due to the want of road access, and to the absence of schools. Constant applications have been made to the Land Board for exemption from residence, there being no school in the district; also a number of selectors live in "gum districts," who build houses and live on the land but who have no time to cultivate their soil, their time being taken up wandering about in search of gum to sell, and in obtaining the necessaries of life. This gum land when properly cultivated in course of time grows excellent fruit, of a better quality than that grown on richer land. It has also been proved that vines do exceedingly well in sheltered situations, and a fairly good wine can be manufactured from the grapes. The wine will have a ready sale in the future, now that settlers are being taught

the art of wine-making. Ranger Bayly reported on 265 holdings containing 53,037 acres. The amount of improvements required was £19,277 15s. 6d., the improvements actually effected being £82,944 14s. There were 26 defaulters, of whom 16 were for improvements, and 10 for residence conditions.

Ranger Ewen reported on 454 holdings, containing 132,766 acres. The amount of improvements required was £29,833 19s. 6d., the amount effected being £55,625 17s. 6d. Of these there were 138 defaulters, 102 being for improvements, and 36 for failing to comply with the residence conditions. He also estimated 79,000 ft. of timber.

Ranger McKay reported on 584 holdings, containing 93,579 acres. The amount of improvements required to be effected was £32,915 11s. 6d., while the amount effected was £68,224 12s. 6d. There were 146 defaulters, of whom 66 were for not effecting improvements, and 80 for non-residence. Ranger McKay also estimated 22,113,520 ft. of timber.

Ranger Maxwell reported on 322 holdings, containing 63,103 acres. The amount of improvements required to be effected was £22,154 1s., and amount effected was £31,582 8s. There were 105 defaulters, of whom 96 were for not effecting their improvements, and 9 for non-residence. Ranger Maxwell also estimated 7,482,297 ft. of timber.

Ranger Lusk reported on 3 holdings, containing 307 acres, amount of improvements required to be effected was £140 1s. 3d., while amount effected was £33 11s. Two of the selectors were defaulters, one being for not effecting his improvements, and the other for non-residence. Ranger Lusk is entirely engaged on estimating and inspecting timber, looking after Crown and State forests, he being a timber expert. A great many of the forests are difficult of access, being situated on tops of high ranges, with no tracks except those made by wild cattle.

Bleeding Trees for Kauri-gum.—A new industry has been started in the Hokianga District to obtain kauri-gum from trees by cutting notches in the bark, which causes the gum to exude. The gum is collected from various cuts in the trees once a year, and it is said that about fourteen shillings worth of gum per tree can be obtained at each gathering. Five hundred trees have been experimented upon for a start. It is a question what injury this bleeding does to the trees. The sugar-maple and spruce-fir in other countries are injured by a similar process for sugar and turpentine respectively. Possibly the kauri, being a gigantic forest-tree, can stand the process.

Marram Grass.—Along the west coast of this province the sand has accumulated, leaving sand-dunes, which keep moving inland through the action of the wind, and in places, from the mouth of the Waikato northward, trees can be seen with the tops just showing above the sand. Many grasses and plants have been tried to bind the sand, the most satisfactory being the marram grass, and it is hoped that the travelling sand will be checked by planting the grass in the most exposed localities, leaving it to spread of its own accord.

Replanting Deforested Areas.—Up to the present no steps have been taken to replant the portions of State forests over which fire has travelled, but portions have been sown in grass, and are much sought after by settlers, who obtain year-to-year leases for grazing purposes only. There have been no serious forest-fires during the year.

"*The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903,*" came into force at the latter end of the year, but the only land put upon the market before the 31st March was that contained in the Land Guide and opened under former Acts. It is undoubtedly a great concession, of which settlers will take advantage. It is too soon to say what effect it will have, as the settler pays his deposit of six months' rent, which starts from the 1st July next. The first lot of new land opened was in April.

Timber-floatage.—Only one prosecution under the Timber-floating Act took place during the year, and no damage that has not been paid for has taken place. The holders of licenses and settlers seem to be working more satisfactorily together, and with less friction than formerly.

Scenery-preservation.—Numerous scenic reserves have been made during the year when opening up fresh lands.

Lands under the Land for Settlement Acts.

Opouriao Settlement.—Area, 7,604 acres. Four hundred acres is rich alluvial soil, the remainder either open fern or bush hills, which, although only second-class land, makes useful pasture when grassed.

The Ranger reports as follows: There are fifty-nine sections on settlement (including cheese-factory), fifty-six of which are in occupation and three vacant. Of the latter, two are small sections on Whakatane River and liable to floods, and affording no available site for building purposes. The remaining section of 200 acres is the poorest land on the estate, and consists of broken light bush land, poor soil, with frontage to Waimaru River. The area of level land is very small and difficult of access, and the section has been taken up on two occasions, but never improved or resided upon, and has again been abandoned during the past year. Of the Taneatua Village sections fifteen are now in occupation, there being eight new tenants during the year. On the sections already taken up good buildings, such as stores, bakeries, butcheries, and other shops are erected, and the nucleus of what should eventually be a thriving township established. The value of improvements effected upon the settlement during the past year amounts to £3,000. Number of population, 316, being an increase of twenty-one for the year. Number of milch-cows, 869; increase for the year, 179. Area under maize, 548 acres, showing decrease of 232 acres for year. Area in oats, 181 acres; decrease for year, 31 acres. The area under grass may be estimated at 4,000 acres, whilst the whole area under turnips does not exceed 60 acres, and neither potatoes nor other root-crops are cultivated to any extent. The Opouriao Settlement may be considered as dependent upon the dairying industry for its principal source of revenue; at the same time, mixed farming, such as maize-cultivation, grazing stock (both cattle and sheep), horse-breeding, principally draughts, pig-rearing and fruit-growing, are all receiving attention.

The area under maize is decreasing each year; the uncertainty of this crop, owing to frost, debars its general production, whilst the dairy farm gives a more certain return. Other white crops are not cultivated to any extent, and root-crops do not, in my opinion, receive the attention they deserve. A cold wet spring and summer has kept the maize-crop back, and rendered the oat-crop (owing to rust) almost a failure. Warm weather set in during February, the maize looked well, and with a continuance of seasonable weather should give a good return when harvested. The returns from the factory for milk for the season have been very satisfactory, in some cases, phenomenal. Some 1,800 gallons are churned daily, and over 140 tons of cheese, valued at about £7,000, is exported per annum. The amount of improvements annually effected is a crowning proof that the settlement is in a sound condition, whilst these improvements, especially buildings, are of a substantial description, showing that the owners are making homes. I can report fences, hedges, and property on the settlement as being in good order, some of the original buildings, however, are decaying from dry rot and age. The drains are, as a whole, in good order, a decided improvement on last season. The river-encroachment has been stayed considerably, but is still making inroads at one or two places, but not to the extent it did prior to the formation of embankment-works. At one spot fully 3 acres have been carried away, but at my last visit the river had changed its course, and encoachment at the worst place had ceased, and the embankment was doing good work. I can still report this settlement as being in a prosperous condition, with outlook still good. The fact that a considerable area of contiguous Crown lands has been taken up by Opouriao settlers for grazing-country speaks for itself. Altogether, matters on the Opouriao Settlement were, at the time of my inspection, in a thoroughly sound and prosperous condition and still steadily progressing.

Okauia Settlement.—Area 5,920 acres; number of sections, 9—number occupied 8, 1 forfeited during year; number of sections resided upon, 6; absentees, 2; number of houses, 7; population, 14; increase, 1. Number of cattle, 220; number of horses, 10; number of milch-cows, 12; a decrease of 3 during the year.

The Ranger reports: The total value of improvements on the settlement is £3,366 7s., of this £1,665 is value of improvements on estate prior to allotment, leaving £1,701 7s. as having been effected by selectors since taking up their sections. I cannot report any improvement on this settlement, nor is the outlook more satisfactory than it was last season. The land outside of the bush clearings is poor. The bush clearings were felled and grassed before the estate was acquired by Government, and since being cut up only a few acres of bush has been felled and the land grassed. The bush lands are utilised solely for grazing purposes. With closer settlement at Matamata and a creamery within reach, it may be that the better grass lands will be used for dairying in the future; at present the outlook is not promising.

Rangiatea Settlement.—Settlement area, 4,004 acres; number of selectors, 19; number in occupation, 18; number in residence, 18; population, 107; increase for the year, 7; number of milch-cows, 530; increase for year, 75; value of improvements effected during the year, £2,258; area under oats, 235 acres; turnips, 294 acres; potatoes, 26 acres; land in good grass pasture, 2,680 acres.

The Ranger reports: Although dairying is the principal industry and the source from which the principal revenue is obtained, yet crops are grown by selectors. The wet season did not harm the oat-crop, which, however, yielded an indifferent crop, rust being very prevalent. Turnips promised a good crop, whilst in one section there was a crop of potatoes that, if average equalled what I saw dug, would return fully 20 tons to the acre. The selector informed me that as well as thoroughly cultivating the land he had used 5 cwt. of manure per acre to the 5 acres in potatoes. This settlement is still apparently in both a prosperous and a sound condition. The improvements effected are substantial. Dwellinghouses are well built, evidencing an intention of permanent occupancy. The returns for dairying are satisfactory for the season. I can report fences, hedges, drains, and buildings in good order and condition. Californian thistle is prevalent on several of the sections. The only remedy available is to keep it from seeding, which is done. With all drawbacks this settlement may be considered thriving, and supporting a considerable number of good farmers and their families.

Karapiro Settlement.—Area, 2,335 acres and 24 perches. Number of sections, 17; number occupied, 17. Number of selectors resident on selections, 10. Value of improvements effected during the year, £679 4s. 6d. Population, 55, being an increase of 43 for year. Number of milch-cows, 224; decrease, 33 during year. Area in oats, 46 acres; wheat, 35 acres; turnips, 120 acres; potatoes, 11 acres.

The Ranger reports: Dairying is still the principal industry on the settlement and the returns from the factory are satisfactory and fully up to the average. The settlement is in a prosperous condition, and is as a rule well farmed. Fences and drains are in good order and noxious weeds have been kept in check. Substantial improvements have been effected during the year, and the production of fruit is obtaining more attention than in previous years. Very little alteration has taken place since last year's report, nor is there anything special to mention now. The turnip-crop promises well; the oats, as elsewhere this season, suffered from the wet spring, rust being prevalent. This settlement has now arrived at a stage when there is not much room for further improvement, Sections 8 and 9, Block X., excepted. These two selections have the largest area on the settlement, and were but slightly improved at time of occupation. Both contain considerable areas of unimproved land that is gradually being brought into cultivation. I may conclude by stating that the settlement is apparently in a sound condition, and the settlers are doing well.

Fencourt Settlement.—Area, 7,105 acres 3 roods 5 perches. Number of selections, 34. Number of selectors, 34; resident on lands, 32. Number of houses, 33. Population, 156, being an increase of 7 for year. Number of milch-cows, 849; increase for year, 133. Value of improvements effected during year, £5,675 12s. Area in oats, 251 acres; in wheat, 39 acres; in potatoes, 17 acres; in turnips, 382 acres; and in grass, 4,000 acres.

The Ranger reports: Dairying is the principal industry, and the substantial increase in milch-cows shows that it is still enlarging; further increase may be looked for, as the land at present uncultivated is broken up and other lands brought into higher cultivation. Returns from the factory for milk have been above the average this season, and the new creamery station has been of undoubted benefit to a large number, otherwise too distant from the main factory. A considerable area of oats was sown in the season, but the very wet cold spring followed by a wet summer caused great injury to this crop from rust, a great deal was fed off, not being worth harvesting. The turnip-crop looked well and the grass promises plenty of winter feed for stock. The improvements effected are of a substantial character far beyond requirements, and apparently indicate *bonâ fide* settlement. It may be remarked that in one instance over £1,000 has been expended in this direction. Buildings and fences are in good order and condition. I regret I cannot say the same of drains. I alluded to this matter last year, and it is a question that must be grappled with sooner or later, otherwise at least some 500 acres of good land will be rendered valueless. Each year the drains are drifting into a worse condition, with the result that eventually four or five of the tenants, possibly eight, will incur loss in stock and in other directions. I can report that the noxious weeds have been kept down during the season. The Californian-thistle nuisance, however, is on too large an area to be dealt with except by cutting it down to prevent seeding; this has been done. Drainage excepted, I can report settlement in a prosperous condition, and with proper drainage a large increase on both stock and dairying returns should occur.

Whitehall Settlement.—Area, 8,959 acres. Number of selectors, 10; number occupying, 10; number resident on land, 10. Population, 31, being an increase of 10 for the year. Value of improvements effected by settlers during the year £1,601 7s. Crops: Turnips, 128 acres; oats, 41 acres; potatoes, 2 acres.

The Ranger reports: Land on settlement still utilised principally for grazing purposes, but matters are apparently moving in the direction of dairy farms being established within the next two years. The sections near Main Road are still worked as dairy farms; other sections have been subdivided and transferred to new men. Another selector takes his milk to a neighbouring farmer who has a separator. A considerable area of tea-tree has been felled, to be burned and grassed this year. More turnips are grown this season than hitherto. All the selectors are now resident on their sections, and the outlook is brighter than it has been. The road being blocked at the "French Pass" is a great drawback, some of the settlers have to travel fully double the distance to their market-town (Cambridge), which would not be the case were this road available for traffic. Taking everything into consideration, matters are slowly improving on this settlement with better prospects.

WORKMEN'S HAMLETS.

Methuen Hamlet.—Area, 77 acres 3 roods 14 perches, comprising 30 sections. Number of sections occupied, 11; resided upon, 8; number of houses, 8. Population, 32. Value of improvements effected, £1,209. Area cultivated, 7 acres. Live-stock, 1 horse, 2 cows.

The Ranger reports: Five of the above eleven sections have been taken up during the year; of these four are less than one year in occupation. Two sections have, up to date, neither been resided upon nor improved; whilst another of more than twelve months' occupation, has been forfeited for not complying with conditions of tenure. This hamlet has been roaded during the year, giving better access to sections. This should offer better inducement for settlement.

Cradock Hamlet.—Area 33 acres, comprising 14 sections. Number of sections occupied, 7; resided upon, 4. Number of houses, 6. Population, 8. Area cultivated, 8 acres. Value of improvements effected, £474 11s.

The Ranger reports: Of these selections, four have been held over one year, and three have complied with conditions. The hamlet has been roaded during the year, and one road is now being metalled. Considering its proximity to the railway-station at Avondale, these sections should now be more readily taken up.

Kitchener Hamlet.—Area, 26 acres 3 roods 35 perches, comprising 12 sections. Number of selectors, 8. Number of sections resided upon, 6. Number of houses, 6. Population, 27. Live-stock, 3 cows. Value of improvements effected, £547 18s. Area cultivated, 9 acres.

The Ranger reports: Only one of these selections has been occupied more than a year. The land on this hamlet is level, with fairly good soil, and well roaded.

Hetana Hamlet.—Area, 451 acres 1 rood 34 perches, comprising 123 sections. Number of sections in ocupation, 9; number resided upon, 6; number of houses, 6. Population, 11. Value of improvements effected, £496 11s. Area cultivated, 15 acres. Live-stock, 4 cattle, 2 horses, 8 pigs.

The Ranger reports: Of the above sections only one is less than one year in occupation. This hamlet has also been roaded during the year, but the culverts are not yet completed. Sections not in close proximity of road fronting hamlet are still available for selection.

Waari Hamlet.—Area, 427 acres 2 roods 32 perches, comprising 92 sections. Number of sections in occupation, 5; number resided upon, 3. Number of houses, 3. Population, 3. Value of improvements effected, £292 12s. Area cultivated, 10 acres.

The Ranger reports: None of these sections are yet twelve months in occupation. Good roads have been formed during the year. A few more sections may go off, but, as a whole, the sections so far are not much in demand.

Plumer Hamlet.—Area, 74 acres, comprising 19 sections. Three sections are occupied. One house has been built, but settler not yet residing. Two sections taken up more than one year. Four were forfeited for non-compliance with conditions. Three sections have been recently selected by persons for the purpose of viticulture.

These hamlets do not appear to offer the attraction for working-men that was anticipated would be the case at their initiation. The Kitchener, Cradock, and Methuen Hamlets are quite

close to a railway-station at Avondale, and now that the roads have been formed should be taken up readily with the exception of a few indifferent lots. Settlement in either the Hetana, Plumer, or Waari Hamlets does not so far promise to be either rapid or general, and, although the latter is close to the railway, a bridge is badly wanted over the Oraia Creek to give access to railway-station. A few sections at the Waari Hamlet, close to the bridge-site, will be taken up when the bridge is built. The outlook for any of these sections is not promising nor at present is there much promise of improvement.

REPORTS OF RANGERS.

Ranger Bayley reports :—

Opotiki County.—Settlement in this county is progressing satisfactorily. The bush lands south and west of Opotiki, after being neglected for a long time, are being taken up rapidly. This land felled and grassed gives good grazing-country, and a considerable area will, in the near future, be utilised for dairying purposes. The want of roads is much felt, and many who would otherwise settle on these lands go elsewhere; more roads would result in more settlement. I regret to state that this county was, early in March, visited by heavy floods, and considerable loss of valuable stock and property, together with great damage to roads and bridges. Several of these have been carried away, entailing a loss that will take some time to replace, and in the meantime traffic and settlement suffer. It is worth while stating that there are now two creameries as well as a factory in the vicinity of Opotiki. The dairying industry has increased largely, and suitable land is in demand.

Whakatane County.—A considerable area of bush land, especially in the Waimana Survey District, has been taken up during the year, and the quantity grassed has been considerable with the demand brisk for anything like land that will make grazing-country. The swamp lands are not doing so well as was anticipated, the last wet season with subsequent floods, have kept them very wet, and the drainage operations are almost at a standstill, this is militating against their progress; at present where the drainage has been anything like effectual the results have been very satisfactory, and a large area here should eventually become rich pasture, if not dairying country.

Tauranga County.—The demand for, and occupation of lands has, during this year, been beyond the annual average for some years; the bush lands are claiming more attention and settlement is extending principally in the Rotoma direction. The result obtained from these lands when grassed has exceeded expectations. The great drawback to these lands is the prevalence of the disease in cattle, which as yet, has baffled experts; were this grappled with, large areas would at once be taken up which the fear of loss of stock from disease prevents. The spread of ragwort and blackberry in some localities is to be deplored, especially on Native lands, these weeds are becoming a menace to settlers in the localities where neglect is continuous.

Rotorua.—An exceedingly brisk demand for land has been continuous in this district throughout the year and settlement is extending rapidly from Rotorua as its centre. A great deal of these lands have undoubtedly been taken up mainly with a view to secure the timber upon them. The country when felled and burnt takes grass freely, but the bush disease, similar to that in the Tauranga District, has as yet precluded the possibility of either grazing sheep or cattle, and under the circumstances dairying is impossible. The sawmill industry is extensively followed, five mills are in operation, finding employment for a number of hands and supplying timber both locally to Rotorua and elsewhere, between Rotorua and Auckland. The future of these lands is largely contingent upon the solution of the difficulty connected with the disease in cattle; otherwise these lands can never be utilised satisfactorily as grazing-lands after the removal of the timber.

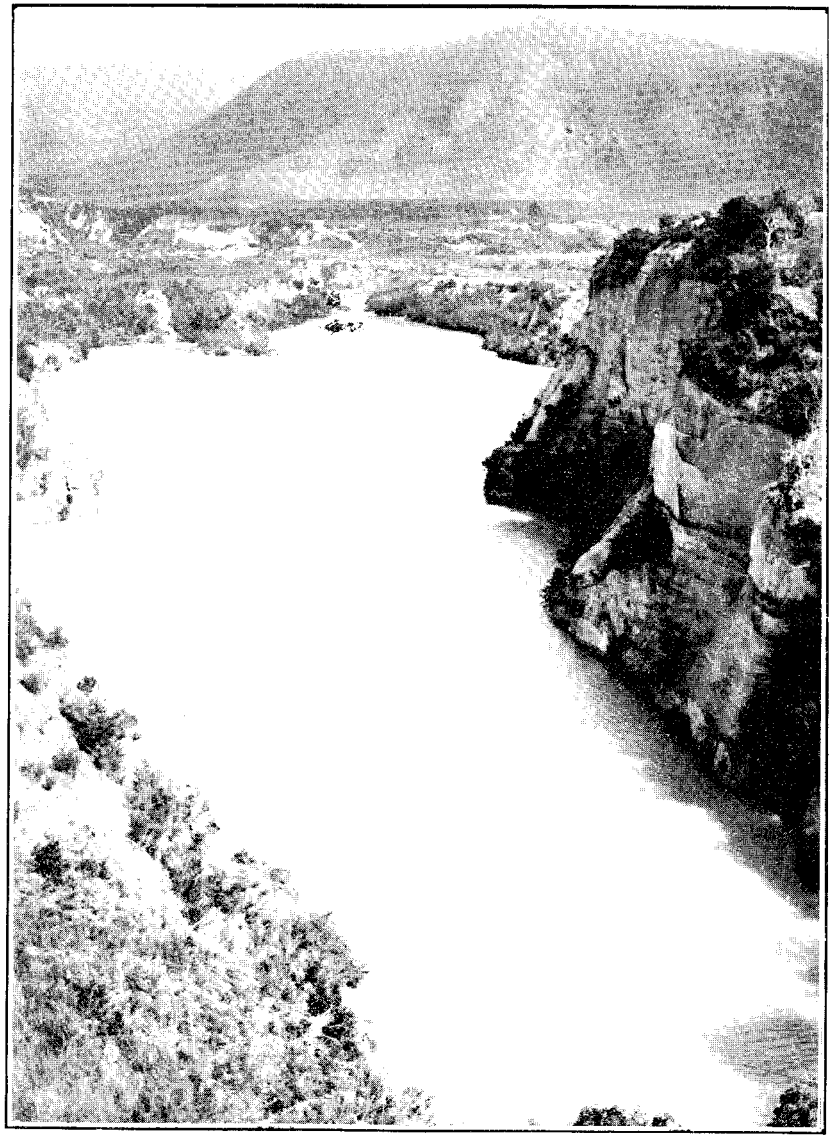
Taupo.—There are few settlers in this county and the area of land occupied is small. Some few settlers are located in the Puniu and Waipapa Land Districts. Area held, some 3,000 acres, and one depasturing lease of 15,675 acres. The natives own a large portion of the lands. The Crown lands occupied are on the border of the county and near the settled community. Those residing on sections have complied with conditions, but at Wharepapa there have been four forfeitures. On several sections the soil is only of medium quality and results as grass lands are not satisfactory. The timber, of which there are several large forests, is its most valuable asset, and an estimate is now being made of the quality available for milling purposes.

East Taupo.—Land, as a rule, poor open tea-tree and fern pumice country. Settlement sparse and scattered. The greater portion of the lands in this country is still in the hands of the Natives. Only four sections are held in this country under either lease-in-perpetuity or occupation-with-right-of-purchase tenure, and these have only been lately occupied. Some of the larger valleys afford a certain quality of pasture, and several small grazing-runs have lately been occupied, but the carrying-capacity is small in comparison with the area held. Rotorua should afford a good market for their stock. At the sale of township sections at Mitui, between Rotorua and Taupo, and again at Taupo, sections offered quitted freely, and the right to cut flax on one of the depasturing-runs has also been disposed of. Several small depasturing and grazing runs have been taken up during the year, representing an area of some 88,000 acres, but being so lately occupied no inspection by the Ranger has taken place. The principal asset of this country is its thermal springs and scenery, which make it a resort for tourists. Settlement is now apparently on the increase, and these lands, although unfitted for agriculture in a general way, have proved eminently adapted for arboriculture.

Ranger McKay reports :—

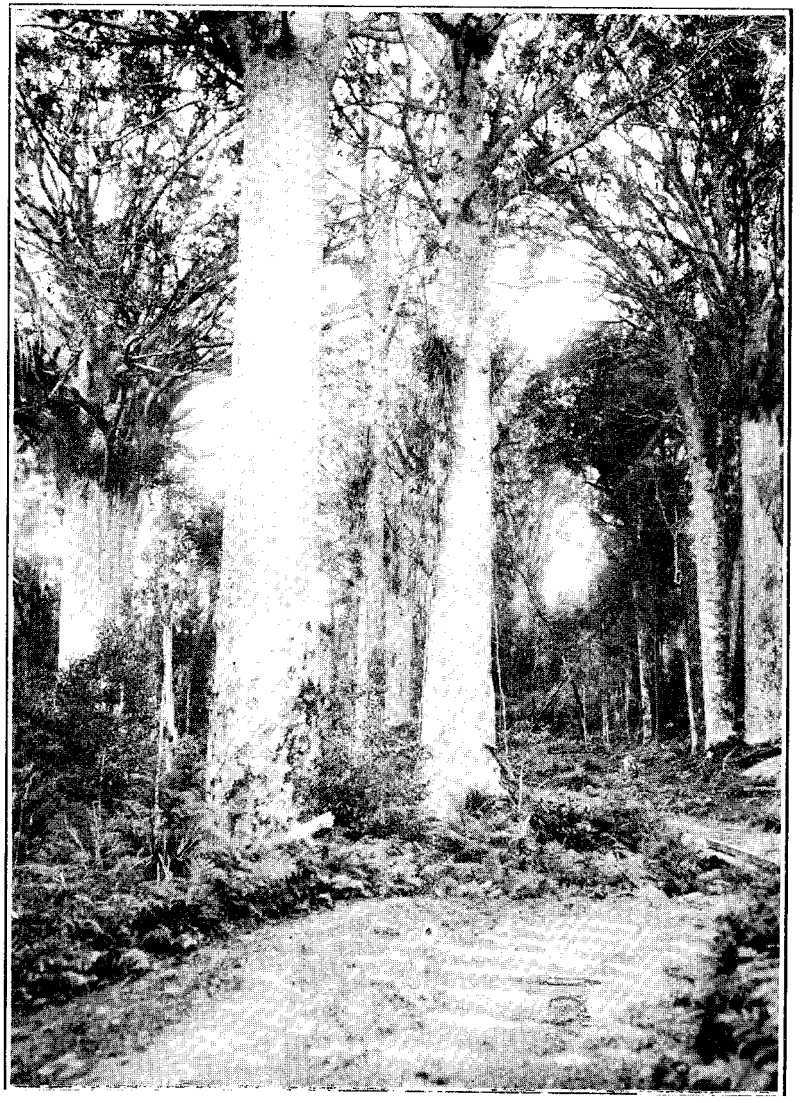
During the year I inspected holdings in Hobson, Otamatea, and Whangarei Counties; also measured large quantities of kauri and other timbers in Mangakahia, Hukerenui, and Tutamoe Survey Districts.

Otamatea-Tokatoka Survey District.—Inspected seventy-six holdings in this district. The required conditions have in all cases been complied with, and the progress in the Tokatoka Swamp portion of the district is very marked, and the improvements effected in the way of buildings, fencing, ditching, grassing, and other things are of a substantial nature. There are two creameries in full working-order in this district.



Grace Matthews, photo.

A LAKE ON WAIOPAE PLANTATION, NEAR ROTORUA.



ROAD IN THE BUSH NEAR KAURI PARK, KAIHU, AUCKLAND.

Omaru Parish.—Holdings inspected, 36. Improvement conditions complied with. More than half the sections inspected are cash selections, principally kauri-workings, which take grass well in this district, land being good for grass.

Matakohe Parish.—Holdings inspected, 18, occupied principally by settlers who own adjacent freeholds in most cases.

Mareretu Parish. — Inspected twenty-eight holdings. Required conditions complied with. Occupied principally for grazing. Mostly good grass land.

Hukatere Parish.—Holdings inspected, 16. Selectors mostly resident on their holdings. Soil in some cases poor, and difficult to grass. Buildings and fencing substantial.

Kaiwaka Parish.—Selectors own freehold lands adjoining, principally grazing-land, mostly good grass land.

Hobson County.—Holdings inspected principally gum land. A good deal of improvements has been effected, such as ditching swamp, &c. This will be the means of making good grass land of what was not so long ago a useless swamp.

Te Kuri Parish.—Holdings inspected all near the coast. Soil sandy, and only adapted for sheep-farms on a small scale. Is very good for that purpose.

Arapohue Parish.—Holdings inspected principally occupied by settlers who own freehold farms in the district. All good grass land. There is a creamery in this district which is doing well.

Te Kopuru.—Holdings inspected all adjacent to good gumfields. Settlers give a good deal of attention and time to gum-digging, the price now being high.

Whakahara.—Holdings inspected principally occupied by settlers who own adjoining freeholds. Required improvements effected fair. Grass land, mostly grazing.

Okahu Parish.—Holdings inspected principally occupied by settlers who own adjoining freeholds. Good grass land, principally grazing.

Whangarei County, Mangakahia Survey District.—Holdings inspected mostly from 150 to 700 acres each. Selectors nearly all resident on their holdings. The progress of this district is good. Large areas have been put in grass, fencing all good, and several good houses have been erected. The selectors are mostly sons of old settlers, and are adapted for bringing under cultivation bush land of this type. This district seems to have a prosperous future before it.

Waipu Parish.—Holdings inspected are occupied by settlers who own adjoining freeholds, on which the selectors are resident. Progress, such as clearing, fencing, and building, very good. A butter-factory in good working-order in this district.

Ruakaka Parish.—Sections inspected mostly forest land. Clearing difficult. Fair progress made.

Speaking generally, progress during the year has been very good. The creameries and butter-factories established in these counties has given an impetus to settlement, and any land of fair quality open for selection is readily taken up. As the roads are improved and more land grassed, the dairy industry will increase, and no doubt more creameries and factories will be established. The high prices for kauri-gum and the great demand for men to work timber and mills, have a tendency to divert the attention of a good many settlers from cultivation of their holdings. It is noticeable that on account of the introduction of certain kinds of grasses suitable for poor soil, even the poorest land is found to be capable of producing a moderate amount of feed for stock; on this account settlers are giving more attention to clearing even the poorest portions of their holdings. It may be reasonable to expect that further introduction of suitable grasses will take place, and that a steady improvement in the same direction may be looked for. The continued good price for flax is also having its good effect. There are new eight mills at work; five of these started during the year. In conclusion I am pleased to be able to state that the settlers in these counties were never more prosperous, or more hopeful for the future. Every branch of industry seems to be flourishing, and I have very good reason to believe that this happy state of things will continue.

Ranger Maxwell reports:—

Whangaroa County.—There has been no progress made in this county since my report last year. The only good land available for settlement is in the Parishes of Pupuki and Matawherohia, and even here the areas are small. The district is infested with blackberry, which will take money to exterminate, and it is spreading into adjoining counties.

Hokianga County.—There has been considerable progress in this county, and the increase in traffic on the roads and river is specially noticeable. A good many new settlers have come to Herekino, some bushfelling and fencing has been done, and the settlers speak very hopefully. A number of sections have been selected in the Whangape Survey District, but the selectors have not had time to do much work, although they have made some progress in the way of bushfelling. The country is mostly good grazing land, although it is hilly. That about the Broadwood Settlement would certainly become valuable, and would be eagerly sought after if the main road was in good order to communicate with Kohukohu.

Mangamuka Survey District.—All the Crown land, except a few acres of the very worst in the district, has been selected. The selectors are making most of their livelihood off their sections—that is, with a little outside help. The Motukaraka settlers are fairly comfortable, have fairly good homes, and there are a number of small vineyards and orchards in the settlement. They have a considerable number of cattle and are improving the breed. The other sections under the Crown, on the river, are very scattered and disconnected. The lessees on the Orira Branch are well forward with improvements.

Waoku Survey District.—Some of the selectors on the Oruanaea and Whirinaki Rivers are not residing and are liable to forfeiture. Those that are on the land are making fairly good progress, but, although the soil is fairly good, the surface is very broken and the land not easily managed, and it is hard to find flats of sufficient area to grow winter feed. The Waimamaku Settlement

in the Waoku Survey District has made considerable progress since my last report. Some bush-felling has been done and new grass put down, and a considerable amount of fencing erected. The cheese-factory has been at work some months, and is satisfactory. The Kauri Timber Company is building a mill in the settlement from which the settlers hope to derive a benefit, and altogether the people are hopeful and are making a fairly good living.

Tutamoe Survey District, Mangakahia Valley.—The low hills in the upper part of the valley are fairly good land. The Marlborough Settlement in Blocks I. and V. is not doing very well, and very little has been done since my last report. The Rangatira, Awatuna, and Mangatu settlers are making progress. The Katui settlers, in Waipoua Survey District, are doing very well, and land seems to be eagerly sought for here. They have a good deal of grass, and a creamery in the settlement. The farm settlers that I have visited in the Kaihu and in the south-east part of the Tutamoe Survey Districts are thrifty and pushful people, and have made good progress.

Bay of Islands County, Omapere and Kerikeri Survey Districts.—The settlers in Okaihau are doing fairly well, but there has not been much grass put down since my last report, except in the Mangataraeri portion of the settlement. The land is poor, and, considering the poorness of the soil, the settlers have been making good progress. There is a creamery at Okaihau, although the present Crown tenants are too far from it to sell their milk.

Kerikeri and Bay of Islands Survey Districts.—The Crown tenants here have merely settled to be near the gumfields and the fishing-ground on the Kerikeri waters. None of them are making a living off their land, although some of them have fairly good vegetable-gardens to help them. I would like here to emphasize the necessity of a closer supervision of the valuable kauri forests in the northern counties.

Ranger Lusk reports :—

Settlement on the three counties which constitute the Hauraki Mining District—viz., Coromandel, Thames, and Ohinemuri, is somewhat restricted through the mineral leases taking, to a considerable extent, the place of the ordinary agricultural or pastoral tenures ; but the mining-districts occupation leases on this goldfield are considerably on the increase, this tenure every year becoming more popular. The rentals being low and an excellent market for dairy and agricultural produce being always at hand, gives the lessees great advantages which are now being more generally recognised. There are fifty-one holdings of this class in the Coromandel and Thames counties, and sixty-four in Ohinemuri County. In addition to these there are considerable areas of low-lying rich alluvial land on the banks of the Waiho and Piako Rivers, which, being excluded from the goldfield, is nearly all occupied under freehold tenure ; and, as drainage progresses, it is rapidly coming into cultivation. The dairy industry is flourishing, and the output of butter has nearly doubled during the past year.

The opportunity of obtaining small pastoral leases on the goldfields, which came into operation during the past year has not been largely availed of, only forty-four have as yet been applied for, but it is certain that before long the pastoral lands in these counties will be in greater request.

Ranger Ewen reports :—

Waitemata County.—Principal industry, gum-digging. At one time kauri timber plentiful and sawmills numerous. The kauri, with very few exceptions, is now reduced to the few trees conserved on forest reserve, Waitakerei. All the better lands have long since been acquired ; very little has been taken up during past season. Taking the quality of the soil into consideration, this county is closely settled ; its proximity to Auckland, considerable water frontage, and being traversed by rail has assisted settlement on lands otherwise poor. The gum industry at present affords employment to a number, and some of the lands when worked out and cultivated produce the finest grasses and sheep-pasture. With the exception of one creamery at Kaukapakapa, the outlet for this industry, especially near rail, is supplying the Auckland market. Plantations of timber are to be seen, and are apparently on suitable land, whilst both fruit-trees and vines thrive. The introduction of a canning expert will give further encouragement to fruit-growers, and fruit-growing should eventually become a settled industry.

Rodney County.—The land in this county is only of medium quality, and very patchy, most of the Crown tenants having acquired the freehold of lands previously taken up. Hitherto, the settlers have devoted their time to cattle-raising and sheep, but now that factories and creameries have been established in different parts of the county the settlers have turned their attention to dairying, and a good supply of milk is coming into the creameries. The roads in this county last winter were very bad. It is the want of good roads that prevents this county from being in a more prosperous state. Fruit can be grown in large quantities, but there is no outlet at a remunerative rate

Manukau County.—Unoccupied land small. Crown tenants few. The Crown land is of rather poor quality. Improvements, as a rule, not very extensive. The establishment of creameries in parts of the district has been very successful, and settlers are now cultivating lands that had hitherto been neglected. Taken as a whole the settlers are complying with requirements of tenure, and, generally speaking, are in a fairly prosperous condition.

Piako County.—Crown lands in this county available for settlement at present very limited, and operations in this direction during past year almost nil. Improvements upon lands taken up in past years still progressing, and as a rule—say, for the greater part, on swamp lands—were extensive and costly before land could be properly utilised. Where lands are available settlement has been, and is, progressing. Dairying, as elsewhere, is largely in evidence, and the cutting-up into small-farm selections of the Matamata Estate in this county should give an impetus to further settlement, and a further increase in dairying lands of the district.

Waikato County.—There is very little to add to last year's report, and so far as I had occasion to make inspection results were satisfactory. I may remark that where lands are adapted for it, dairying is the principal industry, this has increased considerably during year, several creameries have been started and all available arable lands are being brought into cultivation. Population is increasing and the progress of settlement is satisfactory.

Waipa County.—The quality of the land in this county with but few exceptions is only medium. I can report population increasing, settlement becoming closer, the dairy industry on the increase, and cultivation of the arable lands more general. I estimate the bushfelling in this county at 200 acres for the year.

Kawhia County.—The demand for Crown land in this county is still as active as ever, every available section of any value being taken up as soon as declared open for settlement, and the area of bush land felled and grassed is this year much in excess of previous year's operations, and the introduction of stock fully up to the carrying-capacity of the improved lands. The land although very broken in character and difficult to grass, is principally of limestone formation, and makes, after the bush is felled, very good grazing-country. The land, owing to its very broken nature will never be country for very close settlement, and it must be a considerable time before wheel traffic will be utilised for conveyance of necessaries to sections; these are either packed in from nearest main road, or nearest boat-landing on the western portion. Despite all drawbacks both population and stock are rapidly increasing with every indication of future prosperity. Kawhia, which is the principal depot for this county, has increased rapidly during the past year. Some good and substantial buildings have been been erected, a sawmill started in the vicinity, and five launches are to be seen taking provisions to the different landings, whence they are taken by packhorses.

Raglan County.—Area of land taken up during the year very limited; all the better lands have been acquired in past years, those hitherto rejected are the only available sections. I can still report good and substantial progress being made, the various holdings being annually improved, and matters as a whole being satisfactory and progressive. I should estimate the area of bush felled in this county for the year at 600 acres. Dairying, as elsewhere, has come to the front considerably during the year; as the area of bush-grass lands is improved by clearing up and better cultivation, so the number of dairy cattle is increased. New creameries have been established in the county during the year.

Otanake Special Settlement for Returned Troopers.

Ranger Bayly furnishes the following report:—

Description of Country.—Very broken, with but comparatively small area of arable land. Part limestone country, part sandstone. Part heavy, part light bush, remainder open fern and tea-tree land. Is, as a rule, well watered, being intersected by numerous small creeks, and on some of the sections good springs are to be found which can be utilised at moderate expense. Two of the sections have a frontage to Mokau River; one of these is said to be really good land. Out of the thirty-five lots, eleven of the sections representing an area of about 2,600 acres are in actual occupation, with either some improvements effected or commenced; leaving twenty-one of the allotted sections unimproved, together with three sections that have never been taken up, leaving some 3,800 acres of the allotted land unoccupied and unimproved. Population, 17 souls—11 men, 3 women, 3 children. Stock, 13 horses, 4 head of cattle.

At present the outlook is far from satisfactory. Of the number now on the land, the majority, I am of opinion, are *bonâ fide* settlers. In some cases improvements have been or are being effected for owners who are absent.

The land under settlement can be classified as one-third bush limestone land, very good grass land when felled and grassed. About one-third is open fern limestone land which should take grass well and make good grazing-country.

Special Settlement Associations.

The Ranger reports on the undermentioned settlements as follows:—

Marlborough Special Settlement.—The number of selectors remaining on this settlement is 11, holding an area of 1,805 acres 3 roods. Of these selectors 8 are resident and, with their families, number 44 persons. The number of cattle is 160, the total value of improvements £2,100 10s. The settlement is making no progress, there is very little grass, no new clearing, the stock is very poor and have to browse in the bush. There is no creamery, and if there was the settlers have not sufficient milk to supply it. Grass only grows here for about four months in the year, and then very poorly.

Auckland Special Settlement, Waoku Survey District.—The settlement is almost deserted, only one settler on it, and he has no family. The bush clearings are nearly all overgrown. In fact, the settlement could hardly be in a worse condition. The principal drawback seems to be the difficulty of getting the bush to burn. We have also had a period of wet seasons lately that has kept the bush very wet, but I have no doubt that there will come a season when the bush will burn readily. I believe the land is poor in quality, and will not readily be taken up for settlement until land becomes scarce. There is only one settler remaining on this settlement occupying an area of 200 acres. Value of improvements, £436 9s. 6d.; number of cattle, 8.

Avoca Special Settlement.—Area, 2,303 acres and 22 perches, held by 25 selectors of whom 16 are resident. These, with their wives and families make a total population of 66 persons. Number of cattle, 481. Total value of improvements, £4,968 16s. The soil is excellent, although mostly broken. It is all heavy land and specially adapted for growing grass. The settlers have a good deal of grass down, and several miles of substantial fencing. Some of them have very comfortable homes. There is a creamery in the district, and I think the place should now be self-supporting. Those that are deficient in their improvements seem to be struggling to get their bush felled and their houses up, so as not to lose their sections. There is also some fairly good stock in the settlement. The people seem to be in a fair way of making an independent livelihood.

Papamoa No. 1 Special Settlement.—Area, 1,200 acres. No. of selections, 12; number occupied, 12. Number of population, 19. Number of milch-cows, 80. Value of improvements, £2,939 2s. This settlement, although seven years in occupation, has not increased either in population or prosperity, to the extent anticipated at its formation. No. 1 Settlement comprises some swamp land, which when drained makes first-class grass pasture; some undulating foothills with steep broken country at back. The land in the latter is of only medium quality. 100 acres did not afford the means of livelihood to the owners, who threw them up or transferred them to the owners of the better lands, who utilise them as grazing-lands in connection with their other sections. Of the six selectors left, three milk for the Te Puke Factory, and do well, the remaining three are purely graziers. The area of arable land is too limited to support a large population, or induce close settlement, and with the exception of such improvements as are absolutely required no further increase can be anticipated. The improvements already effected are substantial, and three out of the remaining selectors have apparently made permanent homes, and are doing well, but as a settlement this one has not realised expectations.

Papamoa No. 2 Special Settlement.—Area, 2,290 acres. Selectors, 14—in occupation, 9; resident, 5. Population, 30. Number of milch-cows, 80. Value of improvements effected, £2,511 11s. Land under crop: Turnips, 91 acres; maize, 2 acres; potatoes, 2 acres. This settlement is chiefly high broken land, part sheep country, soil medium, with some arable land on the highest portion, and on some of the faces of the spurs. A considerable improvement is apparent on the settlement this season: Cultivation received more attention, and turnips and other crops were attempted; the former want rain, the latter are only on a small scale, but results are encouraging. The two selectors on the lower lands milk for factory near Te Puke; those on the higher lands may adopt the same course, granted a separator-station is adjacent, the nature of the roads from the low-lying to the higher lands being prohibitive of much traffic, there being at least two miles of constant uphill before the top is reached, but certainly on a good graded road. As a whole, the country is too steep and broken to run many milch-cows. Undoubted improvement has taken place, and further improvements will follow, but close settlement on small holdings is very unlikely.

Improved-farm Settlements.

The Rangers report as follows:—

Te Rau-a-Moa Improved-farm Settlement.—This settlement has now been over seven years in occupation and is situated about twenty-four miles from Te Awamutu Railway-station and on a main coach-road to Kawhia. The settlement has an acreage of 1,424 acres 3 roods 32 perches, divided into ten sections, occupied by 36 persons. The number of houses is 10. Improvements have been effected to the value of £4,945 15s. The stock consists of—Cattle, 271; horses, 31; sheep, 247; pigs, 5: total, 554. Since my last visit to this settlement, a factory has been started and is now in full working-order. The progress of the settlers since this industry commenced has been very marked. The land is good, and was originally covered with heavy bush. The altitude being high the climate is moist, which makes bush-burns uncertain, sometimes a second burn being required. After this a good pasture is obtained. The settlers are all doing fairly well, their principal means of livelihood being dairying, supplemented by occasional road-work and bush-felling contracts from settlers with larger holdings. There is a post-office, store, factory, and schoolhouse in the settlement.

Paemako Improved-farm Settlement.—Area, 1,412 acres. Number of sections, 13; number occupied, 11. Number of houses, 11. Population, 44. Value of improvements, £1,751 3s. Number of cattle, 226; increase for year, 52; and number of horses, 24. This settlement has now been nearly eight years in occupation, and with only medium land, scarcity of timber for fencing purposes, distance from rail, and no local market for produce, has made slow progress. The settlers have hitherto been dependent upon road-work as their principal source of revenue and what other odd work they were able to obtain. Matters this year are looking much better. The large influx of settlers into the Kawhia County has caused considerable traffic through this settlement, and brought them into touch with other settlers with a certain amount of sale for their produce. There has been a considerable increase in the number of cattle. The arable land is being cultivated, though only in small areas, and is giving better results than was anticipated. Potatoes and turnips return good crops. Two of the selectors have turned their attention to dairying; one of them owns a separator. Improvement and residential conditions have been complied with. A good accommodation-house and small store have been erected. These settlers will reap the reward of their patience and industry. This settlement is an example of how under difficult surroundings—if work of some description is available—settlers can eventually make homes if they start with that object in view.

Mangatu Improved-farm Settlement.—Acreage, 1,100 acres. Number of sections, 10; number occupied, 3, having an area of 298 acres. Four sections were forfeited for non-payment of rent, and 2 for non-residence and non-payment of rents during the year. Population, 26. Number of cattle, 55. The total value of improvements on the three holdings amounts to £874 17s. There has been no new grass put down since last report. The grass now growing is fairly good. Three of the settlers are doing fairly well, have good paddocks, and a considerable amount of fencing has been done. They mostly depend on outside work for a living, as they get very little off their sections. The land is mostly poor, and is not capable of running much stock. There are several comfortable homes.

Katui Improved-farm Settlement.—This settlement comprises in extent 1,000 acres, and is divided into 10 holdings, 3 of which are now occupied, containing an area of 292 acres. Two holdings were forfeited this year for non-payment of rent. Number of population, 12. Number of cattle, 44. Value of improvements, £607. This settlement has made considerable progress since my last

report, and although there has not been much new grass put down, what there is feeds a good many cows, the milk from which is supplied to a creamery erected in the settlement, and which is working satisfactorily and is a great help to the settlers. Land is eagerly sought for, and some of the sections have changed hands, the original holders obtaining a good price for their improvements. A good many of the settlers are in a fair way of making a living out of their land. Most of them have very comfortable homes and some substantial fencing, and with the assistance of timber-work and gumfields the settlers should not need work from the Government.

Rangatira Improved-farm Settlement. — Number of sections, 10—acreage, 1,000 acres; number now occupied, 2, containing an area of 200 acres. Population, 7. Number of cattle, 25. Value of improvements, £361 11s. In this settlement there are only two families, who are mostly depending upon road-work, and are making very little progress. Very little grass is growing, and the cattle have to pick up a living in the bush.

Tawai Improved-farm Settlement.—Eight years in occupation. Number of holdings, 7; only 3 residing on land. Number of houses, 5. Population, 8. Number of stock: Horses, 16; cattle, 50. Value of improvements, £516. Improvements practically the same as last year. The source of revenue here is work on the roads, combined with milking a few cows. One farmer in the settlement has a separator, and takes the milk. I cannot report any progress for the year, or, at present, appearances of any alteration. Matters are not satisfactory.

General Remarks.

The dairy-produce export has greatly increased, and it is to the establishment of butter and creamery factories that a good deal of the demand for land is due. Letters of inquiry from Australia, Canada, England, and America have been received, requesting that conditions of settlement in this colony may be sent to writers.

It is proposed to open the following lands during next year: Bay of Islands, 6,700 acres; Mangonui, 2,000 acres; Hokianga, 25,000 acres; Rotorua, 9,000 acres; Tauranga, 22,000 acres; Awakino, 5,000 acres; Kawhia, 3,000 acres; Opotiki, 5,000 acres: total, 77,700 acres. Of this area 54,500 acres are bush and 23,200 acres are open lands.

The Matamata Estate, which has been acquired by Government, is proposed to be opened in June, 1904, and judging from the inquiries from all parts of the colony shortly after the notice appeared in the newspapers that the estate was to be bought, the settlement of the estate will be a success.

Land Board.—In all matters connected with the Land Board I have had the most cordial assistance from the members, and I have to thank them for the painstaking way in which they considered the numerous proposals I have laid before them. The work has greatly increased with settlement, the meetings extending over two days, occasionally, the members also visiting the land if the occasion required them to do so.

Office-work.—During the year 19,984 letters, 1,994 parcels, and 1,054 telegrams have been received, and 31,048 letters, 11,726 parcels, and 927 telegrams have been despatched. Vouchers to the number of 1,626 passed through the accountant's branch, representing an expenditure of £45,212 1s. 8d.; of this amount £12,669 11s. 5d. was paid through the Imprest Account. Owing to the increased amount of land placed in the market during the year, 143 notices of insertion of advertisements were sent out to the various newspapers circulating in the district.

Gerhard Mueller,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

HAWKE'S BAY.

1. Lands opened for Selection.

During the year a total of 161,579 acres was offered for selection, being 129,555 acres more than the previous year. The area comprised 75,065 acres unsurveyed and 11,905 acres surveyed land offered under the optional system, 37,555 acres offered as small grazing-runs, 36,716 acres under Land for Settlements Acts (lease in perpetuity), and 338 acres of Native township lands—a total of 99,615 acres being disposed of. Constant demand is made in this district for land of fair to good quality, and such land, if within reasonable distance of a centre, is readily disposed of when offered.

Table showing Manner in which Crown Lands were opened for Selection or Lease.

Ordinary Crown Lands.

—	Optional System.	Small Grazing-runs.	Native Townships.	Totals.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Offered for first time	75,065	9,146	338	84,549
Offered previously	11,905	20,375	...	32,280
Totals	86,970	29,521	338	116,829

Land for Settlements.

—	Small Grazing-runs.	Lease in Perpetuity only.	Totals.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Offered for first time	8,034	35,615	43,649
Offered previously	...	1,101	1,101
Totals	8,034	36,716	44,750

	Acres.
Ordinary Crown lands	116,829
Land for settlements	44,750
Total	161,579

2. LANDS DISPOSED OF.

The revenue for this year shows an increase of £23,912 as compared with the previous year, and the total area of land selected shows an increase of 52,092 acres. The gross revenue totals £57,604, which is the largest sum ever received in this district. The land transactions for the year ending the 31st March, 1904, with the number of tenants and the area held under each tenure are given concisely in the following summary:—

SUMMARY OF LAND TRANSACTIONS, 1903–4.

Tenure.	Transactions during Year.		Leasehold Lands held at 31st March, 1904.		Revenue received during Year 1903–4.
	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	
		A. R. P.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Cash	8	3,262 0 33	...	...	3,220 19 2
Perpetual lease made freehold	7	3,674 3 3	...	...	2,089 13 1
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	5	3,163 0 0	...	...	2,423 12 8
Perpetual lease	...	...	10	5,247 2 25	397 19 4
Deferred payments ...	...	...	3	2,140 1 13	60 5 6
Occupation with right of purchase	25	18,265 2 22	225	103,963 2 0	4,679 18 1
Lease in perpetuity ...	8	4,484 3 35	186	102,538 0 9	3,489 17 11
Village settlements—					
Occupation with right of purchase	...	...	8	6 2 8	1 5 0
Lease in perpetuity ...	1	50 0 0	41	516 3 9	52 16 9
Village-homestead special settlements	...	...	29	187 0 32	67 19 8
Special-settlement associations, lease in perpetuity	...	...	14	3,111 0 19	37 14 0
Improved farms	...	...	17	1,916 0 0	249 7 4
Small grazing-runs ...	11	30,286 1 28	78	231,401 3 2	2,510 8 9
Pastoral runs	...	...	15	106,239 2 0	727 14 10
Timber-cutting	...	...	...	...	236 9 10
Miscellaneous leases ...	8	152 0 26	76	49,174 1 22	1,506 0 0
Transfer fees	...	...	...	...	213 13 0
Crown-grant fees	...	...	...	...	30 5 7
Survey liens	...	...	...	...	238 4 10
Other sources	...	...	...	...	1,320 14 1
Totals	73	63,339 0 27	702	606,442 3 19	23,554 19 5
Land for settlements—					
Lease in perpetuity ...	75	36,420 3 1	328	92,310 0 19	27,923 1 4
Lease in perpetuity (village)	...	...	15	34 3 16	38 0 11
Small grazing-runs ...	5	6,382 2 0	14	16,854 0 0	4,229 18 0
Miscellaneous	1	4 0 0	7	362 2 27	185 10 0
Cash	1	0 2 16	...	...	13 15 0
Buildings and insurance premiums	...	...	...	...	924 6 11
Native townships	31	305 3 14	81	527 0 4	316 3 0
Endowments	...	...	26	9,804 2 35	418 17 3
Grand Totals ...	186	106,452 3 18	1,173	726,336 1 0	57,604 11 10

3. Review of each System of Tenure.

Perpetual Leases.—Seven tenants have acquired freeholds during the year, of an area of 3,674 acres, the amount realised being £2,089. Also four holdings were exchanged to lease in perpetuity. This now leaves on the books ten tenants, holding an area of 5,247 acres and paying an annual rental of £431. There are no arrears of rent under this system.

Occupation with Right of Purchase.—The selections under this tenure number twenty-five, covering an area of 18,265 acres, with an annual rental of £922, as against twenty-one last year of 10,175 acres and £450 rental. Five freeholds were acquired of an area of 3,163 acres, the amount received from this source being £2,423. One selector was in arrear, owing £8 5s. 8d. Sixty-two properties have been inspected, with an area of 16,447 acres, 9,264 acres being felled and 10,419 acres grassed. The buildings number forty-five, of a value of £3,717, and the improvements effected value £29,231.

Lease in Perpetuity.—The ordinary lease-in-perpetuity selections number eight, covering an area of 4,484 acres and with a rental of £151 17s., as against last year's three selectors, with an area of 1,428 acres and £41 annual rental. One surrender of 1,600 acres was accepted for purposes of subdivision and two sections containing 627 acres forfeited. With four exchanges from perpetual-lease system of 167 acres, the net gain is nine selectors, 2,426 acres and £91 annual rental. Two selectors are in arrear to the extent of £19 15s. 11d. Fifty-three holdings, of an area of 13,541 acres, were inspected, the amount of improvements required being £12,542, and those effected £23,359.

Small Grazing-runs.—Eleven selections with an area of 30,286 acres, and an annual rental of £439 have been made during the year, whilst four surrenders of 10,201 acres, and with a rental of £134 17s. 3d. were accepted. This leaves on the books seventy-eight tenants holding an area of 231,401 acres, and paying an annual rental of £2,473 11s. 2d. One selector is in arrear to the extent of £19 14s. 6d.

Pastoral Runs.—Two surrenders of 28,752 acres have been accepted during the year, one for subdivision, and the other being unable to carry on. Fifteen tenants now hold 106,239 acres, and pay an annual rental of £662. Four properties, of 20,585 acres, and carrying 12,400 sheep, with improvements valued at £680, have been inspected during the year. There are no arrears of rent.

Native Townships.—During the year 338 acres, comprising the Waipiro Native Township were offered for sale, 303 acres being disposed of to twenty-seven tenants at an annual rental of £182 11s. The total number of selectors now on the books is eighty-one, holding an area of 527 acres, and paying an annual rental of £385. Arrears are large, amounting to £44 7s. 6d.

4. Inspections and Rangers' Reports.

Ranger H. M. Smith reports that during the year he inspected 625 properties, with a total area of 181,898 acres. The value of the improvements required to be effected was £74,433, and, in nearly every instance considerably more than required had been done, which in the aggregate were valued at £182,363. It was found that 1,643 souls were residing on 592 properties, and 448 were complying with the residential conditions. 21,300 acres of the total area visited were felled; 17,961 acres were grassed, and 6,477 acres in crop. Care has been taken to enforce the conditions of the Land Act where necessary, but the Land Board at the same time has exercised its judgment in discerning between the genuine settler, who through stress of circumstances, is unable for the time being to comply with the conditions of his lease, and the defaulter who took up the land for speculation. In this connection general satisfaction has been evinced at the Board's decisions.

The report furnished by Ranger H. M. Smith covers inspections in Poverty Bay as well as Hawke's Bay. Much useful and necessary work has been well performed by this officer, and he has been kept extremely busy.

5. Position and Progress of Settlement.

Settlement in this district has advanced very rapidly during the past year, and substantial progress is evidenced by the following: Revenue has increased by £23,912; arrears of rent are reduced by £1,722; improvements inspected during the year are valued at £182,363, as against £74,433, required by law, and £144,317 effected to the 31st March, 1903. Stock carried, has increased by 39,200; being sheep 35,048; cattle, 3,108; horses, 526; and pigs, 518; whilst the area in crop has increased by 3,112 acres.

The seasons have been exceptionally good, the land yielding, with few exceptions, abundant returns of cereal and root crops, and a plentiful supply of grass. The settlement conditions, on the whole are well complied with, and little complaint can be made on that head. Where access is good, settlers show a genuine desire to effect residence, even under trying conditions. In this connection, it has been necessary for the Land Board to practice leniency whilst administering the Act, and in some isolated instances to grant exemptions from residence; but any attempts to deliberately avoid the conditions of their leases have been promptly met and dealt with, forfeiture ensuing in several instances.

Especially high prices are ruling for stock and wool, and a decided impetus has been given to the dairying industry by the erection of several additional dairy factories, the demand for the output of these and existing factories being greatly in excess of the supply.

Generally speaking, the settlers are in a very prosperous condition, and it is with pleasure that I have to record one of the most prosperous years experienced in this district.

6. Rebates of Rent.

Under the provisions of "The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900," two hundred tenants have received rebates on one or two payments, amounting to £866 14s. 3d. This amount represents 5 per cent. on the rents paid within one month from the due date. No rebates have been allowed under "The Crown Tenants' Rent Rebate Act, 1900."

7. Number of Tenants and Arrears of Rent.

The number of tenants on the books at the 31st March, 1903, was 1,049, holding an area of 686,251 acres, with an annual rent of £35,270; and during the year under review 165 tenants with an area of 96,352 acres, and an annual rent of £12,800 were added, At the 31st March, 1904, there were 1,173 tenants on the books holding an area of 726,336 acres, and paying an annual rent of £47,012.

The arrears of rent, amounting to £1,987 are £1,722 less than last year, which must be considered a very satisfactory reduction. Of the sum now in arrear, £1,664 is due by thirty Hatuma settlers, who it will be remembered, on account of the bad season experienced when selecting the land, were allowed three years within which to pay the rent for 1902. Fourteen ordinary Crown tenants owe £111, this being a reduction of the previous year's account.

8. Forfeitures and Surrenders.

The total number of forfeitures during the year was thirteen with an area of 4,416 acres, and an annual rental of £618, the reasons for forfeiture being non-payment of rent, non-residence, and dummyism. Eight surrenders were accepted covering an area of 41,429 acres, with an annual rental of £250, and these, with one exception, are again in occupation.

9. Lands to be Opened.

As was the case last year, the bulk of the Crown lands to be opened in this district are situated in Poverty Bay. It is anticipated that an area of 139,931 acres of Crown lands, including the land already open, but not yet selected, will be offered during the year, principally under the unsurveyed system, and the provisions of "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903."

The lands under the Land for Settlement Acts expected to be placed in the market, are Mount Vernon Estate, 15,000 acres, and the balance of the Manga-a-Toro Block, known as Manga-a-Toro No. 1A, No. 1 containing 5,141 acres. The former is situated near Waipawa, and is expected to be in the market in about six months' time, and the latter, which is near Dannevirke, a little later.

10. Improved-farm Settlements.

Waikopiro.—There are still fifteen settlers on Waikopiro holding an area of 1,771 acres. 1,412 acres have been felled, and 1,457 acres grassed, the stock total 1,275, and the value of improvements effected is £6,951, being more than double that required by law. There are ninety persons residing in the settlement, who are participating in the general prosperity of the district.

Akitio.—Two sections only of this settlement are in the Hawke's Bay Land District, the greater portion being administered by the Wellington Commissioner.

11. Land for Settlements.

Raureka Settlement.—This settlement, which was part of the Frimley Estate, was placed in the market in May, 1896. There are 19 selectors, holding an area of 416 acres and 38 perches, and paying an annual rental of £543 2s. There are 18 dwellinghouses in the settlement, and 95 persons living on the land. The total value of improvements effected by the selectors amounts to £3,021 15s., as against £1,209 3s., required by law. An area of 99 acres 3 roods is under crop being principally barley, potatoes, and mangolds. Orchard-planting is a feature in this year's operations in the settlement, but dairying is still the principal industry. The settlement is carrying 744 stock, comprising 550 sheep, 68 cattle, 57 horses, and 69 pigs.

Elsthorpe Settlement.—The Elsthorpe Settlement is situated in the Oero Survey District, and was opened for selection in June, 1896. The total area acquired was 9,740 acres. An area of 9,593 acres is held by 45 tenants, who pay an annual rental of £2,313 9s. There are 27 dwellinghouses in the settlement, and 110 persons are living on the land. An area of 231 acres 1 rood 32 perches is under crop, being principally oats, rape, and turnips. The improvements effected by selectors and exclusive of those originally on the land, are valued at £11,540 10s., as against £8,312 15s. 6d., required by law. The stock total 20,798, comprising 20,070 sheep, 584 cattle, 123 horses, and 21 pigs. The formation of a new road connecting this settlement with Hastings is in contemplation, and as the distance by this route is only about nineteen miles, it will shorten by several miles the present access by Kaikora North.

Waimarie Settlement.—This settlement, which is situated in Poverty Bay, was placed in the market in September, 1896. An area of 425 acres 3 roods 34 perches, is held by 18 lessees, paying an annual rental of £463. Fourteen selectors are residing on their holdings, and 75 persons are at the present time living in the settlement. There are 16 dwellinghouses erected, besides other buildings. The improvements effected are valued at £2,328 10s., as against £1,014 3s. 6d., required by the Act. The stock consists of 101 sheep, 71 cattle, 51 horses, and 75 pigs, making a total of 298.

Pouparae Settlement.—This settlement is situated in the Poverty Bay District, near Gisborne, and was opened for selection in April, 1897, in nine holdings. There are 9 selectors residing, 9 dwellinghouses erected, and 47 persons living in the settlement. Fifty-nine acres are under crop, being principally maize and pumpkins. The stock number 342, comprising 183 sheep, 57 cattle, 51 horses, and 51 pigs. Improvements effected on the land are valued at £2,564 11s., as against £854 19s. 6d., required by the Act. Dairying is the principal industry in this settlement, and so far has been a great success, the land being well adapted for that purpose.

Tomoana Settlement.—This settlement, which is part of the Frimley Estate, near Hastings, was placed in the market in March, 1898. The area held is 110 acres, and 3 perches, and is held by 13 selectors, who pay an annual rental of £135 2s. There are 12 dwellinghouses in the settlement, of a total value of £1,695. Ten selectors are actually residing on their holdings, and 58 persons are living on the land. The improvements required by the Act, amount to £310 13s., and the value of the improvements effected is £2,520. The fruit-canning works at Frimley, are able to absorb most of the surplus fruit in the neighbourhood, and will be an inducement to settlers to increase the area of their orchards. The stock number 129, comprising 30 sheep, 60 cattle, 22 horses, and 17 pigs. The dairying industry is still the principal source of income in the settlement, and the year's returns have been very satisfactory.

Mahora Settlement.—This settlement which is also part of the Frimley Estate, is situated near Hastings, and was opened for settlement in March, 1899. An area of 17 acres 2 roods 18 perches is not yet selected, but is at present occupied on a temporary lease. The selectors number 33 holding an area of 1,098 acres 3 roods 17 perches, and paying an annual rental of £1,612 18s. 10d. There are 28 dwellinghouses on the settlement, and 109 persons living on the land. The improvements effected by the selectors are valued at £5,918; as against £1,577 8s. 8d., required by the Act. There are 205½ acres under crop, comprising principally fruit, potatoes, barley, and rape. The stock number 2,685, consisting of 2,035 sheep, 314 cattle, 97 horses, and 239 pigs.

Willows Settlement.—A settlement in the Poverty Bay District, situated about four miles from the town of Gisborne, purchased by the Government from the Bank of New Zealand, and opened for selection in March, 1899. There are 22 selectors, holding an area of 775 acres 1 rood 36 perches, and paying an annual rental of £758 10s. 2d. An area of 98 acres is under crop, being principally maize and potatoes, There are 18 dwellinghouses on the settlement, 16 selectors resident, and 74 persons living on the land. The stock number 1,663, comprising 1,160 sheep, 283 cattle, 49 horses, and 171 pigs. The improvements effected are valued at £3,995 9s., as against £716 16s. 2d., required by the Act.

Hatuma Settlement.—This settlement is situated fifty miles from Napier, on the Main Trunk Railway between Wellington and Napier, and lies between Oruawharo and Arlington Estates. It was placed on the market on the 25th April, 1901, and was all selected. There are 62 selectors, holding an area of 25,873 acres, and paying an annual rental of £7,841 10s. 10d. There are 57 dwellinghouses in the settlement, and 209 persons are living on the land. 2,005 acres are under crop, principally rape, turnips, and oats. The stock number 42,261, consisting of 40,796 sheep, 1,200 cattle, 212 horses, and 53 pigs. The improvements effected are valued at £23,612 18s., as against £8,526 18s. 8d., required by law.

Manga-a-Toro Settlement.—The Manga-a-Toro Settlement is situated in the southern portion of the Hawke's Bay Land District, about eleven miles from Dannevirke Township and Railway-station, and was acquired from the Assets Realisation Board by the Government, under the Land for Settlements Act. 18,245 acres are now held by 25 selectors, one holding having been recently forfeited. This will be again selected when reopened for application. An area of 780½ acres is under crop, being principally rape, oats, and turnips for winter feed. There are 22 dwellinghouses, in the settlement, 21 selectors residing on the land, and a total of 78 persons living thereon. The total improvements effected are valued at £10,616 7s. 9d., as against £5,330 0s. 11d. required by the Act. The stock number 33,648, comprising 32,493 sheep, 1,047 cattle, 100 horses, and 8 pigs. Comparing results with last year, shows an increase in stock of 5,348, and value of improvements effected by settlers during the year £4,166 6s.

Kumeroa Settlement.—The Kumeroa Settlement was acquired by the Government from Mr Thomas Crosse under the Land for Settlements Act, and was opened for application on the 12th May, 1902. The total area offered was 3,748 acres, and the area selected to date is 3,019 acres occupied by 14 selectors. The settlement is distant about six miles from Woodville, with access by good metalled dray-road. There are 13 dwellinghouses in the settlement, 13 selectors residing, and 52 persons living on the land. The improvements effected are valued at £2,572 14s. 6d., as against £696 1s. 6d. required by the Act. Dairying is the principal industry, and two creameries in the neighbourhood are supplied by the settlers. The stock number 4,803, comprising 4,041 sheep, 580 cattle, 41 horses, and 141 pigs.

Forest Gate Settlement.—The Forest Gate Settlement is situated in the Western portion of the Hawke's Bay Land District, distant about fifty miles from Napier by rail and road, and ten miles from the Township of Waipawa. An area of 8,756 acres 3 roods 38 perches was opened for settlement on the 19th May, 1902. At the present time, 8,132 acres 3 roods 38 perches is held by 28 selectors, paying an annual rental of £2,437 19s. 2d. An area of 1,591 acres is under crop being prlncipally oats, rape, and turnips. There are 23 dwellinghouses erected, 21 selectors residing on their holdings, and 84 persons living on the land. The improvements effected are valued at £6,905 14s. 1d., as against £1,162 11s. 9d., required by the Act. The stock number 10,210, and consist of 9,744 sheep, 330 cattle, 94 horses, and 42 pigs. With reference to the proposed scheme of irrigation mentioned in my last report nothing further had been done in this direction, beyond an engineering survey of a water-race from the Tukituki River.

Argyll Settlement.—The Argyll Settlement which was opened for selection on the 26th June, 1903, is situated in the Waipawa County, Hawke's Bay Land District, and is distant six miles from Waipawa Township, three miles from Kaikora North, and nine miles and a half from Pukehou Railway-stations. With the exception of one small grazing-run, the whole of the land is selected. Sixty selectors hold an area of 31,952 acres, and pay an annual rental of £8,171 2s. 10d. The area brought under crop is 1,042½ acres, principally oats, rape, and turnips. There are 38 dwelling-houses in the settlement, many of which are as yet in course of erection, and will, when completed, cost far more than present estimated value—viz., £3,395. Thirty-five selectors are residing on their holdings, and the actual number of persons living in the settlement is 133. The stock number 29,984, comprising 28,435 sheep, 216 horses, 1,269 cattle, and 64 pigs. These figures do not, however, give a fair idea of the carrying-capacity of the land, but are in reality due to the present high prices obtaining for stock in the local markets. The improvements required by law by the end of June, 1904, amount to £4,514 7s. 10d., and those already effected are valued at £14,124 18s., including original improvements valued at £3,902 18s., which were charged for in the price of the land, so that the settlers themselves have effected improvements to a value of £10,221 2s. This may be regarded as very satisfactory, and promises well for the future of the settlement. The formation and metalling of the roads is rapidly progressing.

Wigan Settlement.—This settlement, formerly known as the Takapau Estate, was acquired by the Government from Mr. James McFarlane, under "The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900." It is situated eight miles from the town of Buckley, Tolago Bay, and forty-three miles from Gisborne, and was opened for selection on the 15th December, 1903. Wigan Settlement contains 10,072 acres, and has all been selected with the exception of one section of 462½ acres. It is hardly to be expected that as yet much would be done in the way of improvements, as most of the settlers have been busy visiting the markets in search of stock, fencing, and repairing old fences, &c. There are, however, 110 chains of new fencing to record, and the number of stock total 15,342, comprising 14,610 sheep, 702 cattle, 20 horses, and 10 pigs.

The subjoined summary shows the number of settlements opened for disposal in the district, with the tenants, total area disposed of, and the amount received to the 31st March, 1904:—

Year.	Settlements opened.	Selectors now on Books.		Amount received to 31st March, 1904.
		Number.	Area.	
			A. R. P.	£ s. d.
1896	3	82	10,435 0 29	25,455 2 2
1897	1	9	336 1 12	2,500 17 2
1898	1	13	110 0 03	799 19 1
1899	2	55	1,874 1 13	11,177 14 0
1901	1	62	25,873 2 18	19,036 17 11
1902	3	67	29,396 3 38	14,790 11 3
1903	2	76	41,535 0 29	8,597 19 2
Totals	13	364	109,561 2 22	82,359 0 9

As will be seen by the above, there are now thirteen settlements in this district, two estates (Argyll, 33,705 acres, rental £8,171; and Wigan, 10,072 acres, rental £2,652) having been added since my last report. The amount received during the year reaches the high total of £33,314, being more than double that received during last year.

Continued prosperity obtains with this admirable system of close settlement, which has proved so profitable in Hawke's Bay; the high prices ruling for stock and produce, the prolific returns, and excellent seasons during the past year all tending to create the success the system undoubtedly has been. A few comparisons may not be out of place: There are 281 buildings on the properties visited, valued at £31,453, as against 223 buildings and £23,210 last year. Improvements are £89,901, as against £60,424. Stock totals 147,665 where it was 114,861. People resident are 1,124, compared with 883, and there are 6,713 acres grassed and under crop, being more than double the area last year. Generally speaking the rents have been paid promptly, the rebate offered proving a decided inducement, whilst the settlers on the whole have little complaint and are in a decidedly prosperous condition.

12. Office-work.

The number of letters received and despatched during the year was 17,270, which is a considerable increase over last year's figures. Leases prepared were 507, and receipts for rent sent out, 1,923. Cards furnished to the Auditor numbered 185, and reports to the Government Advances to Settlers Department, 82. The correspondence and clerical work has greatly increased, and the staff has been kept exceptionally busy in all its branches in their endeavours to keep pace with the extra amount of work attendant upon the fast-growing settlement of the district.

The preparation of leases is slightly behind, consequent on the extended illness of two clerks; but with this exception the clerical work of the office has been well performed, and in every other respect is well up to date.

Eric C. Gold Smith,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

TARANAKI.

The land transactions for the year ending the 31st March, 1904, are shown in the subjoined summary:—

Class of Selection.	Transactions during the Year.		Held at 31st March, 1904.		Revenue received during the Year.
	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	
		A. R. P.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Cash	16	105 2 13	...	...	1,073 2 3
Deferred payment ...	...	...	7	1,349 2 15	106 0 5
Deferred payment made freehold	10	1,167 0 0	...	...	450 5 3
Perpetual lease	...	...	21	5,893 0 0	319 10 2
Perpetual lease made freehold	6	1,728 1 6	...	...	1,309 8 0
Occupation with right of purchase	17	11,295 0 19	334	133,097 1 30	6,003 18 2
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	1	200 0 0	...	...	310 0 0
Lease in perpetuity ...	82	37,800 0 20	377	123,744 3 6	5,052 1 7
Lease in perpetuity, land for settlements	20	1,021 0 26	33	2,430 1 11	2,005 8 1
Village settlements—					
Occupation with right of purchase	...	...	16	13 0 0	3 17 0
Lease in perpetuity ...	...	...	12	97 0 19	9 4 8
Special settlements, lease in perpetuity	...	...	72	16,419 3 27	953 4 4
Improved-farm settlements...	102	19,014 0 0	246	33,639 1 23	976 2 3
Small grazing-runs ...	...	...	18	17,770 0 24	268 14 5
Miscellaneous leases ...	18	206 2 36	90	1,770 0 3	388 5 9
Transfer and other fees ...	...	...	...	...	179 16 0
Miscellaneous receipts ...	...	...	...	...	126 10 10
Miscellaneous receipts, land for settlements	...	...	...	...	177 10 2
Crown-grant fees	...	...	...	...	34 17 1
Endowments	3	1,073 3 32	15	7,976 1 36	588 14 10
Totals	275	73,611 3 32	1,241	344,201 0 34	20,336 11 3

Lands offered and disposed of during the Year.

The only increases in the transactions are under the lease in perpetuity, land for settlements, improved-farm settlements, and a few miscellaneous leases; the falling-off of selections under the occupation-with-right-of-purchase tenure may be accounted for by the large area of land opened for lease in perpetuity only. Two estates were resumed under the Land for Settlements Acts—viz., Clandon and Spotswood; the former was wholly and the latter partly disposed of, and a vigorous effort to place co-operative workmen on lands under the improved-farm system resulted in 105 sections, comprising 19,435 acres, in the northern part of the district, between the Mokau and Ohura Rivers, being set apart for settlement and balloted for.

A block of 11,244 acres in sixteen sections, in the Waro Survey District, opened on the 7th October, 1903, under optional conditions, has resulted in five sections being disposed of under occupation-with-right-of-purchase and two under lease-in-perpetuity tenure. Of 19,391 acres in Omona, Kapara, and Opaku Survey Districts, opened at the same time, no selections have yet been made, principally on account of difficulty existing as to access and the rough nature of the country. A block of 10,079 acres, in fifteen sections, in Pouatu and Upper Waitara Survey Districts, was opened on the 2nd March, 1904, and up to the present three selections have been made—two under occupation-with-right-of-purchase tenure and one under lease in perpetuity. This land is principally of a rough nature and requires capital to develop it, but it is fairly accessible from the Ohura Road at various points, and, although broken, is good grazing-country.

The principal sale of the year was that of a block of 114 sections, comprising 60,745 acres of open fern, scrub, and forest country, more or less of an undulating character, some of it very good, whilst a considerable portion of it is rough and broken. It is situated in the Ohura, Heao, Totoro, and Aria Survey Districts, between the Mokau River and the Ohura Road; and as coal has been found in various parts of the block, it was offered under lease in perpetuity only, on the 9th March, 1904, in areas from 213 to 1,754 acres, when seventy-nine sections, comprising 32,347 acres, were disposed of, for which 506 persons lodged applications. Since the close of the financial year, however, twenty sections have in addition been taken up, making the total area in this block 46,913 acres, in ninety-nine sections. There is every reason to believe that the balance of the block will be readily taken up, as inquiries are being received daily in regard to this land. I attribute the success of this sale largely to the fact that it was practically entirely new territory as compared with the older portions of Taranaki, and, although no roading has been done, pack and walking

tracks had been opened to the bulk of the sections, which intending settlers no doubt felt would materially assist them in the earlier years of settlement, and would allow the primary improvements to be carried out, after which better access would be looked for.

Of 11,932 acres, comprising sixteen forfeited sections, that were opened, only one selection of 163 acres was made. They comprise rough country, situate in the Upper Waitara, Mimi, Mahoe, Kapara, Opaku, and Ngatimaru Survey Districts. I have no doubt want of access is the chief cause of these lands not being taken up.

The following table shows how the various areas were opened :—

——	Optional.	Cash by Auction.	Lease by Auction and Application.	Lease in Perpetuity.	Land for Settlements.	Totals.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
First time	32,081	24	77	59,342	1,141	92,665
Previously	20,565	...	53	1,403	87	22,108

Cash System.

The principal sale under this tenure was that of a rural section of 53 acres 2 roods 11 perches, which had been occupied for many years by an adjoining holder, and which was sold under section 114 of "The Land Act, 1892" for £600.

In the Town of Mangaroa, Villages of Aria, Matire, and Tatu, at suitable centres in the recently opened land in the Ohura–Mokau country, ninety-five lots were offered and fifty-four quitted—some at considerable advance on the upset prices—and realised in all £846.

Other sales comprised a purchase of 19 acres rural land that had been opened under optional conditions, the purchase of closed roads, and the disposal of 47 acres 2 roods under section 117 of "The Land Act, 1892." Taken altogether, the cash system, except through the old deferred payments, occupation with right of purchase, or townships, does not find much favour in Taranaki.

Deferred Payment.

The conversions to freehold have fallen off this year as in the past few years, and there are now only seven selectors left on the books. The licenses held by them will expire gradually during the next five years.

Perpetual Lease.

The conversions to freehold under this tenure also show falling-off, the receipts having dropped from £5,196 to £1,309. The number remaining on the books is twenty-one, and it is only a question of time when they will be entirely exhausted.

Occupation with Right of Purchase.

The returns show a decrease of fifteen selections and 6,019 acres on last year's figures, accounted for by the fact that a great deal of the new land opened for selection comprises somewhat rough country in large areas, whilst the access, in all instances, is bad, and the principal block of land opened (Ohura) is under lease-in-perpetuity tenure only. In fact, the opening of the Ohura country, although on lease-in-perpetuity tenure, had the effect very largely of paralysing other sales—that is, intending applicants held back for this. One selector converted his license to freehold.

Lease in Perpetuity.

The returns under this tenure show an increase of 125 selectors and 36,675 acres, accounted for by the opening of the large area previously mentioned in terms of section 121 of "The Land Act, 1892," the acquisition of additional estates under "The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900," and the disposal of a large area under "The Lands Improvement and Native Land Acquisition Act, 1894." It must be borne in mind, however, that as most of these lands are under the operation of "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903," the revenue will not at present greatly benefit by the rentals from them; also, that under the improved-farm-settlement tenure, rents do not commence until about two or three years after selection. Although the occupation-with-right-of-purchase tenure is undoubtedly the popular one in Taranaki—largely, I believe, on account of the financial assistance that is given under it by lending institutions as compared with other leasehold systems—still, when really good country is offered, such as Ohura, the question of tenure apparently, does not in any way become a factor in the disposal of the land.

Improved-farm Settlements.

As previously referred to, 105 allotments, aggregating 19,435 acres, were set apart during the year under this tenure for co-operative labourers, employed chiefly on the public works from Te Kuiti on the North down the North Island Main Trunk Railway as far as Mangaweka. The land is situated in three localities—one in what is known as the Eao Block, and called the "Paorae Settlement," on the Ohura and by-roads; another called "Mangapapa," in the Mokau-Ohura Block, and lying principally on the Mangapapa and Mokau-Ohura Roads; the third called "Totoro," and lying to the south of the Mokau River, served by the Wairere, Totoro, Kumara, Potaka, and Kiekie Roads, branching off from Te Kuiti-Awakino Road. At the present time, 102 workers have been allotted sections, and the report on each settlement is given below.

Mr. J. W. Thurston, Assistant Ranger, reports on the following settlements:—

Ngaire.—159 acres 2 roods 30 perches, in 15 sections, all felled and grassed, occupied by 15 selectors, there being 40 persons on the land. They have effected improvements to the value of £840. Most of the felling and grassing was done at Government cost. There are 124 cattle and 8 horses on the settlement.

Poti.—A hundred and eight acres, in 8 sections, all felled and grassed, occupied by 8 selectors, there being 36 persons on the land. They have effected improvements to the value of £936; most of the felling and grassing was done at Government cost. The live-stock is 107 cattle and 8 horses.

Maata.—Thirty acres, in 3 sections, all felled and grassed, occupied by 2 selectors, there being 4 persons on the land. Improvements effected by selectors are valued at £92, and live-stock consists of 22 cattle and 2 horses.

These three settlements are close to the Borough of Eltham, in a thriving dairying district, and the sections are gradually being brought more into cultivation by logging up and burning off the fallen timber, and forming vegetable and fruit gardens. The settlers appear to be doing very well here; they have a dairy factory, school, post-office, store, &c., within easy reach.

Tongaporutu.—Originally 2,500 acres, in 16 sections; but now only 452 acres 2 roods are held by 4 settlers, there being 29 persons on the land. 485 acres were felled and grassed at Government cost; and the settlers have felled 44 acres, their improvements being valued at £467. The live-stock consists of 96 cattle and 18 horses.

Derwent.—Originally 1,369 acres in 13 sections, but now 6 sections comprising 698 acres are held by 6 persons, and there are 25 in all on the land; 521 acres were felled and grassed at Government cost, and the selectors have felled 75 acres, their improvements being valued at £760. The live-stock consists of 176 cattle, 25 sheep, and 13 horses.

These settlements are situate near the mouth of the Tongaporutu River, but most of the land is of a rough character, and very little beyond the flats on the river can be used to advantage. The settlers engage in dairying operations having their own separators, and are doing fairly well considering the drawbacks they have to contend with in the state of roads and distance from markets. The sections show signs of cultivation with a view of making the best possible use of the land at the disposal of the settlers. They have the benefits derivable from a post and telephone office, stores, and schools.

Uruti.—Originally 697 acres in 7 sections, and now 5 sections comprising 497 acres are held by 3 selectors, there being 21 persons on the land; 403 acres were felled by the Government, and one selector has felled and grassed 5 acres at his own cost, the value of the settlers' improvements being £670. The live-stock consists of 130 cattle and 13 horses. These settlers engage in dairying, but have suffered this year through heavy floods, which have covered the level land with silt and *débris* of fallen timber. The settlement is situate on the Mokau Main Road, and has a post and telephone office, creamery, school, hall, and store.

Mangaere.—Originally 482 acres in 13 sections, but now 11 sections comprising 444 acres and 2 perches, held by 10 selectors, there being 45 persons on the land; 322 acres were felled and grassed at Government expense, and the settlers have felled and grassed 83 acres, their improvements being valued at £1,386. The live-stock consists of 187 cattle, 26 sheep, and 25 horses. This settlement is situate in a prosperous district on the Ohura Main Road, and is distant fifteen miles from Toko Railway-station. Most of the settlers are dairying, and as a whole appear to be in a prosperous condition. They have a post and telephone office, school, store, and dairy factory.

Whangamomona.—Originally 10,543 acres in 111 sections, and now 56 settlers occupy 81 sections comprising 7,462 acres 3 roods 11 perches; the Government felled and grassed 3,136 acres and the settlers have done 1,840 acres, the total value of their improvements being £9,590. The live-stock consists of 2,024 cattle, 542 sheep, and 144 horses. Population 186. This settlement is situate on the Ohura Main Road, the southern end being thirty-four miles from Toko Railway-station, and it extends along the road on both sides for a distance of eleven miles. The ground is more or less hilly, with flat portions along the frontages, and the settlers have of late years turned their attention to dairying pursuits, there being two dairy factories working in the district. The past season however has not been a satisfactory one, owing to want of good metalled roads, as the milk could not be carted long enough to make it profitable. There are three post-offices in the settlement at convenient distances, the southern one being a telephone-office also, and two schools were opened in past years; the settlers have also the advantages of stores, hotel, and public halls.

Mr. John Barron, Crown Lands Ranger, reports on the following settlements:—

Okau.—Originally 1,889 acres in 19 sections, but now only 2 sections comprising 183 acres 2 roods 14 perches, are occupied by 2 selectors, there being 18 persons on the land; 65 acres were felled and grassed at Government cost, and the settlers have effected improvements to the value of £191. The live-stock consists of 75 cattle and 6 horses. Two sections were forfeited during the year. This settlement is situate on the Tongaporutu River, about nine miles from the mouth, and consists of hilly country with a few acres of flat land on the river, which accounts for so many of the sections being abandoned and merged into larger holdings.

Mangapoua.—Originally 702 acres in 7 sections, but only 200 acres are held by 2 selectors, there being 7 persons on the land; 40 acres were felled and grassed by the Government and the selectors have felled and grassed 50 acres, the value of improvements being £170. The live-stock consists of 80 cattle and 3 horses. This settlement is four miles from Urenui, one settler is dairying and the other uses the land as a run for dry cows and young stock.

Greenlands.—Originally 603 acres in 6 sections, but now 2 sections, comprising 198 acres 2 roods 30 perches, are held by 2 selectors, there being 7 persons on the land; 101 acres were felled and grassed by the Government, and the selectors have felled and grassed 17 acres, the value of improvements being £70. The live-stock consists of 50 cattle and 4 horses. This settlement is

situate in the valley of the Makarakia, about seventeen miles from Tongaporutu by a very bad road, and the settlers use the flat land for dairying purposes. The severe storm which swept this locality recently has caused such damage by floods and *débris* of silt and fallen timber as to render the land almost useless for some time to come.

Huiroa.—Originally 668 acres in 9 sections, and now 7 sections held by 7 selectors, comprising 571 acres 3 roods 16 perches, of which 336 acres were felled and grassed by the Government, and the selectors have felled and grassed 148 acres. The total value of improvements effected is £1,074. There are 30 persons on the land. The live-stock consists of 258 cattle and 12 horses. This settlement is situate on the Douglas and Makuri Roads in a well-settled district, and distant twelve miles from the Toko Railway-station. The continuation of the railway-line will pass through a portion of this settlement. The selectors devote their energies to the dairying industry, and are in a prosperous condition.

Taumatatahi.—430 acres in 4 sections, all of which are held by 4 selectors, there being 23 persons on the land; the Government felled and grassed 171 acres and the selectors 118 acres, the value of their improvements being £912. One selector left the district, and his sons are living on the land. There are indications that other selectors will sell out to adjoining holders, as it appears that the means of livelihood are not sufficient to keep families on the land. The settlement is situate in a rough district on the Waitotara Valley Road, some thirty miles from Waitotara Railway-station, and is surrounded by large areas of purely grazing-country, consequently there is little work in the neighbourhood.

Nihoniho.—3,190 acres, in 23 sections, of which 3 have been occupied for some years past, while 20 others were only reallotted again in November, 1902. There are 4 families on the ground, and 2 single men, comprising in all 25 persons; 119 acres were felled and grassed by the Government, and the settlers have felled or cleared 287 acres. Seven sections were forfeited, and reallotted in January last, so that the selectors of these could not effect any improvements. One selector has committed default, and his interest will be forfeited. The improvements by the selectors are valued at £568; the live-stock consists of 158 cattle and 21 horses. This settlement is situate near the Ohura Road, surrounded by lands recently opened for disposal under ordinary conditions, and may be said to be only in its infancy.

Paorae.—7,605 acres, in 40 sections, balloted for amongst co-operative workers on the North Island Main Trunk Railway, about Piriaka, Ongarue, Taumarunui, Taihape, and Mangaweka, in October last. These sections were allotted to married men, and two have felled and burnt 8 acres of bush. This settlement comprises some of the finest land in the Ohura District, being situate on the Ohura and branch roads, about sixty-five miles from Toko Railway-station on the south, and thirty-four to forty-four miles from Ongarue Railway-station on the north-east. It is fairly easy of access by pack-tracks, and, during the coming year, good progress should be made, although ordinary roads are badly needed.

Mangapapa.—5,322 acres, in 29 sections, balloted for under the same conditions and at the same time as Paorae. All except three sections were allotted to married men. Two selectors have felled and burnt 13 acres, and 1 has grassed 10 acres of fern land. This settlement also comprises some good land, and is situate on the Mangapapa and Whenuakura Roads, about twenty-two miles from Ongarue Railway-station. It is likewise, for a new settlement, easy of access, and should induce those who have been fortunate enough to secure sections to make homes for themselves in a new country.

Totoro.—6,508 acres, in 36 sections, balloted for under similar conditions and at the same time as the former, but allotted to single men. Three sections were forfeited, because those to whom they had fallen had not inspected and accepted them within a given time, and they have not been reallotted, as they may be required for scenery or other purposes. Twelve other sections were forfeited for similar reasons, and were reallotted on the 8th February last. The settlement is situate on the Totoro, Potaka, Kumara, and Kiekie Roads, distant between twenty-three and thirty-one miles from Te Kuiti Railway-station. No improvements have yet been effected.

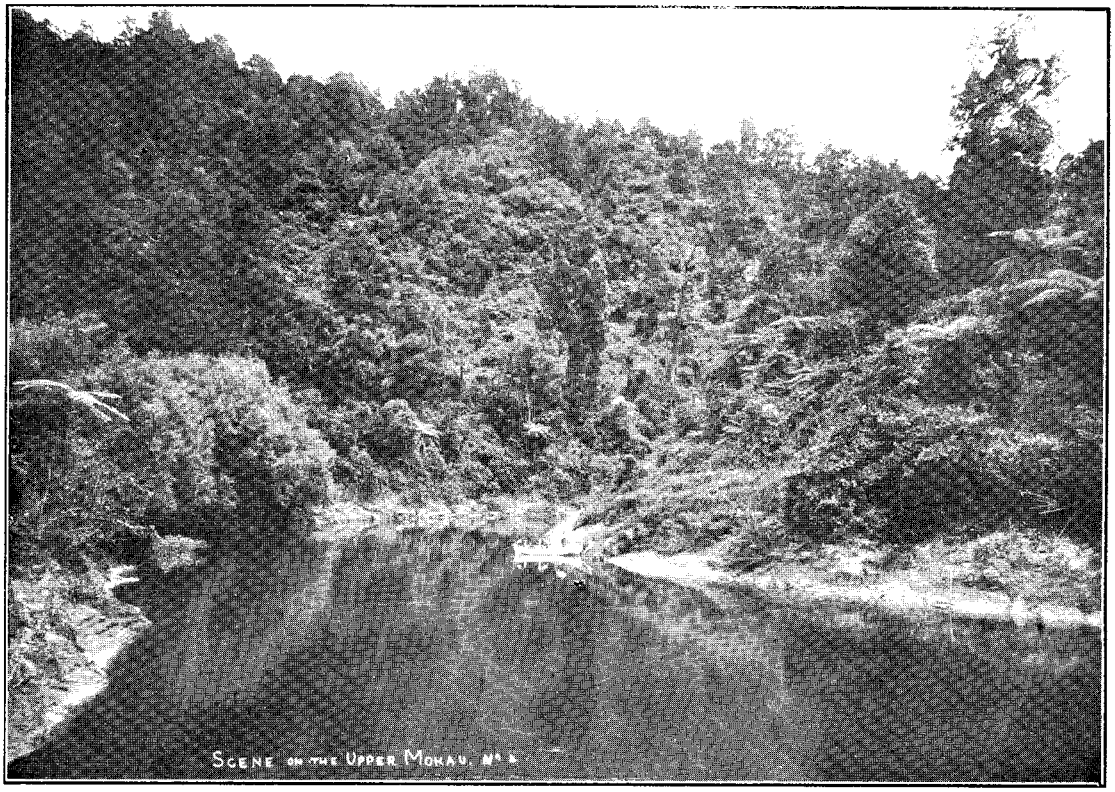
Reviewing the position of the whole of these settlements, it may be said that, with the exception of the Tongaporutu, Derwent, Okau, and Greenlands, all are making good progress, and those remaining on the land are in a comfortable position, chiefly on account of the increase in area of their original holdings. With regard to the last four newer settlements in the Ohura, they are in a too primitive state yet to judge of what will be the final effect of placing the people on the land; but it may be taken for granted that even if surrendered or forfeited under the improved-farm sytem, they will be eagerly taken up under ordinary conditions.

Farm-homestead Associations.

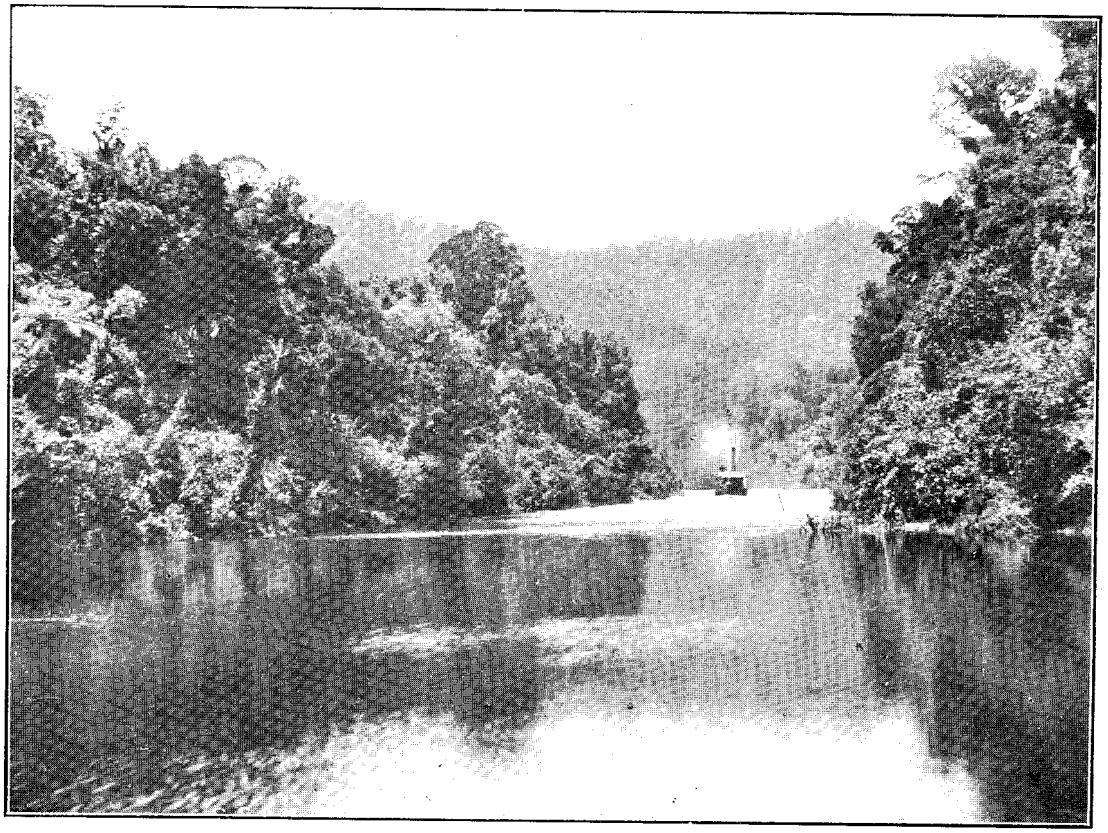
Milsom.—Situated on the Junction and Matau Roads, about thirty-three miles from Inglewood, and comprises 2,095 acres, in 11 sections, held by 10 persons, all of whom are resident, and who have effected more than sufficient improvements to comply with the Act, the value at the date of last inspection being £1,599 2s. Most of them are engaged in dairying, and the settlement is now in a prosperous position, nearly all of the settlers making a living from their holdings alone. They have good roads; a post-office, school, and store are within easy distance.

Oxford.—Situated on the south of the Waitara River and adjoining the Milsom Settlement. Only one selector remains and is resident out of about twenty, the balance of the holdings being now occupied under the ordinary conditions. His holding is 200 acres and is considerably improved, the value of the improvements being £370. He depends chiefly upon cattle-raising for a means of living, and has now the benefit of good roads.

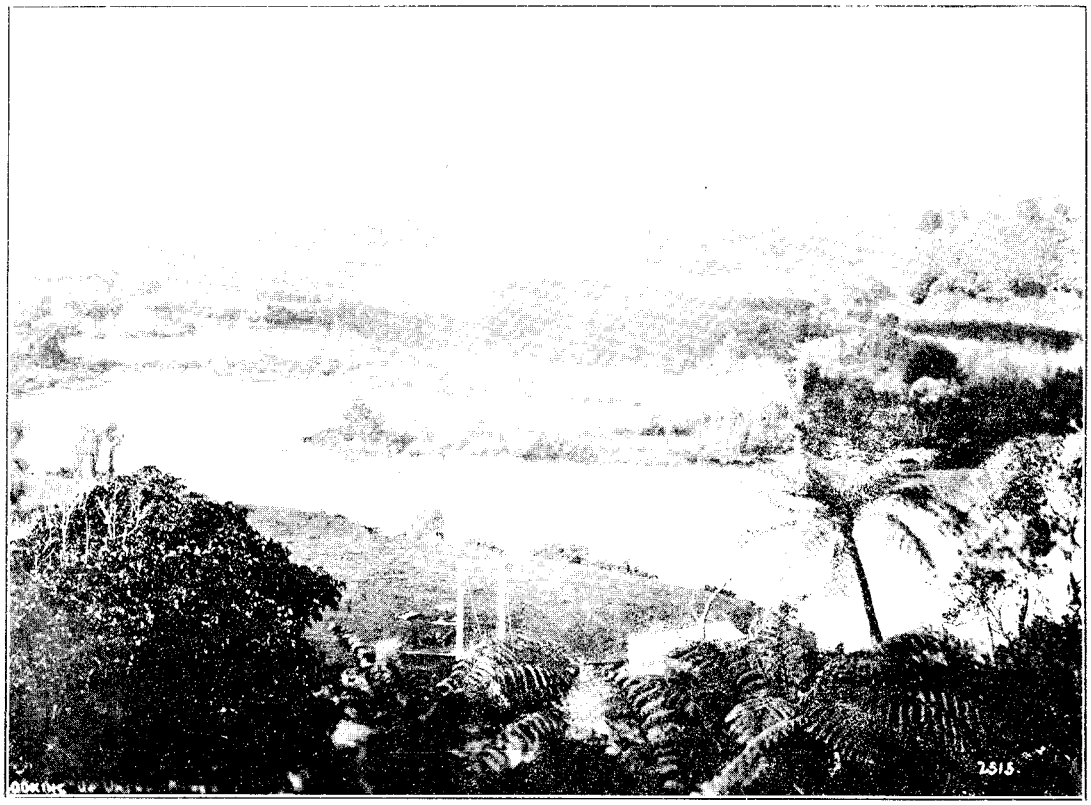
Lepperton.—Situated on the Main North Road, near Uruti, twenty-three miles from the port of Waitara, and comprises 2,167 acres 3 roods, in 11 sections, which are held by 7 settlers, all



SCENE ON THE UPPER MOKAU RIVER, TARANAKI.



ON THE MOKAU RIVER, TARANAKI: S.S. "MANAKAU" STEAMING DOWN.



LOOKING UP FRENCH RIVER FROM FRENCH TOWNSHIP, TASMANIA.



SONGAPORE RIVER AND BRIDGE, NEAR NORTH ROAD, TASMANIA.

of whom are resident on their holdings and have effected improvements to the value of £2,507 5s. They engage in dairying, and one of them owns the factory. They have a good road, metalled to within two miles of the settlement; all doing well. They are within a short distance of post and telephone office, store, &c. A heavy storm, which passed over this settlement recently, has done a great deal of damage, covering the flats with silt and *débris* of fallen timber, carrying away fences, and ruining the grass for a time.

Gatton.—Situated on the Mangaehu and Tututawa Roads, about fifteen miles from Stratford, and comprises 1,605 acres 1 rood 27 perches, divided into eight holdings, all of which are occupied by resident selectors. They have effected very extensive improvements, valued at £2,646 5s. They are generally engaged in dairying and stock-raising. A dairy factory is close to the settlement and is supplied by the settlers. They have good roads and are in comfortable circumstances, with a school and post-office within easy distance.

Eltham.—Situated on the Brewer and Taihore Roads, adjoins Strathmore Township, and comprises 800 acres, in 5 sections, occupied by 4 settlers, all of whom are resident. They are engaged, generally speaking, in dairying and stock-raising, and are in comfortable circumstances, with good roads of access. The improvements effected are extensive, and are valued at £1,162. A factory, school, store, and post and telephone office are within easy distance.

Ross.—Situated on the Main Ohura Road, about thirty-three miles from Stratford, comprises 1,557 acres 2 roods 28 perches, divided into 9 sections, which are held by 7 settlers, all of whom are resident. They devote their energies to stock-raising, and are in good circumstances. There is a school, store, and post and telephone office in the settlement. The farms are all highly improved, the improvements being valued at £3,155.

Terrace End.—Situated principally on the Taihore Road, with branch roads on Mangaehu and Makahu Rivers, and close to Strathmore Township. It comprises 4,818 acres 2 roods, divided into 24 allotments, which are occupied by 22 selectors, all of whom are resident and have effected improvements beyond the requirements of the Act, being valued at £6,682 10s. The settlers are principally engaged in the raising of cattle, but a few are dairying. They are a good class, and are doing well. Most of them have the benefit of good roads, and where this is the case they have become very successful. The enforcement of the conditions of personal residence has resulted in more progress being made in the settlement. A dairy factory has been erected, and a school has been opened quite recently.

Mangaehu.—This adjoins the Terrace End Settlement on the east, and comprises 2,578 acres, divided into 13 sections, occupied by 11 settlers, of whom 9 are resident. The improvements in this settlement are not so great as in others, as the land is rougher and is more difficult of access; they are valued at £1,582 15s. Here the land is devoted entirely to stock-raising, and its progress has been retarded for want of a road; but a dray-road has now been continued well into the block *viâ* Puniwhakau Valley. The settlers are a good class, and are doing their best to progress.

Whenuakura.—Situated on the Rawhitiroa and Tahuri Road, about twenty-four miles from Eltham, and is in a very rough district. It comprises 597 acres 2 roods 12 perches, and is divided into 3 sections, each being occupied. Two of the selectors reside, and one is residing on adjoining land. The improvements are valued at £547 10s., and the settlers are engaged entirely in stock-raising. Now that roads are being pushed into the block the settlers are beginning to make some use of the land.

Appended is a summary of the position of these associations as to residence—the number of settlers required to reside, those actually residing, and the area:—

	Number required to reside.	Number actually residing.	Area. A.	R.	P.
Milsom	...	9	2,095	0	0
Oxford	...	1	200	0	0
Lepperton	5	6	2,167	3	0
Gatton	7	8	1,605	1	27
Eltham	4	4	800	0	0
Ross	7	7	1,557	2	28
Terrace End	22	22	4,818	2	0
Mangaehu	10	11	2,578	0	0
Whenuakura	2	2	597	2	12
	57	70	16,419	3	27

During the past years I have visited these settlements. Their identity as settlements, however, has now practically passed away on account of the surrenders and forfeitures that have taken place, and on account of the bulk of the lands having since been taken up under ordinary conditions. The lands, therefore, are now so interspersed with those of other ordinary tenures that they may be regarded as independent holdings.

The gross area of the original settlements was 75,000 acres, and it has been reduced as above to 16,419 acres.

Small Grazing-Runs.

These have been reduced by surrender and forfeiture from twenty-three to eighteen, two selectors' interests were forfeited for non-payment, and the three surrenders were mainly to enable the runs to be dealt with in a more workable form as regards boundaries, and for the purposes of reoffering under the ordinary conditions of the Land Act. Tenants under this system, as their leases are getting on towards maturity, find some difficulty in financing, and in the three cases mentioned, the land will shortly be offered under Part III. of "The Land Act, 1892," at increased rentals, loaded with the value of the improvements.

Miscellaneous Leases.

The selections under this heading comprise the lease of 53 acres and 2 roods 32 perches, a site for the proposed North Island Experimental Dairy School, reserves and Crown lands in various towns and villages, and portions of the Eltham–Opunake Railway Reserves.

INSPECTIONS AND RANGER'S REPORT.

The reports of the Crown Lands Ranger, Mr. John Barron, show that he visited 272 holdings, comprising an area of 102,035 acres. The value of improvement required to be made was £29,827, and it was found that improvements to the value of £66,462 had been effected, and on individual holdings very much beyond what was required. Thirty had not made sufficient improvements, while out of 133 required to reside, twenty-two were found to be non-resident. There were, however, thirty-one residing where residence had not become necessary.

The chief cause of default as regards improvements is in a great measure want of access in new country, and the default for non-residence is due to much the same cause, especially in the back districts where the principal inspections have been made, and where there are no schools for the children. The progress of the district has been steady. In the new districts of Ohura, Waro, and Aria large improvements have been made during the year. The country gives promise of developing into large and prosperous communities second only to the Eltham and Toko districts.

Speaking generally, the season has been very good, for dairy-farmers the supply of grass has been abundant, and the prices up till now good. Dairy factories and creameries are being established wherever there is a prospect of success. The chief requirements of the settlers are better access to their holdings and cheaper money to develop their land.

The different classes of tenure are summarised thus—

Small Grazing-runs.—Chiefly devoted to sheep and cattle raising.

Improved-farm Settlements.—Under this class of settlement good men with fair land can make a comfortable living. Most of the settlements are in a prosperous condition, principally on account of dairying.

Special Settlement Associations.—Settlers are chiefly employed on dairying.

Village Settlements are not a success in this district, chiefly owing to want of employment in the neighbourhood.

Land for Settlements.—The Tokaora and Clandon Settlements have all been taken up. The settlers are all dairying, and on the whole prosperous. On the land taken up under the ordinary conditions held under Part III. of the Act, settlers are making fair progress, as shown by inspections.

Land for Settlements.

Tokaora.—Situate on Main South Road, about four miles from Hawera, and purchased in 1901. It comprises 1,505 acres 2 roods 8 perches, and is divided into sixteen sections, occupied by thirteen persons, and chiefly devoted to dairy-farming. All the sections front on formed or metalled roads, and are within easy distance of a factory. The number on the land is seventy-one, and it is well stocked. One section was forfeited for a breach of conditions regarding personal residence and was allotted to an adjoining holder. The Assistant Ranger (Mr. J. W. Thurston) reports that the improvements effected by settlers comprise twelve residences valued at £1,758; outbuildings, fencing, &c., valued at £1,398: total, £3,156. All the settlers, except one, seem to be doing well. The fall in butter, with the necessary high rents for land of this character, seriously affected the tenants, although an exceptionally good season has been in their favour. The settlers, as a whole on this estate, are in good spirits and apparently satisfied with their prospects.

Spotswood.—Situate between New Plymouth and the Breakwater at Moturoa, about two miles and a quarter from town, and comprises 310 acres 3 roods 23 perches, divided into sixty-one sections for workmen's homes, and eight sections as small farms. It was offered on the 5th May, 1903, when eleven sections were taken up by artisans and labourers, and four small farms were selected but one, that containing the homestead, was surrendered shortly after it was taken up, as the selector found that he had not the means to carry on the occupation of the land in a proper manner. Seven selectors have erected residences to the value of £1,440 of which the Government has advanced £287 10s. to six selectors. The number of persons on the land is thirty-four, and it is well stocked. Other improvements consist of outhouses, fencing, &c., valued at £224. Two selectors each carry on a poultry-farm business. The other sections taken up are practically for residential purposes, the owners as a rule keeping horses, cattle, poultry, &c. I regret to say that so far this settlement has not been the success that the number of workmen—who, prior to the land being required, intimated their willingness to take up sections—seemed to indicate, and however willing, most of them are without the necessary means, and, in addition to this, employment has become somewhat scarce in and around New Plymouth. There have been, however, more inquiries lately, and I am in hopes of more sections being taken up later on out of the area offered, 114 acres having been applied for. It is satisfactory to know that those residing there have erected good houses, and are well satisfied with the settlement.

Clandon.—Situate on Ohura Road, about nine miles from the Borough of Stratford, and comprises 881 acres and 13 perches, subdivided into six dairy farms, all of which have been taken up, the settlement having been opened only on the 16th November last. One selector was allowed to take up an adjoining section, so that there are only five selectors in this settlement. Portion of the settlement, 40 acres 3 roods 29 perches, is at present occupied by a sawmill, which is cutting out the dry timber that otherwise would have gone to waste. This is in terms of an agreement made with the former owner of the land. The settlement is conveniently situated on metalled roads, with two dairy factories practically within its limits. Mr. J. W. Thurston, Assistant

Ranger, reports that the settlers have been very busy since taking up the land, as four of them have effected improvements to the value of £250, two of them having erected cottages to the value of £160, and are now putting up milking-sheds, the other improvements consist of fencing and bridge. There are fourteen persons on the land, and it is well stocked so that the prospects of this settlement may be said to be very favourable.

Progress and Prospects of Settlement.

In the northern part of this district, for the past eighteen months, after providing most liberally for all classes of forest, scenic, education, and general reserves, 98,783 acres were opened in 261 sections on settlement conditions, and of this, 69,434 acres were taken up in 224 sections, averaging 310 acres each; and, so far as I can judge, the applicants as a whole are likely to prove excellent settlers. Many of them are already busy with their improvements. Four townships were opened there during the year, and most of the sections were sold at good advances on the upset prices. The land in the new districts is likely to be used for mixed farms, including dairy-cattle, sheep-raising and fattening. Altogether, therefore, I am disposed to look very hopefully on the prospects of this young community, particularly if the large areas of useful Native lands adjoining, amounting to quite a quarter of a million acres, could be brought into profitable occupation. The area of Crown lands still available in northern Taranaki amounts to about 88,500 acres, a large proportion of which should be in the market at an early date.

The area at present open for selection in southern Taranaki amounts to 127,585 acres, all surveyed, and I hope to open a new block of about 24,000 acres shortly, between Whangamomona and the mouth of the Tangarakau River. The whole of the country in the southern part of the district available for settlement is more or less of a broken character, suited for sheep and cattle raising, and in the more favoured localities for dairying, but, in the face of the present want of roads of any kind, I have little hopes of seeing very much of it taken up during the coming year; and holding these views, except as stated, I do not propose putting any furthur blocks in the market in this portion of the land district.

I have also to remark that, although I have not been able to go amongst the settlers as much as I did last year, my time having been largely occupied in other directions and duties, chiefly the placing of new lands in the market, at the same time, however, I have been a good deal about, and have had many opportunities of noticing the position and prospects of settlement generally. Taking the past year as a whole, it has been a good one for the settlers, except in a few localities such as Whangamomona, Uruti, Tongaporutu, and Upper Waitara, where most exceptionally heavy floods have occurred, in some cases the rivers rising 40 ft. and 50 ft. in a few hours. Unfortunately, in addition to the damage done to many of the holdings by silt, rubbish, and landslips, in many cases the roads were ruined, which meant, with the destruction of grass, closing the dairy output for the year. Except for this misfortune, stock of all kinds until lately have maintained fair prices. Feed has been plentiful, and last, but by no means least, excellent burns have been the rule instead of, as in previous years, the exception. Taking therefore our settlements as a whole, considering their never-ending struggles and isolation, bad roads, and, what is worse, often no roads, good headway has been made. Their life with all its freedom and independence, however, is often a very hard one, and it is surprising the great tendency there is among the army of stout hearts in our back blocks to look upon the bright side of everything, and face with equanimity vicissitudes that would completely overpower and paralyse their brethren in more favoured localities. As one pays periodical visits to the "wilds," one is gradually impressed with the fact that as a body the settlers are gradully gaining on the wilderness. The very fact that at the present moment, out of a total of 1,241 settlers, only about 2 per cent. in number, as well as in the gross sum owing, are in arrears, speaks volumes, and is the real "proof of the pudding."

From the Rangers reports it will be seen that both residence conditions and improvements are well up to the mark, the latter very much over it. Any want of compliance with residence is more apparent than real. In very many cases the want of tracks—although it does not prevent a settler getting his bush down, and sometimes even placing stock on his holding—often makes it quite impossible for him to build his house or get his family in. There are many other cases in which great hardships would be inflicted by pressing people before they are really ready, and the Land Board, who have all been settlers themselves, make use of their discretionary powers in easing off when the shoe pinches, providing always that the man is *bonâ fide*. In practice, the penal clauses of the Act are reserved entirely for the speculator, whilst the struggling man who falls behind either with rent, improvement, or residence is given time; and, so far, the Board has never found in such cases that the consideration shown has been abused.

Endowments.

During the year three leases of the University Reserve, Opaku and Carlyle Survey Districts, expired, and new leases, comprising 1,074 acres were granted to the former lessees at increased rentals.

Revenue.

The receipts under this heading are £1,344 less than the previous year, but while the sources that formerly yielded a great proportion of the revenue are gradually diminishing—viz., conversions and cash sales, it is satisfactory to see that the annual rentals derivable are steadily increasing. The principal leasehold tenures yielded £2,785 more than last year.

Rebates of Rent.

From the 1st January last, I decided, after consulting with the Receiver of Land Revenue, to allow all selectors under occupation-with-right-of-purchase and lease-in-perpetuity tenures, a rebate of 10 per cent. on their payments, and the sum of £442 6s. 10d. was granted to 567 selectors

under this concession. The amount thus remitted was £285 2s. 8d. in excess of that given last year, and to 362 more selectors. Taken as a whole, the rebates have had a good effect on the arrears as you will observe from my remarks under that heading. Apart from this, of course, the saving has been a great help to settlers and has tended largely to establish their positions in a more permanent manner.

Arrears.

The rents in arrear compare very favourably with those of the last year, there being only eighty-nine behind as against 110 with a much larger number of selectors to deal with, while the amount due was £96 more than that for the corresponding period of last year. Since the close of the year, however, strenuous efforts have been made without unduly pressing the tenants to reduce the amount, and the result has been to lower the number of tenants in arrear to thirty-three and the amount to £449. Of this amount, two land-for-settlements selectors, I regret to say, owe £157, this means that this represents 2·6 of the number of tenants on the books, and 2·5 of the annual rentals payable by our tenants (£17,824), which, I venture to say, considering the innumerable difficulties back-blocks people have to contend with, is most satisfactory.

FORFEITURES AND SURRENDERS.

The interests of seventeen selectors were forfeited for various breaches of the Land Acts, and six selectors surrendered their holdings, some because the land did not come up to their expectations, for want of means, for loss and damage sustained by floods, to obtain different tenure, and other reasons, which the Land Board considered to be tangible, not the least of these being the old story of bad access, in fact, if this bogey could be removed, we should hear less of people throwing up their selections, and there would be very few sections unoccupied in this land district.

RESERVES.

During the year, an area of 12,146 acres 2 roods and 8 perches was set aside under the provisions of "The Land Act, 1892," of which 7,118 acres were for the preservation of forest and scenery, 4,922 acres for primary education, the remainder for general purposes, such as Public Library, resting-places for stock, public schools, pounds, &c.

"THE BUSH AND SWAMP CROWN LANDS SETTLEMENT ACT, 1903."

It is somewhat early to report on the full benefits of this Act as an encouragement to settlement, beyond saying that far and wide, wherever I have been, the unanimous verdict of those whose line of life is the reclamation of the wilderness, is that no Act of the Government, short of roadmaking, could have given greater relief and satisfaction to new settlers. A man can now spend every penny he has to spend on improvements, and it is an incentive to the pushing settler to have his land earning money by the time his next payment is due; in fact it is extending in a modified manner the improved-farm fostering principle to ordinary settlement generally. The other side of the question is that it may induce speculation in our leasehold tenures, but although I had a very large sale shortly after the Act coming into force, involving five or six hundred applications, there was no apparent evidence of its being resorted to. On the whole, therefore, I am decidedly of the opinion that the measure has had a great influence for good.

OFFICE-WORK.

The clerical staff has again been fully occupied during the year, especially towards the close of it, in consequence of the large areas opened for sale, and the numerous details to be performed in connection therewith. The correspondence, inwards and outwards, circulars, &c., numbered 15,703; applications for land, 713; reports to Advances to Settlers Office, 53; cheques drawn for wages of survey parties, &c., 437; vouchers dealt with, 728; transfers recorded, 132; receipts for rents and refunds, 5,266; provisional titles prepared, 120; cards furnished to Auditor, 100: total, 23,252, an increase of 3,829 documents dealt with.

JAMES MACKENZIE,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

WELLINGTON.

LANDS OPENED FOR SALE AND DISPOSED OF.

The total area of Crown lands offered for sale or selection during the year was 190,377 acres, which, added to the area standing open on the 1st April, 1903—viz., 43,684 acres, made the total area of 234,061 acres available for selection. Of the 190,377 acres offered during the year, 141,288 were opened for selection for the first time. This latter area comprised for the most part 100,301 acres in three runs, offered under pastoral license in the Rangipo-Waiau-Murimotu Blocks; 29,608 acres of unsurveyed rural land in the Puketotara, Te Tuhi, and Ahuahu Blocks on the Wanganui River; 8,734 acres on lease in perpetuity under the Land for Settlements Act in the Longbush, Tablelands, and Normandale Settlements; 653 acres for cash along the Wainuioru and Whakatahine River beds; 94 acres on lease in perpetuity in Taihape Village Settlement Extension, &c.

The 49,089 acres previously in the market and reoffered during the year, comprised about 39,700 acres of unsurveyed rural land in the Kaitieke Block, Waimarino; 2,990 acres of forfeited sections in the Dannevirke Centennial Block; the balance being made up principally of forfeited sections in the Awarua, Hunterville No. 1, Woodville, Mekalickstone, Kaiparoro, Puketoi, Whariti, Waiwera, Pahiatua No. 1 Blocks, Langdale, Aorangi, and Epuni Settlements, &c. Successful sales were held of township lots in Piriaka, which is situated on the left bank of the Wanganui River, on the Main Trunk Railway, near Taumarunui; and particularly in Taihape, where thirty-six sections offered at an upset value of £1,272, realised £3,154. A number of Mangaweka Township sections offered failed to find purchasers.

A lot of about 918,000 superficial feet of totara, matai, white-pine, &c., on 62½ acres of Section 48, Block VII., Pohangina, realised £1,194.

Three estates purchased under the Land for Settlements Act were offered during the year—viz., Longbush, 2,241 acres; Tablelands, 4,885 acres; and Normandale Settlement, 1,607 acres. Of the fifteen lots in the Longbush and Tablelands Settlements, all have been disposed of with the exception of the two on which the late lessees' homesteads are situated. The Department is at present barred from dealing with these by a Supreme Court injunction. Of the forty-nine sections offered in the Normandale Settlement, which is situated at the Lower Hutt, only fifteen have been selected.

Seventeen lots in the Raketapauma Block, comprising 2,956 acres, and three lots in Tapui Block, comprising 600 acres, were balloted for and allotted to co-operative workmen on the improved farm system during the year.

SUMMARY OF LAND TRANSACTIONS, AND REVENUE COLLECTED, DURING THE YEAR ENDED THE 31ST MARCH, 1904.

Tenures.	Transactions during the Year.		Area under Lease at 31st March, 1904.		Revenue received during the Year.
	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	
		A. R. P.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Cash—					
Rural	11	2,014 1 27			
Suburban	...	...			
Town	49	28 0 15			
	60	2,042 2 2	...	...	5,970 3 1
Deferred payment ...	...	...	2	981 0 22	386 13 0
Deferred payment made freehold	9	975 0 12	...	...	...
Perpetual lease	...	...	34	1,636 3 5	609 3 7
Perpetual lease made freehold	17	6,599 0 0	...	...	5,340 9 5
Occupation with right of purchase	26	11,545 3 39	614	182,891 0 21	10,395 1 11
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	18	6,122 1 33	...	...	6,325 13 0
Lease in perpetuity ...	10	2,437 3 16	459	132,663 2 18	6,100 18 8
Lease in perpetuity conversions	1	282 3 0	...	...	...
Lease in perpetuity, land for settlements	36	6,117 0 6	216	20,196 2 4	9,046 16 11
Village settlement—					
Cash	...	...	...	...	387 4 0
Perpetual lease ...	...	...	1	12 1 11	5 9 8
Village homestead—					
Lease in perpetuity ...	18	262 0 18	505	9,830 0 38	1,691 8 3
Lease in perpetuity conversions	7	121 1 29	...	...	...
Perpetual lease ...	...	...	79	840 1 24	203 17 8
Special settlements—					
Deferred payment ...	...	...	...	...	161 4 5
Deferred payment (freeholds)	7	726 1 20	...	...	...
Lease in perpetuity ...	1	119 0 0	430	78,158 3 5	4,605 10 7
Improved farms... ...	1	97 0 0	167	17,257 3 30*	2,299 7 10
Small grazing-runs ...	4	2,810 0 0	78	71,248 2 4	2,066 8 5
Small grazing-runs, lands for settlement	...	...	1	1,030 0 0	85 16 8
Pastoral runs	2	68,460 0 0	24	95,371 0 0	892 9 0
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	27	7,032 2 18	221	86,774 1 0	2,220 15 8
Miscellaneous leases, lands for settlement	7	1,393 2 3	8	1,418 2 3	30 6 8
Native township leases	21	101 1 23	135	437 1 10	505 6 9
Endowment lands—					
Deferred payments ...	...	...	...	...	16 1 0
Small grazing-runs ...	...	...	1	1,780 0 0	34 15 3
Miscellaneous leases ...	2	2 1 38	7	21 0 18	15 11 9
State forests	...	...	...	...	485 0 0
Other sources	...	...	...	...	1,904 10 2
Total	274	117,248 2 17	2,982	702,549 2 13	61,786 3 4

NOTE.—Excluding freeholds under deferred payments, perpetual lease, and occupation with right of purchase, and conversions of tenure, the new selections for the year are reduced to 215 selectors with an area of 102,421 acres 2 roods 3 perches, the annual rental payable thereon being £4,496 3s. 2d.

* The area held under the Improved-farm Regulations does not include forty-eight holdings aggregating 7,664 acres 2 roods 25 perches, which have been allotted but are not yet registered on the books.

A comparison of this table with that of last year's transactions discloses that there has been an increase of forty-two in number and 91,297 acres in area, principally contained in the occupation-with-right-of-purchase, land-for-settlements lease-in-perpetuity, pastoral, and miscellaneous systems. The total area held under lease or license also shows an increase of 74,988 acres, the number of selectors being thirty-five in excess of those on the books last year. The total revenue received was £10,594 more than last year. This large increase took place mostly under the cash, occupation with right of purchase made freehold, and land for settlements lease in perpetuity systems. A substantial portion of it represented arrears of rentals in excess of those obtained last year.

Area selected during the Year.—Two hundred and fifteen selectors took up 102,421 acres under all systems.

Cash Sales.—2,014 acres of rural lands were bought by 11 persons, and 28 acres of town lands by 49 purchasers, being a total cash sale of 2,042 acres to 60 people. In addition, 17 perpetual leases, containing 6,599 acres; and 18 occupation-with-right-of-purchase licenses, aggregating 6,122 acres, were made freehold; or a grand total altogether of 14,764 acres purchased for £17,585 by 95 selectors.

Deferred Payment.—This system has now practically expired, there being only two holdings, aggregating 981 acres on the books, the annual payments being £18 10s. 8d.

Perpetual Lease.—The number of leases still held on this system is 34, representing an area of 1,637 acres, the annual rental being £425 17s. 7d. This system will no doubt become practically extinct within the next year or two, as there has been no appreciable diminution in the number of sections made freehold during the last few years.

Occupation with Right of Purchase.—There are now 614 selectors, holding 182,891 acres on this system, the annual rental being £10,498. The number of freeholds acquired during the year is 18, for an area of 6,122 acres, and a capital value of £6,325; being 16 in number and 5,552 acres in area more than last year. This system continues to be the favourite one with applicants for Crown lands, the number of licenses selected during the year being 26, as against 10 lease in perpetuity, for lands offered for selection under Part III. of "The Land Act, 1892." There is an increase of 3 licenses and 5,154 acres over last year's figures.

Lease in Perpetuity.—The selections during the year were 10, for an area of 2,438 acres under Part III of "The Land Act, 1892," and 36 for an area of 6,117 acres under the Land for Settlements Acts, making a total of 46, representing 8,555 acres, and an annual rental of £2,003. These show an increase over last year's results for ordinary lease in perpetuity of 3 selections for 945 acres, and for land for settlements lease in perpetuity of 16 selectors for 5,422 acres—a grand total of 19 leases aggregating 6,367 acres. Including holdings under the Land for Settlements Acts, there are now 675 selectors on the books holding 152,860 acres, the annual rental being £13,834.

Village Settlement.—Eighteen village holdings, containing 262 acres, with an annual rent of £47, were taken up under the lease-in-perpetuity system during the year, being a decrease of 15 in number, and 1,248 acres as compared with the previous year. There were no village lots sold for cash during the year. The decrease is mainly due to the fact that the area of land suitable as to quality, access, &c., for offering under this system is very limited. The totals on the books are 585 lessses holding 10,683 acres for an annual rental of £1,797.

Special Settlements.—The selections under this system have practically ceased for some time, there being only one allotment of 119 acres during the year, for an annual rental of £7 0s. 6d. There are at present 430 selectors, holding 78,159 acres, paying an annual rental of £4,468, on the books. These are all held under lease in perpetuity, all those that were held on deferred payment having now been made freehold.

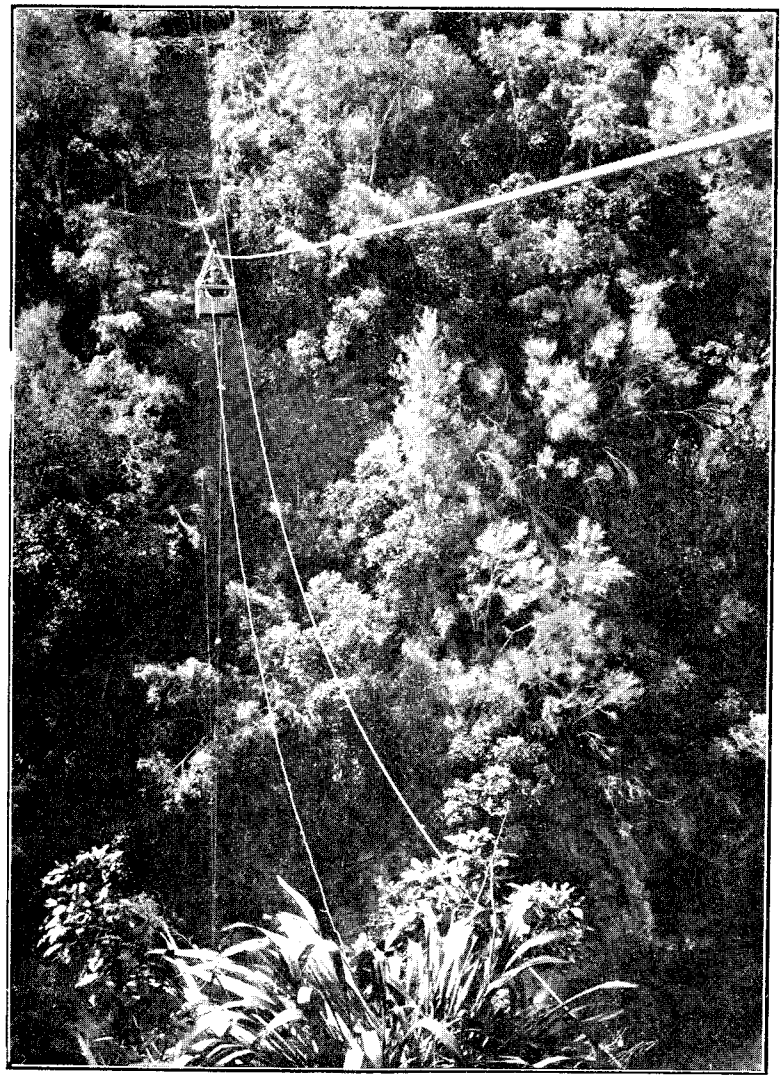
Improved-farm Settlements.—Two new settlements, aggregating 5,179 acres, were set apart by proclamation during the year, and of this area 3,557 acres were allotted to twenty co-operative workmen on the North Island Main Trunk Railway, but of course no rent will be received from these until the land is ready for stock. Only one selection of 97 acres and £10 annual rent was actually registered on the books, that being the only one on which the grass became ready for stock during the year. The totals on the books are now 215 selectors, holding 24,923 acres. Of these, 48 selectors, holding an area of 7,665 acres, do not yet pay rent, as their sections are not ready for stock. There is an increase on last year's figures of 19 selectors and 3,354 acres. The amount advanced by the Government for improvements from the commencement of the system is £16,669, and the value of the improvements effected at the cost of the lessees is £31,368, the total value of the improvements now on the land amounting to £48,037.

Small Grazing-runs.—Only 4 runs, representing 2,810 acres, of an annual rental of £115, were selected during the year, being an increase of 1 run, and 1,753 acres over last year's returns. One lease was converted into lease in perpetuity, the area being 283 acres. There are now 79 lessees, holding 72,278 acres, of an annual rental of £2,313 on the books, including 1 run of 1,030 acres, held under the Land for Settlements Regulations.

Pastoral Licenses.—Two licenses, aggregating 68,460 acres, and an annual rental of £1,420 10s., were disposed of during the year, the totals now being 24 runs, comprising 95,371 acres, returning £1,614 per annum.

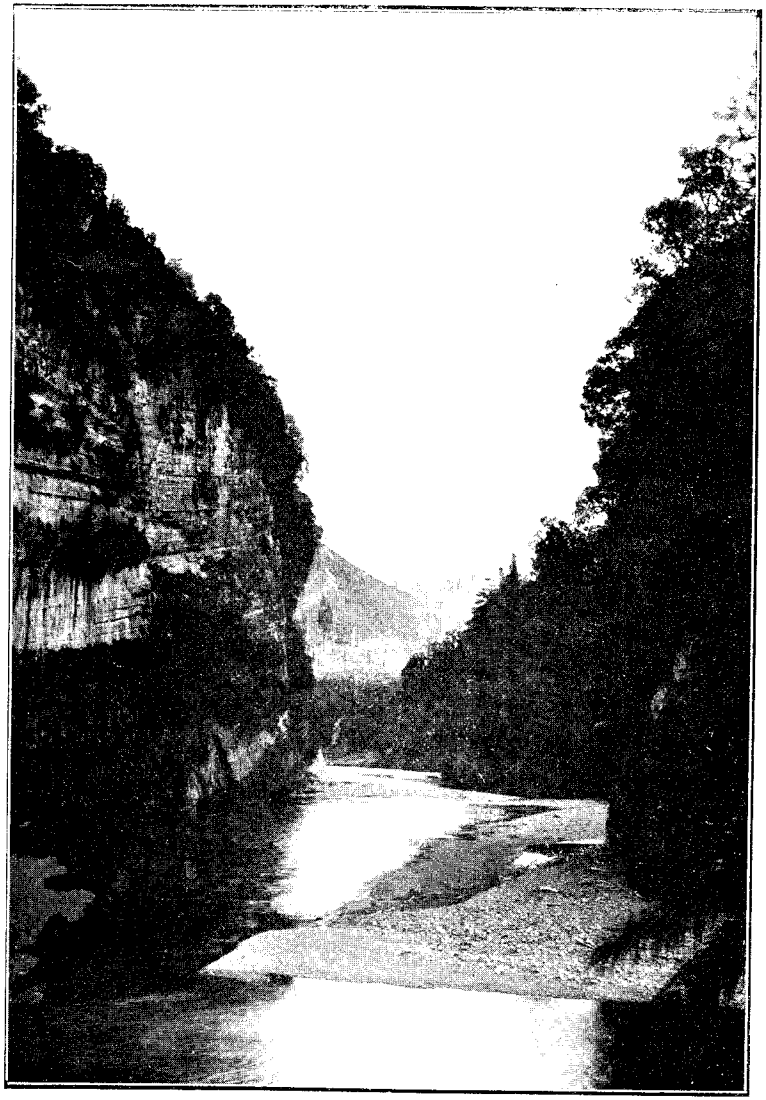
Miscellaneous.—During the year 27 ordinary and 7 land-for-settlements leases and licenses were issued for 8,426 acres, representing an annual payment of £339 14s. 2d. The number on the books is 229 selectors, with an area of 88,193 acres, paying £1,704 per annum. £1,590 was received during the year for timber licenses and sales of timber.

Native Townships.—During the year 21 additional sections were leased under "The Native Townships Act, 1895," representing an area of 101 acres, and an annual rent of £57. There are at present 135 lessees under this tenure, holding 437 acres, representing an annual rent of £578, being an increase over last year's figures of 14 selectors, 80 acres, and £38 annual rent.



C. E. Wildbore, photo.

THE CAGE, SWINGING IN MID-AIR FROM ITS 1 IN. STEEL CABLE, SUSPENDED 150 FT. ABOVE THE RANGITIKEI RIVER-BED.



C. E. Wildbore, photo.

ON THE RANGITIKEI RIVER, WELLINGTON.

Inspections and Rangers' Reports.

The number of properties visited and reported on by the four Crown Lands Rangers, was 2,258, representing an area of 296,367 acres, being an increase in the number of properties visited of 398, but a decrease of 41,651 acres in area inspected, as compared with the figures of the previous year. The value of the improvements which should have been effected was £155,174, and the amount actually done was £346,389, being an excess of £191,215.

"The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903."

The greater portion of the surveyed and unsurveyed Crown lands open for selection in this district was brought under the operation of "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903," on the 10th February last, nearly the whole area being classed as "heavy bush land," with exemption from rates and rent for a period of four years. Between that date and the 31st March last, about 7,155 acres were selected, subject to its provisions.

The benefits conferred by this Act are probably the cause to a great extent of this area, and also of about 8,128 acres already (15th June, 1904) disposed of since the 31st March, 1904, being taken up, comprising for the most part unsurveyed lands in the Kaitieke Block. The waiving of the survey fees by the Hon. Minister for Lands, on the recommendation of the Land Board under the power given by section 2 of "The Land Act Amendment Act, 1895," and the acceptance of one half-year's rent as deposit, in order to enable selectors to enjoy the exemptions under this Act, have doubtless contributed to such a large area of unsurveyed land being disposed of within the periods mentioned.

The Crown Lands Rangers for the West Coast report as follows:—

In the Waimarino district, the settlers are progressing slowly, the want of a market or proper and easy road access to a market, is no doubt the cause of the slow progress of this district. The severe and uncertain climate has also a good deal to do with it. The advent of the North Island Main Trunk Railway is, however, keeping the settlers' spirits up. It is, however, satisfactory to note that there still continues to be a good demand for land in this locality. All the sections in the Marton No. 3 Farm-homestead Association Block have been taken up, and sections in the Kaitieke and adjoining blocks are also being taken up readily, owing no doubt, to its close proximity to the Main Trunk Railway line. Messrs. Hatrick and Co. have now established a weekly steamer-service between Wanganui and Taumarunui, and if the road down the Retaruke Valley is completed from the Kaitieke Block to the Wanganui River, it will be a great assistance to the settlers here, as they will then be able to get their supplies sent up by boat as far as Retaruke, and they will have only some twelve miles to pack instead of forty or fifty, as at present from Raetihi. No doubt some of the settlers will get their supplies from Piriaka or Taumarunui, as I understand the Public Works Department is making service-roads to within a comparatively short distance of the Kaitieke Block. The dairying industry is still carried on in the Waimarino District, and the settlers have now taken over the Raetihi Butter-factory and the Ohakune Creamery, and are working them on co-operative lines. No additional creameries have been established as yet.

In the Pohonuiatane Block (Hunterville, Nos. 1, 2, and 3 Farm-homestead Association Blocks) the settlers are doing good work, and marked improvements are being made. The Pohonui Butter-factory is now in full operation, but the want of dray-roads to several sections is preventing a number of settlers from dairying. They are, however, now raising loans to widen most of the bridle-tracks into dray-roads. I am glad to be able to state that residence has been very well complied with in this block, notwithstanding the backward state of the roads. In the Te Kapua Block (Somerville and Palmerston North Knights of Labour Farm-homestead Associations), satisfactory progress has been made, and residence well complied with. No dairy factory has as yet been established for this block, owing to the want of a dray-road through it. The settlers are however raising a loan for the widening of Murray's Track into a dray-road, and when it is completed, a private firm will erect a butter-factory at Mataroa, and creameries in suitable places.

In the Rangiwaea Block considerable progress has been made, especially when one considers the isolated position of this block, and the fact that the only access is by bridle-track. Here, also, the settlers have raised loans to widen existing bridle-tracks into dray-roads. Some of the sections have no formed road of any description to them; in consequence the settlers find it difficult to comply with the residence conditions in a satisfactory manner. On the sections taken up in the Tauakira Block, considerable improvements have been made. Large areas have been grassed, and a good deal of fencing done. Although residence is not due, several settlers are residing. As the country is rough, only sheep are kept. Several of the vacant sections have been taken up lately, but those near the Wanganui River are still open. These sections are very rough and difficult of access, but I believe, were the Pitangi Road formed from the Wanganui River, these sections would be taken up, as the land is good and will grow good grass.

In the Awarua Block, near Mangaweka, the settlers continue to make satisfactory progress, but the want of dray-road access is felt by a good many of them. The Salisbury, Delaware, Pohangina, Umutoi, Marton Nos. 1 and 2, and Onslow Farm-homestead Blocks, which are situated between the Rangitikei and Pohangina Rivers, still continue to prosper; most of the holdings being highly improved, and worked to the fullest advantage. Dairying is the chief industry, creameries being scattered here and there throughout the settlements. A number of the settlers are sheep-farming, and as high prices have been ruling for sheep and wool, they have done particularly well this season. The only complaint is about the size of the holdings: some of the settlers on the high exposed 200-acre sections complain that they are too small for sheep-farming, and too exposed for successful dairying; and as they are held under the farm-homestead tenure, they cannot sell out to their neighbours, who are willing to buy, as the tenure limits them to 320 acres. In good country 200 acres would give a good living, but on some of the high exposed

country in the Umutoi and Onslow Blocks especially, the area is too small for sheep-farming. Most of the roads are now widened for dray traffic, but there are still a few horse-tracks in the Marton and Umutoi Blocks.

Malton and Palmerston North Forest Reserve Farm-homestead Association Blocks: There are still a number of defaulters for residence in these blocks, but they are now selling out to more *bonâ fide* settlers, so that next year we hope to be able to report that all the selections are being resided upon. Sheep and cattle farming are the principal industries, as the country is too high and exposed for successful dairy-farming. The settlers who are residing are all doing fairly well. The settlers between the Kawhatau and Rangitikei Valleys are all doing well, and are vigorously pushing on with their improvements, so that they can take full advantage of the high prices ruling for stock. They have now all got dray-road access, excepting one or two sections on the Upper Kawhatau Road.

In the Pukeokahu Block, between the Rangitikei and Moawhango Rivers, great improvement has been made by widening the roads; metalled dray-road access having now been given for three miles east of the Moawhango River, and unmetalled dray-road access for another five miles. This work was done partly by the Government, and partly out of loans raised by the settlers. In the course of another year all the holdings will have dray-road access. Sheep-farming is the principal pursuit of the settlers at present, but as the roads are now being widened, they are talking of having a butter-factory erected, when there is no doubt a number of them will go in for dairying. Last year there were a number of defaulters for residence, so it is pleasing to note that this year there is not one single defaulter in this respect. With one or two exceptions, the improvement conditions have been exceptionally well complied with.

The settlements between the Hautapu and Moawhango Rivers still continue to prosper and go ahead, and it is most satisfying to have to report that at the present time there is not one single defaulter for residence or improvements; which is, perhaps, accounted for by the fact that they have now all got dray-road access (mostly metalled), school, and butter-factories. Most of the metalling was done out of loans raised by the settlers. Most of the settlers on the large sections go in for sheep-farming, and those on the smaller holdings confine themselves to dairying. Saw-mills are now making their appearance in all directions, which will help the settlers to get rid of a lot of their surplus timber, but I am afraid they will be rather rough on the roads.

Village Settlements.

Village settlements in our district are, with two or three exceptions in outlying districts, progressing satisfactorily, and the settlers appear to be doing fairly well.

Raetihi Village Settlement.—The sections are being improved slowly, and a few new houses have been built. This settlement will be more flourishing when the railway is completed near to it; in the meantime the settlers who are not engaged in business have to look for work on the roads, and the general progress is not so rapid as it might be under more favourable circumstances.

Taihape Village Settlement continues to make good progress, and several new buildings have been erected. The settlers are mostly employed on co-operative railway-works, or in business or trades in the township. Others again who hold large areas are dairying. Few improvements have been made as yet in the Taihape Extension Village Settlement, as it has been taken up only a short time, but I expect to be able to give a good report on it next year.

Mataroa Village Settlement.—A few houses have been built, but on the whole slow progress is made here; several sections have been forfeited, but I feel sure they will readily be taken up when reoffered for selection. The settlers are nearly all employed on the co-operative railway-works. I think this settlement will ultimately be successful, but the areas seem to be rather small.

Mangaweka, Rakautoru, and Makohine Village Settlements.—Very little is to be added to last year's reports on these settlements; all the sections are fully improved, and residence is being complied with in a satisfactory manner.

Mangamahu Settlement is making better progress, and some good houses have been built. There is now a school open in the settlement, and there are twenty-six scholars on the roll.

Little further improvements have been made in *Ngamatea Settlement.* Owing to its remote situation, I doubt if this settlement will be a great success.

All the sections in *Mowhanau Settlement* are occupied, and considerable improvements have been made. All the settlers are residing, and have built good houses, and all the sections are ring-fenced. The total value of the improvements made by the settlers is £999. Two of them are dairying; the others go in for grazing, but will eventually also go in for dairying. They are all single men, but, judging from the sizes of some of the houses built, I do not think they will remain single for very long.

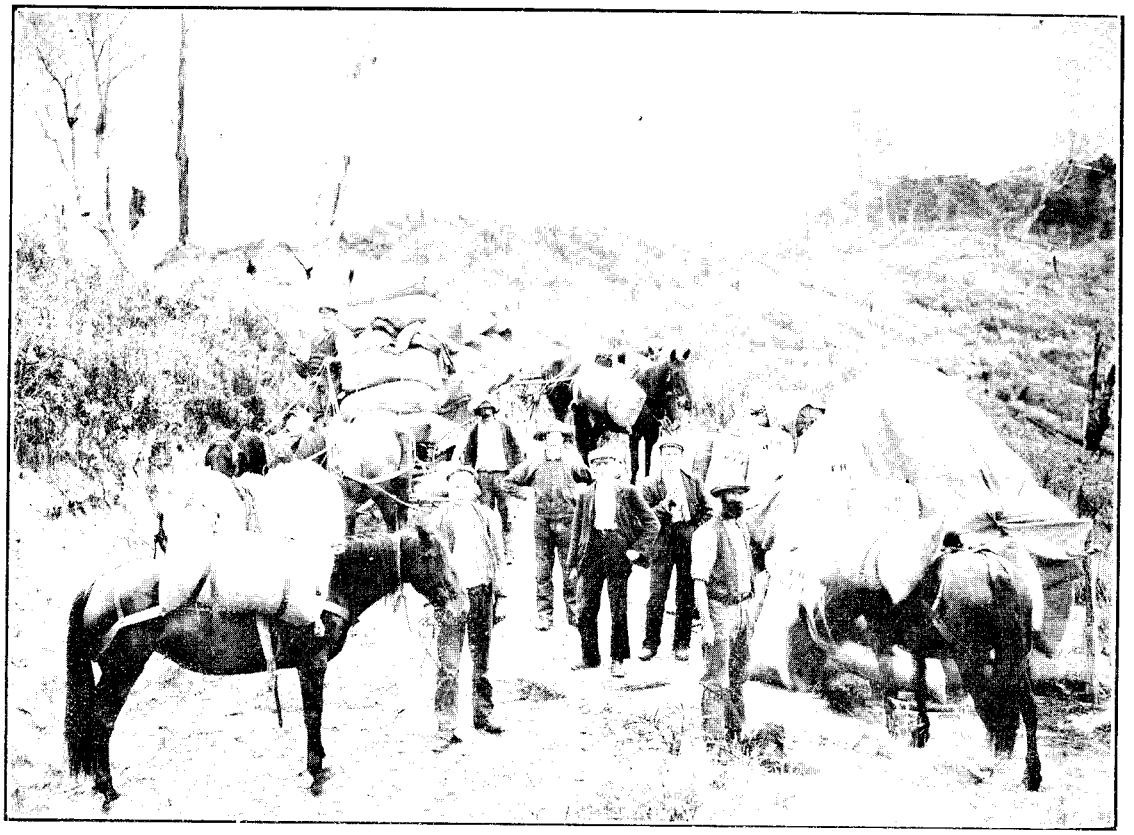
Korokoro Settlement.—Established in December, 1901, situated on the hills behind Petone. It is divided into twenty-two sections of an average area of three acres. Twenty selectors have built houses, and are residing on their sections, the total population being twenty-eight souls. The total value of the improvements effected by the settlers is £3,196. One section was forfeited, and three sections transferred during the year. The soil generally is of poor quality, but as the settlement is within ten minutes' walk of Petone, it has proved of great benefit in providing cheap homes for the lessees, most of whom are employed in the various factories about Petone. In almost all cases the settlers have got good comfortable homes and gardens, and appear to be well satisfied with their holdings.

Horowhenua East Village Settlement.—Thrown open for selection in May, 1902. Contains an area of about 870 acres, of the very best of bush country. It is subdivided into thirteen sections of an average size of about 65 acres. All the sections are occupied, and six settlers are



C. E. Wildbore, photo.

THE DAIRY INDUSTRY, POHANGINA DISTRICT, WELLINGTON.



C. E. Wildbore, photo.

PACKING OUT GRASS-SEED, POHANGINA DISTRICT, WELLINGTON.

residing, although residence is not due until May, 1906. The total area felled and grassed is 626 acres, and the improvements are valued at £2,092. There is no doubt as to the success of this settlement, as it is situated in a splendid locality for small holdings, and the soil is of first-class quality.

Horowhenua and Levin Village Settlements.—These old-established and highly successful settlements, which are situated close to the Town of Levin, are a striking example of successful settlement on small areas when the land is of first-class quality and close to a good market. Most of the sections over 12 acres in extent are self-supporting. The settlers go in for dairying, poultry-raising, fruit-growing, and market-gardening. The smaller sections are used as homes by people working in and around Levin, and many of them engage in gardening and poultry-raising in their spare time.

Oraukura Village Settlement.—This settlement was established in November, 1900. It is situated in the natural clearing about three miles north of Taihape, and contains eleven sections of an average area of about 75 acres. All the sections are occupied, and nine settlers are residing, and the others will be shortly doing so. The settlement is about 1,500 ft. above sea-level, and is very cold and wet in the winter, being subject to snow and severe frosts, with the result that the holdings are found to be too small for the settlers to carry sufficient stock to make a fair living from. In high cold altitudes like this, and where markets for produce are a long distance away, the size of the holdings should not be less than 200 acres, which would give a settler an opportunity to make a fair living, and a good permanent home for himself and family. About 150 acres were under oat-crops last season, and good results were obtained. Potato-crops also did well, but they are very unreliable on account of the heavy frosts which often cut them down in the middle of summer. Improvements to the value of £2,748 have been effected, comprising mostly fencing and houses, as the land was all natural clearing at the time of selection.

Rewa, Hawaenga, Pakihikura, Welford, and *Marshall Settlements* are all old-established settlements in which the population is decreasing, which is accounted for by the fact that they are all situated in outlying districts, and are of very small areas. The outside work round about has also run out, and as the settlers could not make a living from their sections, they have been forced to sell out to one another, and that very often at a loss, as the settler who is buying his neighbour out does not care to pay for a lot of buildings which to him would be of no use. The practical failure of these settlements shows that small areas of bush land in the back blocks should only be placed near a rising township, and there should not be too many of them, for although at first when all the road-works and bushfelling are going on, and plenty of work is obtainable, they may appear to be very successful, the time will come when most of this sort of work will be finished, and the settlers will not employ nearly so much labour, with the result that there are too many small settlers; a number will be out of employment, and be forced to sell out to their neighbours. In speaking of small sections, I am in this case referring to areas from 3 to 10 acres in extent.

Land for Settlements.

Mangawhata Settlement is situated near Oroua Bridge in the Lower Manawatu district. An area of 1,226 acres is held in seven sections, all of which are occupied, and all the settlers are residing. There are eight houses—one of the settlers has converted a woodshed that was on his section when taken up, into a very good dwellinghouse. Six settlers are dairying, and one goes in for mixed farming. The total number of dairy-cows is 259. The other stock in the settlement consists of 247 head of cattle, 806 sheep, 130 pigs, and 41 horses. The total value of improvements is £3,165 9s., out of which sum £1,291 8s. represents the value of improvements made by settlers since the land was taken up. Six hundred and sixty-one chains of fencing have been erected, and 30 acres is under cultivation. I am glad to be able to report that this settlement was not subjected to any floods during the last year, but I am still of the opinion that something should be done to protect the settlement from floods that are likely to recur at any time.

Linton Settlement is situated near Halcombe. The area held is 549 acres in five sections, four of which are occupied. The total population is nineteen souls. Two new houses have been built, and 64 chains of new fencing have been erected. Three of the settlers are dairying, and the total number of cows milked is sixty. The other stock on the settlement is as follows: 110 head of cattle, thirty-three pigs, and thirteen horses. The total value of improvements is £1,214, out of which £270 represents the value of improvements made by settlers since selection. One section has been forfeited for non-compliance with the residence conditions, but I feel sure it will be readily taken up when reoffered. As yet this settlement has not made much progress, but I feel sure that in a few years' time it will be as prosperous as any of the others.

Ohakea Settlement is situated near Bull's, on the left bank of the Rangitikei River. The area occupied is 1,737 acres held in fifteen sections, all of which are occupied by a first-class lot of settlers. The total population is sixty-six souls. Ten of the settlers are dairying, the rest go in for mixed farming. The total number of dairy-cows is 257. The other stock on the land is as follows: 227 head of cattle, 1,895 sheep, 128 pigs, and 71 horses. The total value of improvements is £5,981 6s., out of which £3,898 represents the value of improvements made by the settlers since selection. 1,482 chains of fencing have been erected since the land was taken up, and a good deal of cropping has been done, but many of the crops have been a failure owing to their being affected by the rust.

Aorangi Settlement is situated near Feilding, on the left bank of the Oroua River. The area occupied is 1,753 acres, held in thirty-seven sections, all of which are now occupied by a very good class of settler. The total population is 162 souls. Twenty-four of the settlers are engaged in dairy-farming; milking in all 549 cows. There is a creamery in the settlement. The other stock comprises 347 head of cattle, 938 sheep, 325 pigs, and 122 horses. The total value of improvements is £10,180, out of which improvements to the value of £8,915 have been made

by the settlers since selection, which I think is most satisfactory. 2,264 chains of fencing have been erected, and thirty-six new houses built by the settlers. All the sections are ring-fenced. The majority of the settlers are engaged in dairy-farming. Some go in for mixed farming and grazing, and there is a nurseryman who has done a great deal of work on his section; in fact, Mr. Mayo's place is well worth a visit by any one who takes an interest in the progress of settlement. Some go in for market-gardening or bee-farming, and others again are engaged in business in Feilding, and use the sections as homes. This settlement is in a flourishing condition, and all the settlers are doing well. They have every advantage, good land, close to a market, and railway-station, and pay low rents compared to the ruling prices of adjoining lands, which are now selling at from £25 to £30 per acre. The Oroua River is washing away parts of some of the sections and the question of protective works is one that will have to be faced sooner or later.

Te Matua Settlement is situated near Awahuri, and on the main road to Palmerston North. The area occupied is 702 acres, held in thirteen sections, and by twelve settlers (one has been allowed to hold two sections). The total population is forty-nine souls. There are twelve houses, and 653 chains of fencing have been erected by the settlers since selection. Eleven of the settlers are engaged in dairy-farming, milking in all 242 cows. The other stock in the settlement consists of 82 head of cattle, 291 sheep, 156 pigs, and 31 horses. The total value of the improvements is £3,040, out of which £2,388 represents the value of improvements made by settlers since selection. All the sections are ring-fenced and well improved, and the settlement is an undoubted success.

Epuni Hamlet.—Established in June, 1901, contains an area of about 100 acres, subdivided into forty-three sections, varying in size from ½ an acre to 4½ acres. It is situated in the Lower Hutt Valley, about two miles and a half from the Lower Hutt Railway-station. Five sections were forfeited during the year, but three of them have been re-selected. Forty-one sections are now occupied, and thirty-nine selectors have built houses, and are residing; the total population being 140 souls. The improvements at the end of last year were valued at £4,058, but this year they are valued at £7,309, thus showing an increase of £3,251 for the year. Most of the settlers work at various occupations in the factories around Petone, and they have now all got good, comfortable, and cheap homes in the settlement. A few of the settlers go in for market-gardening, from which they make a fair living, the principal products being tomatoes, potatoes, and some of the smaller fruits. There is no doubt that this settlement is a standing monument of a successful experiment in providing labourers, and people of small means, with comfortable homes, which fact is fully recognised by the present lessees.

Maungaraki Settlement.—This settlement was thrown open for selection in December, 1901. It is situated on the hills to the north-west of the Petone Railway-station. It contains twenty sections, varying in size from 3 to 39 acres. Six sections were forfeited during the year for non-compliance with the conditions of leases, but two of them have been re-selected. Fifteen sections are now occupied, and twelve settlers are residing, the total population being forty-one souls. Improvements to the value of £1,775 have been effected, as against £770 at the end of last year, thus showing an increase of £1,005 for the year, which must be considered highly satisfactory. Most of the settlers work in and around Petone and the Lower Hutt, and devote most of their spare time to making gardens and improving their holdings. The success of this settlement is assured, and next year we hope to be able to report that all the sections are being resided upon.

Paparangi Settlement is situated on the northern boundary of the Johnsonville Town District fronting the Porirua Road and Manawatu Railway-line. It was thrown open for selection in February, 1898, and contains forty sections ranging from 1 to 50 acres in extent. Three sections were handed over to the Agricultural Department, which leaves thirty-seven settlement sections, all of which are occupied and being resided upon, the total population being 150 souls, or about one soul to every 2½ acres of land. A few of the settlers on the large sections go in for dairying and poultry-farming, but they have not been very successful, as the land is rather rough and exposed for this purpose, and for successful gardening of any sort. As a mean of supplying labourers and families of small capital with homes, this settlement has proved highly satisfactory. They all grow their own vegetables, and many of them keep poultry and a cow or two for their own use, which are luxuries that they could not obtain if living on a small area in the large towns. Improvements to the value of £6,455 have been effected by the settlers.

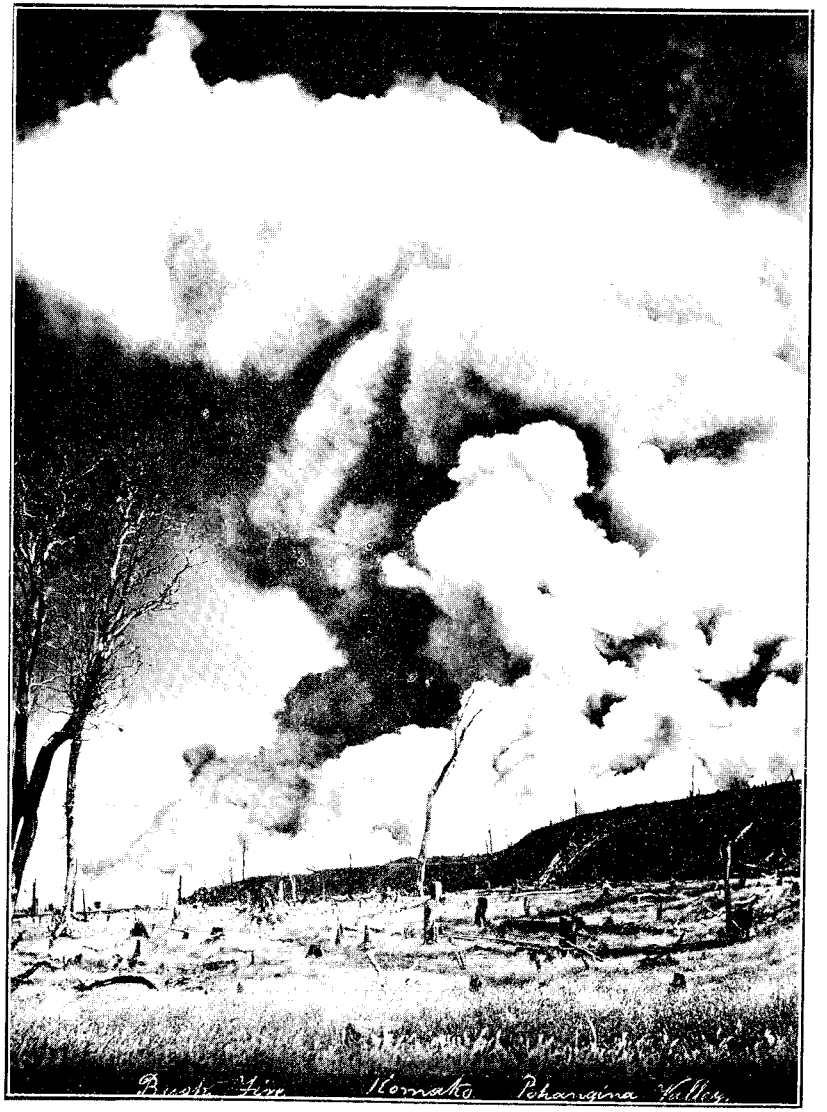
Normandale Settlement.—This settlement, which was thrown open for selection on the 15th December, 1903, is situated on the hills to the West of the Lower Hutt Railway-station. It contains an area of 1,607 acres, subdivided into forty-nine sections. The ballot for the sections was not very successful, only five sections being selected; but since then applications have been approved of for another ten sections, the total number now occupied being fifteen, of a total area of 112 acres 1 rood 17 perches. I have no doubt that in the near future all the small sections will be taken up, but it may be some time before the large sections are selected, as the land has been much neglected, and is of poor quality, and it will take time and money to put it in good working-order.

Improved-farm Settlements.

Hautapu Settlement.—Established in September, 1895. It is situated on the east bank of the Hautapu River, about four miles north of Taihape. It contains twelve sections of an average area of about 105 acres. All the sections are now highly improved, and there is a general appearance of prosperity throughout. Most of the settlers go in for dairying in the summer, and take on some outside work during the winter. They are now finding that the sections are on the small side, as on account of the cold winter, during which there is no growth, they cannot keep sufficient stock to enable them to live entirely on the land. The total population of the settlement is fifty-four souls, and improvements have been effected to the value of £3,411, out of which £1,146 has been advanced by the Crown.

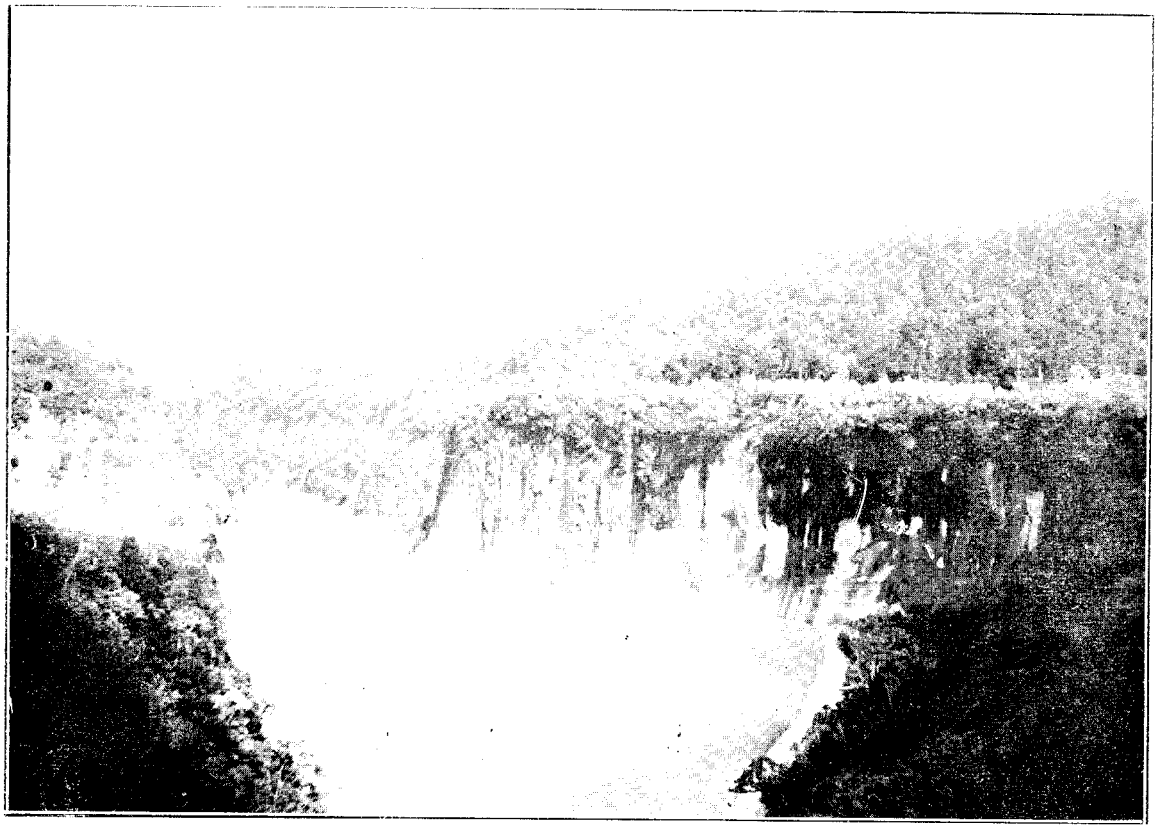


SETTLER'S HOMESTEAD: FELLING WHITE PINE, LEVIN, WELLINGTON.



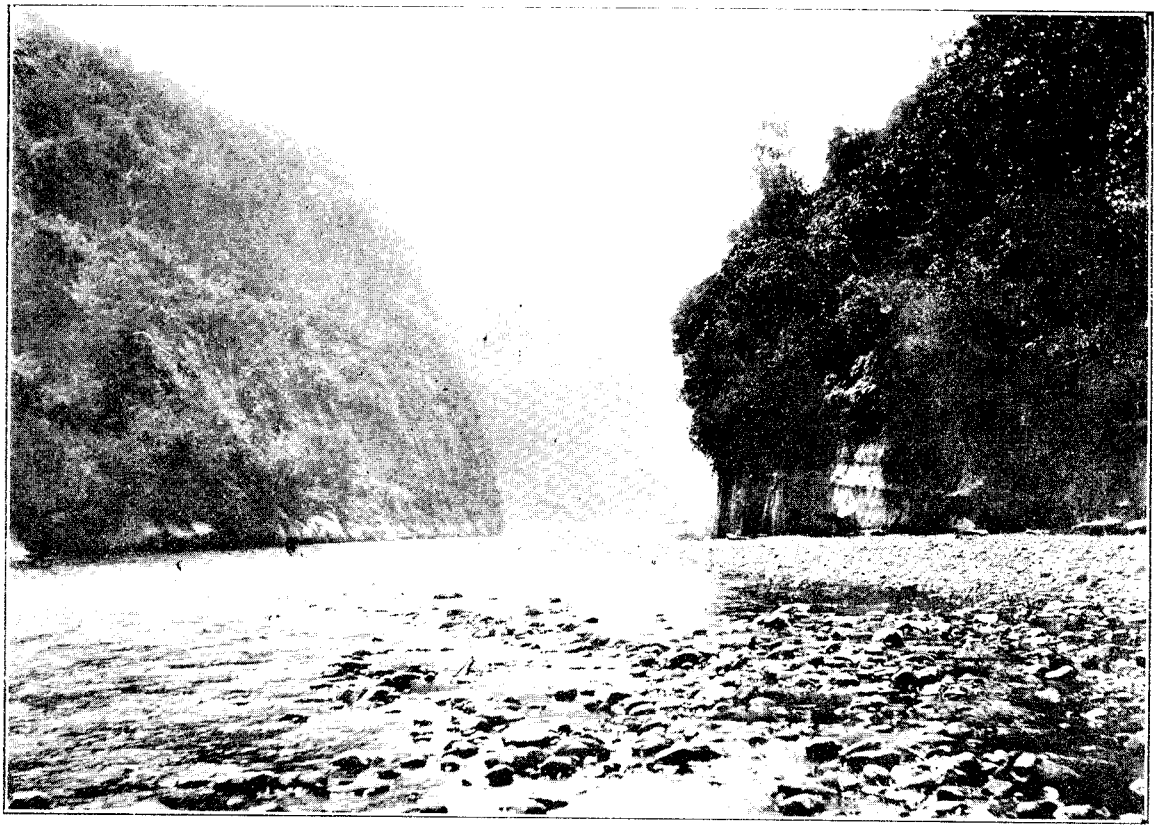
C. E. Adkins, photo.

BUSH-FIRE, KOMAKO, POHANGINA VALLEY, WELLINGTON.



W. E. Gudbestone

UPPER REACHES, RANGITIKEI RIVER, WELLINGTON.



W. E. Gudbestone

UPPER REACHES, RANGITIKEI RIVER, WELLINGTON.

Oraukura Settlement.—This settlement was thrown open for selection in March, 1899, and contains an area of 1,819 acres, divided into ten sections, of an average size of 180 acres. The value of the improvements on the land is £2,309, out of which £543 11s. 5d. has been advanced by the Crown. The stock consists of 288 head of mixed sorts, but principally cattle. All of the sections are now being resided upon, the total population being sixty souls. Great improvements have been effected during the year, and, as predicted, the settlement promises to be one of the most successful in the whole district. The sections are a fair size, and the land is of first-class quality, so in a year or two the settlers will be able to make a fair living from their sections. A sawmill has lately been erected in the settlement, which will enable the settlers to get rid of their surplus timber to advantage.

Ohutu Settlement.—This first-class and highly successful settlement is situated on the east bank of the Hautapu River, close to the Utiku Railway-station. It contains twenty-eight sections, all of which are being resided upon; the total population being 119 souls. The improvements effected at the settlers' own cost total £6,212, and the amount advanced by the Crown is £1,741. The stock consists of 1,176 of mixed sorts, but chiefly cattle. With a few exceptions the settlers go in for dairying, for which purpose the land is well suited, as it is all easy-sloping country of first-class quality, and it is satisfactory to learn that the milk-tests equal anything in the district. Some of the large sections are self-supporting, but on the smaller areas they have to depend a good deal on outside work, which is at present easily obtained on the co-operative works and at the sawmills. The settlement is a splendid example of aided settlement, nearly all the settlers having made good homes. The only drawback is that some of the sections are on the small side, with the result that, in time to come, as the work on which they at present depend runs out, they will have to sell out to one another, and so increase the area of their holdings.

Ohutu Extension Settlement adjoins the Ohutu Improved-farm Settlement, of which it is really a part. It was thrown open for selection in March, 1900. It is divided into six sections of an average area of 115 acres. All the sections are now being resided upon, the total population being twelve souls. 221 acres have been felled and grassed. The settlers at their own cost have effected improvements to the value of £700, and the amount advanced by the Crown is £200 0s. 3d., all of which has been advanced for felling and grassing. One section was forfeited during the year, but it was at once reselected. The land is of first-class quality and well adapted for dairying, and has the convenience of having a butter-factory within a mile. None of the sections are as yet self-supporting, most of the settlers working at the adjoining sawmills and on the co-operative works. There is no doubt as to the ultimate success of the settlement.

Otuarei Settlement.—Situated between the Moawhango and Rangitikei Rivers, about eighteen miles east of Utiku. It contains eleven allotments of about 200 acres each. Six sections are occupied and being resided upon, and one was forfeited during the year on account of the lessee failing to effect improvements and take up his residence. The total population is thirty-one souls, and improvements to the value of £842 have been effected at the settlers' own cost, the amount advanced by the Crown being £407 1s. 9d. The stock consists of 2,122 head of mixed sorts, but principally sheep, The progress of the settlement is still slow, but there is now an appearance of a forward move, and the settlers are satisfied and hopeful. Dray-road access has now been given from Utiku to within a mile of the settlement, and there is a proposal to erect a butter-factory or creamery. Two of the settlers milk cows and make butter, which they have had to pack to Taihape, a distance of eighteen miles. A school has lately been erected close to the settlement, and there is no doubt it was urgently required.

Kawhatau Settlement.—This old-established settlement is situated about two miles and a half from Mangaweka, on the Kawhatau Valley Road. It contains twelve sections of an average area of 76 acres. This is another successful aided settlement, all the sections being highly improved, but the settlers are again finding that the sections are on the small side, and most of them have to depend a lot on outside work. Dairying is the chief industry, seven of the settlers being engaged in this work during the summer months. One section was forfeited during the year. The total population is sixty souls, and the mixed stock running on the land totals 1,244 head.

Pemberton Settlement.—This old-established and highly successful aided settlement needs little comment. The sections are fully improved and worked to the fullest advantage. The principal industry is dairying, all the settlers going in for this work, and they have the great convenience of having a creamery right in the centre of the settlement. As in many other cases, the settlers are finding that their holdings are rather small, and many of them are anxious to sell out and go in for larger places, where they could make a better living. At the present time, with high prices ruling for stock and farm produce, they can make a fair living, but are unable to provide for any future contingencies, such as a heavy fall in the price of butter and stock, &c. The holdings vary in size from 29 acres to 150 acres. The total population of the settlement at present is seventy-seven souls, and they possess amongst them 1,003 head of mixed stock, but principally cattle.

Sommerville Settlement is situated on Murray's Track in the northern end of the Te Kapua Block. It contains eight sections, all of which are occupied by a good class of settlers. The total population is twenty-eight souls. 326 acres have been laid down in grass, and the total number of stock is 388. Improvements to the value of £1,388 have been made, out of which sum £283 represents advances made by the Government for felling, grassing, houses, fencing, &c. Several of the settlers are dairying, and as soon as a butter-factory is built at Mataroa all the settlers will no doubt do so. At present the milk or cream has to be taken to Taihape Creamery, a distance of some nine miles.

Rongoiti Settlement.—Adjoining the Mataroa Township. There are eight sections, all occupied by a population of twenty-five souls. Three hundred and forty-one acres have been laid down in grass, and improvements have been made to the value of £1,661 1s. 3d., out of which the Govern-

ment has made advances for falling, grassing, houses, fencing, &c., to the value of £473 11s. 7d. The stock of all kinds in the settlement numbers 1,240. Several of the settlers go in for sheep, and a few for dairying.

Otaihape Settlement is one of the oldest-established settlements. It contains ten sections, all of which are occupied; the population is fifty-one souls. The whole area (200 acres) has been laid down in grass, and the total value of improvements is £1,574 15s. 2d., out of which sum £645 17s. 10d. represents advances made by the Government on felling, grassing, buildings, fencing, &c. Some of the settlers are engaged in business in Taihape, some make a living off the land, and others again are employed on the co-operative works.

Taihape Extension Settlement is situated south of and adjoining the Taihape Township. There are six sections, and five of the settlers are residing. The total population is twenty-six souls. Two hundred and nine acres have been laid down in grass, and the total number of stock of all kinds is 100. Improvements to the value of £693 4s. 6d. have been made, of which £80 8s. 4d. represents advances made by the Government on felling and grassing. Satisfactory improvements have been made on all the sections, and the success of the settlement is assured.

Masterton–Tenui Settlement was established in 1895, and was originally held in twelve sections. The settlers were then mostly employed on the co-operative railway works, but as this work is now completed in this locality, the settlers have to depend on their holdings for a living; and as several of the sections are rough, two of the settlers have been allowed to buy their neighbours out, and thus enlarge their areas. Twelve settlers are residing, and the total population is forty-seven souls. Seven hundred and forty-two acres have been laid down in grass, and the number of stock of all kinds is 702. The total value of improvements is £3,891 15s., out of which sum the Government has advanced £847 on felling, grassing, houses, fencing, &c.

Horopito Settlement is situated in the Waimarino district, north of Raetihi. There are only two settlers, and the total population is four souls. One hundred and twenty-four acres have been laid down in grass, and the number of stock is ninety. Improvements to the value of £620 have been made, and out of this sum the Government has advanced £280 17s. 10d. on felling, grassing, houses, &c. One settler is dairying, and the other uses his section for grazing.

Native Townships.

Pipiriki is situated on the Wanganui River, and is the stopping-place for the Wanganui River steamers, and also the terminus of the coaching route from the Hot Lakes to Wanganui River. Consequently, a very large number of tourists pass through here every year. A few new houses have been built, and some ploughing has been done on the larger sections that are partly open land. The climate here is mild, and frosts very rare, and settlers therefore can grow potatoes much earlier than in other places. All the sections have been taken up, and a number of them are no doubt held for speculative purposes, though most of them are more or less improved. This may be considered the most successful Native township in the district (from a financial point of view at any rate).

Tokaanu is situated at the south of Lake Taupo, but little progress has been made here. This is no doubt due to the fact that there is not any land-settlement going on near, and the whole township depends chiefly on the tourist traffic for its existence; and I fear the opening-up of the upper-reaches of the Wanganui River to Taumarunui, will make a number of tourists cut out the coaching trip from Rotorua to Pipiriki from their programme, and instead go by rail to Taumarunui, and thence down the river to Wanganui. There are still a number of sections open for lease in Tokaanu.

Potaka is situated on the Main Trunk Line, about ten miles north of Mangaweka. This township is making great progress, chiefly due to the near completion of the railway, and the fact that a number of sawmills have started, or are about to start, in the locality. In a year's time Potaka township will be the centre of a large timber and milling district, and as long as the mills are working, the township will be prosperous.

Parata.—Situated on the Manawatu Railway-line, opposite Waikanae Railway-station. Contains 33 sections, held by seventeen selectors. The sections range from ¼ to 1½ acres in extent. Although all the sections are taken up, the township cannot be classed as successful, as only one shop (a blacksmith's) and six dwellinghouses have been erected.

Hokio.—Situated on the beach at the mouth of the Hokio Stream. It contains fifty-nine sections, and was thrown open for selection on the 11th March, 1903. Sixteen sections only are selected, but no start has been made with building.

The Crown Lands Rangers for the East Coast report as follows:—

General.

From defaulters schedule herewith it will be seen that the action of the Land Board in calling on defaulters to comply has in the interest of settlement had the most beneficial effect, as out of 124 defaulters appearing last year fifty-seven have complied. This result must be considered highly satisfactory, as, out of 662 ordinary inspections, there are only sixty-seven who have failed. The latter number is expected to be largely reduced this year, as the major portion have now taken steps to fulfil requirements.

During the year the progress of settlement has been most marked, new dwellings replacing old whilst clearing, fencing, and other improvements are noticeable. Settlers are hopeful, and are making strenuous efforts to improve their surroundings and better their positions.

Schools and post-offices are now established within reach of settlers, and in suitable centres money-order and telephone facilities are also provided. Three sawmills are in active operation near Pongaroa, Waihi Valley, and Waione. Settlers may now purchase sawn timber

at less than town prices. The produce of the mills under notice is disposed of locally; procuring logs and converting same into marketable timber provides a good deal of employment in the localities.

Considerable activity is observable amongst selectors holding marketable timber within the influence of the Waione River and its tributaries, in felling and hauling logs, which they dispose of at remunerative rates to the mill established near the mouth of the Akitio, the produce of which is despatched coastwise.

Dairying Industry.

Since last report, creameries have been established at Rakaunui, Waihi Valley, and Mangamaire, so that now all villages, farm homesteads, and improved-farm settlements (with the exception of Mekalickstone and Christchurch) are within the influence of butter-factories and creameries, and selectors favourably situated contribute to the supply. The expansion of the industry continues, and in the older-settled districts butter and cheese factories have been enlarged and improved, branches extended, and the whole fully equipped with up-to-date appliances. The output for the season is a record one, and suppliers have every reason to be satisfied with present results and future prospects.

Season.

As a whole, the season has been favourable for all kinds of settlement operations, and high prices have ruled throughout the year for farm-produce and stock: the enhanced value of the latter, especially dairy-cows, operates adversely against small and struggling settlers, inasmuch as they have a difficulty, or are at a disadvantage, in obtaining suitable stock for dairy and other purposes. Stock-sales are now conducted at stated periods at Makuri and Pongaroa, thus bringing the market nearer the door of the out-settlers.

Roads.

The Akitio County have, out of accrued thirds, metalled part of the Manuhara, Waihi Valley, Waipatukaka, and other roads, and let contracts for burning papa for road purposes. Under favourable conditions the quality and cost of production will compare favourably with other kinds of metal, and the patches laid down near Rakaunui some four or five years ago are a valuable object-lesson to all interested in road construction or maintenance. The great want of all settlers is metalled roads.

Schedule of Defaulters.

Tenure.	For Improvements.	For Non-residence.	For Residence and Improvements.	Total.	Number of Inspections.
1903.					
Perpetual lease, lease in perpetuity, and occupation with right of purchase	12	34	24	70	259
Village homestead lease in perpetuity ..	...	9	...	9	79
Farm homestead lease in perpetuity ...	2	12	9	23	147
Cash	1	...	...	1	1
Land for Settlements lease in perpetuity ...	2	5	3	10	23
Improved-farm settlements	...	11	..	11	68
Total	17	71	36	124	577
1904.					
Lease in perpetuity, and occupation with right of purchase	5	23	2	30	255
Village homestead lease in perpetuity ...	...	9	...	9	135
Farm homestead lease in perpetuity ...	3	13	...	16	169
Land for Settlements lease in perpetuity ...	...	3	...	3	20
Improved-farm settlements	...	9	...	9	83
Total	8	57	2	67	662

Summary.

1903	17	71	36	124	577
1904	8	57	2	67	662
Decrease	9	14	34	57	...

Village Settlements.

Pongaroa, Rakaunui, Hastwell, Mangaramarama, Makuri, Mangaone, Makairo, Ngaturi, Paa Creek, Pahiatua West, Upper Makuri, McKenzie, and Block I., Makuri, Village Settlements were inspected during the year, and Pahiatua and Mangatainoka visited.

Of 203 selectors, 181 are residing, thirteen are not required to reside, nine are defaulters as to residence (of the latter, two are not expected to comply; the remainder have obtained extension of time, and are expected to fulfil requirements shortly).

The increase in the value of improvements still continues satisfactory. Improvements required, £6,295; improvements effected, £34,275: surplus, £27,980.

Selectors, especially in the older-settled districts, obtain work at their avocations, or have a little means. Others are engaged dairying, bee and poultry keeping, fruit-growing, or a combination of the above. Others, again, in the more remote settlements, in addition to the foregoing, obtain partial employment at various distances, utilising their spare time on their holdings. The access to settlements has greatly improved. Pongaroa and Rakaunui can now be reached by summer dray-roads, and the remainder by metalled roads, and all are within easy reach of schools, post-offices, &c.

Farm-homestead Associations.

During the year the McKenzie, Waiwera, Kakariki, Masterton Reform, Stirling, Pahiatua Nos. 1 and 4, Hall, and Woodville No. 2 Farm-homestead Settlements were inspected, and the following visited: Coonoor, Pahiatua Nos. 2 and 3, Dannevirke, Mekalickstone, Kaikoura, Rising Sun.

Residence and Improvements.—Of 187 selectors, 174 are residing, thirteen are defaulters as to residence and three as to improvements. The average value of the latter is £156 12s. 6d. Of the thirteen defaulters as to residence, eleven have dwellings erected or in course of erection, all have effected improvements in excess of requirements, and the major portion are expected to comply shortly. The remainder will no doubt apply for, and, as usual, obtain further extension of time.

The area occupied is 33,600 acres. Improvements required, £45,091 7s. 4d.; improvements effected, £74,169 11s. 6d.: surplus, £29,078 4s. 2d.

Three-fourths of the area occupied is felled, grassed, and fenced, and with few exceptions well stocked with cattle, sheep, and horses. The land is utilised chiefly for grazing purposes. Selectors are mostly hardworking, struggling settlers, who work partly on their holdings, roads, sawmills, shearing, fencing, also for other settlers in the different localities. Creameries are now established within reach of the settlements, with the exception of the Mekalickstone and Christchurch. Schools and post-offices are established in situations most suitable for settlers. Telephone and money-order offices are also within easy reach of most of the settlements.

Roads.—The access to and through the McKenzie, Kakariki, Coonoor, and Stirling Settlements is by metalled roads; the remainder are approached by part metalled and part summer dray-roads, but the internal access to the latter is by horse-tracks or summer dray-roads, which are almost impassable during four months of the year.

Improved Farms.

Mangatiti.—Area, 5,356 acres, divided into 36 holdings. Of 28 settlers required to reside, 16 married men with their wives and 46 children, and 9 single men, are residing. The three non-residents are accounted for as follows: One is absent seeking employment in Wellington; one transfer pending; and the remaining one's house was accidentally burned. He is now working at the local sawmill, and has arranged for material for erection of new dwellinghouse. The total area of bush felled is 2,106 acres, and the area grassed is 2,030 acres.

Improvements.

	At Government Cost.	At Settlers' Cost.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1904	3,217 18 4	2,530 6 1	5,748 4 5
1903	3,083 11 11	2,196 19 7	5,280 11 6
Increase ...	134 6 5	333 6 6	467 12 11

Advances during the year: House, £20; bushfelling, &c., £79 15s.—total, £99 15s. Stock: 44 horses, 120 cows, 369 other cattle, 370 sheep, 18 pigs—total, 921. Souls on land: 24 men, 16 women, 46 children—total, 86. The selectors are mostly struggling, industrious labouring men. Some few, with the assistance of a little work at their callings, obtain a living on their holdings, but the majority rely chiefly on Government road-work. The absentees mentioned in last annual report have taken up their residence during the year, and, with the exception of recent selectors, most of the holders have a good deal of fencing erected, and, with the exception of the three absentees, are well stocked. The access is mostly by summer dray-road. The increase in the value of improvements—viz., £333 6s. 6d.—is confined to the six selectors who received Government assistance during the year, the remainder having complied with the sixth year's requirements.

Akitio.—Residence: Of 36 required to reside, 23 married men with their wives and 59 children, and 9 single men, are residing. Of four non-residents, two are recent transfers, and two have been called upon, and are expected to reside shortly. The total area of bush felled is 2,928 acres, and the area grassed is 2,814 acres.

Improvements.

	At Government Cost.	At Settlers' Cost.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1904	3,976 0 6	3,870 2 4	7,846 2 10
1903	3,900 4 8	3,684 18 6	7,585 3 2
Increase ...	75 15 10	185 3 10	260 19 8

Advances during the year: Bushfelling, &c., £66 7s. 6d. Stock: 40 horses, 131 cows, 261 other cattle, 3,271 sheep, 52 pigs—total, 3,755. Souls on the land: 30 men, 23 women, 59 children—total, 112. The selectors are mostly struggling, industrious labouring men. Some few work exclusively on their holdings, but the major portion work on sections, roads, and about the districts. Settlement: During the year the resident selectors have erected a good deal of fencing and effected other improvements: the four non-residents are single men; they have been called upon to fulfil requirements, and are expected to comply shortly. On the whole the progress made is satisfactory. The increase in the value of improvements—viz., £185 3s. 11d.—is confined to three selectors receiving Government assistance during the year, the remainder having complied with requirements for the sixth year. The access is mostly by summer dray-roads.

Land for Settlements.

Langdale Settlement.—Situated in the Whareama District, distant about twenty-five miles from Masterton. Area, 9,255 acres. Divided into twenty-three sections, averaging about 400 acres each. Residence and improvements: Of 20 required to reside, all are now residing. There are 17 married men with their wives and 24 children, and 3 single men, residing, or a total of 61 souls on the land. Improvements required, £1,626 13s. 10d.; improvements effected, £5,428 15s. 7d.: surplus, £3,802 1s. 4d. Selectors are mostly experienced, desirable settlers, who work on their holdings. Most have cropped for home consumption—viz, rape, turnips, oats, potatoes, peas, &c.—aggregating 181 acres. The remainder of the land is utilised for grazing purposes, and is stocked with 80 horses, 32 cows, 420 mixed cattle, and 11,928 sheep. During the year four new dwellinghouses have been erected, also a church, on land contiguous to Langdale Township. Stock-sales are held monthly from October to March, and as required during the remainder of the year. High prices have ruled for stock, and all selectors seem well satisfied with their prospects. The children attend the Mangapakeha and Whareama Public Schools. Seeing that improvements have been effected to the value of £3,802 1s. 9d. in excess of requirements, the progress made must be looked upon as satisfactory. Access is by coach and dray roads.

Tablelands and Longbush Settlements.—Situated on the Wangaehu River, distant about eight miles from Martinborough and seven miles from Gladstone respectively. The areas, aggregating 7,916 acres, are divided into twelve sections, ranging from 172 acres to 882 acres. The lands were opened for selection and possession in June last. Although the first year's inspection is not due, five selectors have erected dwellings, and others are in course of erection. Four have ring-fenced their selections, and others have fencing in progress. The sections are well stocked with sheep and cattle, and the selectors seem satisfied with their prospects. The first year's inspection will be made on the due date.

Rebate of Rental.—2,030 selectors took advantage of this concession, to the extent of £2,209 being an increase of 181 in number and £261 in amount over last year's figures.

Arrears.—These comprise 104 selectors, holding 52,269 acres, in arrear with two or more payments, amounting to £1,040, being a very large reduction on last year's figures. The area held has increased by 11,954 acres. This is, however, accounted for by the fact that a large miscellaneous lease of 33,000 acres has come into this year's figures.

Forfeitures and Surrenders.—Fifty-four leases or licenses, comprising 9,056 acres, were forfeited during the year, and 1,890 acres were surrendered by eight persons.

Reservations.—9,077 acres were reserved and alienated under Acts during the year, principally for primary education, recreation, &c.

I have paid visits of inspection to considerable parts of the district during the twelve months, and am personally satisfied of the satisfactory progress and *bonâ fide* settlement in the district as reported by the Crown Lands Rangers. On three occasions I was accompanied by the Land Board members. We met settlers and discussed various matters affecting their interests, and had the satisfaction of hearing from them that some alleged grievances have arisen out of misunderstandings and had been entirely dispelled by their conference with the members of the Board.

CLERICAL BRANCH.

The correspondence this year has increased. There were 67,720 letters, &c., received and despatched, the number in the preceding year being 64,000. The letters received numbered 13,404, as against 11,970 the previous year. There were 474 cheques drawn on Imprest Account for a total sum of £4,430, and 1,498 vouchers were passed through the books, representing £45,153 6s. 10d.

JOHN STRAUCHON,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

NELSON.

SUMMARY OF LAND TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1903–4.

System.	Transactions during the Year.		Area under Lease at 31st March, 1904.		Revenue received during the Year.
	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	
		A. R. P.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Cash	62	3,945 0 30	...	...	2,134 16 9
Deferred payment	...	...	223	22,881 0 29	1,591 4 0
Deferred payment made freehold	32	3,489 0 39	...	...	...
Perpetual leases	...	...	17	3,129 0 31	63 15 8
Perpetual leases made freehold	6	1,633 1 20	...	...	581 5 0
Occupation with right of purchase	5	429 1 33	198	39,423 1 35	621 9 10
Lease in perpetuity ...	28	4,895 1 5	200	58,400 3 26	701 7 0
Mining Districts Land Occupation Act	7	242 1 37	15	584 2 8	39 16 1
Small grazing-runs ...	5	7,468 0 0	6	8,556 0 0	42 2 8
Pastoral runs	1	900 0 0	70	310,520 0 0	549 8 10
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	180	9,509 0 0	365	26,513 3 12	820 0 8
Other sources	...	...	...	...	412 12 10
Totals	326	32,512 0 4	1,094	470,009 0 21	7,557 19 4
Endowments.					
Deferred payment ...	...	...	2	106 1 23	14 14 0
Village-homestead special settlement	...	...	20	100 3 7	15 11 6
Mining districts land occupation	7	91 3 33	61	1,245 1 24	68 3 3
Miscellaneous leases ...	84	22 3 38	294	5,480 1 17	969 4 11
Royalty on coal and timber ...	...	...	...	...	14,520 3 8
Totals	91	114 3 31	377	6,932 3 31	15,587 17 4
Grand totals ...	417	32,626 3 35	1,471	476,942 0 12	23,145 16 8

Lands opened for Selection.—During the year 12,235 acres under the optional system of the Land Act, and 21,245 acres under lease in perpetuity, were thrown open for selection. The total number of selectors of all classes was 379, comprising an area of 27,504 acres 1 rood 16 perches. The number of selectors now on the books is 1,471, holding 476,942 acres.

Cash Lands.—The total amount received for cash sales for town, suburban, and rural lands was £2,134 16s. 9d., by sixty-two selectors, for a total area of 3,945 acres and 30 perches. Of these, forty-two sections were sold in the townships of Omau and Murchison.

Occupation with Right of Purchase.—Five selections were made, the area being 429 acres 1 rood 33 perches. The total number of holdings is now 198, area 39,423 acres 1 rood 35 perches.

Lease in Perpetuity.—Twenty-eight settlers selected 4,895 acres 1 rood 5 perches, the number of holdings being now 200, with an area of 58,400 acres 3 roods 26 perches.

Deferred Payments.—Thirty-two lessees, holding 3,489 acres and 39 perches, have acquired the freehold during the year, leaving 223 tenants, holding 22,881 acres and 29 perches, remaining on the books.

Perpetual Leases.—Six lessees, area 1,633 acres 1 rood 20 perches, acquired the freehold by purchase, leaving seventeen holdings, area 3,129 acres and 31 perches, still held.

Mining Districts Land Occupation Act.—Fourteen selections have been made under this Act in the Mokihinui and Brighton Districts, comprising 334 acres 1 rood 30 perches. Settlers in the goldfields districts, where land is not proclaimed open under the Land Act, find this the most convenient title for acquiring small areas for agricultural or pastoral purposes. The number of selectors is now seventy-six, comprising 1,829 acres 3 roods 32 perches.

Pastoral Runs.—Only one small run was taken up during the year, and there were eight expiries. The holdings in this district now number seventy, comprising 310,520 acres.

Small Grazing-runs.—Five selections, totalling 7,468 acres, were made in the Gordon District during the year. Six leases are now held, with an area of 8,556 acres.

Miscellaneous Leases and Licenses.—One hundred and eighty licenses, area 9,509 acres, were issued, twenty-three under section 116 of the Land Act, 150 timber and sleeper-cutting licenses, and seven for flax-cutting. There are now 365 holdings, with an area of 26,513 acres 3 roods 12 perches.

Westport Harbour Board Endowment Lands.—Eighty-four leases of business sites in the Town of Westport—rentals £384 13s. 8d.—were granted during the year. The endowment now comprises 375 leases, area 6,826 acres 2 roods 8 perches. The revenue of these lands, including royalties on coal and timber, amounted to the large sum of £15,573 3s. 4d. for the past year. The estate has been administered and the revenue collected entirely by this office.

Village-homestead Special Settlement, Seddonville.—This settlement, which is close to the State Coal-mine, is held by twenty selectors, of whom sixteen are resident. It is now in a fairly prosperous condition since the resumption of work at the coal-mines in the vicinity. Of the area taken up, comprising 101 acres, 75 acres of bush has been felled, and is now in grass. Total value of improvements effected, £1,154; number of houses, 18; population, 70.

Coal and Mineral Leases.—The output of coal from the Denniston and Millerton Mines worked by the Westport Coal Company has considerably increased during the past year. The total output from these mines amounted to over half a million (565,193) tons, on which royalties amounting to the large sum of £14,129 17s. were collected by this office. The Millerton Mine is now in full work, and a still larger output may be expected during the current year.

Progress and Condition of Settlers.—The Rangers' reports show that during the year 302 holdings, comprising 57,397 acres, were inspected. The value of improvements required by the Act was £10,415, and improvements valued at £14,483 had been effected. The number of defaulters reported was sixty-five—forty for non-compliance with improvement conditions, and twenty-five for non-residence. These cases have been dealt with by the Land Board on their merits. The bulk of the land held by Crown tenants in this land district, being principally hilly country, is only fitted for sheep and cattle raising, the small flats only being cultivated for winter feed. The general progress and condition of the tenants are satisfactory, there being very few forfeitures or surrenders. The rents having been paid promptly, the arrears are trifling, the majority of the tenants having taken advantage of the rebate allowed for prompt payment.

Revenue.—The total revenue collected from all sources, including endowments and royalties, amounted to £23,145 16s. 8d., showing an increase of £1,360 6s. over the previous year.

Arrears.—The arrears of rent amount only to the small sum of £34 19s. 4d., which, considering there are over fourteen hundred tenants in the district, may, I think, be taken as a very satisfactory result of the efforts made to exact prompt payment of rentals.

Lands for Future Settlement.—Preliminary surveys have been made of the following blocks of Crown lands, and they now await the selection of forest, scenic, and other reserves prior to proclamation, and every effort is now being made to place these lands on the market at an early date: A block of some 80,000 acres situate between the Mokihinui and Oparara Rivers, extending from the back of the settlements on the sea-coast to the foot of the main range; about 30,000 acres extending from the Four-mile Creek near Charleston to the southern boundary of the Nelson Land District; another block of some 27,000 acres in the Orikaka Survey District, at Mackley's Creek, near the Inangahua Junction; also, at the Matiri River, a block of about 16,000 acres, and another of about the same area at the Owen River, the survey of which is nearing completion. The above-mentioned blocks may be described generally as rough, hilly, bush country and mountain-slopes interspersed with small valleys. A good proportion of the land, especially in the Karamea and Charleston districts, is of very fair quality, and well suited for sheep and cattle raising when cleared. In addition to the above, a block of about 30,000 acres of agricultural and pastoral land situate on the Maruia Plains, about midway between Murchison and Reefton, is now being surveyed, consisting principally of open grass country well suited for raising and fattening cattle, with bush on the surrounding spurs.

Clerical Work.—During the year 15,250 letters and telegrams, &c., were received and despatched, 172 leases prepared, 160 audit cards, 60 transfers recorded, 2,500 rent-notices despatched, and 2,500 receipts issued, which, with the preparation of warrants, titles, returns, &c., has kept the clerical staff fully employed during the year.

W. G. Murray,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

MARLBOROUGH.

Crown Lands opened for Selection.

The area of Crown lands available for selection in this district is gradually becoming exhausted, and during the past year only 20,136 acres was opened for selection under all tenures, of which 16,020 acres was contained in one small grazing-run in Patriarch District.

The Rainford Estate, comprising 246 acres, was acquired and opened for selection during the year in eleven sections, all of which were taken up on lease in perpetuity on the date the estate was thrown open.

The following table will show the manner in which the Crown lands were opened for sale and lease:—

Ordinary Crown Lands.

——	Optional System.	Lease by Auction and Application.	Small Grazing-runs.	Lease in Perpetuity only.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Offered for first time ...	361	...	16,020	2,564	18,945
Offered previously ...	...	775	...	...	775

Land for Settlements.

——	Lease in Perpetuity only.	Totals.
	Acres.	Acres.
Offered for first time	246	246
Offered previously	170	170

LANDS DISPOSED OF.

The following table shows the particulars of the lands disposed of during the year, number of new selectors, and area taken up from the 1st April, 1903, to the 31st March, 1904, and total amount of money received during the year:—

Nature and Tenure of Lands selected.	Number of Purchasers or Selectors.	Area.	Cash received on Past and Current Transactions.
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Town lands sold for cash	1	0 2 1	8 6 0
Rural lands sold for cash	4	37 1 5	48 13 1
Perpetual leases made freehold	...	...	101 5 0
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	...	...	25 0 0
Deferred-payment instalments	...	...	26 9 1
Perpetual leases	...	...	43 17 1
Occupation with right of purchase	...	...	481 7 1
Lease in perpetuity	9	6,802 0 0	2,387 17 7
Village settlement—			
Deferred payment	...	...	2 11 6
Perpetual lease	...	...	0 11 3
Lease in perpetuity	...	...	19 16 2
Village-homestead special settlements ...	...	...	21 3 0
Occupation lease, Mining Districts Land Occupation Act	...	...	27 7 1
Small grazing-runs	3	22,858 0 0	2,604 8 8
Pastoral runs	2	114,424 0 0	4,097 5 2
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	17	3,147 1 12	2,080 2 6
Miscellaneous	...	...	122 4 1
Land for Settlements Acts—			
Lease in perpetuity	21	249 1 11	10,491 8 11
Small grazing-runs	1	3,385 0 0	1,763 2 2
Miscellaneous	4	1 2 9	280 10 2
Totals	62	150,904 3 38	24,633 5 7

REVIEW OF THE SYSTEMS OF LAND TENURE.

In this district the lease in perpetuity is the prevailing tenure. Under the occupation-with-right-of-purchase tenure there are only thirty-eight selections altogether. Eight pastoral leases, embracing 6,813 acres, and one small grazing-run of 417 acres, were exchanged to leases in perpetuity during the year.

RETURN OF NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE RANGERS FOR THE YEAR.

Year.	No. of Properties visited.	Area.	Value of Improvements.		Number of Defaulters.		
			Required.	Actually Made.	For Improvements.	For Non-residence.	Total.
1903–4	462	278,877	75,433	178,145	19	44	63

POSITION AND PROGRESS OF SETTLEMENT.

Estates acquired under Land for Settlements Act.

Mr. W. B. Buckhurst, Crown Lands Ranger, reports as follows:—

Blind River Settlement.—Area, 5,507 acres. Opened for selection in 1895. The lessees on this estate have had a successful year. There was a good lambing of over 80 per cent., and a fair wool-clip, with a favourable season for the crops. Four hundred and forty acres were under cultivation, 340 of which was in wheat, oats, and barley—100 acres more than last year, with much better results; the remainder was in roots and rape. The number of the principal stock (sheep)

kept was reduced from that grazed in previous years, partly owing to the extra area in crops, and partly to the occupiers' care in not overstocking—a mistake made in past years. The dams successfully provided water for the stock all through the dry season. The value of improvements effected is estimated to be £5,884—an increase of £313 since last report. I am glad to be able to state there are no defaulters. There are sixteen dwellinghouses, in which fifty-two persons live. Telegraphic communication has been established with the outside world, an office being opened during the year at the accommodation-house on the Main South Road. In March, 1903, the arrears of rent amounted to £355 4s. 9d.; this year they are only £61 14s. 10d. Premiums are being offered to tenants by would-be purchasers of their interests.

Omaka Settlement.—Opened for settlement in 1896. This estate consists of 3,898 acres, subdivided into thirteen holdings, and is moderately prosperous. The tenants have been very much annoyed, and have suffered considerable loss, through the ravages of the grass-grub, which has completely spoilt the pasture on much of the level land and some of the downs. The settlers have been compelled to break the cropping conditions of their leases by breaking up pasture land only recently laid down in grass. The value of the improvements on the estate now amounts to £5,227—£434 being last year's addition. There is now only one defaulter who has not yet made improvements to the value legally required, but work is still going on, and in time he will comply. The crops consisted of 106 acres of wheat, 90 acres of barley, and 317 acres of oats. The average returns would be 18 bushels of wheat to the acre, 17 of barley, and about 1½ tons of oat-sheaves per acre. There was also 273 acres in roots and rape. Total land in cultivation, 800 acres. The stock comprises 2,790 sheep, 37 head of cattle, and 49 horses. I heard of no discontent, but there was a little anxiety about dealing with the grass-grub.

Starborough Settlement.—Opened for selection in 1899. The past year has been a satisfactory season here—the weather suitable for both stock and crops. Settlers have also had the benefit of a steady market for all produce. The area under crop was nearly 4,000 acres; 765 were in wheat, 753 in barley, 944 in oats, 81 in peas (grown under contract for seedsmen), and 1,470 acres in root-crops and rape. Both wheat and barley, although not heavy, were a spendid sample and would be hard to beat in the colony—bright and full ears. All the barley was eagerly bought up by maltsters and grain-merchants at good prices. The oat-crop is mostly turned into chaff; it produced on an average 1½ tons to the acre. The peas likewise yielded well. The cropping conditions were generally respected, but there are one or two instances of infringement. The approximate number of stock on the estate is—sheep, 35,000; cattle, 212; horses, 270. The lambing was over 90 per cent., and the crop was got away to market in good time—the rape-crop being a good one. The Christchurch Meat Company were the largest purchasers of stock. I think about 117 tons of wool left the settlement this season. The estimated value of all improvements, including the Township of Seddon, is £32,057—an increase of £4,347 since last inspection. All the settlers have complied with the improvement conditions, as many as twenty-two having done sufficient for all legal requirements for the future. The houses erected during the year are all substantially built, replacing the first rough habitations. There are now sixty-six dwellings, containing 279 souls. Over fifteen miles of interior fencing was erected, besides the construction of many dams, yards, &c. There is a prospect of good lime-works being undertaken immediately; also, a company has been formed amongst the tenants to erect first-class stock sale-yards in Seddon. Rents are now promptly paid. The arrears outstanding this year amount to only £122 13s. 5d.—last year they were £1,580 16s. 3d. Rabbits are too numerous, and have increased during the past year. Three farms have changed hands during the year at satisfactory values to the vendors; in each case the incoming occupier is an old tenant of the Crown.

Richmond Brook Settlement.—Opened for settlement in 1899. The eleven tenants who occupy this estate continue to gradually make progress; one, unfortunately, lost his house by fire—it was partly insured, and was replaced in a short time. The total value of the improvements effected to date is estimated at £5,174; to comply with legal requirements, £1,398 was necessary. Improvements to the value of £1,137 have been made since last report. The tenants' stock consists of 5,900 sheep, 25 head of cattle, and 60 horses. Eight hundred acres were cropped, with satisfactory results—similar to Starborough. There are no defaulters, and there was no disposal of any of the sections last year.

Waipapa Settlement.—Opened for settlement in 1901. Three selectors out of the five whose holdings comprise this settlement have effected improvements to the value of £2,474; the other two tenants have not yet commenced to put on permanent improvements. Four are residing. The stock on the whole block, including the ordinary Crown lands, number 9,000 sheep, 100 head of cattle, and 13 horses. Small crops of oats, wheat, and turnips were grown on the river-flats. Five hundred acres of bush has been felled this season. On the land from which the bush was cleared in previous years the grass has taken well. Rabbits are numerous, in spite of the efforts made to destroy them. There are no arrears of rent by tenants on this estate.

North Bank Settlement.—Opened for settlement in March, 1903. 10,126 acres of this settlement have been disposed of; four sections under lease-in-perpetuity and two under small-grazing-run tenure—2,687 acres—have been reserved for mining purposes. The grazing-rights are let temporarily to tenants from year to year. There are no defaulters with respect to improvements. In addition to improvements which were on the land when selected, the tenants have done permanent work to the value of £235, comprising two new dwellinghouses and 168 chains of fencing. Three of the six selectors are residing. The stock on the settlement consists of 1,520 sheep, 30 head of cattle, and 7 horses. About 35 acres were in oats. I do not think much cropping will be done, except for own requirements; the selectors will depend on their returns from grazing. The flood in March last carried away some fencing, and did considerable damage to the road along the north bank of the Wairau.

Puhipuhi Settlement.—Opened for selection in 1897. This settlement contains only 320 acres, divided into two sections which are incorporated in larger holdings. The improvements effected to date amount to £210.

Rainford Settlement.—Opened for selection in September, 1903. Comprises 246 acres and 21 perches, divided into eleven holdings as small dairy-farms. All is improved land of excellent quality. Six of the selectors have provided themselves with houses. Tenants have only been in possession of their land for six months, consequently no proper inspection has been made. The prospects of the settlement may be considered fair, as there is a cheese-factory close by which has the reputation of making the best cheese in the colony, and the company (which is a local one) give good prices for milk, as well as bonuses to suppliers.

Settlement on Crown Lands under "The Land Act, 1892," and its Amendments.

Lease in Perpetuity and Occupation with Right of Purchase.—There are 258 holdings, and steady progress has been made during the past year on most of them. The surrenders and forfeitures have been limited to one. Sheep-farming is the chief occupation of the tenants, and their prosperity or otherwise is largely determined by the ruling prices obtained for wool and mutton. The country settled is nearly all broken hilly land, and consequently unfitted for dairying or cropping. Cattle receive a little attention both in the Pelorus and Kaikoura districts, where there are some fair herds. Picton is the market for fat sheep at the northern and central districts, and Culverden for the southern. Prices have maintained a steady position all the season.

Small Grazing-runs.—The large area of 210,709 acres is held under this tenure, divided into 112 runs. The same conditions prevail as regards utilisation of the land as in the other tenures, only these holdings are much larger in area and rougher in character. The amount of improvements made during the past year on the 106 runs inspected, is estimated at £5,928 16s. The yearly rental now amounts to £2,648, and the arrears to date are only £199 10s. 11d.

Village Settlements.—We have only two small settlements of this character. They have been in existence now seventeen years, and do not call for any special mention. The Wakamarina Settlement was flooded, the Pelorus and Wakamarina Bridges being washed away. In the Sounds and Pelorus districts the settlers are thoroughly established. There are seventy-seven lessees who have been in possession over ten years, and who have complied with all legal requirements. The improvements done during the past year are on those selections more recently taken up. One hundred and fifty holdings were inspected, on which improvements to the value of £6,861 had been made during the past year.

Onamalutu and Arapawa Survey Districts.—Nearly all the holdings are held as supplementary to the settlers' small flat freeholds. These small flats on which they reside make excellent homesteads, and work in well with the rough land at the back. Most of the selectors have been a long time in the district, and not much progress is noticeable; they live quiet, comfortable lives, and are contented.

Patriarch and Pine Valley Blocks.—The condition of these tenants is slowly improving. They are not progressing as well as the rest of Marlborough, having much more to contend with; a considerable area of the holdings is held under small-grazing-run tenure. Grass does not take well here after burning off. Communication with the market town is bad, for at times of flood the river is impassable, and the track along the north bank is not fit for use. The blight which is successfully attacking the sweetbriar in other parts has commenced work here. The recent flood did damage to roads and fencing. There are no defaulters respecting improvements, and only two do not comply with residence conditions.

Central Marlborough.—The few scattered holdings are held under small-grazing-run conditions, and all except one have complied with legal requirements.

Kaitarau and Puhipuhi Blocks, Kaikoura County.—Settlement here is successful. The tenants have all complied with the required improvements, and there are only two defaulters not residing; a number to the north of the Hapuku avail themselves of the Board's sanction to dispense with residence for a time. The limestone hills which have been cleared of bush have a good sole of cocksfoot, and the stock of all kinds look sleek and well-fed; the feed was going to waste when I visited the locality. There will be about 700 acres of new grass this season. Selectors are well satisfied with their selections, and can easily obtain a bonus over the amount they have expended on improvements.

Hundalee and Greenburn Blocks.—Assured success here, with two exceptions—and those due to poor land occupied. One selector was a long way behind with his improvements, but he has now obtained assistance financially and will make up for lost time. There are thirty-one holdings, and the progress made may be gauged by the fact that improvements to the value of £16,220 have been made by the selectors. Their stock consists of 29,000 sheep and a few cattle, and horses for working with. The lambing was not so good this year as last; still, it was fair.

Revenue.—The revenue collected in this district for the past year was £24,633 5s. 7d.—an increase of £4,038 19s. 10d. over that of the previous year, and the largest annual revenue collected in this district.

Rebates of Rent.—This privilege has been taken advantage of by 356 settlers to the extent of £934 8s. 1d., an increase of £569 18s. 1d. over last year's figures.

"Thirds" and "Fourths."—The amount of "thirds" and "fourths" to the credit of the various local bodies on the 31st March last was £1,701 6s. 7d. Of this amount £1,145 1s. 7d. is to the credit of the Kaikoura County Council, and has been withheld by order of the Land Board.

Arrears of Rent.—The arrears in this district amount to only £637 7s. 11d. out of a total annual rental of £20,728. £398 12s. 4d. of these arrears is due by land-for-settlements tenants. This shows a substantial reduction from last year's figures, which amounted to £2,532 16s. 1d.

Forfeitures.—There were only three selections (embracing 895 acres) forfeited during the year, which speaks well for the prosperous condition of our selectors.

Surrenders.—Only three selectors surrendered their holdings during the year, and in each case it was done to amend the lease.

Reserves.—213 acres were reserved last year.

Starborough Nursery.

We have only one nursery in this district—namely, the Starborough Nursery. The climate is unfavourable for nursery-work generally, being too dry for the greater part of the year. Owing, however, to the water being laid on at the nursery, pretty good results have been obtained by keeping the seed-beds moist until germination has taken place and for some time after.

C. W. Adams,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

WESTLAND.

The following table exhibits the land transactions for the year ended the 31st March, 1904, and again shows an advance on the previous year:—

Summary of Land Transactions during the Year 1903–4.

Class of Selection.	Transactions during the Year.		Leasehold Area held on 31st March, 1904.		Revenue received during the Year.
	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	
		A. R. P.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Cash lands	1	20 0 0	...	...	7 10 0
Deferred payment made freehold	1	137 2 23	...	...	97 15 7
Perpetual lease	...	...	7	580 1 8	26 1 4
Occupation with right of purchase	8	1,820 0 0	103	17,944 1 3	620 8 1
Lease in perpetuity ...	159	692 1 11	221	11,882 2 28	408 5 11
Lease in perpetuity, land for settlements	5	1,333 1 30	26	4,990 1 4	510 0 1
Village settlements—					
Cash	10	8 0 6	...	...	66 10 0
Lease in perpetuity ...	4	196 2 22	4	196 2 22	3 18 6
Mining districts land occupation leases	2	27 3 2	2	27 3 2	0 12 6
Pastoral runs	43	84,705 2 23	156	634,101 0 23	708 7 9
Miscellaneous leases ...	29	5,689 2 24	157	42,466 2 28	172 11 8
Timber royalties	...	...	...	...	3,579 6 0
Flax licenses and royalties ...	27	46,644 0 0	35	26,721 0 0	136 16 0
Crown-grant fees	...	...	...	...	12 0 10
Other sources	...	...	...	...	300 3 1
Endowment lands—rents of reserves	...	...	3	10 0 0	5 0 0
Totals	289	141,275 0 21	714	738,920 2 38	6,655 7 4

Crown Lands opened for Selection.

The total area of Crown lands opened for sale or selection during the year was 610,631 acres, classified as follows: Eleven acres in twenty-eight allotments, for cash, being the Village of Kokatahi; four sections totalling 196 acres of village allotments; thirty-six pastoral runs, scattered throughout the district, comprising 591,790 acres; 17,301 acres of lands under lease in perpetuity—of this area 17,209 acres were rural lands, principally located in the northern and central parts of the district, and the balance (viz., 92 acres) comprised 352 sections in the Township of Runanga. This township is about five miles north of Greymouth, on the State Coal-mine Reserve, and it was found to be most expedient to lease the allotments on lease in perpetuity. 1,333 acres were also reopened in the Poerua and Kokatahi Settlements under the Land for Settlements Act.

Lands disposed of.

Cash Lands.—There has been only one small allotment disposed of for cash. As the whole of the Westland Land District is a goldfield, the lands are dealt with only under lease in perpetuity, as under that tenure these areas can be readily resumed, should any of the leaseholds be required for gold-mining. A few scattered blocks have been withdrawn from the goldfield, and these are available for cash.

Occupation with Right of Purchase.—The area taken up by eight selectors under this heading amounted to 1,820 acres. The total area now held under this system amounts to 17,944 acres, occupied by 103 selectors. Only small blocks in this goldfield are now available under this tenure. Two applicants also obtained 650 acres of unsurveyed lands, but these grants do not appear in this year's transactions.

Lease in Perpetuity.—One hundred and sixty-four selectors took up 2,026 acres during the year, the annual rental being £393 5s. 2d. The main total includes five farmers who occupy 1,333 acres on the Poerua and Kokatahi Settlements under the Land for Settlements Act, and 155 persons who obtained sections in the Township of Runanga. Under this tenure there were also granted 4,686 acres of unsurveyed lands to twenty-six selectors, but until the surveys are completed these are not included in this year's accounts.

Village-settlement Lands for Cash.—The Kokatahi Village was thrown open for selection, and sixteen sections were purchased out of the twenty-eight offered for sale.

Village-settlement Lands under Lease in Perpetuity.—A total area of 196 acres in four allotments adjoining the Township of Kokatahi was offered for selection during the year, and was all taken up by the occupiers, who had squatted on the areas during the Midland Company's *régime*.

Leases under "The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894."—Two leases of small acreage were granted under this Act during the year. Larger areas would be taken up under this Act if the minimum price were reduced, as the bulk of the lands inquired for are of very poor quality.

Pastoral Runs.—The area now leased amounts to 634,101 acres, held by 156 lessees, of whom ninety-six are lessees of small areas under the 219th section of the Land Act; These small leaseholds are chiefly in the vicinity of gold-workings, and occupy lands which it is inadvisable at present to grant under any other tenure.

Miscellaneous Leases.—These comprise for the most part leases of reserves all over the district, and small areas of Crown lands adjoining goldfields. They are issued under the 116th section of "The Land Act, 1892," for a renewable yearly term, and may be resumed at short notice if mining interests demand. The area amounts to 42,466 acres, divided amongst 157 lessees.

Inspections, and Ranger's Reports.

During the year I paid repeated visits of inspection to every portion of the district from the northern boundary down to the Mahitahi River, investigating entangled or disputed applications for land, exploring and valuing lands for settlement purposes, approving of routes for roads to open up Crown lands, and overseeing localities for scenic and timber reserves. Mr. Ranger Smith made his periodical inspections of the various holdings in the district, and his reports show that the farmers are prosperous and energetic, there being no defaulters for defect of improvements or for non-residence. He also furnished reports to the Land Board upon applications for land; checked the timber and flax royalties returns by personal investigation at each mill, verifying the same by the railway, cartage, and shipping statements, and examined localities of residence areas applied for, noting conditions for the information of the Warden.

Position and Progress of Settlement.

The Commissioner's and Ranger's reports show that the Crown tenants on the whole have fairly well complied with the conditions of their several leases; the arrears of rentals are now very low, the value of improvements effected on each holding is considerably in excess of the amount required by the regulations, and altogether the position in every respect as between Crown and tenants is very satisfactory. The season has been remarkably fine; the winter was very open, with light frosts, the spring was early and mild, the summer and autumn were also fairly good, with a low average rainfall right through the year. The result has been that in no previous year has there been such abundance of grass, and there will consequently be no shortage of feed during the coming winter. Large quantities of fruit, principally apples, have been ripened this autumn, and stored in splendid condition. In the older-settled districts fair quantities of oats have been raised, and a certain amount cut into chaff for the market, but the main crop has been retained by the farmers for their own stock. This latter remark also applies to the large areas of root-crops and hay—a condition of affairs brought about by the establishment of the dairy factories. Here, as elsewhere in the colony, the butter industry has brought prosperity to the settlers, and their position, all round, has very much improved during the last twelve months. Considerable numbers of fat cattle and sheep have been sent in to the saleyards at Hokitika and Greymouth, and brought good prices. Several lots of horses, light draught and coachers, have found ready local sale, and have also been sold outside the district.

Settlement has undoubtedly progressed substantially during the past year. Better breeds of stock have been introduced, and an increased quantity of stock produced for market. A large area of bush lands has been felled and grassed: on the older farms a fair amount of ploughing has been done, with a view to renewing the pastures: many settlers have erected new houses and enlarged their holdings, by acquiring neighbouring Crown lands: younger local men have taken up new country, and many outsiders have selected sections in the back blocks. The population has consequently increased, land-values have improved, and more prosperous conditions obtain. The future prospects of the various settlements are very promising. The increase of population, due to the rapid expansion of the coal, timber, and flax industries, will form good markets for produce and stock in the larger centres, and also to a less degree in the outlying localities. The dairy factories, judging from the results of this season, will have an enlarged scope, and will prove most remunerative to the farmers, while the extension of the railways and roads, besides providing better access to the lands, enables many settlers to earn, at the outset, a few pounds close to home.

Rebates of Rent.

After due discussion with the Receiver of Land Revenue, it was decided that, in view of the excellent season, the enhanced prices of stock and produce, as well as the low rentals prevailing in this district, it was inadvisable to grant lessees any discounts under "The Crown Tenants' Rent Rebate Act, 1900."

Arrears of Rent.

These amount to £204 11s. 8d., owing by fifty-four tenants, being a decrease from last year of £346 16s. 6d. and twenty-three lessees. Thus, on the 31st March the arrears are much lower than in previous years, and since that date rentals to the sum of £83 17s. 9d. have been received from the outlying districts, so that at the 7th May the actual arrears total only £120 13s. 11d., and we expect to obtain this balance at an early date.

Forfeitures and Surrenders.

The Land Board, after due deliberation, was reluctantly compelled to forfeit the leases of forty-four tenants for non-payment of rents. Thirty-two of these were holders of sections in the mining townships of Kanieri and Dillmanstown, and every consideration was given to each individual case before deciding to forfeit the holding. The list also included a number of old leases of which the lessees were either dead or had left the colony. Three of the surrenders were cases in which the selectors, after due proof (verified by the Commissioner) that their holdings were unworkable, were permitted by the Board to abandon them. The fourth was for subdivision of area and transfer.

Scenic Reserves.

Schedules and plans were forwarded of a number of proposed reserves for the preservation of the native forest, duly approved by the Land Board. The list has since been carefully revised and additions made. These will fully protect the many scenes of beauty in this district. Great care has been exercised, in accordance with instructions, in excluding all scenic forest from the areas opened for settlement. A wide strip of forest on either side of the Christchurch Road has also been preserved against the imminent danger of destruction by lumberers.

Forests.

The sawmilling industry has progressed considerably during the year, and the output has been the largest on record. Several new mills have been erected and extensive sawmill-areas acquired all over the northern district. The total output from forty-five mills on endowment reserves, Crown and private lands, amounted to fully 26,000,000 ft.; 857,777 silver-pine sleepers were delivered, besides a considerable number of paving-blocks for the tail-races on the goldfields. The extension of the railway to Ross will result in all the milling-forest at hand being worked, and explorers are out in all directions in search of suitable areas. About seven hundred and fifty hands are employed either at the mills or cutting firewood, fencing, sleepers, bridge-beams, and mine-props: these men and their families form valuable local markets for the adjacent farmers. This remark also applies to the flax-hands.

All milling-timber from the settlement lands offered for selection is utilised, and in the case of applications for unsurveyed lands the areas are thoroughly explored before any grant is made.

Flax Licenses.

Seven flax-mills are now in full working-order, and others are in course of construction. These are scattered all over the coast, and many of them have been costly to establish owing to the difficulty of access to the flax-areas. The output of fibre has not been large as yet, as the bulk of the mills have only recently commenced operations. Quite two hundred and fifty hands are employed at this industry.

Kokatahi Village Settlement.

This area of 196 acres (held by four selectors) was a portion of a township reserve on which the holders had squatted and negotiated for with the Midland Railway Company without result. In July of this year the settlement was thrown open and taken up by the original occupiers. The requirements of the Act have all been complied with, and rentals are fully paid. Very substantial improvements have been accomplished, such as clearing and grassing, building and fencing—in fact, the whole of the settlement is in grass, with the exception of a few shelter-patches of scrub. A portion is under crop of oats and potatoes; the holdings are also fully stocked, and a fair quantity of milk is sent to the neighbouring dairy factory.

Lands for Disposal during 1904–5.

The Crown lands at present available for selection amount to 948,145 acres, and are classified thus: Town and suburban, 6 acres in Town of Kokatahi; rural lands (surveyed), 5,870 acres; rural lands (unsurveyed), 103,508 acres; sixty-two pastoral runs, 838,710 acres; and 50 acres in the Township of Runanga. The whole of these rural lands are obtainable under "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903." Of the surveyed rural lands 2,245 acres between Waiho and Bruce Bay are open for selection under the optional system; the balance is available on lease in perpetuity only, and is located in blocks all over the district. The sixty-two pastoral runs cover all the country fit for depasturing stock from the Teremakau River down to Big Bay, and the 50 acres in the Township of Runanga are in quarter-acre sections and for disposal on lease in perpetuity only.

General.

As instructed, a conference took place between Mr. Warden Day and the Commissioners of Nelson and Westland concerning the position of the mining reserves, which were located over portions of the districts and completely blocked all land dealings within these for settlement purposes. The uplifting of these reserves was recommended and carried out, with the result that considerable areas have now been applied for under the regulations for the occupation of pastoral lands within the Westland Mining District, which were framed to enable selectors to obtain holdings within the goldfield.

The provisions of "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903," are most applicable to this densely timbered country, and we confidently expect a large number of selectors to take advantage of this very liberal measure.

The surveys having now been completed, the following blocks of rural lands will be placed in the market at an early date—viz., 1,971 acres at Wanganui, 1,818 acres at Kawhaka, 5,325 acres at Wataroa, 2,134 acres at Upper Hokitika, 1,014 acres at Happy Valley, 708 acres at Waimea River, 722 acres at Taramakau, 2,825 acres at Poerua, and 4,554 acres near Mount Bonar—a total area of 21,071 acres. These are all fairly good lands, in close proximity to main roads, and should be readily disposed of.

It is also proposed to throw open various blocks of lands suitable for settlement, in larger or smaller areas, near Ahaura; in Arnold, Taramakau, and Taipo Valleys; in Upper Kokatahi; at Waitaha, Wanganui, Wataroa, Waiho, and Cook River; and, as many of these localities have ready access to good roads, there should be a good demand.

Between the northern boundary of the district and the Taramakau River several pastoral runs will be mapped out and offered for lease. Allotments in the towns of Hokitika and Ahaura, and in the Village Township of Waitaha, will also be put up to auction.

Payments to Local Bodies.—Plans and proposals by the Westland and Grey County Councils for the expenditure of "thirds" amounting to £402 5s. 6d. were duly investigated, and, after careful check, were recommended to the Land Board and approved.

Estates acquired under the Land for Settlements Acts.

Poerua Settlement.—The area now occupied in this settlement amounts to 3,128 acres, and is held by nineteen selectors. One forfeited holding of 87 acres was relet during the year, so that the whole area of the settlement is now taken up. Most satisfactory progress has been made in the way of building, bushfelling, grassing, fencing, and ditching. The draining of much of the swampy sections has been attended with great success, as land which formerly was utterly useless is becoming hard with splendid grass, and carries a lot of stock. Some fine clover has been grown this season, and good crops of turnips, potatoes, and green feed have been secured. The capacity of this settlement for stock-carrying is almost unequalled on the Coast. The settlers are steadily improving their stock, and small lots of fat cattle have been sent to market. A fair amount of produce and meat is sold to the local flax-mill hands and lumberers. A station and siding has been constructed on the Greymouth–Otira Railway-line immediately abreast of the settlement, and the formation of the road leading to it has been almost completed. When direct road access to the railway is obtained the settlers will be able to rail their produce, and much greater quantities of root-crops will be produced. But the most remunerative result of road connection with the railway will be the initiation of the butter industry. A strong company is establishing a central dairy factory at Greymouth, and the settlers are negotiating with this company for the erection of a creamery on the settlement. From present indications this settlement promises to become one of the most prosperous locations in Westland. The following statement exhibits the present position, but it must be noted that several holdings have only been taken up recently: Requirements of Act —value of improvements, £1,970; how far complied with—value of improvements, £4,312. Arrears last year, £141 4s. 1d.; arrears as at 31st March, 1904, £84 19s. 9d.; and on 14th April, 1904, £25 10s.

Kokatahi Settlement.—This settlement has progressed remarkably during the past year. The four sections which were forfeited in 1902 were relet in June, so that these tenants have been only about nine months in possession. The improvements required by the Act have in every case been largely exceeded—substantial houses and outbuildings have been built, first-class fencing has been erected, and a large amount of capital expended in the purchase of good stock. As most of the settlers' time has been taken up with building, &c., not much land has as yet been cultivated, but where any cropping has been done the results have been excellent, alike in potatoes, oats, turnips, and carrots. There is no doubt this settlement is eminently suited for dairy-farming. Three of the settlers on the Kokatahi side are supplying the dairy factory there with milk, and are highly satified with the results. The completion of the bridge over the Kokatahi River will enable the tenants on the south block of the estate to send their milk, without interruption, to the above factory, and thus enhance the value of the several holdings. The future of the settlement is very encouraging, and the settlers are all well satisfied with their prospects. The following summary shows the present position: Requirements of Act—value of improvements, £133; how far complied with—value of improvements, £2,046. Arrears, nil. Total area leased is 1,862 acres, held by seven tenants.

Departmental.

Land Board.—The Land Board has held fifteen ordinary and special meetings during the year, and the number of applications dealt with, apart from miscellaneous business, was 720, or an average of 48 at each meeting, being an increase of 76 per cent. on last year. Ranger's reports on holdings and applications were also laid before the Board and considered.

Titles.—1,426 copies of titles have been prepared, and plans have been placed upon 423 leases. About 800 plans at present await placing upon titles.

Reserves Register.—The whole matter of reserves is being very thoroughly investigated and the information inserted in the new register. The work has required great research and accuracy, and will be completed shortly.

CLERICAL.

The following items represent approximately the amount of clerical work done by the Department: About 5,050 lithographs, Land Guides, and sale posters distributed; 7,556 letters received and despatched, 1,274 rent-notices sent out, 6 reports to the Advances Office, 23 reports to Wardens on various applications, 28 transfers, 277 Auditor's cards, 1,458 duplicate receipts, 133 departmental returns furnished, 1,138 vouchers passed, and 2,416 cheques issued.

G. J. ROBERTS,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

CANTERBURY.

CROWN LANDS OPENED FOR SELECTION.

The following table summarises the lands which have been offered for selection during the year:—

—	Optional System.	Cash by Auction.	Lease by Auction and Application.	Village Allotments.	Pastoral Runs.	Small Grazing-runs.	Lease in Perpetuity only.	Total.
Ordinary Crown Lands.								
Offered for first time	...	...	40	10	...	...	...	50
Offered previously	8,275	29	1,053	...	190,623	...	...	199,980
Total ...	8,275	29	1,093	10	190,623	...	...	200,030
Land for Settlements.								
Offered for first time	...	...	...	...	...	28,310	42,385	70,695
Offered previously	...	...	...	...	...	...	549	549
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	28,310	42,934	71,244

The area offered under the optional system included 8,174 acres of Crown land lying between the Eyre and Waimakariri Rivers, near Oxford. This area was for many years locked up from settlement by the operation of the Midland Railway contract, and was occupied under pastoral license for various terms. It comprises light plain land, portions of which are covered with manuka scrub. The other areas offered under this tenure were small isolated sections near Oxford, Darfield, Westerfield, and Rangitata.

The only lands offered for cash sale at auction were fifty-seven sections in the Township of Horndon, now known as Darfield. This township has also been retarded in its progress by reason of its being situated within the Midland Railway area of selection, and now that the embargo has been removed there has been a fair demand for sections. As there has been practically no other demand for town lands during the year, no attempt has been made to force them on the market.

The area offered for lease by auction or application (other than pastoral runs) comprised areas in the Townships of Hanmer Springs, where the leases are for terms of forty-two years, under section 242 of "The Land Act, 1892," and in the Townships of Waiau, Darfield, Dromore, Winslow, Arowhenua, and Waimate, where the terms of lease were fixed at seven years. Rural areas near Hurunui, Coalgate, and Ealing were also offered on similar terms.

Three small quarter-acre allotments in the Arowhenua Village Settlement, close to Temuka, were offered as village allotments under the optional system; and under the village-homestead lease-in-perpetuity tenure there were offered five small allotments, averaging 2 acres each, situated at Sockburn, about four miles and a half out of Christchurch. These latter comprised a block which had at one time been acquired for the purposes of a deaf-mute-school site, but as it was found not to be required for that object it was handed over by the Education Department to be dealt with under the provisions of the Land Act.

Under the pastoral-run tenure there were offered—(*a.*) For lease by application, five runs, totalling 84,070 acres, which had been previously offered at auction and not sold. (*b.*) For lease by auction, seven runs, comprising 106,553 acres: three of these runs, situated in the Amuri County, were offered preparatory to the expiration, on the 28th February, 1905, of the existing licenses; three others, situated in the Waimate County, had been previously offered but not sold; and one block which had been held under lease in perpetuity, but found unsuitable for that tenure, was offered for occupation as a run.

The areas offered under the Land for Settlements Acts are specially referred to in the report upon the operations under that Act.

Lands disposed of.

The following table summarises the transactions during the year, the areas held under the various tenures at the close of the period, and the revenue received from all sources during the year:—

Tenure.	Transactions during Year.		Area held at 31st March, 1904.		Revenue received during the Year.
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Number of Holders.	Area.	
		A. R. P.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Cash lands—					
Town	24	16 3 8	...	...	357 15 0
Suburban	...	...	...	...	...
Rural	21	3,560 2 11	...	...	3,112 12 3
Deferred payments—					
Rural and pastoral	...	...	12	11,135 0 39	830 6 3
Village	...	...	7	64 3 3	102 7 6
Made freehold	2	138 3 26	...	...	...
Perpetual lease—					
Ordinary	...	...	37	3,416 2 18	234 5 0
Village	...	...	30	506 3 15	147 0 0
Made freehold	3	67 0 0	...	...	173 0 0
Occupation with right of purchase—					
Ordinary	15	3,479 1 22	29	4,929 3 24	249 15 4
Village	1	0 1 0	6	2 2 0	2 14 8
Lease in perpetuity—					
Ordinary, Crown	6	1,380 3 6	235	75,002 2 24	3,811 13 6
" Village	...	...	16	8 2 0	8 4 2
Lake Ellesmere	...	...	68	13,943 3 39	1,265 16 0
Conversions to lease in perpetuity—					
Ordinary	7	308 0 32	...	...	...
Village homestead	17	718 1 0	...	...	...
Farm homestead	8	965 3 20	...	...	...
Village-homestead special settlement—					
Perpetual lease	...	...	89	2,060 2 24	373 8 9
Lease in perpetuity, Crown ...	5	10 1 7	140	6,487 0 37	430 6 4
Lease in perpetuity, Lake Ellesmere	...	...	45	1,419 1 3	257 10 9
Farm homestead—					
Perpetual lease	...	...	15	964 2 11	116 4 7
Lease in perpetuity, Crown ...	...	...	15	1,572 0 6	39 8 11
Small grazing-runs, Crown ...	...	...	50	119,585 1 25	5,286 8 0
Pastoral licenses—					
Crown	10	119,295 0 0	150	3,522,504 3 34	30,920 2 3
State forests	...	...	...	4,746 0 0	135 1 6
Miscellaneous occupation licenses—					
Crown	69	8,510 2 26	499	78,976 0 37	2,885 11 11
Lake Ellesmere	2	57 0 0	25	1,413 0 0	14 6 4
Endowment	...	...	1	1,480 2 8	97 10 0
State forests	14	776 1 0	25	7,183 0 0	842 14 7
Timber licenses	7	510 0 0	22	3,575 2 0	546 11 3
Mineral licenses	3	304 0 0	8	1,600 1 22	90 1 10
Other sources	...	...	...	...	818 11 6
Cheviot Estate—					
Lease in perpetuity	...	...	119	24,403 1 9	6,205 3 1
Village homestead	...	...	70	2,480 1 0	773 11 1
Grazing farms	...	...	48	45,977 2 9	6,292 3 9
Pastoral licenses	...	...	1	1,642 0 0	193 3 8
Miscellaneous occupation licenses	2	6 1 0	73	1,450 2 11	311 16 0
Other sources	...	...	...	...	1 7 6
Land for settlements—					
Lease in perpetuity	187	41,603 2 26	1,021	158,354 3 3	45,557 13 10
Farm homestead	...	...	11	2,114 1 9	163 11 8
Small grazing-runs	12	28,310 0 0	44	81,161 0 26	9,071 10 1
Miscellaneous occupation licenses	7	19,158 0 0	31	956 2 15	827 10 5
Other sources	...	...	...	...	107 7 0
Cash sales	1	1 1 16	...	...	8 8 3
Totals	423	229,178 2 0	2,942	4,181,120 1 11	122,662 14 6

Upon comparison of the foregoing table with the similar statement furnished for the previous year it will be seen that the number of transactions for the period under review, 423, is eighty-two in excess of those for the preceding period; the area of Crown land held at the close of the year, 4,181,120 acres, shows an increase of 83,146 acres; and the revenue for the year, £122,662 14s. 6d., is £1,058 0s. 10d. more.

The area of Crown land now in occupation, and the revenue for the year just past, represent a record for the district since the days when the free-selection system was pouring thousands of pounds into the Treasury, and effecting a corresponding diminution of the area of the national estate, previously held under pastoral license.

By way of showing the increase of settlement within the past decade, it is interesting to compare these figures with those for the year ending the 31st March, 1894:—

	Number of Holders.	Area held.	Revenue for the Year.
		Acres.	£ s. d.
31st March, 1904	2,942	4,181,120	122,662 14 6
„ 1894	1,375	3,298,077	64,081 10 5
	1,567	883,043	58,581 4 1

The steady increase in the number of holders, of the area occupied, and of the yearly revenue, together with the evidence furnished by the Rangers' reports of the amount of *bonâ fide* and satisfactory settlement secured, and its effect upon the industry and trade of the district, are very gratifying. In my extensive travels about the settlements I have on every hand found a contented and prosperous tenantry, though amongst such a large number it is to be expected that one will be found here and there with a grievance; as a whole, however, satisfaction is expressed at the treatment received from the Board. On every hand there are evidences of prosperity, and the year must be looked upon, both from the Department's and the settlers' standpoints, as an eminently successful one.

Cash System.—Twenty-four town sections, comprising 17 acres, were sold, as against twenty-six, comprising 21 acres, during the previous year. There is, however, a large increase in the area of rural land disposed of for cash, the figures being twenty-one sections, comprising 3,560 acres, this year, as against sixteen sections, including 242 acres, last year. This large increase is accounted for by the fact that out of the block of 8,174 acres of second-class land near Oxford, already referred to as having been offered under the optional system, fifteen sections, comprising 3,427 acres, were purchased for cash. The inferior quality of the land rendered it ill-adapted for separate residential occupation, but it was much sought after by the occupiers of property in the vicinity who wished to extend their holdings.

Five selectors, representing 923 acres, have already applied for and obtained their titles, after having effected improvements aggregating £503 in value, being in excess of the 10s. per acre required under section 148 of "The Land Act, 1892," to be effected prior to issue of title.

The total area of land disposed of for cash in the Canterbury District up to the 31st March, 1904, is 3,530,040 acres.

Deferred Payments.—Two holders, one rural and one village, occupying in all 139 acres, have completed their payments and obtained freehold titles, so that there remain only nineteen selectors, holding 11,200 acres, under this tenure.

Perpetual Lease.—The ranks of the tenants under this system continue to be thinned by the combined effects of conversions into freehold (represented by three holders, 67 acres) and exchanges into lease-in-perpetuity tenure (seven holders, 308 acres), and there now remain sixty-seven holders, occupying 3,923 acres, as against 339 holders, occupying 80,818 acres, on the 31st March, 1893, immediately after the coming into force of "The Land Act, 1892." During the ensuing year practically the only changes will be caused by conversions to lease in perpetuity, as in nearly all cases the period of twelve years from date of selection within which the holdings could be converted into freehold has already expired.

Occupation with Right of Purchase.—This tenure has hitherto not found much favour in this district, but the area taken up under it during the past year has exceeded the selections of any previous period since the inception of the system. The fifteen rural allotments, totalling 3,479 acres, which were selected were all comprised within the block of Crown land near Oxford offered under the optional system. The total area now held is thirty-five allotments, comprising 4,932 acres.

Lease in Perpetuity.—The greater portion of the area selected under this tenure comes under the Land for Settlements Acts, only six holdings, of a total area of 1,381 acres, of ordinary Crown land having been selected outside of the acquired estates. The total area of Crown land held at the end of the year was 75,010 acres, in 251 holdings, besides which there are sixty-eight holdings, comprising an area of 13,944 acres, situated at Lake Ellesmere, and forming part of the endowment of the Akaroa and Little River Railway.

Village-homestead Special Settlement.—The only new lands selected during the year have been five small holdings of 10 acres, situated at Sockburn, near Christchurch. Seventeen holdings, representing an area of 718 acres, have been transferred by exchange from the perpetual-lease to the lease-in-perpetuity division. The total area occupied at the end of the year was 229 holdings, including an area of 8,547 acres, besides forty-five holdings, comprising 1,419 acres, in the Lake Ellesmere Endowment Reserve.

Farm Homesteads.—The only alteration under this tenure has been the transfer, by exchange, of eight holdings, comprising 965 acres, from the perpetual-lease to the lease-in-perpetuity division, the total area occupied (2,536 acres in thirty holdings) remaining practically the same as before.

Small Grazing-runs.—The only lands selected under this tenure are within the acquired estates, so that the number of leases (fifty) and area occupied (119,585 acres) of Crown lands remain unaltered.

On the 31st August next the existing leases of five small grazing-runs, comprising 10,142 acres of hill lands, situated in North Canterbury, will expire. These runs were selected in 1883 under the pastoral-deferred-payment system, the holders subsequently availing themselves of the privilege of exchange to the small-grazing-run tenure, under section 24 of "The Land Act Amendment Act, 1887." As the law required that an offer of renewed leases be made to the tenants not less than twelve months before the expiration of the existing leases, the runs were carefully inspected and valued by the Crown Lands Ranger and two members of the Land Board, and as the runs were not deemed to be suitable for smaller subdivision the present tenants were offered renewals for a further term of twenty-one years, at rentals calculated at 2½ per cent. on the assessed capital value of the lands. These terms have been accepted in each case, and the lands will not therefore come into the market.

Pastoral Licenses.—During the year the leases of ten runs, comprising 119,295 acres, were disposed of by auction or application, but as these represented, in nearly all cases, the redisposal of runs consequent upon the expiration of previous licenses the actual area held is not proportionately increased thereby. The area occupied at the close of the year is 3,527,250 acres, under 150 licenses.

Miscellaneous Occupation Licenses.—An area of 9,343 acres, in eighty-five blocks, has been taken up during the year, but these represent in many cases merely fresh leases of areas previously occupied on similar tenure, so there is not a corresponding increase of the total area occupied. The total area held at the 31st March, 1904, was 89,052 acres, in 550 licenses.

Timber Licenses.—Seven fresh licenses, covering an area of 510 acres, have been taken up, and the total area held is 3,575 acres, under twenty-two licenses. These are all situated in the bush lands near Oxford, the portions through which fire swept several years ago being parcelled out amongst hand-sawyers and splitters, while four sawmill licenses are held over parts of the area of green bush which has been set aside for milling, the remaining area (13,000 acres) having been reserved for scenic purposes and the preservation of the sources of water-supply.

Mineral Licenses.—Three new coal-mining leases, covering an area of 304 acres, near Mount Somers, were taken up during the year, making a total of 1,600 acres, held under eight leases. Two of these are situated at Broken River (near Springfield), one near White Cliffs, and the others in the vicinity of Alford Forest and Mount Somers; one lease confers the right to work limestone, and the others are for coal-mining.

I purpose dealing with the position of holdings in the Cheviot Estate and the land-for-settlements blocks in my special reports under those headings.

Inspections and Rangers' Reports.

Position and Progress of Settlement.

The total number of holdings inspected for settlement purposes by Rangers Ward and Williams was 1,642, comprising an area of 350,014 acres. The value of improvements actually on these holdings was £421,232, as against £167,875 required by the terms of the leases. It must, however, be remembered that in these figures are included the improvements that existed on the land-for-settlements holdings at the date of selection, and which are credited to the present holders: even allowing for this, however, there is a very great excess on statutory requirements. The total number of defaulters for all causes was seventy-seven, or a trifle over 4½ per cent. of the number inspected, a result which must, I think, be deemed very satisfactory.

In addition to the foregoing, the Rangers have inspected about eleven hundred other properties, for various purposes—such as the assessment of rental for tenancies; the ascertaining how far conditions as to keeping down noxious weeds, &c., are fulfilled; inspection of timber-cutting areas as to royalties and satisfactory working; besides a very large number of miscellaneous purposes, which it is difficult to classify, but which nevertheless entail the expenditure of much time and trouble on the part of the Rangers.

As the above-quoted figures indicate, an exceedingly satisfactory amount of *bonâ fide* compliance is disclosed by the Rangers' reports. On the old-established settlements, of course, there is but little change now; the improvements are, however, well maintained, and many comfortable, well-improved homesteads testify to the success of the various leasehold systems provided from time to time for the settlement of the Crown estate. The bulk of the settlement in this district is now represented by the lands acquired under the Land for Settlements Acts, which are more specifically dealt with elsewhere.

Amongst tenants of inland country in South Canterbury, more especially those of runs in the Mackenzie country, and to some extent in the north country also, the severe snowstorms experienced last winter caused considerable losses. In order to gain information as to the extent and severity of the snowfall, and the probable losses resulting therefrom, two members of the Land Board and myself paid a visit of inspection to those portions of South Canterbury most seriously affected—that was, from Albury onwards through the Mackenzie country by way of Pukaki to Otarama, in Otago—and viewed a large number of Crown tenants' holdings before the effects of the snowfall had passed away. The results of our inspection have already been reported to you. Fortunately, the favourable season which followed has, in very large degree, mitigated the effects anticipated. Feed has generally been plentiful, and crops have yielded well up to the average. As a consequence, the tenants, whether on the hill lands (which are used exclusively for pasturage) or on the low lands (where cropping and the raising of fat stock are practised), have done well. The small village holdings, situated principally in the neighbourhood of railways or towns, form convenient

little homes for working-men, who find employment in the surrounding districts or at adjacent industries, and cultivate garden-produce, small crops, or graze a few head of stock on their holdings.

The work of both Rangers during the past year has been arduous, and only the closest attention to duty and frequent disregard of personal leisure has enabled them to get through the amount of inspection performed. The work entailed by the inspection of the holdings under the Land for Settlements Acts is very heavy. Under the older systems of land-tenure all that was required was to value the improvements at the statutory periods and see that the conditions of residence were fulfilled; but under the Land for Settlements Acts much more frequent and detailed inspection is needed to ascertain that the valuable lands involved are properly treated and not depreciated, the prescribed proportion of cropping observed (both as to rotation and area cropped), fences and ditches kept in good order, noxious weeds destroyed or prevented from getting a foothold, &c. To insure the proper observance of all these requirements frequent and detailed inspection is absolutely necessary; and I have had the honour to bring under your notice the urgent need for the appointment of another Ranger. The regular inspection of the pastoral runs, with relation to the destruction of gorse, sweetbriar, &c., is also a work of urgent importance, which has had of necessity to be much neglected owing to the impossibility of finding time for its performance. That this is necessarily the case will be obvious when it is remembered that our staff of Rangers for this work is exactly the same now as it was before the settlement of Cheviot or the inauguration of the land-for-settlements policy, which have up to date added to our books over thirteen hundred holdings, which demand frequent and close inspection. Although there are nominally four Rangers in the district, two of these were merely appointed for special duties at Hanmer Springs and Mount Cook, and are not available for the general work of inspection.

Revenue.

The total revenue collected from all sources during the past year was £122,662 14s. 6d., being an increase of £1,058 0s. 10d. upon the receipts for the previous year, notwithstanding the fact that in the former period were included the first payments of rents on a number of pastoral runs sold in advance for terms commencing on the 1st March, 1904, so that one half-year's rent was lost on these to the year just closed.

Rebates of Rent.

The practice previously followed of granting a uniform rebate of 10 per cent. to all tenants of the classes specified in "The Crown Tenants' Rent Rebate Act, 1900," and "The Land for Settlements Consolidated Act, 1900," who, not being in arrear with any previous payments, remitted their current half-year's rent within one month of due date has been continued during the year. The total amount of rebate so granted was £5,116 14s., in which 1,539 tenants participated. There is no doubt that the effect of the rebate has been to greatly encourage prompt payment of rents, and thus focus into two short periods the payments which formerly came in at varying times during the year; and during the months of January and July the pressure in the office of the Receiver of Land Revenue is usually very great.

Arrears of Rent.

The total amount of arrears of rent and interest (exclusive of current payments) owing on the 31st March, 1904, was £1,190 0s. 5d., owing by ninety-seven tenants, occupying 10,399 acres 2 roods 12 perches, made up as follows: Ordinary Crown land, 30 tenants, 1,200 acres 1 rood 22 perches, owing £78 13s. 10d.; Cheviot, 17 tenants, 5,490 acres 1 rood 37 perches, owing £453 12s. 4d.; land for settlements, 48 tenants, 3,573 acres 1 rood 32 perches, owing £640 8s. 3d.; Ellesmere Endowment, 2 tenants, 135 acres 1 rood 1 perch, owing £17 6s.: total, 97 tenants, 10,399 acres 2 roods 12 perches, owing £1,190 0s. 5d. The total number of tenants in the district is 2,942, occupying an area of 4,181,120 acres 1 rood 11 perches, and paying an annual rental of £122,246 5s. 1d. The number of tenants in arrear is therefore 3·2 per cent. of the total number, and the amount of rent owing represents slightly under 1 per cent. of the total annual rental, as against about 2½ per cent. of the annual rents owing on the 31st March, 1903, when a sum of £2,823 was in arrear. It is almost needless to say that this is very satisfactory.

Forfeitures and Surrenders.

The total number of holdings of all classes forfeited and surrendered was forty-six, comprising an area of 5,031 acres and 6 perches, made up as follows: Forfeitures, 14; 1,254 acres and 30 perches; annual rental, £172 4s. 6d. Surrenders, 32; 3,776 acres 3 roods 16 perches; annual rental, £115 11s. 10d. The few cases of forfeiture were rendered necessary by protracted neglect to comply with the conditions of residence or occupation, despite every reasonable consideration shown by the Land Board, which only resorts to forfeiture when further leniency appears to be misplaced. The cases of surrender usually result from change of circumstance rendering a tenant unable to fulfil the required conditions, or other similar causes. The great bulk of dealings of this class are under the miscellaneous-occupation-license tenure, where surrenders are usually a preliminary to an adjustment of the terms of the license, or the issue of a fresh tenancy to a new holder.

Transfers and Exchanges.

The number of holdings transferred during the year has been very large. The favourable seasons recently experienced and the good returns obtainable from stock and farm-produce have resulted in an increase in the estimation of good farms, and many avail themselves of the readiness with which properties can be disposed of and the favourable prices obtainable. With increased means, also, there comes a desire to acquire larger properties, and those who have been

content to start upon a property of moderate size now feel themselves capable of undertaking larger responsibilities. This is, perhaps, specially noticeable on the Cheviot Estate. The following are the details of holdings under settlement conditions which have been transferred: Lease in perpetuity (all classes), 108, 19,420 acres and 23 perches; village homestead (all classes), 35, 1,035 acres 1 rood 10 perches; small grazing-runs and grazing-farms, 12, 28,877 acres 2 roods 10 perches; farm homesteads, perpetual leases, and occupation with right of purchase, 8, 826 acres 3 roods 5 perches: total, 163 holdings, 50,159 acres 3 roods 8 perches. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 105 holdings, 35,598 acres 2 roods 2 perches. The total number of exchanges from perpetual lease to lease in perpetuity was 32, with an area of 1,992 acres 1 rood 12 perches.

Reserves.

The area formally set aside by *Gazette* notice as reserves for various public purposes has been small, amounting to only 62 acres 3 roods 16 perches, which may be classified under the different objects as follows: School-sites, 4, 16 acres and 16 perches; gravel-pits, 12, and quarry, 15 acres 2 roods 24 perches; cemeteries, 3, 15 acres and 14 perches; municipal reserves, 25, 7 acres 1 rood 28 perches; plantation, 1, 4 acres 2 roods 14 perches; for the Department of Agriculture, 1, 4 acres. In the two estates opened under the Land for Settlements Acts during the year there have been laid off for various public purposes thirty-four reserves, the total area of which is 497 acres 2 roods 20 perches, all of which will be gazetted in due course. These include two reserves of 25 acres for scenic purposes on the Rosewill Settlement.

Forests and Plantations.

The area of forest land still belonging to the Crown is 521,000 acres, and of this no less than 311,368 acres has already from time to time been reserved by proclamation; and when the 204,250 acres of forest lands lying north of the Hurunui River—particulars of which have been furnished for gazetting—have been proclaimed practically all the available areas of forest on Crown lands in the district will have been set aside as forest reserves, and little, if anything, further can be done in that direction out of the Crown estate. It is satisfactory to record that no destructive bush fires have taken place in the district. Three blocks, comprising 365 acres of bush land, included in the purchase of part of the Highfield Estate (Annan Settlement), near Waiau, were laid off as forest reserves, and will be gazetted in due course.

A number of plantation reserves, situated near Kaiapoi, Cust, Orari, Kakahu, and Morven, which have hitherto been administered by a body known as the Canterbury Plantation Board, have been handed over to the control of this Department. Portions of some of the reserves have been planted with trees of various kinds, and the remainder has been leased in order to bring in revenue for further planting. The whole of these reserves have recently been inspected by Mr. Matthews, Chief Forester, who submitted proposals for dealing with them, and action is now being taken to give effect to the decisions arrived at on his report.

Under the control of the Mackenzie County Council planting operations are being carried out upon a reserve situated on the southern shore of Lake Tekapo, close to the coach-route to Mount Cook. The funds for the work are derived from the rents accruing from a number of reserves set apart for planting purposes in the Mackenzie country.

Crown Lands for Disposal, 1904–5.

I append a statement, compiled from the Crown Lands Guide, showing the areas of Crown lands in the district which were lying open for selection on the 31st March, 1904:—

Tenure under which Land is open.	Area.			Counties in which situated.
	A.	R.	P.	
Village allotments	0	1	0	Geraldine.
Village-homestead allotments ...	103	0	0	Ashburton.
Optional selection, under Part III. of "The Land Act, 1892"—				
First-class surveyed	99	2	33	Ashburton and Geraldine.
Second-class "	450	2	11	Ashley, Ashburton, Geraldine, and Waimate.
First-class unsurveyed	481	0	0	Selwyn and Ashburton.
Second-class "	378	0	0	Ashburton.
Small grazing-runs	2,331	0	0	Waimate.
Hanmer Springs leases	0	3	22	Amuri.
Land for Settlements Acts ...	125	1	33	Amuri, Selwyn, Ashburton, Levels, Waimate, and Geraldine.
Total	3,969	2	19	

There are practically no further lands to be offered during the ensuing year, except such as may, from reasons now unforeseen, revert to the Crown. There are two pastoral runs—one of 45,000 acres near Lake Sumner, and one of 17,000 acres on the Hunter's Hills, near Waimate—still to be disposed of, besides three runs near Hakataramea, in respect of which negotiations are

now proceeding with the Board of Governors of the Canterbury Agricultural College, as owners of the adjoining property, for effecting such an exchange or adjustment of boundaries as will tend to the convenient and advantageous working of both properties.

There are no new properties at present in hand for subdivision and disposal under the Land for Settlements Acts.

Cheviot Estate.

With the exception of a slight alteration of the area held under miscellaneous occupation licenses, there has been no change in the tenure of land in the Cheviot Estate during the year.

The Crown Lands Ranger, in his annual report upon the settlement, states that in consequence of the severe weather experienced in August, 1903, there has been a lower percentage of lambing this season than usual, but, as excellent prices have been realised for stock, the settlers are doing well. The harvest has been fair, and an average cereal crop of from 40 to 50 bushels per acre has been obtained.

A good increase in value of improvements on the leaseholds has been made during the year; a better class of buildings and fences is taking the place of former improvements on many of the sections, orchards and plantations are growing up into usefulness, and the good appearances of the settlement are increasing. Commercial recognition of the resources of the estate is evidenced by the starting of several new houses of business at Mackenzie, and, in anticipation of the construction of the railway, a considerable amount of trading is being done, and the population of the township is increasing.

Taking advantage of the high prices now obtainable for good leasehold properties, some of the original settlers are selling out in order to obtain larger areas elsewhere, and amongst their neighbours a keen desire is often manifested to secure as extensions of holding the sections from which the original settlers are retiring. The tendency of nearly all the holders at present is towards sheep-farming in preference to other industries, and the closing-down of the dairy factory in November last is one of the results. It is hoped, however, that before long circumstances may lead to its being reopened. In the meantime, two small private factories are dealing with the milk from the few small suppliers who still keep dairy-stock.

Regarding the villages on the estate, the Ranger states that the Mackenzie suburbs are now settled chiefly by tradespeople, working in the township or vicinity. This village, together with the Caverhill Village, also near Mackenzie, has suffered most from the closing of the dairy factory, although one of the private factories now operating is dealing satisfactorily with the milk-supply for the present. Homeview Village, also near Mackenzie, affords good homes and supplementary means of livelihood to labourers at road, railway, and other works. In the Crystal Brook Village, south of Mackenzie, dairy-farming is carried on with satisfactory results. Domett Village, near the Hurunui, is fairly prosperous, the holdings being used for sheep-farming and cropping. Port Robinson Village, though very attractively situated, is at present the least prosperous of the villages, as the amount of shipping-work obtainable is small, and the situation is remote from other available sources of employment. Spotswood Village, near the Waiau, comprises good land, but is far from centres of work, without which the holders find their areas too small.

There are seven cases of failure to fully comply with residential requirements, and one of failure to effect improvements up to the required value. The total value of improvements on the leaseholds is £91,817, as against £47,455 13s. 11d. required, and the number of souls resident upon the Crown holdings is 757, exclusive of the freehold and town population. During the past season there have been 2,822 acres under grain-crop, and 5,087 acres under green and root crops; and the leaseholds have carried 86,075 sheep, 1,124 cattle, 807 horses, and 281 pigs.

Land for Settlements.

The number of properties purchased in this district, subdivided, and thrown open for close settlement since the inception of the system is fifty-five, with a total area of 246,000 acres; twenty-one of these, embracing 85,290 acres, are in North, and thirty-four, comprising 160,710 acres, in South, Canterbury. Included in the foregoing are ten small properties of suburban land—nine in the vicinity of Christchurch, and the other close to Timaru. These have been subdivided into small allotments for homes for artisans, labourers, &c., and have, with one partial exception, proved successful.

The acquisition and settlement of five estates inland from Timaru—namely, Rosewill, Papaka, Albury, Chamberlain, and Punaroa—has, together with 52,700 acres of settled Crown lands, held on lease in perpetuity or as small grazing-runs, created a continuous chain of Crown settlement 130,000 acres in extent, reaching from within six miles of Timaru as far as Burke's Pass, a distance of over forty miles.

The fact that at the present time out of all the land that has been thrown open for selection there is not a single section in the whole of the settlements exceeding 25 acres in extent that is not taken up is undeniable evidence of the success in Canterbury of this scheme of settlement. There are a few allotments, aggregating only 125½ acres, still unselected, but they are principally village and suburban sections, which are going off gradually.

Again, the resident population in the settlements is 3,290, and, considering the small number as yet on the Annan and Rosewill Settlements, which have been but lately selected, the density may be put down at an average of one soul to 55 acres.

Last year the cropped area amounted to 34,376 acres, 25,764 acres of which were in grain. Of stock there were 160,146 sheep, 6,296 cattle, and 3,009 horses.

Lands offered during the year.

The lands offered during the year included—

The *Annan Settlement*, comprising 32,858 acres of the Highfield Estate, situated close to Waiau, in the Amuri County, was acquired from Messrs. H. Wharton and Co. 24,657 acres of pastoral land were subdivided into ten small grazing-runs, varying in size from 1,189 acres to 6,366 acres, at rentals from 2s. 1¼d. to 4s. per acre; 7,621 acres 2 roods of agricultural lands were subdivided into eighteen farms, varying in size from 180 acres to 993 acres, at rentals from 2s. 9d. to 8s. 3d. per acre; and 148 acres 1 rood 19 perches were subdivided into seventeen town and village allotments, varying in size from 2 roods to 34 acres 3 roods, at rentals from 8s. to 15s. per acre for the village lots, and £1 5s. to £2 per acre for the town lots at Waiau. These made a total area of 32,426 acres 3 roods 19 perches, in forty-five allotments, which were opened for public application on the 20th November, 1903. Two hundred and ninety applications were lodged, and the whole of the rural farms, and the small grazing-runs with one exception, were allotted at the first ballot; the remaining run and the village allotments were disposed of immediately afterwards. Most of the town allotments still remain on hand, but with the increase of population in the vicinity are likely to find occupiers, and in the meantime are held under temporary license.

The Rosewill Settlement, comprising 38,683 acres of the Levels Estate, extending in the vicinity of the Timaru–Fairlie branch line of railway for about twenty-two miles, was acquired from the New Zealand and Australian Land Company (Limited). Nearly the whole of the area acquired consisted of undulating agricultural downs land of good quality. An area of 37,560 acres 2 roods 36 perches was opened for application on the 7th March, 1904: this included 121 acres 1 rood 14 perches in twenty-seven village and suburban allotments, varying in size from 1 rood 33 perches to 20 acres, at rentals from 8s. to £1 10s. per acre; 33,811 acres 1 rood 22 perches in 128 farms, varying in size from 12 acres to 879 acres, at rentals from 2s. 6d. to £1 0s. 1·2d. per acre; and 3,628 acres in two small grazing-runs, of 1,802 and 1,826 acres, at rentals of 2s. 9¾d. and 2s. 11½d. per acre. Six hundred and ninety-two persons lodged applications; 560 persons were, after examination, approved for admission to the ballot, and 132 were rejected for various reasons, or withdrew their applications. Two ballots were held, the first at Timaru on the 18th March, and the second at Christchurch on the 22nd March, 1904, at which the whole of the farm allotments, the two small grazing-runs, and some of the village and suburban allotments were disposed of. The remainder of the latter are now going off satisfactorily. A population of 441 souls was represented by the applicants successful at the first ballots. In addition to the sections offered for public disposal, three sections, comprising a total area of 675 acres 2 roods, were granted without competition to the holders of adjacent areas of high pastoral Crown land, which needed to have low-lying lands added in order to enable them to be worked to advantage.

It may not be out of place here to remark that the Land Board regrets to find that amongst the applicants for lands under the Land for Settlements Acts there are a few who appear to regard with indifference the making of false statements, either in their sworn applications or in the evidence given by them when under examination on oath before the Board. I have recently brought under your notice the cases of several applicants below the legal age, who appear to have deliberately, and with some ingenuity, made false declarations as to their ages, with a view to securing admission to the ballot. There have also been other cases where applicants attempted to secure entrance to the ballot by making disingenuous or actually false statements as to means, so that the utmost vigilance on the part of the Board is necessary in order to discover and reject such cases.

The other lands opened during the year have consisted of forfeited or surrendered sections within the older settlements. These comprised one section of 324 acres in the Lyndon No. 1 Settlement, near Waiau; one of 50 acres in the Marawiti Settlement, near Rakaia; one of 148 acres 2 roods in the Rakitairi Settlement, near Temuka; one of 15 acres in the Pareora No. 1 Settlement, near St. Andrew's; and nine workmen's-homes allotments, totalling 12 acres 1 rood 7 perches, in the Tarawahi, Tamai, and Pawaho Hamlets (near Christchurch), and the Puhuka Hamlet (near Timaru). These are generally disposed of either immediately or soon after being offered.

Land for Future Disposal.

Although several properties are under the consideration of the Land-purchase Board, no definite arrangements have been arrived at with regard to any, so that it is impossible here to indicate what lands may be acquired and offered during the ensuing year.

Land Transactions.

The selections of land in acquired estates during the year number 219, embracing an area of 89,076 acres 2 roods 26 perches, the annual rental of which is £21,310 6s. 1d. The total number of lessees on the 31st March, 1904, was 1,107, holding an area of 242,586 acres 3 roods 13 perches, and yielding an annual rent-roll of £66,695 6s. 8d.

Payments of Rents.

The total amount of revenue collected during the year on land-for-settlements estates under all tenures was £56,175 10s. 2d., bringing the total receipts in this district since the inception of the system in January, 1894, to £237,253 10s. 4d.

The total amount of arrears of rent due at the 31st March, 1904, was £640 8s. 3d., owing by forty-eight tenants. This represents less than 1 per cent. on the annual rental of £66,695 6s. 8d., and shows a reduction of £1,041 15s. 10d. on the amount owing at the corresponding date last year.

Transfers, Forfeitures, and Surrenders.

Transfers have been effected during the year of seventy leases in perpetuity, comprising an area of 6,339 acres 3 roods 25 perches; and of five small grazing-runs, with an area of 18,464 acres and 25 perches—making a total of 24,804 acres and 10 perches, included in seventy-five leases.

The leases forfeited numbered five, covering an area of 498 acres; and four leases, comprising 13 acres 1 rood 30 perches, were surrendered. Of the four leases in perpetuity which were forfeited, one was for non-residence and breach of the cultivation conditions, one for non-payment of rent, and two for failure to comply with the conditions of residence and improvements. The four surrenders were accepted at the request of the lessees, upon grounds of inability to satisfactorily fulfil the conditions of the lease, either by reason of change of personal circumstances or other analogous causes.

Condition of Established Settlements.

As will be seen from the following detailed notes respecting each settlement, the Rangers' reports show a very satisfactory state of affairs throughout nearly all the settlements; residence conditions are generally well fulfilled, and a very large amount of valuable improvements have been placed on the lands. Out of the 1,005 holdings under the Land for Settlements Acts that were reported on by the Rangers at the close of the year, the number of defaulters for all causes was only fifty-one, or 5 per cent. of the total. In many of these cases the default is of a partial character, such as deficiency in value of improvements effected, which tenants promise to remedy at an early date. The generally excellent yields obtained from crops during the recent favourable seasons, and the good prices realised, have combined to produce in the South Canterbury settlements a certain amount of cropping in excess of what is permitted by the regulations, either as to area or as to number of crops taken in succession. In June of last year the Land Board spent several days going over the Waikakahi Settlement and dealing with breaches of the cultivation conditions, and in most of the cases dealt with a more healthy state of affairs is being brought about. A tendency towards cropping is also noticeable in other settlements, and it is clear that stringent action is necessary in order to check what appears to be a growing evil. There are in several of the settlements a few tenants with whom leniency appears to be misplaced, and these set a bad example to others, and furnish excuses for more extended breaches of the regulations. It seems to be a matter for consideration whether it might not be well to provide in some way for the infliction in such cases of a penalty other than the extreme one of forfeiture of the lease, which the Land Board is reluctant to enforce, except in cases of aggravated breaches, continued in defiance of repeated warnings. In the middle of the northern portions of the district, owing partly to the character of the lands, and partly to the risks entailed by the north-west winds, the cropping is kept within reasonable limits, and in most cases much below the area allowed. In many instances the whole of the crops grown are consumed on the land in the form of winter feed.

The small suburban settlements are generally in a satisfactory and improving condition; many comfortable homes have been established by the artisans, mechanics, gardeners, or general labourers who occupy the holdings, and who in most cases cultivate them neatly and to advantage, growing small fruits and garden-produce, or grazing cows.

Pareora No. 1 Settlement (near St. Andrew's).—Established January, 1894. Twenty-eight holders, twenty-five of whom are satisfactorily resident; two only reside at intervals, and in one of these cases (that of a single man) the lease has since been forfeited for improper treatment of the land; and one was not residing, and has since surrendered his lease. Number of souls, ninety-one. Value of improvements effected, £2,411 14s. 6d., against £1,180 9s. 4d. required. On this, the oldest of the settlements, there has not been much change; comfortable homes have been established, and, with the exceptions noted, the tenants are residing and complying satisfactorily. There has been, however, a tendency towards overcropping in a few cases during the past year. The establishment of the new Pareora Freezing-works in the vicinity has considerably enhanced the value and eligibility of small holdings in this locality.

Studholme Junction Settlement.—Established January, 1894. Four holders, all of whom are residing in the settlement. Number of souls, thirteen. Value of improvements effected, £444 8s., against £214 7s. 10d. required. On this small settlement there has been no change during the year; the holders are residing, and comply satisfactorily as to value of improvements required; the holdings are well cultivated and kept in good order.

Kapua Settlement (near Waimate).—Established March, 1894. Eleven holders. Number of souls, thirty-eight. Value of improvements effected, £1,778 5s., against £977 8s. 9d. required. The condition of this settlement has not altered much, as nearly all necessary buildings, &c., have already been erected; all the tenants reside and comply satisfactorily, and use their small farms well. Losses by flooding, which have in the past proved a serious trouble to some of the tenants, have been practically absent this year.

Rosebrook Settlement (near Timaru).—Established June, 1895. Fourteen holders. Number of souls, sixty-seven. Value of improvements effected, £2,172 13s. 6d., against £988 15s. 3d. required. There has been very little change here, but the holders are all residing in the settlement, and have improvements in excess of required value. The homesteads are comfortable, but the lessees find it necessary to seek outside employment, as the areas are limited, and the returns from the land have been only medium, and insufficient to keep the holders and their families. The settlement has, however, provided useful small holdings.

Otaio Settlement (near St. Andrew's).—Established June, 1895. Nine holders, with a population of forty souls. Value of improvements effected, £1,610 5s. 6d., against £692 6s. 1d. required. The Ranger reports this settlement as progressing satisfactorily; the tenants are all residing, and keeping their holdings in good order. The crops have yielded good results, and the

tenants are doing well. "The settlement as a whole," says Mr. Williams, "is a credit to the tenants." A creamery in the vicinity is a great help to them.

The Peaks Settlement (near the Hurunui River, North Canterbury). — Established August, 1895. Twelve holders, one of whom, with his wife, resides on his holding; the other eleven holders reside on previous selections in the adjacent village settlement. Value of improvements effected, £1,680, against £2,357 9s. 7d. required. These extensions of holdings are used principally for grazing purposes, the land being of very light quality, and not adapted for cropping. The improvements are in most cases not up to statutory requirements, but, considering the quality of the land, and the fact that the lessees are not required to build and reside, they have done as much as could be expected, and this is recognised by the Land Board.

Patoa Settlement (near the Hurunui River, North Canterbury).—Established November, 1895. Four holders, one of whom, with nine souls, resides on his holding. Value of improvements effected, £1,184, against £622 8s. 8d. required. Two lessees reside on other holdings in the vicinity, and one is non-resident, his holding being too small and inferior in quality to induce residence. This settlement comprises very light lands, adapted only for pasturage, and partly covered with manuka scrub. There is satisfactory compliance under the circumstances.

Roimata Settlement (suburban land, close to Christchurch). — Established August, 1895. Twenty-six holders, twenty-five of whom, representing 113 souls, reside in the settlement. Value of improvements effected, £5,217, against £883 12s. 8d. required. These holdings are occupied as residence-sites and small market-gardens; comfortable homes have been established, and the sections are generally in good order. One section had been abandoned by the holder after some years of residence, but it is now under transfer to a suitable tenant. There is still a certain amount of difficulty regarding the drainage of parts of the settlement.

Braco Settlement (suburban land, close to Christchurch). — Established November, 1895. Fourteen holders, of whom thirteen, with a population of fifty-seven souls, reside on their holdings. Value of improvements effected, £2,124, against £461 18s. 8d. required. The one non-resident is a recent transferee, who has not yet been able to enter into residence, but in all other cases there is satisfactory residence and compliance, and better improvements are now being made on these small holdings, which are used in a measure for market-gardening.

Kereta Settlement (near Timaru).—Established December, 1895. Four holders, one of whom resides on a small adjacent farm, the others reside on their sections, and all have complied satisfactorily as to improvements. Number of souls, seventeen. Value of improvements effected, £789 17s. 6d., against £230 0s. 8d. required. Very little cropping is done, but it is good pasture land, and the holders depend principally on grazing and milk-supply; the land is too much liable to flood to bear cropping, and being situated adjacent to the sea and near its level the water does not get away freely.

Epworth Settlement (near Temuka).—Established November, 1895. The two sections in this settlement are held by man and wife, who reside on one section, and have effected the required improvements, to the value of £158 16s., against £41 7s. 2d. required. Number of souls, seven. One of the sections is liable to flood from the waters of the abutting creek, which cover it with refuse and weeds, and give the holder considerable trouble in keeping the land clean.

Ashley Gorge Settlement (near East Oxford).—Established December, 1895. There are ten lease-in-perpetuity holders, and two sections form the homestead-sites for adjacent small grazing-runs, comprising principally Crown land. Including these two homestead-sites, the number of souls on the settlement is fifty, and the value of improvements effected £4,400, against £1,859 1s. 6d. required. The holders in this settlement have established comfortable homes, and are all residing and complying with the terms of their leases. The small holdings are used principally for dairying and the supply of milk to the adjacent creamery at Oxford, the limited area of crop grown being used chiefly for winter feed. Some of the holders have to supplement their means by outside employment, but on the whole it is a prosperous little settlement.

Orakipaoa Settlement (near Temuka).—Established June, 1896. Twenty-seven holders, twenty-one of whom, with a population of ninety-eight souls, reside in the settlement. The value of improvements effected is £2,085 19s., against £1,492 7s. 4d. required. The Ranger reports that this settlement has in a great measure recovered from the effects of the heavy flood of two years ago; the tenants, on the whole, are doing well, and the settlement is a very useful one. The grouping of some of the small holdings will, he considers, do much good, for many of them are too small for a man to make a home on, as he has to be away at work nearly all his time. In eight cases the value of improvements effected is short of requirements, this being caused in most cases by the holders residing in the neighbouring Arowhenua Village Settlement, by reason of which they are allowed exemption from residence, so that they do not need to build. In other respects the holders are complying satisfactorily.

Highbank Settlement (near Methven).—Established June, 1896. Seventy-six holders, sixty-three of whom, representing a population of 234 souls, are residing. The value of improvements effected is £19,086 6s. 6d., against £13,983 6s. 6d. required. The Ranger states that this settlement is in a very progressive condition, and is a great success, having made many good men quite independent; the tenants are doing remarkably well, and now attend more to grazing than to cropping, the latter being attended with risks in this locality from the north-west gales, while the former pays better in the end. On all the larger holdings the improvements are well up to the required standard, but on six of the smaller holdings, mostly held by single men who do not reside, the improvements are deficient. The grouping of some of the small sections has been carried out, with satisfactory results, enabling labouring-men to make comfortable little homes. The homesteads, surroundings, and plantations throughout the settlement are presenting a well-established appearance.

Waiapi Settlement (near Temuka).—Established March, 1897. Fifteen holders, all of whom are in residence. Number of souls, seventy-three. Value of improvements effected, £3,678 13s. 1d., against £1,821 6s. 9d. required. The Ranger reports that this settlement is making good progress, the homestead looking well, with the exception of some of the 10-acre lots; the holders of these find them too small to improve much, but on the whole they are doing very well. The improvements effected are all in excess of the value required for the sixth year, and the homestead block is much improved by the erection of a new dwellinghouse. The crops were all fairly good, and cultivation conditions well fulfilled.

Rakitairi Settlement (near Temuka).—Established March, 1897. Twenty-two holders, twenty of whom reside, and the other two live on small adjacent properties, and are therefore exempted. The number of souls is eighty-four. Value of improvements effected, £5,396 3s. 6d., against £4,830 7s. 11d. required. This settlement is still progressing, and the holdings are all in good order. In several cases the improvements effected are short of the amount required for the sixth year, but most of these will be made up during the coming year. The crops have been only fairly good, as the severe winter prevented their being put in early enough; the cultivation conditions are complied with. One section, the holder of which was a single man, has been forfeited for breach of conditions, after repeated warnings, and the new selector has made a good start, and is complying satisfactorily.

Otarakaro Settlement (suburban land, close to Christchurch).—Established March, 1897. Seven holders, all of whom, representing a population of thirty souls, are residing on the land. Value of improvements effected, £1,615, against £231 16s. 4d. required. The land in this settlement was originally foul, and much labour has been expended in cleaning it, but the tenants are now getting it into good condition, and have good improvements, the requirements of the leases being fulfilled in all cases.

Wharenui Hamlet (workmen's homes, at Riccarton, close to Christchurch).—Established March, 1897. Twenty-six holders, all of whom are residing, the population being 107 souls. Value of improvements effected, £5,132, against £810 1s. required. This is a satisfactory settlement, and is improving and progressing well: the holdings are highly improved, and kept in good order, and all requirements of the leases are well fulfilled. The sections are used principally for market-gardening and small-fruit growing.

Albury Settlement (at Albury, South Canterbury).—Established April, 1897. Seventy-nine holders, sixty-nine of whom are residing on their holdings; nine are living with relatives in the settlement; and one holder is non-resident, but his family are on the land. Number of souls, 318. Value of improvements effected, £22,860 8s. 6d., against £17,698 17s. 1d. required. The Ranger states that this settlement has made good progress during the year, and the settlers on the whole are doing well. Some of the holdings are too small to keep the tenants from having to take outside work; but, with the satisfactory groupings which have been sanctioned, they are now getting very well settled. The improvements are in most cases well in excess of the value required for the sixth year, and in the few cases where this has not been done the deficiency will probably be made up during the coming year. The crops generally have been fair, but some have suffered from delay in sowing, caused by the severity of the preceding winter. The creamery at Albury is still proving of considerable benefit to many of the settlers.

Marawiti Settlement (near Rakaia).—Established May, 1897. Thirteen holders, all of whom are residing satisfactorily. Number of souls, seventy-one. Value of improvements effected, £4,360 6s. 6d., against £3,078 13s. 1d. required. This settlement is progressing, with the exception of the small holdings, on which stock cannot be kept in sufficient numbers, and cropping does not pay. The homesteads are now getting the appearance of settled homes, and the tenants seem to be doing well, as they keep adding to the value of improvements, and making their homesteads more comfortable. With one exception, the values of improvements are considerably in excess of requirements, and altogether it is a useful and successful settlement.

Horsley Down Settlement (near Waikari, North Canterbury).—Established May, 1897. Twenty-seven holders; 100 souls. Value of improvements effected, £12,033, against £5,155 10s. 3d. required. With the exception of one holder, whose section is so poor and small that he finds it necessary to work elsewhere for a living, and one section occupied as a church-site, all the holders are residing, and fulfilling the requirements of their leases in a satisfactory manner. The holdings are used for mixed cropping and grazing; and, as the land is of good quality, the rent moderate, and the holdings of suitable size and conveniently situated, it is a prosperous settlement.

Hekeao Settlement (near Mount Somers).—Established March, 1898. Sixteen holders, all of whom are residing, the population being forty-nine souls. Value of improvements effected, £4,429 16s., against £30,901 13s. 7d. required. The Ranger states that this settlement is making rapid progress, The tenants are now finding out that the land wants extra working, and that it then gives splendid results; it is looking as well as any settlement in South Canterbury, carries fine grass, and stock do exceedingly well. With two exceptions, the improvements are up to more than the value required, and in these cases the value will be made up during the year. There has been some decrease in the number of souls, owing to married men selling out and their places being taken by single men, and these do not keep up the homesteads quite as well.

Pawaho Hamlet (workmen's homes, at Heathcote Valley, between Christchurch and Lyttelton).—Established April, 1898. Twenty-six holders, representing a population of eighty-eight souls. Value of improvements effected, £3,261, against £720 required. The Ranger reports that this continues to be a satisfactory settlement. All the flat sections are well improved, and are increasing in value, and, though somewhat low-lying, are healthy and well kept. All the settlers are complying satisfactorily, many of the occupiers being workers at Lyttelton.

Tamai Hamlet (workmen's homes, at Woolston, close to Christchurch).—Established June, 1899. Forty-one holders, thirty-seven of whom, representing a population of 152 souls, are in

residence. Value of improvements effected, £4,434, against £1,110 required. This hamlet has, the Ranger states, improved considerably during the past year, and all the sections are now occupied, although, owing to the low-lying nature of many of the sections, crops are liable to risk of damage by wet, and there is not the amount of interest devoted to cultivation and gardens that should be given. The three sections not yet resided upon have only recently been taken up; in all other cases the requirements of the leases are being fulfilled, and some very good homes are being established.

Waikakahi Settlement (between the Waihao and Waitaki Rivers, South Canterbury).—Established March, 1899. In the rural portion of the settlement there are 151 holders, and in Morven Township twenty-three holders, making a total of 174, representing a population of 626 souls resident in the settlement. The value of improvements effected is £64,267 15s. 2d., against £19,371 9s. 11d. required. Of the rural settlers, 140 are residing upon their sections, eight are exempt because they reside upon previously selected village allotments in the immediate vicinity, and the remaining three holders are recent transferees, who have not yet had time to enter into residence. In the Morven Township, residence and improvements are not compulsory, but six of the holders are residing on their sections, and in addition there are stores, bakery, &c. The Ranger states, "I am pleased to be able to report a continued improvement, both in value and also in the advance of the whole settlement, as the majority of the tenants are doing well and are satisfied with their holdings and prospects. Some, however, allege that their holdings are too small for them. The number of souls residing in the settlement is increasing, although a good many grown-up sons and daughters leave each year." There are still a few cases of breach of the cultivation conditions, which will be dealt with by the Board; the position in this respect has, however, considerably improved. The business portion of the Morven Township shows an advance, although the absence of any residential or improvement conditions enables sections to be held without contributing to the progress of the township. Generally speaking, the residence and improvement conditions (and, except in the few cases referred to, the cultivation conditions also) are very well fulfilled, and the settlement is a pronounced success. Last season there were on the settlement 8,433 acres of grain and 2,601 acres of green and root crops, and the stock numbered 42,000 sheep, 2,352 cattle, and 950 horses.

Pareora No. 2 Settlement (near St. Andrews).—Established March, 1900. Thirty-three holders, all of whom, representing a population of 170 souls, are residing. Value of improvements effected, £12,320 16s. 3d., against £3,622 11s. 4d. required. This settlement has made steady progress during the year, both in value of improvements and in the making of good homesteads, and the tenants are doing well. The crops have in some cases yielded fairly well, but in others the returns are light. There are several cases of breach of cultivation conditions, both as to number and area of crops, and these will be dealt with by the Land Board. All the lessees are complying satisfactorily both as to residence and improvements.

Punaroa Settlement (near Fairlie).—Established April, 1900. Seventeen holders, sixteen of whom are in residence, the population being fifty-nine souls. Value of improvements effected, £6,138 18s. 1d., against £1,804 9s. 6d. required. This settlement is progressing, and the tenants as a whole are doing well, though some of the smaller holders want to increase their areas. The crops have been fairly good, and the settlers are experiencing benefit from the new creamery at Fairlie, which provides a regular source of income. All the tenants are complying satisfactorily with one exception, and in that case a transfer has just been effected (owing to the ill health of the former lessee) to a new tenant. The Ranger considers it a very useful and progressive settlement.

Rautawiri Settlement (near Winchester).—Established April, 1900. Six holders, all of whom are residing and complying. The number of souls is twenty-five. Value of improvements effected, £729 10s., against £132 17s. 8d. required. The Ranger reports: "The settlement is making fair progress, but the crops so far have not turned out so well as expected; the ground when taken up was very foul, and it will take a long time to thoroughly clean it. The tenants have fairly comfortable homes, and all the improvements are in excess of requirements. I consider on the whole that the tenants have done well, as those who want to can obtain employment in the district."

Papaka Settlement (near Pleasant Point).—Established April, 1900. Nine holders. Number of souls, thirty-six. Value of improvements, £3,188 18s., against £900 10s. required. This settlement is in a satisfactory condition; all the lessees are residing and complying, are improving their holdings, and keeping them in good order. The returns both from crops and pasture have been good.

Takitu Settlement (between Glenavy and Hakataramea, near the Waitaki River).—Established March, 1900. The whole of this settlement is held under small-grazing-run lease, by five holders. Number of souls, eighteen. Value of improvements effected, £4,684 0s. 3d., against £2,425 11s. required. The Ranger describes this as a very successful settlement; all the holders are doing well, and considerable progress in improvements, &c., has been made during the year. The old grass is beginning to run out, and the settlers will have to commence renewing the pasture. All are residing and complying very satisfactorily.

Lyndon No. 1 Settlement (near Waiau, North Canterbury).—Established March, 1901. Nine holders; numbers of souls, forty-four; value of improvements effected, £5,489, against £842 17s. 8d. required. With the exception of one tenant, who, although resident, has not yet erected a suitable house, all are complying satisfactorily with the terms of their leases. The Ranger states that good work is being done in clearing the land of gorse and twitch. The sections are used chiefly for grazing, only a limited area being laid under crops, which are used for winter feed upon the land.

Kohika Settlement (near Otaio, South Canterbury).—Established May, 1901. Seventeen holders with fifty-seven souls resident in the settlement. Value of improvements, £4,656 3s., against

£1,446 18s. 6d. required. All the settlers are making their homes on their holdings; one is reported, however, as being constantly away at work, although his own section should provide sufficient employment to keep him at home, and in other cases of sections held by single men, not very many improvements are made, though there is sufficient in all cases for compliance. Nevertheless, the Ranger reports that good progress is shown; the crops have been fairly good, and the tenants appear satisfied. There are a few cases where the lessees having indulged in cropping in excess of the regulation limit, and these will be dealt with by the Land Board.

Rainc.iff Settlement (near Fairlie).—Established June, 1901. One holder, who is residing and fulfilling the conditions of lease. Number of souls, four. Value of improvements effected, £440 11s. 1d., against £35 3s. 10d. required. The holding is being improved by subdivision and laying down in grass.

Tarawahi Hamlet (workmen's homes, close to Christchurch).—Established June, 1901. Twenty-three holders, twenty of whom are in residence; in two of the other cases the sections have only recently been taken up. The number of souls is seventy, and the value of improvements effected is £3,819, against £630 required. The Ranger reports that during the past year this hamlet has progressed very satisfactorily, and, with the opening-up of new roads, and the cutting-up for building sites of blocks of freehold in the neighbourhood, there is now a considerable increase in values. The settlement has good drainage, and is well situated, and permanent and satisfactory homes are being made.

Puhuka Hamlet (workmen's homes, at Washdyke, close to Timaru).—Established July, 1901. Nine holders, seven of whom are residing; the population of the hamlet being twenty-two souls. Value of improvements effected, £1,260 3s. 11d., against £150 required. The two non-resident lessees have not held their sections very long, but will be urged to comply with requirements. In two other cases the houses are not fully up to the value required by the workmen's homes regulations. In all the other cases the lessees have established comfortable homes, and have their holdings in good order.

Kaimahi Settlement (at Papanui, near Christchurch).—Established October, 1901. Twelve holders, ten of whom are in satisfactory residence; of the remaining two holdings, one is occupied by the local body as a gravel-pit, and on the other partial, though not complete, compliance is being effected. The number of souls is twenty-six, and the value of improvements effected £2,175, against £215 5s. required. Very good improvements have in most cases been made, but the returns from the land have been unsatisfactory, owing to the prevalence of weeds caused by previous bad farming, the effects of which will need time and considerable expenditure to overcome. One section has been surrendered, and is in the hands of the Agricultural Department for destruction of Californian thistle.

Kapuatohe Hamlet (workmen's homes, at Belfast, near Christchurch).—Ten holders, seven of whom, representing a population of fourteen souls, are residing in the settlement. Value of improvements effected £899, against £267 required. This hamlet has not yet attained a very satisfactory condition, as the land is light, and has not yet recovered from the effects of improper treatment prior to its acquisition. Seven tenants are residing and fulfilling conditions; two holders are absent, and are neglecting their sections, and one allotment is occupied by the local body as a gravel-pit.

Rapuwai Settlement (eight miles from Pleasant Point).—Established December, 1901. Five holders; number of souls, eight. Value of improvements effected, £1,384 11s. 7d., against £472 5s. required. The Ranger reports that this settlement is making fairly good progress, and the tenants are keeping their holdings in good order, but being all single men, the homesteads are not being improved as to gardens, planting, &c. The tenants are doing very well, and they find that it is all good sheep-country, while part of one section, which was not believed to be suitable for grain, has produced 40 bushels of wheat per acre this season. All the holders are complying satisfactorily.

Lyndon No. 2 Settlement (near Waiau, North Canterbury).—Established April, 1902. Ten holders, eight of whom are residing. Number of souls, eighteen. Value of improvements effected £5,441, against £1,833 11s. 5d. required. One tenant is residing in Waiau Township on account of the education of his children; the others are all resident upon the land, and have made good improvements, but have not as yet obtained very satisfactory returns from their holdings. This especially applies to the three small grazing-runs, the holders of which have experienced considerable losses from various causes.

Maytown Settlement (close to Waimate).—Established April, 1902. Twelve holders, ten of whom are residing, and there is a population of forty-one souls. Value of improvements effected, £1,256 9s. 11d., against £267 8s. 2d. required. The Ranger reports that this settlement is making steady progress, and most of the tenants are improving their holdings; the season's crops have given good results, and the tenants appear satisfied. With the exception of one tenant who resides but has not yet built, and one who has built but does not reside, all the tenants are complying satisfactorily.

Eccleston Settlement (near Otaio, South Canterbury).—Established May, 1902. Four holders; number of souls, seven; value of improvements effected £2,037 10s. 8d, against £496 4s. 10d. required. All the lessees are now in residence, but the value of improvements has not increased much, partly owing to the fact that there were very extensive improvements belonging to the land when selected, and partly because three out of the four tenants are single men, who make fewer improvements as a rule than married men do. Crops have been satisfactory, and the tenants appear to be doing well; two of them have, however, exceeded the cropping limit allowed by the regulations.

Mead Settlement (near Rakaia).—Established January, 1903. Twenty-one holders, of whom thirteen are in residence, and four more reside on other holdings in the vicinity. The number of

souls is twenty-five, and the value of improvements effected £4,255 13s. 6d, against £466 17s. 10d. required. In some cases the improvements are of poor class, but, as the settlement is yet in its early stages, this will no doubt be remedied in time. The land is of light quality, but has yielded profitable returns from grazing; the crops grown have not, however, give very satisfactory results. Generally speaking, good work has been done on the holdings.

Chamberlain Settlement (near Albury, South Canterbury).—Established March, 1903. Twenty-one holders are in residence, the population of the settlement being sixty-nine souls. Value of improvements effected, £7,793 3s. 4d., against £1,546 3s. 4d. required. One tenant has completely failed to reside or comply, and one who holds a lease of adjoining high pastoral Crown land and resides thereon is exempted from residence on the lower section held by him in this settlement. Two other tenants have failed to erect suitable houses, although they are residing in temporary structures. The Ranger states that a large quantity of good work has been done during the year, and all those who have resided and complied are the right class of settler. Owing to the severe snowfall of the previous winter, very little cropping was done last season, but, notwithstanding the losses entailed by the snowfall, the tenants appear cheerful, and bent upon making good permanent homes for themselves and their families. A new school has been opened on the settlement, which already maintains a good population. Mr. J. S. Rutherford, former owner of the estate, who leases the homestead block, takes great interest in the welfare of the tenants, and has given them much assistance and helpful advice.

Annan Settlement (near Waiau, North Canterbury).—Established November, 1903. The Ranger says, "This settlement, opened four months ago, is being rapidly utilised and stocked. I have inspected the thirty-seven holdings selected, and I find that thirty-three of the holders are already in occupation, and are at work on their sections, being busily engaged in fencing and in preparation for building their homes. The four holders who have not yet commenced work are holders of the small sections close to Waiau Township. Improvements of first-class quality are being put generally upon the sections, and this settlement is evidently fortunate in the class of men who are on it; they all seem in excellent heart as to their prospects, and the only complaint made is as regards roads.

Rosewill Settlement (between Timaru and Albury).—As this settlement was only disposed of just before the close of the year, there is as yet nothing to report.

Small Areas acquired for Low-lying Lands, or Homestead-sites for High Pastoral Crown Lands.—There are nine of these blocks, four of which are homestead-sites, and are residentially occupied by nine souls. The total value of improvements required is £188 3s. 10d., while the value effected is £1,519 10s.

Total population on land for settlements holdings, 3,290 souls; total value of improvements required, £101,509 11s.; total value of improvements effected (including those on the land at date of purchase, £246,100 8s. 4d.

Departmental.

During the year thirty-nine ordinary and special meetings of the Land Board have been held. These include special sittings at Waiau, Timaru, and Waimate for the purpose of examining applicants and dealing with applications under the Land for Settlements Acts.

Statutory applications for land to the number of 1,528 have been received and considered, of which 256 were granted. Applications for transfers of Crown tenancies form a large and increasing proportion of the business engaging the fortnightly attention of the Land Board, besides the numerous questions which arise in the administration of the land laws and regulations, especially those under the Land for Settlements Acts.

The inward and outward correspondence returns, rent notices, &c., amounted to 23,815; and about 8,500 sale plans, posters, &c., were distributed. In the office of the Receiver of Land Revenue, besides the revenue for the year, amounting to £122,662 14s. 6d. (for which 5,262 receipts were issued), a sum of £72,944 9s. 11d. was passed through the Deposit Account, on which 2,490 receipts, cheques, and refund vouchers were drawn, and in the Local Bodies' Deposit Account a sum of £2,847 3s. 8d. was paid in, and £2,744 1s. 4d. paid out to local bodies. In the Accountant's office 326 vouchers, for a sum of £3,529 18s. 9d., were drawn on the Imprest Account, and 471 vouchers, representing a total sum of £354,239 19s. 4d., were passed through for pre-audit and payment.

Thos. Humphries,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

OTAGO.

Revenue.

The gross receipts for the year amounted to £81,602 18s. 10d., being an excess over estimate of £6,633 8s. 10d. and £5,010 2s. 3d. above the receipts of the previous year. In addition to that amount, however, there has to be added a sum of £795 18s. 11d. collected by Receivers of Gold Revenue and not accounted for through the Receiver of Land Revenue's Books at Dunedin—

£89 17s. 6d. for occupation licenses, and £706 1s. 5d. rents and royalties under the Coal-mines Act; while the rebates granted during the year amounted to £1,850 7s.2 d. There are also certain proceeds from the sale of lime at the Makareao limeworks before they were leased which are not known at the Dunedin office. The principal items of excess were cash lands, £1,165 18s., and land for settlements, £4,321 5s. 1d., a large amount of arrears under the Land for Settlements Act having been paid by selectors with the view of qualifying themselves to receive rebate in respect of payments made at due date. It may be mentioned here that on the 31st March, 1903, the gross total rental of all classes of tenure was £72,876 10s. 6d., and that the total rent receipts during the year, including rebate, represented the sum of £79,395 9s. 10d., an excess of receipts over annual rental of £6,518 19s. 4d.; a result which must be regarded with no little satisfaction. The same result cannot, of course, be anticipated for the current year, there now being a very small amount of arrears to be collected.

Crown Lands opened for Selection.

As shown in Table 2, the land opened during the year comprised a total area of 356,031 acres, as against 187,437 acres during the previous year, the increase being 168,594 acres. Of the total area opened 280.432 acres had been previously opened. Under the optional system there were opened 14,047 acres, of which 476 acres were opened for the first time; cash lands by auction, 1.000 acres were opened for the first time; leases by auction and application, 10,680 acres, of which 10.678 acres were opened for the first time; pastoral runs, 287,250 acres were opened for lease by auction, 33,180 acres being for the first time. Under small grazing-runs 38,461 acres were opened for selection, 27,506 acres for the first time; for lease in perpetuity only, 3.368 acres were opened, 3,014 acres for the first time; for lease in perpetuity under the Land for Settlements Act, 1,225 acres were opened, of which 548 acres were not previously opened. The pastoral-run system shows an increase of 143,441 acres offered over the area submitted the previous year, the greater portion of the area offered consisting of runs, the licenses of which were about to expire. These runs were classified and reoffered for fresh terms. One large block of country, portion of what was formerly known as the Patearoa Station, was surveyed during the year. Of this, so far, 46,668 acres has been offered to the public and has been taken up. The area offered consisted of four pastoral runs, aggregating 32,580 acres, and four small grazing-runs, totalling 14,088 acres. For the small grazing-runs rather keen interest was manifested, and ninety-nine applications were received therefor. A block of some 1,400 acres was resumed during the year from the Matakanui Runs, and was subdivided into fifteen allotments, which were all eagerly taken up under "The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894." A block of 800 acres near the Town of Tapanui was subdivided into fourteen sections, which were opened and disposed of under the lease-in-perpetuity system. The subdivision of Run 226, St. Bathan's, as outlined in my last year's report was completed, and the land offered to the public during the year. Two small grazing-runs were not applied for, and still remain open. The remainder of the subdivision consisted of allotments on lease in perpetuity, and these have all been selected.

With regard to land for settlements, the only new land opened in this district during the year was the St. Helen's Settlement, Oamaru District, North Otago. The settlement contained 547 acres 3 roods 20 perches, subdivided into three allotments. Considering the size of the settlement, much interest was manifested by the public, and when the sections were opened on the 29th June last, seventy-one applications were received.

Lands Open and to be Opened.

The lands now open for selection in this district do not call for any special remark. As time goes on, it must necessarily happen that the lands remaining for selection comprise the more inferior and inaccessible pieces. The remainder of the Patearoa Block, comprising some 12,740 acres, will be dealt with during the year now entered on. This block is subdivided into seventeen sections and two small grazing-runs; and it is anticipated that the whole will be eagerly taken up. This will then finally complete the allocation of the Patearoa Station subdivisions. A block of some 7,000 acres, being portion of the land formerly included in the leasehold of Moutere Station, will be subdivided during the year into sections averaging about 300 acres each, and these will be dealt with on lease in perpetuity. It is not expected that the whole area will be taken up immediately, but it is probable that the unselected sections will gradually go off as the local wants arise.

Lands Disposed of, etc.

The selections during the year, and the cash received under the several tenures, together with the number and area of existing holdings, are shown in the subjoined summary prepared in the usual form. On comparing it with those of the previous years, it will be seen that the aggregate number of transactions is in excess of the general average, although seven less than the last year. The acreage dealt with, however, is greater by 181,614 acres, and, as stated in the paragraph under the heading "Revenue," the receipts exceed those of 1902-3 by £5,010 2s. 3d., while the number of holdings have increased by 118, the aggregate acreage held being slightly less, a fact accounted for by the lesser area of pastoral lands now under lease. For the purpose of comparing the volume of land transactions during the last seven years a comparative summary of the aggregate transactions is also subjoined:—

Summary of Land Transactions, 1903–4.

Tenure, &c.	Transactions during Year.				Areas held at 31st March, 1904.				Gross Revenue received during the Year.		
	Number.	Area.			Number.	Area.					
		A.	R.	P.		A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
Cash	89	893	3	11	...	...			1,665	18	0
Deferred payments	...	...			39	12,403	0	27	832	10	9
Deferred payments made freehold	5	505	3	5	...	...			...		
Perpetual leases	...	...			232	44,395	0	1	1,695	4	3
Perpetual leases made freehold	8	1,152	2	24	...	...			825	2	6
Occupation with right of purchase	8	909	2	17	223	38,618	3	22	1,033	2	5
Occupation made freehold	1	32	2	10	...	...			33	0	0
Lease in perpetuity (new)	52	6,958	0	39	681	172,182	1	9	4,577	12	7
Lease in perpetuity, exchange from other tenures	9	3,416	1	22	...	...			...		
Agricultural leases	2	13	1	0	17	542	0	37	88	9	1
Occupation leases (Mining Districts Land Occupation Act)	54	2,729	0	6	205	7,874	1	31	262	4	5
Village settlements—											
Deferred payments	...	...			2	100	0	0	7	16	11
Deferred payments made freehold	1	30	0	4	...	...			...		
Perpetual leases	...	...			16	357	1	36	33	8	6
Occupation with right of purchase	...	...			5	4	1	12	1	1	0
Lease in perpetuity	4	49	1	34	114	1,669	3	31	157	18	6
Village homestead special settlement	...	...			76	1,174	0	22	173	14	11
Special-settlement association (lease in perpetuity)	...	...			14	2,765	1	12	117	6	0
Homestead lands	...	...			2	158	0	37	...		
Small grazing-runs	15	38,484	1	34	272	557,071	0	26	13,381	17	9
Pastoral runs	20	318,188	1	9	226	4,383,344	0	9	28,538	0	7
Coal and mineral leases	...	...									
Timber-cutting	17	85	0	0	621	104,715	0	1	1,707	13	8
Miscellaneous licenses and leases	108	24,352	2	32							
Other miscellaneous revenue	...	...			...	...			745	3	6
Totals ordinary Crown lands	393	397,801	1	7	2,745	5,329,375	2	33	55,877	5	4
Land for settlements—											
Cash—	...	...			...	...			11	10	0
Lease in perpetuity	11	1,744	1	29	384	56,725	1	34	23,328	0	0
Lease in perpetuity, village	...	...			31	413	0	4	343	5	1
Small grazing-runs	...	...			3	3,667	1	30	439	1	9
Pastoral runs	...	...			2	953	2	38	124	5	2
Miscellaneous	6	313	3	37	50	802	3	24	246	18	11
Totals land for settlements	17	2,058	1	26	470	62,562	2	10	24,493	0	11
Endowments	1	644	2	7	45	45,223	1	1	1,232	12	7
Grand totals	411	400,504	1	0	3,260	5,437,161	2	4	81,602	18	10

Comparative Summary of Totals of Land Transactions for the Seven Years ended 31st March, 1904.

Years.	Transactions during the Year.				Holdings at 31st March each Year.				Gross Revenue Received each Year.		
	Number.	Area.			Number.	Area.					
		A.	R.	P.		A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
1897–98	459	510,429	3	22	2,918	5,169,598	2	37	67,751	16	1
1898–99	405	527,214	1	13	2,879	5,077,686	3	28	68,762	9	2
1899–1900	455	460,122	3	28	2,906	5,323,658	2	25	67,937	17	4
1900–1	332	496,197	3	18	3,016	5,387,259	2	26	70,434	3	2
1901–2	274	427,185	3	37	3,048	5,493,341	3	9	74,008	5	1
1902–3	418	218,890	0	29	3,142	5,527,207	1	10	76,592	16	7
1903–4	411	400,504	1	0	3,260	5,437,161	2	4	81,602	18	10

Review of Each System of Tenure.

Cash.—The summary shows eighty-nine transactions in cash lands with an area of 893 acres 3 roods 11 perches, the receipts being £1,665 18s. These comprised eight sales of town lands, 4 acres 3 roods 9 perches, for the sum of £146 10s., an average of £30 9s. 7d. per acre; fifty-nine sales of suburban lands over an area of 144 acres 1 rood 16 perches, for the sum of £763 0s. 10d., an average of £5 5s. 10d. per acre; five sales of rural lands under the optional system covering 400 acres 1 rood 34 perches, for the sum of £189 5s., an average of 9s. 5d. per acre; and seventeen sales of rural lands without option over 344 acres and 32 perches, for the sum of £567 2s. 2d. an average of £1 12s. 11d. per acre. Included in the sales without option, was one under section 114, one under section 115, and one under section 117 of "The Land Act, 1892." It will thus be seen that under the optional system there are comparatively few applications made, the greatest number being made under the lease-in-perpetuity tenure.

Deferred Payments.—The number of holdings under this tenure has been diminished by the year's transactions from forty-five, with an area of 12,949 acres to thirty-nine, with an area of 12,403 acres, and the yearly rental from £537 18s. to £505 16s. 10d. It is now only a question of a very short time when this once highly popular method of land settlement will have become a matter of history. The table shows that in this district 1,097 holdings have been made freehold under this system, covering an aggregate area of 180,213 acres, and that the amount realised therefor, exclusive of interest on capitalised holdings, has been £217,843 12s. 3d., or an average of £1 4s. 2d. per acre. In addition to the above there is still one holding of endowment land comprising 341 acres at £8 3s. 8d. per annum.

Perpetual Leases.—Like the deferred-payment system, perpetual leases are gradually becoming less in number, the area held on the 31st March, 1903 having been reduced during the year by exchanges, surrenders, and areas made freehold, from 48,595 acres held by 251 selectors at an annual rental of £1,855 13s. 10d., to 44,395 acres held by 232 selectors at an annual rental of £1,689 14s. 6d., a reduction of nineteen selectors, 4,200 acres and £165 19s. 4d. annual rental. There are in addition sixteen holders of endowment lands with an area of 1,618 acres at an annual rental of £186 17s. 2d. per annum. Up to the present time ninety-nine holdings have been made freehold with an area of 16,907 acres which realised £13,015 14s. 6d., an average of 15s. 5½d. per acre.

Occupation with Right of Purchase.—There has been little or no advance under this system during the year. The selections only number eight over an area of 910 acres at an annual rental of £22 13s. 10d., while the writings-off through forfeitures, surrenders, and one made freehold amount to nine selectors, 2,243 acres, and £61 5s. 4d. annual rental, so that the net area now held is less than last year by one selector, 1,333 acres and £38 11s. annual rental; the total area now held being 38,619 acres by 223 selectors at £1,102 10s. 4d. per annum. It was fully expected, in view of the number of selections under this system during the two or three years previous, that a much larger number would have been made during the year under review, but the lower rental under lease in perpetuity appears to be a factor in making that tenure meet with the greatest amount of favour at the present time in this district.

Lease in Perpetuity.—The holdings of ordinary Crown lands under this head were increased by fifty-two new selections with an area of 6,958 acres and nine exchanges from other tenures over 3,416 acres, a total of sixty-one selections and 10,374 acres at an annual rental of £303 2s. 8d. Against this increase, by way of forfeitures and surrenders, there have been written off eighteen selectors, 3,374 acres, and £87 0s. 4d. annual rental; the total area held at the present time being 172,182 acres by 681 selectors at an annual rental of £5,116 4s. 2d., as against 638 selectors, 165,182 acres, and £4,900 1s. 10d. annual rental on the 31st March, 1903, a net increase of forty-three selectors, 7,000 acres, and £216 2s. 4d. annual rent. Under Land for Settlements there has been a slight increase of five selectors, the total number now being 384 under ordinary lease in perpetuity, with an area of 56,725 acres at an annual rent of £19,643 4s. 4d. This will be more particularly referred to in the special report on Land for Settlements. In addition there are nine holders of endowment lands with an area of 1,766 acres at a rental of £84 1s. 2d. In this district the lease-in-perpetuity system has always commanded the greatest number of applications, the acquirement of land at the least possible cost in the first instance being without doubt, as already pointed out, the ruling factor in the selector's choice of tenure.

Agricultural Leases.—Under this now all-but-obsolete system two small areas were taken up by way of renewal, and one area of 6 acres expired. There are now seventeen still on the books with an acreage of 542 acres, and rental of £31 3s. 3d. per annum.

Occupation Leases.—Fifty-four new selections were made under "The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894," embracing an area of 2,729 acres at an annual rental of £104 8s. 6d., the greater portion representing the block taken from the Matakanui Runs, and a further block in the Leaning Rock District. In this district there are now 205 of these holdings with a total area of 7,874 acres, the annual rent being £314 11s. 6d. In dealing with applications under the Act mentioned there is still a considerable amount of trouble arising from the necessity of avoiding on the one hand any interference with mining privileges, and on the other any prejudicial effect in the work of pastoral lands which may be the subject of the applications. Occasionally applications are made for pieces of land on pastoral runs which are regarded by the licensees as the very eyes of their holdings upon which they rely for wintering their stock and for lambing purposes. The refusal of applications on these grounds sometimes causes the applicants a certain amount of disappointment which cannot of course be obviated. Upon the whole, however, there can be no doubt that the system is working well and meets a much-felt need in mining districts.

Village Settlements.—It will be seen from the village-settlement tables that this system has again gone a step further backward in this district during the year, with the exception of Land for Settlements. The several tenures, including Land for Settlements, were last year represented

by 251 selectors holding an area of 3,860 acres at £662 6s. 10d. per annum, the present number being 244 with an area of 3,719 acres at £649 19s. 4d. per annum. Only four selections were made during the year over 49 acres at £2 14s., annual rent, while there were ten forfeitures over 120 acres, besides one exchange of 41 acres and one made freehold of 30 acres; the net decrease for the year being seven selectors, 141 acres, and £12 7s. 6d. in rental. There are also four holdings of 166 acres in all of endowment lands at £15 17s 6d. per annum. The value of improvements effected on ordinary Crown lands is £12,936, being, as compared with the previous year, an increase of £1,665. On Land for Settlements the value is £2,987, an increase of £77. There is an increase also in the number of resident selectors as compared with previous returns of five selectors. The reasons for the comparative failure of village settlements in this district have been more than once stated in previous reports.

Special Settlement Association.—The one block—namely, the Swinburn Farm-homestead Block—which was taken up by an association in this district is now virtually held as ordinary lease-in-perpetuity land, the association, as such, having ceased to work under the association rules. A good portion of the block is held by persons holding adjoining lands, both Crown and freehold. There are fourteen holders over 2,765 acres, at £121 2s. 4d. per annum. Three only of the original selectors remain on the block. The Crown Lands Ranger states that the year has been a prosperous one for these settlers, the oats and turnips, which are the principal crops grown, being very good. The season was very suitable, the prices of stock good, everything tending to make the year's operations successful. The value of the improvements effected is £2,131, there being twelve houses, and thirty-nine souls resident. The cultivation for the year: 195 acres in oats, 8 in wheat, and 182 in root crops. Eight out of the fourteen settlers are resident, the remaining six near by or on adjoining land.

Small Grazing-runs.—Of the fifteen selections during the year seven were renewals of expired leases, originally exchanged from deferred payment pastoral licenses, over an area of 10,284 acres. Included amongst the other selections were four of the subdivisions of the Patearoa Runs. There are now 272 lessees holding 557,071 acres at £12,782 2s. per annum, exclusive of the three under Land for Settlements over 3,667 acres at £401 18s 10d., and the eleven endowment leases with an area of 15,372 acres at £341 18s. 8d. per annum, a net increase of six selectors, 22,735 acres, and £320 14s. 8d. annual rental. The amount of rent received during the year for ordinary Crown lands was £12,188 12s. 8d.; land for settlements, £405 3s. 5d.; endowments, £393 18s. 5d.: total, £12,987 14s. 6d.—which, in view of the fact that no rebate for prompt payment is allowed in this class of tenure, and considering the severe losses through the severity of last winter's snowstorms, must be regarded as extremely satisfactory. The small-grazing-run system is gradually superseding the ordinary pastoral runs as the larger areas of pastoral country fall in, and are found suitable for smaller subdivision. The total rental may not be quite so much as that received under pastoral tenure, but the advantages in most cases to the smaller settlers are considerable.

Pastoral Runs.—The transactions under this head were more numerous than in 1902–3, both as regards areas taken up and expiries, with the result that the total area now held under pastoral licenses is as follows: Ordinary Crown lands, 4,385,344 acres by 226 licensees, at £27,876 15s. 10d.; land for settlements, 954 acres by two holders, at £121 13s.; and Clutha Trust Endowment, 25,590 acres at £460 10s.; total, 4,411,888 acres by 230 licensees, at £28,458 18s. 10d. per annum. Last year the figures were—Ordinary Crown lands, 237 holders, 4,519,101 acres, £28,832 4s. 2d. rental; land for settlements and Clutha Trust Endowment, the same as at present, total 241 holders, 4,545,645 acres, and £29,414 7s. 2d. rental, the decrease being 11 holders, 133,757 acres, and £955 8s. 4d. annual rental. The gross receipts for the year were less than those of the previous year by £1,830 19s. 10d. It has already been pointed out on more than one occasion that, from various causes, the value of the pastoral lands has been and still is deteriorating, the spread of noxious weeds, rabbit pest, and the gradual diminution of winter country, in consequence of the areas taken for closer settlement, all tending to and contributing in that direction. In common with many other tenants who depend upon the depasturing of stock, but perhaps to a greater extent, the pastoral licensees have sustained very serious losses through the rigour of last winter's weather, and many applications have been made for some measure of relief. The number of sheep that have perished has in some instances been enormous, and the owners are faced with great difficulties in replenishing their stock.

Miscellaneous Licenses and Leases.—The practice of issuing temporary grazing licenses continues to work with advantage in securing the occupation of much land that otherwise would remain unoccupied and be burdensome to the state in coping with noxious weeds and rabbits. Such licenses form the bulk of those recorded under this head. There are now, including land for settlements and endowments, 673 miscellaneous licenses and leases over an area of 105,888 acres at an annual rental of £1,457 9s. 7d., as against 614, with an area of 89,668 acres at £1,264 9s. 6d. per annum on the 31st March, 1903, an increase of fifty-nine licenses, 16,220 acres, and £193 0s. 1d. rental.

Inspections and Rangers' Report.

The number of inspections made by the Crown Lands Rangers are given as 992, representing an acreage of 209,732 acres, in respect of which improvements to the value of £90,568 18s. are required by statute, while the value of those actually made is £166,804 2s., an excess over requirements of £76,235 4s. This result, taking into consideration the fact that in a number of cases it is next to impossible to effect the statutory requirements in the matter of improvements with advantage or without unnecessary waste of capital, must be regarded as highly satisfactory. Out of the 992 selectors whose holdings were visited, 141 are set down as defaulters—eighty-three in regard to improvements and fifty-eight for non-residence. In addition to these inspections a considerable amount of the Rangers' time has been taken up in reporting on miscellaneous matters in connection with the numerous and varied applications which come before the Land Board in the

course of the year's transactions; and in Ranger Mackenzie's case, it may be mentioned that that officer performs, in addition to the inspections of holdings, a considerable amount of office-work relating to plans and mining leases, reports to Wardens, making surveys when urgently required in the absence of the local District Surveyor, reporting on applications for advances to settlers, and supplying information to tourists and others.

Position, Progress, and Prospects of Settlement.

Notwithstanding a number of drawbacks during the year, the operations of settlers of all classes, with a few exceptions here and there, may be said to have been thoroughly satisfactory and successful. Amongst the causes of hindrance may be mentioned the very severe snowstorm of July last, followed by an intensity of cold unprecedented, — 14° Fahr. or 46 degrees of frost, in consequence of which very heavy losses were sustained by both small and great sheep-farmers. Subsequently, after an exceptionally favourable spring, there was in November a cold snap which proved destructive to a large number of young lambs. Later on the season was rather dry, and the crops suffered accordingly, and in the early part of March heavy rains caused considerable damage, greatly retarding harvest operations where the crops had not been gathered in and stacked. In other words, the capricious weather has been the cause of some disappointment amongst our agricultural population. It goes without saying, of course, that in a country of mountains and valleys such as this the weather varies greatly in different localities, and that in some parts it has been very much more favourable than in others. Taking the season subsequent to the snowfall referred to, it has been upon the whole a favourable one. The later rains, while doing a great deal of harm to the crops in stook, gave the grass a fresh start for winter feed. It will be seen from the Rangers' reports that in places the crops have been both abundant and excellent in quality.

Among the advantages which have tended greatly to benefit our settlers may be mentioned the lesser rates of interest on borrowed moneys, the high prices obtainable for fat lambs and other stock, and facilities afforded by the dairying industry to milk-suppliers who have been favoured with abundance of grass for their milch-cows. All these points are touched upon by the Rangers in their reports which are here presented as bearing on the whole question of the position, progress, and prospects of settlements, and from which a very fair idea of the state of things generally in this district may be gathered. The following is the joint report of Rangers Atkinson and O'Neill:—

"The wet harvest of 1903 did a considerable amount of damage to the settlers all over Otago, but those in the south were the greatest sufferers. The grain was soft and discoloured, and prices were therefore much lower than might otherwise have been expected. Following the late harvest came a very severe winter, bringing much more snow and intense cold than has been usual for some years. In fact, many of the oldest residents declared that they had not felt such intense cold since their arrival in the colony. The early part of the winter was mild, and most of the pastoral and small-grazing-run settlers were content to allow their stock to get back into the high country on the assumption that the weather would continue favourable. On the 11th July, however, snow began to fall and continued till nearly the whole district was covered to a depth of from 9 in. to 4 ft. When the snow ceased falling severe frost set in and continued for nearly four weeks, rendering it practically impossible to muster stock from the high country. In some parts and in the face of serious difficulties many succeeded in reaching their sheep with straw, hay, or chaff, and thus to some extent staved off disaster. Generally speaking, however, the losses of sheep were exceptionally heavy, and the settlers in Otago will have reason to remember the winter of 1903. After the snow thawed, very mild weather was again experienced, and an extra early spring was the result. The grass came away quickly and abundantly, and stock very soon began to pick up again. This condition prevailed till the early part of November, when a cold snap, lasting a few days, destroyed some of the late lambs. The general effect of this cold was not severe, however, owing to the abundance of grass. The crops did very well until the end of December, but January and February were very dry, having the effect of giving the crops a set-back, from which the heavy rains of early March were too late to rescue them. When the heavy rain came some of the crops were in stack, but many were still in stook, and these suffered rather severely. The oats were more or less discoloured, and a certain proportion of the wheat reduced to a soft condition that minimised its value for milling.

"Notwithstanding the vagaries of the weather throughout the year, however, considerable progress generally has been made. The dairying industry, which still continues to extend, and the high prices ruling for stock are mainly responsible for this. These two items have, during the past few years, wrought a marked change in the general position of settlers throughout Otago. Before these advantages and the benefits under the advances-to-settlers scheme obtained, numbers of Crown tenants were practically living from hand to mouth, with little hope of bettering their state. The present condition of ordinary Crown tenants is certainly good and their prospects excellent. With the exception of the bush settlers, who still require much in the way of road improvements, the general requirements are few. With regard to employments and industries, these differ to some extent, according to the proximity to the railway and to the nature of the country. Wherever railway communication is available the dairying-industry occupies most attention, while in the higher lands and those farthest from markets sheep and cattle raising and grain-growing are largely followed. Generally speaking, there is a keen desire on the part of most settlers to increase their holdings, and there is also a keen desire on the part of many landless persons to get on the land if possible. The bush settlers have made fair progress during the year. As time goes on their roads are gradually being improved, and dairy factories are being erected in convenient places. The high prices ruling for cattle has considerably helped them. There seems to be a general desire amongst them to preserve as much of their standing bush as possible, and to make better use of the land already felled and burned by logging up and hard burning. In following this way of working much valuable timber will be saved, and may later on be turned to profitable account."

Ranger Mackenzie, whose report deals chiefly with land in the Lakes District makes some interesting remarks with regard to the capabilities of certain lands in that locality when irrigated, and shows that the season there has been highly favourable. He reports as follows: "The conditions of settlement are being fairly well complied with in this district, considering the medium quality of the land of which so much of it consists. The improvements would have been much greater had there not been so many sections with some of the land comparatively light and suitable only for grazing. Yet it will be seen that, taking the aggregate, there is £4,710 over what is required. Owing to the swampy character of some of the land, several sections could not be built upon, nor could improvements be effected upon them. I may state this has been a very good year for crops in the Tarras, Hawea, and Wanaka districts. Several farmers have told me it is the best year they ever remember having. Fruit as well as grain has been very plentiful, indeed tons of beautiful fruit has been wasted or given to the pigs for want of a market. To remedy this some effort should be made to get some sort of preserving-works established in a central position. We have this year several good illustrations in the Hawea, Tarras, and Wakefield districts of what can be done with what was looked upon as hopelessly useless land. About 3,000 acres has been fenced in, wire-netted, and rabbits almost entirely cleared, the results being entirely satisfactory, not only in fairly good crops in places but in grass. Mr. Old's farm in Wakefield, made from bare, dry land, is worth seeing, as showing what irrigation can do. All the land referred to had been surveyed for over twenty years without being taken up, and when reduced to 5s. an acre this was the result. If the same reduction were made on many of the sections in the dry shingly districts there would be fewer forfeitures and surrenders.

Rebates of Rent.

The granting of rebates as an incentive to prompt payments has again had a marked effect on the ingathering of outstanding and current payments of rent. This effect is indisputable on comparing the amount of arrears now with previous amounts, and the amount of receipts in comparison with the annual rents payable. There is still a feeling that rebates should be given under the small-grazing-run tenure; and were this done it would be cause for much gratification to the lessees. The number of settlers to whom rebates were granted during the year and the amounts under the several tenures are as follows: Deferred payments, nine selectors, £2 19s. 4d.; perpetual leases, 202 selectors, £124 10s. 4d; occupation with right of purchase, 183 selectors, £76 7s. 11d.; lease in perpetuity, 584 selectors, £349 13s. 4d. Total: Ordinary Crown lands, 978 selectors, £553 10s. 11d.; land for settlements, 308 selectors, £1,296 16s. 3d.: Grand total, 1,286 selectors, £1,850 7s. 2d. Subjoined is a statement showing separately the number of selectors who received rebate and the amounts in respect of ordinary Crown lands and land for settlements during the four years since the practice was instituted. From this it will be seen that the number participating and the amounts granted have increased year by year, until the amount is probably as great now as it is likely to be in any year unless the practice is extended to other tenures. The number of selectors at present on the books to whom rebate could be granted under the present enactment is approximately as follows: Ordinary Crown lands, 1,305; land for settlements, 415: Total, 1,720. Of this number 1,286 availed themselves of or participated in the rebate during the year just closed. It is, therefore, possible that a slightly increased number may obtain rebate in the near future. The rates granted have varied from 5 per cent. to 10 per cent.:—

Statement of the Rebates granted during the Four Years ended 31st March, 1904.

Year.	Number of Selectors who received Rebate.			Amount on Ordinary Crown Lands.	Amount on Land for Settlements.	Total.
	On Ordinary Crown Lands.	On Land for Settlements.	Total.			
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1900–1 ...	673	136	809	198 0 11	149 1 8	347 2 7
1901–2 ...	847	183	1,030	497 12 2	527 13 11	1,025 6 1
1902–3 ...	893	213	1,106	520 15 2	631 8 1	1,152 3 3
1903–4 ...	978	308	1,286	553 10 11	1,296 16 3	1,850 7 2
Grand totals	...	...	...	£1,769 19 2	£2,604 19 11	£4,374 19 1

Arrears of Rent.

In the special tables for summary of arrears, the particulars have been given in one as exclusive and in another as inclusive of the current half-year's rent unpaid; but throughout the other tables in which arrears are required to be stated, the amounts furnished are, as has been the practice heretofore, exclusive of the current half-year's rent unpaid. It is gratifying to be able to state that the outstanding payments have not for very many years, if ever before, been less than they are at the present time. This, as already mentioned under the head of "Rebates," is in great measure owing to the inducement offered by the practice of granting rebates for prompt payment, but also to some extent to the persistent efforts constantly put forth to collect the rents in due time, and no doubt also to the better financial position of many of the settlers as indicated in the Rangers' reports. From present appearances there is every reason to believe that the outstanding rents even of the current half-year will be nearly wiped out before the next half-year's rent becomes due in advance on the 1st July next. The following comparative statement of

arrears for the last five years conclusively proves the accuracy of the foregoing remarks in regard to the outstanding amounts, exclusive of the current half-year, and the effect of rebates, &c. In this statement the ordinary Crown lands and land for settlements are separately shown; adding the two together it will be seen that the total at the 31st March, 1903, was £2,648 6s. 11d. owing by 134 selectors holding 85,479 acres, whereas the amount at the 31st March last was only £693 2s. 10d. owing by fifty-nine selectors holding 27,017 acres, the amount of the arrears thus being less than one-third of what they were the previous year:—

Comparative Statement of Arrears, 1900 to 1904 (exclusive of Current Half-year).

Year.	Number of Tenants in Arrear.	Area held by Tenants in Arrear.	Amount of Arrears.	Total Number of Tenants on Books.	Gross Annual Rent.
		Ordinary Crown Lands.			
		Acres.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1900	159	50,834	988 0 5	2,490	51,015 9 2
1901	153	75,160	1,043 17 5	2,582	51,283 11 3
1902	120	67,398	922 9 3	2,598	51,409 7 1
1903	83	75,130	993 10 0	2,626	51,605 16 3
1904	40	22,413	296 13 10	2,745	51,091 12 6
		Land for Settlements.			
1900	98	15,187	4,077 1 3	368	14,976 13 4
1901	104	16,972	4,076 19 10	389	17,145 9 6
1902	57	9,584	2,358 17 8	407	17,460 3 6
1903	51	10,349	1,654 16 11	462	20,194 16 8
1904	19	4,604	396 9 0	470	20,703 15 10

FORFEITURES AND SURRENDERS.

These in the aggregate have been more numerous than in the previous year, the number being fifty-eight holders, 123,137 acres and £449 9s. 2d. rental, as against fifty-two selectors, 74,401 acres and £667 5s. 11d. rental in 1902–3. The forfeitures about equal the average for the last five years, while the surrenders are less than that average by thirteen, the aggregate forfeitures and surrenders being less than the average by fourteen. Twenty-seven of the forfeitures were for non-payment of rent, ten for breach of conditions as to residence and improvements, and four for non-completion of lease and abandonment. Of the surrenders five were to obtain reduction in capital value and rent (these were accepted with the knowledge that excessive rentals were being paid), two for subdivision, two for inclusion in larger areas, and eight for other reasons, including bad health, left district, &c. For the purposes of comparison the following table is inserted to show the number of forfeitures and surrenders respectively during the last five years as well as the aggregate numbers:—

Gross Number of Forfeitures and Surrenders during the last Five Years.

Year.	Forfeitures.			Surrenders.		
	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
1899–1900 ...	61	119,392 1 9	918 11 6	63	20,101 1 15	790 14 8
1900–1 ...	51	160,852 2 1	1,205 13 2	31	9,692 2 25	336 16 6
1901–2 ...	22	4,630 0 18	120 8 2	23	21,775 3 4	210 14 0
1902–3 ...	34	48,195 3 27	365 17 3	18	26,205 1 25	301 8 8
1903–4 ...	41	117,005 2 12	248 7 8	17	6,131 0 9	201 1 6

Total Forfeitures and Surrenders.

Year.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
1899–1900	124	39,493 2 24	1,709 6 2
1900–1	82	170,545 0 26	1,542 9 8
1901–2	45	26,405 3 22	331 2 2
1902–3	52	74,401 1 12	667 5 11
1903–4	58	123,136 2 21	449 9 2
Grand totals	361	433,982 2 25	4,699 13 1

Transfers.

The number of transfers is yearly increasing. In 1901–2 the number was 138, and the area 112,788 acres. In 1902–3 there were 156, with an area of 277,565 acres, while during the year just closed there were 184 with 251,382 acres; the numbers and areas under the respective tenures being as follows:—

	Number.	Acres.
Perpetual leases	31	4,594
Occupation with right of purchase	16	2,067
Lease in perpetuity	45	10,178
Land for settlements	33	5,115
Occupation leases	10	316
Small grazing-runs	23	49,756
Pastoral runs	10	178,416
Miscellaneous	16	939
Totals	184	251,382

Reserves.

The reserves permanently set apart in this district during the year were comparatively few, amounting to only 38 acres 1 rood 29 perches, which brings up the total area reserved and granted under Acts, &c., from the foundation of the colony to the present time, 697,623 acres and 39 perches. Those gazetted during the year were for school-sites, Oamaru water-supply, Department of Agriculture, police, and recreation purposes. It may, perhaps, be mentioned here that there is in this district a large number of reserves marked on the maps for various purposes that remain ungazetted and unvested, so marked, I presume, with a view to future requirements. These will no doubt sooner or later be made the subject of applications for gazetting and vesting as required. In the meantime many of them are dealt with under section 116 of "The Land Act, 1892," and further efforts are being made to secure occupiers for such lands, as indicated under the head "Miscellaneous Licenses and Leases." The question of making further reserves for the preservation of bush and natural scenery is being kept steadily in view.

Forests, etc.

The extent to which timber-cutting and sawmilling operations are carried on in this district is somewhat limited, being confined chiefly to the southern portion thereof in Catlin's, Glenomaru, Tautuku, and Woodland Districts, with a certain amount in the northern portion in the Makarora District. The danger of destruction by fires carelessly lighted by shepherds, tourists, and others has several times been brought under notice, and warning notices have been posted up in a number of districts. In the Lakes District, where it is so desirable to retain the bush scenery, there has been some trouble in this matter, in respect of which Ranger Mackenzie reports thus: "Bush-fires are still a source of trouble and several narrow escapes have occurred. Had it not been for Mr. Elliot, who resides at Elfin Bay, probably the whole of the Rere Lake bush would have been destroyed. This was caused through the carelessness of tourists, and in the face of personal warnings and the public notices which I put up at all the bushes in the district, showing the penalty for bush-burning. Shepherds and tourists are chiefly to blame in this burning of bush. Constable Bonner has been of great assistance in this matter."

"The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903."

Nothing can yet be said as to the probable effect of the working of this measure in this district. Up to the end of March no selections had been made under the Act, but since then, one selection has been made, over 200 acres of light bush land, and two others over 473 acres of heavy bush land. It is therefore too early to give any pronouncement as to the probable effect of the Act on settlement here, but so far as can at present be seen its effect is not likely to be very great, either one way or the other.

The District as a whole.

In treating the district as a whole, there seems to be little to be said beyond referring to the summary of transactions already referred to, and to the reports which have been furnished by the Crown Lands Rangers; also to the paragraphs with reference to lands opened, now open, and to be dealt with. As a whole, the progress of settlers throughout the district has been fairly good, their present position is doubtless more satisfactory than at this time last year, while their prospects and outlook are full of promise for the future. The available Crown lands in this district for closer settlement are fast becoming extremely limited, as little or nothing can now be safely taken from the existing pastoral runs without seriously crippling their profitable occupation and rendering the higher lands altogether unworkable, with the final result of throwing extensive areas of country on the hands of the Government to remain idle and unproductive, and a source of heavy expenditure for the destruction of rabbits, &c. The principal lands which have of late years been opened for selection have been in the interior districts, and it has been found that in most cases they have been selected by persons already possessed of land in the district, and who, in fact, have been the most urgent for additional areas to be thrown open. And it should not be lost sight of that the character of the land that can now be put on the market is such that it is almost entirely fit only for grazing purposes, and it is for such purposes chiefly that the land is taken up. The great bulk of the land recently opened for selection is being thus used, a very small portion being cultivated, except for growing turnips as winter feed for stock. Sheep-farming,

cattle-raising, and dairy-farming are the pursuits of the greatest number of Crown tenants, and they doubtless find those pursuits in a climate such as this where the weather is apt to be so variable, less risky, easier, and indeed, more profitable than grain-growing.

The office-work, notwithstanding the comparatively small amount of land now being brought into the market, does not diminish. The administration and clerical work involved in dealings and transactions in respect of the large number of tenants on the books is of itself sufficient to keep the staff constantly employed. In this respect, the work of the year just closed has been much greater than during the preceding year.

I wish to cordially acknowledge the assistance the officers of this Department have rendered throughout the year; and, without being invidious, I might mention the names of Messrs. Sessions and Thompson. The services of the former as Chief Clerk, have been invaluable in keeping the position of arrears steadily in view. This, with the support of the Land Board, and the hearty response by the settlers, conduced to the satisfactory state of the return of rents for this year.

Land for Settlements.

Pomahaka Downs.—There has been but little improvement on this estate during the year. The unlet allotments were reoffered with reduced valuation for improvements, but only four were taken up over an area of 1,070 acres and 4 perches, at an annual rental of £177 7s. There are still 2,290 acres unlet, of an annual value of £351 13s. 2d., the total area at present let being 4,976 acres, at £843 5s. 2d. per annum, held by twenty-one tenants, including two miscellaneous licenses over 12 acres, at £1 10s. yearly. The receipts were £940 2s., making the total to date, £7,528 10s. 8d. Rebates amounting to £12 18s. 11d. were granted to three selectors. Value of improvements required £2,573 7s. 9d.; now on the land, £4,691; number of houses, 24; persons resident, 45. The following is Ranger O'Neill's report on this settlement: "Pomahaka Downs Settlement remains much in the same position as formerly. The late and wet harvest of last year was a serious matter for the settlers. The spring of this year, however, came in early, giving plentiful supplies of early grass, and enabling the tenants to get their ploughing, &c., early in hand. January and February were very dry months, and the grass fell back to some extent, but stock were well forward by this time. The weather during the early part of the harvest was excellent, but when most of the crops were in stook the dry weather broke up, and a considerable amount of rain fell. Though the oat-crops were got in dry afterwards, the sample was to some extent discoloured. The turnip-crops this year are very fair, and the oats will average 40 to 45 bushels per acre. The price offering for oats is low however; and when the carrying-distance to the railway is so great very small profits only can come from oat-growing. The settlers who have been lucky enough to work into a good flock of sheep have fair prospects, but for those who depend solely on grain-growing the outlook is not promising. If it were practicable to liberally lime the land, its productiveness might be greatly increased, but again the distance from the railway makes this expensive. Each settler holds a large area, so that he is altogether employed on his holding. The conditions of the various leases are being satisfactorily complied with."

Teaneraki.—The occupation of this settlement remains the same as last year, there being twenty-three holdings over the whole area of 344 acres 1 rood 30 perches, at an annual rental of £281 9s. 6d. The condition and prospects of the settlers have somewhat improved during the year. The receipts were £309 3s. 11d., the total to date being £2,548 9s. 5d. Value of improvements required, £726 7s. 8d.; effected, £1,920; houses, 18; number of persons resident, 77, a small increase over the previous year. Rebates to the extent of £14 6s. 8d. were granted to thirteen of the lessees. Ranger Atkinson reports as follows: "On this settlement, containing 344 acres 1 rood 30 perches, twenty-three persons are settled. The land is of good quality. Most of the tenants supply milk to the creamery, while others find work in the district. On the whole there has been a decided improvement."

Tahawai.—Occupation same as before—namely, eight settlers, 68 acres 2 roods 14 perches; rent, £35 14s. 4d. per annum; receipts, £34 1s. 2d.: total, £297 3s. 1d. Value of improvements required £117 11s. 6d., now on the land £1,102 5s.; houses, 8; souls resident, 43. Rebates were granted to seven of the lessees to the extent of £1 6s. Ranger Atkinson reports on this settlement as follows: "This small settlement continues to flourish. There was very little cultivation last year. Most of the land is laid down with grass and clover from which very heavy crops of hay are taken. As I have repeatedly pointed out, the success of the settlement is largely dependent on the water-supply. I think some steps should be taken to obtain a permanent supply, and so put it out of the power of an outsider to cut it off at any time. Most of the settlers continue to send milk to the Kurow Creamery which has been a great benefit both to them and the district generally."

Maerewhenua.—There has been no change in the occupation of this very successful settlement during the year. It is held by seventy-two selectors, the total area occupied being 10,929 acres 2 roods 12 perches at £3,553 2s. annual rent, including three miscellaneous licenses over 22 acres 3 roods 36 perches, at £3 2s. 6d. yearly. The small area of 6 acres 3 roods 2 perches, of the yearly value of 19s. 8d., remains unlet. The receipts for the year were £4,659 3s. 11d., as against £3,719 15s. 9d. the previous year, bringing up the total since inception to £29,625 19s. 2d. Rebates were granted to sixty-seven lessees to the extent of £329 13s. 9d. The value of improvements required is £16,119 0s. 11d., the present value of those affected being £19,941 5s. 3d.; the number of dwellings, 61; and the number of souls resident, 244. The following report by Ranger Atkinson demonstrates the reassuring character of the position, progress, and prospects of this settlement: "This is one of the most successful settlements in North Otago. This success is owing in a large measure to the suitable seasons experienced during the last few years, and also to the estate being held in large holdings. The total improvements on the property show an increase of £1,493 over last year, which must be regarded as very satisfactory. The tenants on some of the smaller holdings supply milk to the creameries at Duntroon and Georgetown; while those on the large holdings go in for grazing and

grain-growing. A very large number of lambs are annually taken off the estate for freezing, very high prices being obtained—up to 14s. per head. These prices, of course, are owing to the competition between two rival freezing companies. The average yield of wheat will, I think, exceed 40 bushels per acre. There have been some individual yields of 50 bushels per acre. The oat-crop has not been so good as in former years owing to the hot weather in the early part of the year bringing the crop in before it was properly matured. The turnip-crop for the same reason has not been so good, but at the same time, combined with the plentiful supply of grass, the stock will fare very well during the coming winter. When this estate was selected first the great complaint of the settlers was want of water, but this difficulty has been overcome by the sinking of wells and erection of windmills, which give very satisfactory results, more than compensating for the outlay, which was considerable at the time. Taking all things into consideration, I do not think the settlers would exchange their positions with any others similarly held in North Otago. The settlement is now well established, and I do not think there need be any fear in the future for those who have settled on it."

Puketapu.—This small and fairly prosperous settlement of 496 acres and 36 perches is still occupied by eleven settlers at £189 0s. 10d. per annum. The receipts were £180 5s. 8d., making a total to date, £1,444 19s. 5d. Rebates granted to the eleven lessees, £9 4s. 2d. Value of improvements required, £701 2s. 11d., effected, £1,251 8s. 7d.; number of houses, 9; souls resident, 26. Ranger Atkinson reports: "The tenants on this small settlement are doing very well, and appear to be quite satisfied with their prospects. Most of them send milk to the creamery. Not very much cropping is done. They appear to rely upon the grass, which has been very abundant this year. Not much outside work is done, nearly all the settlers finding employment on their own land. The conditions are generally well complied with."

Ardgowan.—The prosperity of this settlement still continues. It is held as before by sixty-five selectors, the occupied area being 4,162 acres and 34 perches, and the annual rental, £1,892 10s. 6d., including one miscellaneous license over 2 acres 3 roods 30 perches, at 16s. 8d. yearly. The receipts for the year were £2,079 5s. 6d., as against £1,768 10s. 10d. the previous year; the total to date now being £14,897 14s. 7d. Rebates were given during the year to fifty-four lessees to the extent of £75 19s. 5d. Value of improvements required £6,923 13s. 8d., now on the land £12,774 9s. 1d.; number of houses, 54; souls resident, 220. The following report by Ranger Atkinson clearly shows that the condition of this settlement is highly satisfactory as regards progress and prospects: "This estate is in a very prosperous condition. All the settlers are doing well. The grain-crops have turned out exceedingly well, and payable prices have been obtained. The yields of wheat in some cases have been as high as 40 bushels per acre, which may be considered as exceptionally good in view of the fact that the soil on Ardgowan is rather light in places over a stiff clay subsoil, which makes the land of rather a sour nature, and more fitted for dairying than grain-growing. Most of the settlers supply milk to the creamery on the estate. Several have built substantial and up-to-date byres, and house the cows through the winter in order to obtain the best possible results. The past season has not altogether been suitable for root-crops, but a large quantity of hay has been saved, and stock will be well provided for through the winter months. Dairying appears to be the chief industry on this estate, nearly all of the settlers being engaged in it. On the whole, the prospects of the tenants on this property are exceedingly bright. They all seem to be contented and very well satisfied."

Makareao and Makareao Extension.—For greater convenience these two settlements are linked together, being practically identical in character as well as locality. They are occupied by thirty-four tenants, with an area of 4,862 acres 1 rood 9 perches, at £819 3s. yearly, including four miscellaneous holdings over 208 acres and 21 perches, at £159 5s. 6d. yearly. Included in the latter is the limestone reserve of 147 acres 3 roods 28 perches, which, together with the limestone kilns and works, has been let on lease for the term of seven years, on what are believed to be satisfactory conditions both to the Crown and the lessee. The annual rent is £150, in addition to a graduated scale of royalties on lime produced. The receipts for the year from these estates amounted to £863 6s. 11d., to which must be added proceeds of sale of lime before the leasing of the works, an amount unknown at the Dunedin office. Subject to such addition, the total receipts to date have been £6,218 1s. 8d. Rebates amounting to £52 9s. 9d. were granted to twenty-seven lessees. Value of improvements required £2,775 19s. 3d., now on the land £4,927 1s. 9d. (apart from the value of limeworks, and railway thereto); number of houses, 21; souls resident, 85. The outlook in regard to these settlements is fairly satisfactory and encouraging, as will be seen by the Ranger's report, which is as follows: "These settlements still continue to make satisfactory progress. The population is increasing, and the conditions of residence and improvements are being better complied with than last year. The crops have been good, especially the wheat and turnips. One of the dairy companies is going to erect a creamery to be ready for the coming season, which will be of very material assistance to the settlers, who have laboured too long under the difficulty of disposing of their dairy produce. Some of the smaller settlers make their homes on the estate, and find employment as rabbiters, &c. outside. Several of the larger holders, including the holders of the small grazing-runs, raise wool and fat lambs. The past season has been all that could be desired. The feed is plentiful, and the prospects for the wintering of stock are all that could be wished for. This estate is one that will not stand dry weather. The soil on parts, especially the Sweetwater Block, is light and shingly. The only complaints made are with regard to the smallness of the sections, these having been laid off in too small areas, and I think it would be well to group whenever possible. The conditions are generally well complied with, both in regard to residence and improvements."

Momona.—This small settlement possesses all the elements of success, and its present position and prospects are in every way very promising. It is held, as stated last year, by fourteen settlers, with an area of 219 acres 1 rood 16 perches, at £210 6s. 2d. yearly. The receipts were

£267 11s. 10d., the total from the beginning being £1,443 2s. 10d. The sum of £7 6s. 8d. was granted to eleven lessees in rebates. Value of improvements required £491 6s. 9d., on the land, £2,136 2s. 6d.; number of houses, 28; souls resident, 59. Ranger O'Neill's report, which follows, fully describes the favourable surroundings of this settlement: "This excellent settlement is in a most satisfactory condition. Each holder is a milk-supplier to the dairy factory adjoining the estate, and each has had a prosperous year. Though the holdings are necessarily small, there is practically no outside work sought by the tenants. The land is of excellent quality, the rentals comparatively small, and the land so near a market, that success is assured to any settler there who understands anything of farming, and who is prepared to work. Magnificent root-crops are produced on this estate—turnips have produced as high as £9 per acre, while potatoes have yielded as high as 20 tons per acre. Very little grain-growing is done, and that only where it is necessary to break up the land for grass-renewing purposes. Many tempting offers have been made to different lessees to sell their holdings, but without avail. A great demand for land exists in the surrounding districts, and under similar conditions as exists with regard to Momona; thousands of acres could be readily disposed of. As high as £2 per acre per annum has been offered at auction for similar land adjoining. The prospects of the Momona settlers are exceedingly bright, and their present requirements nil. As before stated, they are practically engaged during the whole year on their holdings, and their principal industry is dairying."

Tokarahi.—The occupation of this successful settlement is represented by eighty tenants with an area of 10,977 acres 1 rood, at a yearly rental of £4,117 17s., including twenty-eight miscellaneous licenses over 194 acres and 23 perches, at £16 14s. 10d. yearly. Two small sections were forfeited and redealt with during the year. The only area now unlet is a small one of 2 acres and 27 perches, the annual value of which is £1 16s. 10d. The year's receipts amounted to £5,508 2s. 1d., as against £4,520 9s. 7d. the previous year, bringing up the total from inception to £27,936 4s. 11d. Rebates to the extent of £312 0s. 9d. were given to forty-two lessees. Value of improvements required £15,650 8s. 11d., now on the land £18,260 14s. 6d.; number of houses, 45; souls resident, 187. The subjoined report by Ranger Atkinson fully describes the favourable circumstances and prospects of this settlement: "The Tokarahi Estate is in a very flourishing condition. The crops have been very much above the average, while some of the individual yields have been records. I believe the average yield of wheat will be as high as 40 bushels per acre. The oats are not such a good crop, and the average yield will not be nearly so good as last year. The turnip-crop is good, although it suffered somewhat from a check received at the beginning of the year owing to dry weather. A large quantity of hay has been secured, so that stock will be well provided for during the winter months. The number of suppliers to the creamery of Tokarahi is steadily increasing, and those who are going in for dairying see the necessity of properly caring for the cows during the cold weather. Several new and up-to-date byres have been erected, without which it is now recognised that dairying cannot be a success. Like other parts of North Otago, Tokarahi is an ideal country for the raising of wool and fat lambs. Large numbers of freezing-lambs are annually raised and keenly competed for by the rival companies, resulting in very high prices being obtained—in many cases as high as 14s. per head. The seasons of late years have quite put the settlers on their feet again; they have now recovered from the disastrous droughts which were experienced during the first two years of their occupancy of the land. They seem to be now firmly established, and I do not think there need be any fear regarding the future of the estate."

Janefield.—The improvement in the position of this settlement is very pronounced, and its prospects much better than they were. The homestead allotment, to which reference was made in last year's report, has been handed over to the Department of Agriculture and no longer appears in the list of leaseholds, of which there are twenty with an area of 133 acres 2 roods 37 perches at £222 13s. per annum. The ten acres of the homestead allotment have been added to the area in the reserves column. The receipts amounted to £214 9s., the total to date being £980 2s. 11d. A sum of £6 9s. 5d. was granted in rebates to fourteen lessees. Value of improvements required £987 17s. 10d., now on the land (largely representing dwellinghouses) £3,274 10s.; number of houses, 27; souls resident, 91. The following is a very satisfactory report by Ranger O'Neill: "A number of the settlers on Janefield are employed at the Mosgiel Woollen-factory, a few are railway surfacemen, and some are labourers engaged among the surrounding farmers. All are now getting their holdings into a better state of cultivation, though for the first year or two they were greatly troubled with noxious weeds. Everything is now in a most satisfactory condition, and each holding contains a substantial house and fencing. Now that the initial expenses of making a home have been tided over, the tenants' prospects are good, and they have no special requirements. Plenty of employment is to be had in the surrounding district, and good wages are obtainable. The condition of this settlement now, as compared with that existing when first selected, shows a very marked improvement. The noxious weeds are being kept in check, and in many cases eradicated, while a high state of cultivation prevails everywhere. The conditions of the various leases are being satisfactorily complied with."

Elderslie.—The same number of tenants as last year occupy this now well-established settlement which has just recovered from its initial difficulties, there being thirty-three lessees, whose leases embrace a total area of 11,506 acres 3 roods 8 perches, and who pay a yearly rental of £4,126 19s. 4d. Included in these holdings are eight miscellaneous licenses over an area of 245 acres 2 roods 35 perches at £18 8s. 10d. yearly. The receipts for the year amounted to £5,076 3s. 5d., as against £4,315 5s. 5d. the previous year; the total from the beginning now amounting to £15,693 15s. The rebates granted during the year amounted to £343 1s. to twenty-five lessees. Value of improvements required £4,108 10s. 6d., now on the land £9,678 0s. 10d.; number of houses, 24; souls resident, 80. The details furnished by Ranger Atkinson in the following report show that the outlook of this settlement is much brighter than it has hitherto been: "On the Elderslie Estate

everything is going on satisfactorily, and the settlers have had a successful year. This, of course, is owing mainly to the favourable season just past. This property will never stand a drought. Elderslie has been fortunate in that respect. During the four years of its existence every season has been suitable, consequently everything connected with the estate is in a thriving condition. Nearly all the allotments on the property are fairly large areas, and being in the hands of men of the right class contributes in a great measure to the success of any settlement. The total improvements on the estate last year amounted to £7,811. This year the improvements amount to £9,678, an increase of £1,867; excess over statutory requirements of £5,570. There is an increase of over 600 acres in cultivation. The wheat-crops have yielded splendid returns, in some cases well over 40 bushels per acre. The oat-crop has not yielded so well. The hot and dry weather of January and the early part of February ripened the crop before it had fully matured. The same weather checked the growth of the turnips, but the rains of the latter part of February brought them away again, but the crop is not so good as it otherwise would have been. Most of the settlers stock their holdings with sheep, and combine the growing of wool and lambs for freezing with grain-growing. This property, as I have pointed out, will not long stand the droughts which periodically affect North Otago, but given seasons such as we have experienced during the last few years and the prosperity of Elderslie is assured."

Barnego.—The area unlet on this estate has been increased from 1,006 acres and 5 perches to 1,556 acres 2 roods 19 perches, one of the allotments having been declared forfeited for breach of conditions and not having yet been reselected. The yearly value of this unlet area is £176 19s. 4d. The total area now under lease is 5,497 acres 1 rood 31 perches by twenty selectors at an annual rental of £1,264 13s. 2d. Some small sums have been received during the year for the right of grazing on the unlet area. The total receipts for the year amounted to £1,271 17s. 2d., being slightly in excess of last year's receipts, and the total from inception now amounts to £4,793 12s. 4d. Rebates were granted to seventeen lessees to the extent of £91 18s. 6d. Value of improvements required £1,157 12s. 10d., now on the land £5,480; number of houses, 31; souls resident, 64. There have been a number of difficulties and disadvantages with which the settlers in this settlement have had to contend, and which have militated against the complete success of the year's operations. Some of these are still a matter of concern to a number of the tenants, and Ranger O'Neill, in a somewhat lengthy report, deals with them pretty fully as follows: "Settlement on the Barnego Estate may be divided into two classes, since from the nature of the soil and the varying altitudes of the different parts of the estate different ways of farming prevail. On that part adjoining the Clutha River where the land is level and composed of deep alluvial soil, the settlers are all engaged in dairying, cultivating nothing except what is absolutely necessary to grow sufficient winter feed. The past year has been a very successful one with these settlers. After a severe winter, spring came in early with a luxuriant growth of grass, which gave an early and abundant supply of milk. The cold weather of the early part of November gave the grass a slight set-back, but already there was a good supply, and the cattle were in good condition, hence the effects of that cold snap were not much felt. During the months of January and February the weather was very dry, and the grass then began to go off somewhat, but in early March heavy rain fell for some days, and though the flood that followed did considerable damage by depositing silt on the grass and root crop, still it must be recognised that the rain was indispensable, and that the deposit of silt will result in ultimate good. On the whole, the condition of the settlers on the flat is most favourable, and they have made excellent progress during the past year. While the dairying industry maintains its present position their prospects are very good. They have good roads, they are near a factory and railway-station, and they have no further requirements. With regard to the settlers on the higher-lying or ridge sections their position is not so good. They are all engaged in mixed farming—keeping a number of sheep, and breaking up each year a proportion of their holdings for oat and turnip crops. The harvest of 1903 was very wet, and consequently very late. The oat-crops were more or less damaged, and the samples offered for sale were poor, being soft and badly matured. The root-crops were fair, however, and helped to carry the stock through the severe winter. The early spring was also a great help, and this year there has been an abundance of feed. The turnip-crops on the whole are good, and the oat-crops, which are slightly discoloured, will produce from 35 to 45 bushels per acre. Unfortunately, the price promising for oats is not high; and this, combined with the fact that most samples will be more or less discoloured, will mean a loss to these settlers. Generally speaking, however, they are hopeful as to the future, and their holdings are in good condition. As long as the high price of stock continues their prospects are fair. They have good roads, metalled in most cases, and they are within easy distance of the railway. As each section is fairly large, each lessee is wholly employed on his farm, and in the future more attention is likely to be given to sheep-raising, since oat-growing under ruling prices is altogether unprofitable. The Clutha River has been for some years making severe inroads on the north-west part of the Barnego Flat. This is rather a serious matter, because the land is of such good quality—probably second to none in the district. Some extent of protective work was done about a year ago, and willows were planted along the river-bank. These willows have grown splendidly, and, notwithstanding the fact that the river strikes heavily against them, and that during the late flood the river was right over them for some hours, not even the smallest portion of the bank gave way. Those parts, however, that were unprotected by willows were much cut down, and would require attention at an early date. The lessees of the sections damaged recognise the value of the protective works already made, and they are quite prepared to give a good deal of assistance in the event of future work being done."

Earnscleugh.—This settlement comprises twelve holdings over 1,226 acres 2 roods 17 perches at £171 1s. yearly rental. Two of these with an area of 953 acres 2 roods 38 perches at £121 13s. are held as homestead-sites for the working of the adjoining pastoral runs known as "Earns-

cleugh." There are also included in the twelve holdings two miscellaneous licenses over 4 acres 3 roods 17 perches at 17s. 6d. yearly. The remaining eight small holdings are principally held for fruit-growing purposes, and substantial progress is being made thereon. Receipts for the year £169 11s. 10d. total to date £455 3s. 7d.; rebate granted to seven selectors, £4 1s. 4d.; value of improvements required £799, now on the land £1,435 2s. 9d.; houses, 16; souls resident, 49. Ranger O'Neill's report, dealing chiefly with the fruit-growing areas, is as follows: "This settlement is making satisfactory progress. Most of the settlers are engaged in dredging and other mining industries, but in their spare time they give their attention to their holdings. Each settler has a number of fruit-trees and every year the numbers of trees are increasing. Fruit-growing is, apparently, going to be the staple industry of this district; and gradually all lands capable of irrigation are being planted with fruit-trees. So much time must elapse before fruit-trees come to profit that settlers such as those on Earnscleugh must have some means of making a living while their trees are coming to profitable bearing. The trees already planted are doing remarkably well. The improvements effected on the small areas are valued at £679 10s., the value of improvements necessary being £43 4s. 6d. The total value of improvements on the settlement, including the homesteads, is £1,435 2s. 9d.

Windsor Park No. 1.—The area under lease in this settlement has been reduced by 10 acres 3 roods 10 perches, one of the allotments having been surrendered and taken as a reserve for police purposes. There is, therefore, one selector less, the number now being thirty-seven, holding 3,803 acres 3 roods 25 perches at an annual rental of £1,647 16s. 10d. The receipts were £1,847 19s. 1d., the total to date, £2.966 7s. 11d. No rebates were allowed in respect of this estate, its circumstances and reasonable rental being considered so favourable as not to call for such concession. Value of improvements required £810 12s. 4d., now on the land £3,142 7s. 2d.; number of houses, 21; souls resident, 68. From Ranger Atkinson's report which deals with both Windsor Park settlements together, and which follows the notes with regard to Windsor Park No. 2., it will be seen that the settlers have had a fairly successful year, and that the prospects of the settlement are encouraging.

Windsor Park No. 2.—There is no alteration in the number of settlers or area occupied in this settlement which is held by ten lessees, the acreage being 2,177 acres 2 roods 11 perches, and the annual rental £875 16s. 8d. The year's receipts £724 18s. 4d., total to date £1.162 14s. 7d.; rebates to six selectors, £27 4s. 4d.; value of improvements required £437 18s. 6d., now on the land £1,105 2s. 9d.; houses, 8; souls resident, 28. The position of this settlement, like that of No. 1, is favourable and its prospects hopeful. The following is the Ranger's report on both Nos. 1 and 2: "The Windsor Park settlements are making good progress in every respect. The value of improvements on the land last year amounted to £2,928, this year £4,247, an advance of £1,319 or an excess over requirements of £2,999, which, considering that a number of the small holders about Ngapara have not been called upon to build (they having already homes in the township within a mile of their sections) may be held to be very satisfactory. There is 1,460 acres more in cultivation than last year, principally wheat and oats. The wheat-crop has turned out very well, and is quite up to expectations. The oat-crop, like that throughout North Otago, has been disappointing, being light and thin in the grain. The root-crops, although they suffered from checked growth on account of the dry weather at the beginning of the year, are nevertheless a fairly good crop, and will stand a fair amount of feeding. The grass is also plentiful, which will enable the creameries to carry on well into the winter. This property is well-off in that respect; one creamery being established at Ngapara, one at Windsor, and one at Enfield. They are proving a great boon to the settlers. They are very central, and are taken advantage of by settlers on Elderslie, as well as Windsor Park Nos. 1 and 2. On the larger holdings the settlers go in for wool and raising fat lambs for the freezing, while the smaller holders are engaged in dairying. All the conditions are being fairly well carried out, and, owing to the settlers on this and adjoining estates being well served by railway and good roads, there need be no fear as to the future of these settlements."

Duncan.—The whole of this settlement is now under lease, a portion, however, being on temporary license. The area is 632 acres 3 roods 4 perches, and the present rental £227 16s. 4d; year's receipts £122 8s. 1d., total to date £208 6s. 5d.; rebates, £8 15s. 7d. to four lessees; value of improvements required £76 3s. 4d; now on the land £786 3s. 6d.; houses, 4; souls resident, 10. The difficulty with regard to Canadian thistle is gradually being overcome, and it is hoped that in this and other respects the settlement will soon be in a more favourable condition. A fair measure of success has attended the year's operations, in respect of which Ranger O'Neill furnishes particulars and details in the following report: "Very fair progress has been made by the various lessees during the past year. The Canadian thistle which was so much in evidence at selection has given a lot of trouble, but it is satisfactory to learn that continued cutting at proper seasons promises its total eradication in a short time. The gorse hedges—and there are many chains of them—were in a very bad state at the time of selection, but very good work has been done in getting these into a proper condition. A dairy factory is on the estate, and each tenant is a milk-supplier. The crops this year were decidedly poor, but that may be accounted for by the fact that the estate had been heavily cropped for some years by the late owner. The general intention of the settlers is to go in for dairying and stock-raising, and with that end in view they are gradually getting their holdings down in grass. This will have the effect of giving the land a chance of rest and renewal, besides promising a more profitable occupation, since the ruling prices of grain are so low. There are good roads in this locality, and the proximity to Dunedin brings a ready market for all produce. Generally speaking, this settlement promises well. A good lot of tenants are in occupation, and they all appear determined to be successful, if hard work and attention to details will give success. The conditions of the various leases have been complied with."

St. Helen's—This, the last-acquired estate in this district, was formerly known as "Kenton Farm." Reference was made to it in my last report as being about to be opened for selection. It

adjoins the Elderslie Settlement, and was opened on the 29th June, 1903, when some seventy-one applications were received for the three allotments into which it was divided. The total area is 547 acres 3 roods 20 perches, and it is held by three selectors, the annual rent being £224 11s., and the receipts for the year exactly equalled the amount of the annual rental. Value of improvements, £226 14s. 9d; number of houses, 3; souls resident, 6. Of this settlement, which is likely to prove in every way thoroughly successful, Ranger Atkinson remarks as follows: "This settlement is just in the first year of its existence. All the settlers are residing on the land. They have not done much cropping, the land in the meantime being used principally for grazing purposes, but the soil being of good quality there is no doubt that the settlement will be as successful as the Elderslie Estate adjoining."

Summary.

The following is a summary of the details given in the foregoing report, with additional information as to cropping: Number of settlements or estates, 18. Area opened for selection (lease in perpetuity) for first time, 548 acres; previously opened, 677 acres: 1,225 acres. Taken up during the year (lease in perpetuity), 11 selectors. 1,744 acres. Forfeitures and surrenders (lease in perpetuity), 6 selectors, 681 acres. Transfers (lease in perpetuity), 33 selectors, 5,115 acres. Number of holdings, including miscellaneous licenses, 470; total area, 62,563 acres. Average acreage per holding, 133 acres and 18 perches. Area unlet at the 31st March, 1904, 3,855 acres. Value of unlet area, £531 9s. Gross annual rental of occupied land, £20,703 15s. 10d. Receipts during the year, £24.493 0s. 11d.; total receipts from inception, £118,424 19s. 6d. Rebates granted during year, £1,296 16s. 3d; total rebates granted to date, £2,604 19s. 11d. Arrears at the 31st March, exclusive of current half-year, 19 selectors, £396 9s.; inclusive of current half-year. 71 selectors, £1,934 18s. Value of improvements at the 31st March. £92,132 8s. 5d. Number of dwellinghouses erected on land, 402. Number of souls resident, 1,282. Areas under cultivation—Oats, 7,022 acres; wheat, 6,007 acres; barley, 358 acres; root-crops, 3,355 acres: total, 16,742 acres.

With reference to the items, annual rental, receipts, arrears, improvements effected, number of dwellinghouses, number of souls resident, and total area under cultivation, in the foregoing summary, the following comparison with the similar items of 1902–3 may not be uninteresting:—

	1902–3.	1903–4.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Annual rental	20,194 16 8	20,703 15 10
Receipts	19,617 6 6	24,493 0 11
Arrears, exclusive of current half-year ...	1,654 16 11	396 9 0
„ inclusive of current half-year ...	6,895 0 0	1,934 18 0
Improvements effected	83,348 16 8	92,332 8 5
Number of dwellinghouses	299	402
Number of souls resident	1,197	1,282
Total area under cultivation	14,006 acres.	16,742 acres.

This comparison must be regarded with satisfaction, not only on account of the substantial increases in those items that show the progress made, &c., but also in the marked decrease in the amount of outstanding payments. I may add, in respect of the improvements on the land, that their value is in excess of statutory requirements by the sum of £37,678.

General Remarks.

The steps mentioned in last year's report as having been taken with the view of securing a strict compliance with the cropping conditions are working to great advantage, which will become more apparent in the near future. In reviewing the whole system under the Land for Settlements Acts, there can be no doubt as to its great value in promoting settlement, more especially where the lands are acquired at moderate prices. Blocks of land capable of producing good average crops in localities convenient to markets are always eagerly sought after by a much larger number of persons than can be satisfied. There is a marked difference in some of the estates, according to locality and climatic advantages or disadvantages, as, for instance, those estates in north Otago, where the land is of such excellent quality, as a rule, are much more prosperous and hopeful than some in the south. Yet the prices of the latter are much below those of the former. The productive qualities of the land must always be a first consideration in the acquirement of lands for subdivision into small allotments for close settlement, coupled, of course, with prices such as will admit of their being leased at workable rentals. Looking at the settlements in this district as a whole in the light of the details and information furnished in this report, it must, I think, be apparent that their progress, present position, and future prospects are alike satisfactory and encouraging.

D. Barron,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

SOUTHLAND.

Lands opened for Sale and Selection.

During the twelve months ending the 31st March, 1904, 23,994 acres were opened for sale or lease for the first time, and 160,662 acres previously opened were again offered for sale or selection, as shown by the table hereunder;—

—	Optional System.	Cash by Auction.	Lease by Auction and Application.	Village Allotments.	Pastoral Runs.	Small Grazing-runs.	Lease in Perpetuity only.	Totals.
			Ordinary Crown Lands.					
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
First time ...	...	...	868	...	14,500	...	8,626	23,994
Previously ...	51,802	132	3,165	293	93,788	3,143	6,837	159,160
Total ...	51,802	132	4,033	293	108,288	3,143	15,463	183,154
			Land for Settlements.					
First time ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Previously ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,502	1,502

The ordinary Crown lands opened for the first time comprised one pastoral run of 14,500 acres in Mason and Anglem Districts, Stewart Island, which was taken up by a resident on the island, and 5,799 acres of mostly bush land in Blocks XIII. and XIV., Waiau Survey District, opened as unsurveyed land under "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903," of which 1,350 acres were selected.

In Block XIX., Longwood Survey District, 2,827 acres surveyed land were opened on lease in perpetuity only, of which 1,807 acres were selected.

Besides the unsurveyed land above mentioned opened under the provisions of "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903," 49,800 acres of lands open to selection in the "Land Guide" were reclassified and reopened under that Act on the 2nd March, 1904; only 1,552 acres of these lands were selected before the close of the financial year.

It is too early just yet to make any forecast as to the probable effect of the Act upon settlement and revenue.

Of the lands previously held, those opened on the optional, and lease-in-perpetuity-only systems comprise 53,470 acres of land reopened at a reduced price, as a result of the revision of the "Land Guide" so far as related to lands of poor quality which had remained unselected for a number of years, and which were referred to in my report for the year ending the 31st March, 1903. The total area revalued and reopened in consequence of this revision is 56,008 acres, of which 7,965 acres have been selected.

The balance of the land reopened on the optional and other settlement tenures consisted of lands forfeited or surrendered for various causes. The 93,788 acres of pastoral land reoffered comprised six runs, the licenses of which had expired.

Compared with the preceding financial year, the last year's operations show an increase of 23,259 acres of ordinary Crown lands opened for sale or selection.

Lands Disposed of.

The following tabulated statement shows the land transactions during the past financia year:—

Summary of Land Transactions, 1903–4.

Nature of Selections, &c.	Transactions during the Year.		Area held under Lease at 31st March, 1904.		Gross Revenue received during the Year.
	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	
		A. R. P.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Cash	21	1,299 3 32	...	...	623 11 3
Deferred payments	...	...	57	13,451 3 26	387 12 10
Deferred payments made freehold	5	218 0 9	...	...	...
Perpetual leases	...	...	78	13,789 3 23	532 3 2
Perpetual leases made freehold	4	587 1 15	...	...	524 0 9
Occupation with right of purchase	23	4,957 2 6	248	53,334 0 34	1,302 0 5
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	5	940 1 3	...	...	736 7 3
Lease in perpetuity	22	9,116 2 32	251	76,537 3 13	1,903 6 6
Occupation leases (Mining Districts Land Occupation Act)	4	80 0 9	47	1,590 3 32	242 18 1
Village settlements—					
Deferred payments ...	...	...	9	193 2 5	22 4 6
Deferred payments made freehold	1	12 0 8	...	...	...
Perpetual leases	...	...	94	1,292 1 5	188 16 6
Perpetual leases made freehold	7	102 1 31	...	...	268 8 6
Occupation with right of purchase	...	...	3	3 0 24	2 13 6
Lease in perpetuity ...	12	217 1 29	263	4,077 0 29	355 18 10

LANDS DISPOSED OF—*continued.*

Summary of Land Transactions, 1903–4—continued.

Nature of Selections, &c.	Transactions during Year.		Areas held at 31st March, 1904.		Gross Revenue received during the Year.
	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	
		A. R. P.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Lease in perpetuity (exchanged from other tenures)	2	15 0 0	...	...	...
Village-homestead special settlement	...	...	51	553 1 24	146 4 0
Improved-farm settlement ...	3	324 3 14	43	5,100 2 1	394 12 6
Small grazing-runs	1	3,143 0 0	19	64,436 0 13	759 17 10
Pastoral runs	5	124,325 0 0	90	1,379,392 1 0	3,394 12 4
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	49	3,228 1 11	328	44,761 1 33	1,037 13 10
Timber-cutting	...	2,666,465 s. ft.	...	...	1,634 7 4
Other miscellaneous revenue ...	...	...	...	...	322 4 3
Total ordinary Crown lands	164	148,567 3 39	1,591	1,658,514 2 22	14,779 14 2
Land for settlements—					
Lease in perpetuity ...	6	1,128 2 18	84	22,334 3 29	3,429 7 1
Small grazing-runs... ...	1	1,658 1 0	2	2,808 1 0	90 18 8
Miscellaneous	5	1,148 2 24	12	3,651 1 1	525 4 7
Total land for settlements	12	3,935 2 2	98	28,794 1 30	4,045 10 4
Endowments ...	...	...	71	51,138 1 26	1,844 12 2
Grand Total ...	176	152,503 2 1	1,760	1,738,447 1 38	20,669 16 8

REVIEW OF THE SEVERAL SYSTEMS OF TENURE.

Cash Lands.

Thirty purchases of land for cash were made during the year, eight being selections under Part III. of "The Land Act, 1892," for a total area of 1,248 acres, value £425 5s. There were thirteen purchases of land sold at auction, comprising an area of 52 acres, value £198 6s. 3d. Four perpetual leases under "The Land Act, 1885," were made freehold, the area therein being 587 acres, value £524, and five occupation-with-right-of-purchase licenses under "The Land Act, 1892," were converted into freeholds, the area being 940 acres and value £736 7s. 3d. The total area purchased was 2,827½ acres, value £1,883 19s. 3d., as against 1,168 acres, value £1,247 10s. 3d., purchased by twenty-seven persons during the previous financial year.

Deferred-payment Lands.

Beyond the completion of purchase of the land held under five deferred-payment licenses no alteration has taken place since the 31st March, 1903, there having been no forfeitures, surrenders, or exchanges, but one selector is in arrear as compared with four last year. The area made freehold is 218 acres.

The total number of selectors now holding under this system is fifty-seven, the area held being 13,452 acres. All these selectors are doing well, and have made improvements far in excess of the values required.

Perpetual-lease Lands.

Under this system four lessees have exercised the right of acquiring the freehold of the lands comprised in their leases, amounting to an area of 587 acres. There were no exchanges or surrenders during the year; two leases were forfeited, the area thereof being 710 acres.

The net area now held is 13,790 acres, the number of lessees being seventy-eight, a decrease of 1,297 acres in area, and six in number of lessees as compared with the previous year. Only one lessee under this system is in arrear with rent for a small amount.

Occupation with Right of Purchase.

During the year twenty-three selections were made, comprising an area of 4,957 acres, which shows a decrease of five in the number of selections, and of 689 acres in area, as compared with the previous year. The freehold of the land comprised in five licenses (area, 940 acres) was acquired, these being the first in this district after the expiry of the time-limit of ten years, some of the land being on Stewart Island, which is now wholly included in the Otago Mining District, and consequently no more land in it will be opened on the optional system. The licenses of nine lessees were forfeited for non-payment of rent; area, 1,061 acres. The net area now held on this system by 248 selectors is 53,334 acres, showing an increase in number of selecters of nine, and in area of 2,956 acres, as compared with the year ending the 31st March, 1903. Three selectors are in arrear with rents to the amount of £29 11s. 7d., as against eighteen in the previous year, owing £52 19s. 6d

Lease in Perpetuity (Ordinary).

Twenty-two new selections of an area of 9,116 acres were made, being an increase of nine selectors and 7,030 acres over the previous year. There were three forfeitures and two surrenders during the year; area, 1,858 acres. The total number of selectors is now 251, the area held being 76,538 acres; rental, £1,877. Only three selectors are in arrear to the amount of £24 16s. 9d., while last year seventeen were in arrear for £97 1s. 6d.

Village Settlements (all Tenures).

There are thirty-nine village settlements in this district, in which there are 420 lessees holding 6,119 acres, the total rental of which is £681 13s. 4d. The holdings are distributed as follows amongst the several tenures: Deferred payment—nine selectors, 193 acres 2 roods 5 perches, annual rental £9 17s. 10d.; perpetual lease—ninety-four selectors, 1,292 acres 1 rood 5 perches, annual rental £167 14s. 10d.; occupation with right of purchase—three selectors, 3 acres and 24 perches. Annual rental £1 13s. 2d.; lease in perpetuity—263 selectors, 4,077 acres; annual rental £369 19s. 6d.; village-homestead special settlement—51 selectors, 553 acres 1 rood 24 perches, annual rental £132 8s.

One deferred-payment area of 12 acres, and seven perpetual leaseholds comprising an area of over 102 acres were made freehold. Two exchanges from perpetual lease to lease in perpetuity, area 15 acres. A 1-acre village allotment on occupation with right of purchase, and fourteen leases in perpetuity, containing 207 acres, were forfeited. Twelve new selections on lease in perpetuity for an area of 217 acres were made during the year. Only two selectors out of 420 are in arrear with rent for the amount of £1 6s. 7d. The year's transactions show a decrease of eleven selectors, who held 105 acres.

Of the 6,119 acres occupied by these settlements 3,279 acres are laid down in pasture or cultivated, and the total value of the improvements effected is £25,533, which is about three times the value required. The holdings being small, the average area being about 14½ acres, the majority of the settlers require to obtain work outside the settlements in order to procure a living.

Land for Settlements.

The total number of lessees on the five Settlements holding on lease in perpetuity under the Land for Settlements Acts is the same this year as last, the six new selections being balanced by the same number of forfeitures. The area held is 22,335 acres, there being a decrease of 259 acres, and of £6 4s. 10d. in area and rent as compared with the preceding year. Two leases are held on the small-grazing-run tenure as mentioned under that heading, area 2,808 acres, and there are twelve miscellaneous licenses held over 3,651 acres, making gross totals of ninety-eight lessees, 28,794 acres held, and an annual rental of £3,981 6s. 9d. These figures give an increase of four lessees, 1,974 acres and £142 18s. 6d. as compared with last year.

Merrivale Settlement (Waiau district).—There are forty-eight lessees upon this settlement holding 9,481 acres. The houses on the estate number thirty-nine and are occupied by 177 persons, but one lessee is non-resident, the other eight residing adjoining. The total value of improvements effected is £8,777. The area of cultivated land, in oats and turnips, is estimated at 853 acres. The number of lessees in arrear with rent is five for an amount of £172 11s., as compared with eleven owing £343 17s. 8d. last year. Ranger Campbell reports, "The settlers have made very substantial improvements in the way of buildings, fencing, grassing, &c. There is a cheese-factory and a creamery on the settlement, also a school. On the whole the settlers are progressive and industrious, and almost the whole of them are milking for the dairy factories, and as far as I could ascertain all of them are doing well. . . . The progress and prospects of the settlement are very good. I have every reason to believe that this settlement will in time prove to be one of the best in the Southland district.

Otahu Settlement (Waiau District).—This settlement is in almost the same position as last year, there being four settlers upon it, holding 3,567 acres on lease in perpetuity, the remainder of the land in the settlement being held on grazing license. There are seven persons living on the settlement, being two less than last year. There are no arrears of rent. The area under cultivation is 245 acres, the crops being oats and turnips, and the total value of improvements effected by the lessees is £894. Ranger Campbell reports, "The four settlers on this settlement are making very fair improvements in the way of fencing and cultivation. The settlers are industrious."

Beaumont Settlement (Wairaki District).—There are five selectors on this settlement holding 1,978 acres, four of them have built and are residing, and the fifth is living on an adjoining section; three persons hold grazing licenses over an area of 661 acres, the rest of the settlement, 1,828 acres, is still unlet. The area under cultivation in oats and turnips is 250 acres. The total value of improvements effected is £1,571. Four selectors are in arrear with rent to the amount of £245 8s. 8d., being £68 2s. 3d. in excess of the arrears last year.

Ringway Settlement (Aparima and Jacob's River Hundred).—There are six settlers upon this settlement as against seven last year, one lease having been forfeited—the area now held being 1,859 acres. 277 acres are under cultivation in oats and turnips. The total value of improvements on the sections held is £1,200. There are eight houses upon the settlement, and sixteen persons living upon it. Two lessees are in arrear with rent to the amount of £52. Ranger Campbell reports, "During the year the selectors on this settlement have made fair progress in the way of improvements such as buildings, fencing, draining, and ploughing. There are no industries in the immediate vicinity of the settlement, a few of the selectors work outside of their holding during the summer months at road-making. Progress fair, employment good."

Glenham Settlement (Wyndham District).—Upon this settlement there are now twenty-three selectors, holding leases in perpetuity covering an area of 5,477 acres, and two holding small-grazing-run leases, area 2,808 acres, besides which 505 acres are held on temporary grazing license

by four lessees. The total area held is 8,790 acres, an increase of 2,562 acres on the preceding year. Five hundred and ninety-four acres are under cultivation in oats and turnips. The total value of improvements effected is £2,355. There are twenty houses on the settlement, in which 113 persons are residing. There are no arrears of rent. There are seven unselected sections on the settlement, containing 3,592 acres; these are looked after by Mr. A. Cameron, who has proved a very efficient caretaker. He attends to the agisting of stock, repairs fences, &c., and values the flax when flax-cutting rights are applied for. The amount received for grazing stock during the year is £301 11s. 4d., and £15 was received for two rights to cut flax. Ranger Campbell reports, "The selectors are making fair progress with improvements such as buildings, fencing, and cultivation. Crops, chiefly oats and turnips; the yield of oats is very light, only giving from 15 to 20 bushels per acre on many of the sections. The cheese-factory of the estate has been closed, as the land is not suitable for cropping or dairying purposes. The conditions of the selectors is not very promising, progress fair, employment outside their holdings good, industries fair."

Improved-farm Settlements.

Haldane Settlement (Waikawa Survey District).—This settlement is in much the same position as last year, only one section being vacant, the number of settlers sixteen, being the same, and also the area occupied 2,087 acres. The number of residents is increased by ten, the total number now being sixty-nine. The total area grassed is estimated at 1,320 acres, being 67 acres more than last year. The number of cattle grazed is 360. The value of the improvements effected by the lessees during the year is £257.

Ranger Campbell reports, "The land is of very fair quality, on some of the holdings the bush is very heavy, and expensive to clear. The settlers are making fair progress, still their prospects and conditions are none too bright, owing to want of outside employment. A few of the settlers are employed road-making during the summer. Most of them are without means, so cannot do much in the way of improvements."

Waikawa Settlement (Waikawa Survey District).—Only four settlers, holding 776 acres, remain upon this settlement; they are in a poor way, and have made very little improvements during the year, £12 being the value placed upon the improvements by the Ranger. Thirty persons are resident upon the settlement, sixty-six cattle graze upon it. The total area grassed is 714 acres, but no new land has been grassed this year. As there are eight sections containing 908 acres vacant in this settlement, and there is no probability of their being taken up on this tenure, the land being rough and broken and needing to be held in larger areas than allowed on an improved-farm settlement, the Land Board recently decided to recommend the Government to withdraw these vacant sections from the settlement and open them on ordinary tenure.

Papatotara Settlement (Alton Survey District).—The whole of the land in this settlement is occupied by fifteen selectors; area held, 1,628 acres. Seven hundred and ninety-seven acres are in grass, and there are 132 cattle upon the settlement, showing increases of 27 acres in grass and twenty cattle upon last year. The total number of persons residing is fifty-seven, being a decrease of three as compared with the previous year. The improvements made during the year are valued at £165 10s. Ranger Campbell reports, "Most of the land on this settlement is of a superior quality. With the exception of one or two, the settlers are making very little progress. The settlers are partly working outside their holdings, road-making and cutting railway sleepers and telegraph-posts. One or two of the settlers are making improvements in the shape of clearing and fencing."

Moturimu Settlement (Campbelltown Hundred).—There are eight selectors on this settlement holding 609 acres, the total number of persons residing on it being fifty-one, an increase of five over last year. One section of 48 acres is still vacant. The total area grassed is 176 acres, and there are thirty-nine cattle possessed by the settlers. Only 1½ acres have been felled, and 1½ acres grassed during the year, value £5.

Endowment Lands.

The following endowment lands are administered by the Southland Land Board. 17,310 acres belonging to the Otago School Commissioners, comprised in five deferred-payment licenses: twenty-eight perpetual leases, one occupation with right of purchase, and twenty-eight leases in perpetuity. There are no arrears on any of these holdings. The Bluff Harbour Board endowments comprise a total area of 33,828 acres, divided into three small grazing-runs, five pastoral runs, and one miscellaneous lease. The three small-grazing-run lessees are in arrear to the amount of £89 15s. 7d.

The total area of endowment lands administered by the Land Board is 51,138 acres, held by seventy-one lessees, the rental payable being £1,273 12s. The revenue received during the year amounted to £1,844 12s. 2d., the excess over rent payable being partly due to the large amount of arrears gathered in during the financial year—the arrears last year being £222 18s. 3d., as against the £89 15s. 7d. above mentioned—and the completion of purchase by two deferred-payment holders.

"The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894."

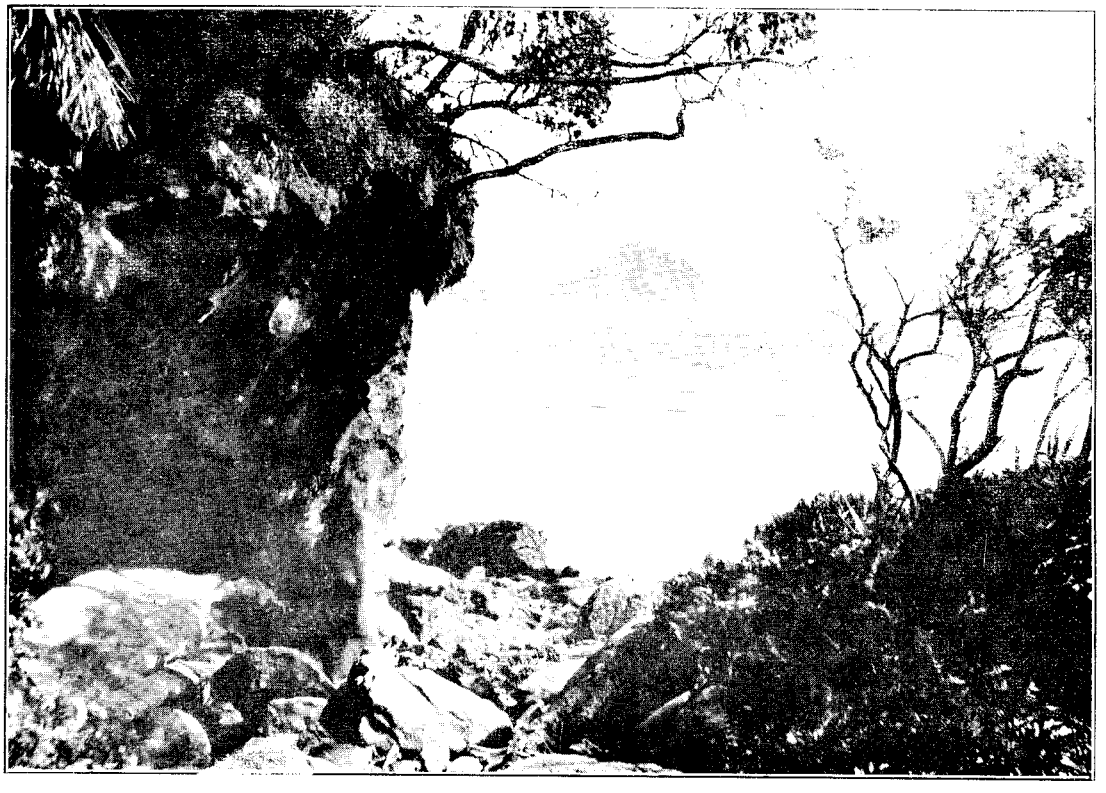
Four selections, comprising an area of 80 acres, were made under this tenure during the year, as compared with eight of an area of 437 acres last year.

A considerable check to dealings under this Act in the Longwood District has been caused by the discovery that a large area of land over which leases had been granted and applications received had not been withdrawn from State-forest reservation as was supposed, and consequently no further applications for leases over land within a State forest could be received. Many of those who had made applications, or desired to make them, had previously held the land under licenses under "The Mining Act, 1891," and had made considerable improvements thereon, but they are now debarred from obtaining a lease under any permanent tenure until these lands are withdrawn from State-forest reservation. It is hoped this will be done during the ensuing session of Parliament.



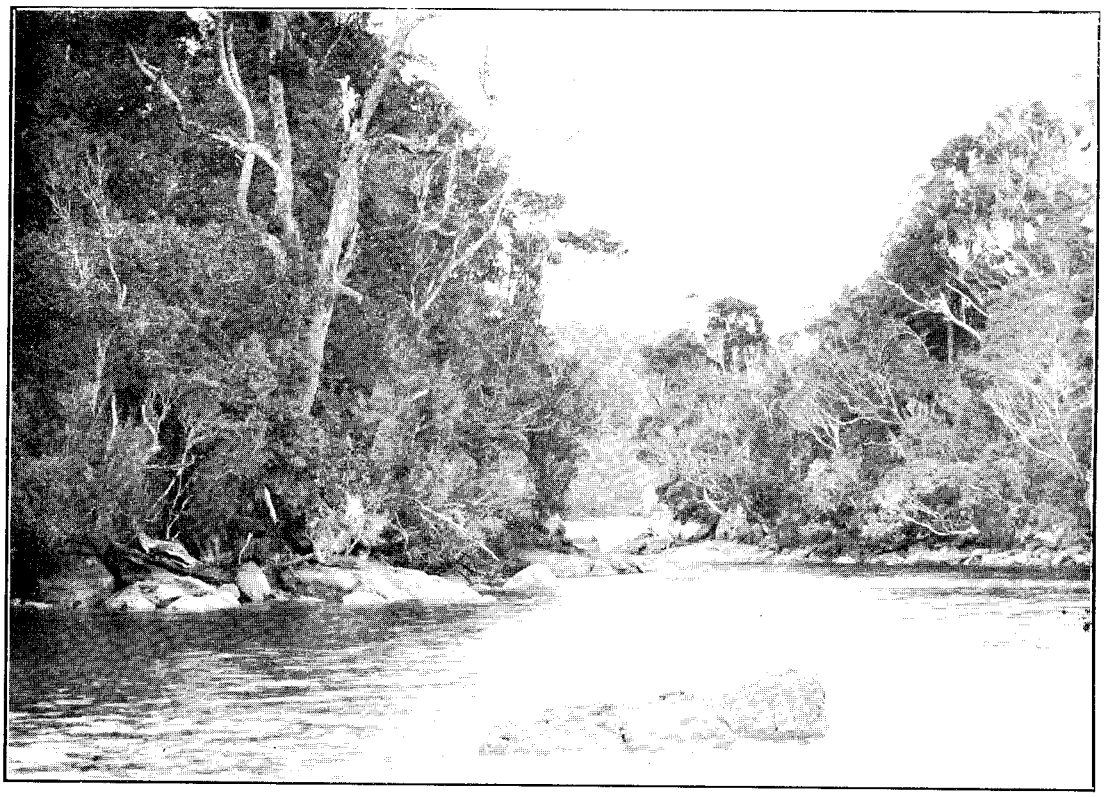
R. A. Edwards, photo.

RITA COVE, BELOW PORT PEGASUS, STEWART ISLAND.



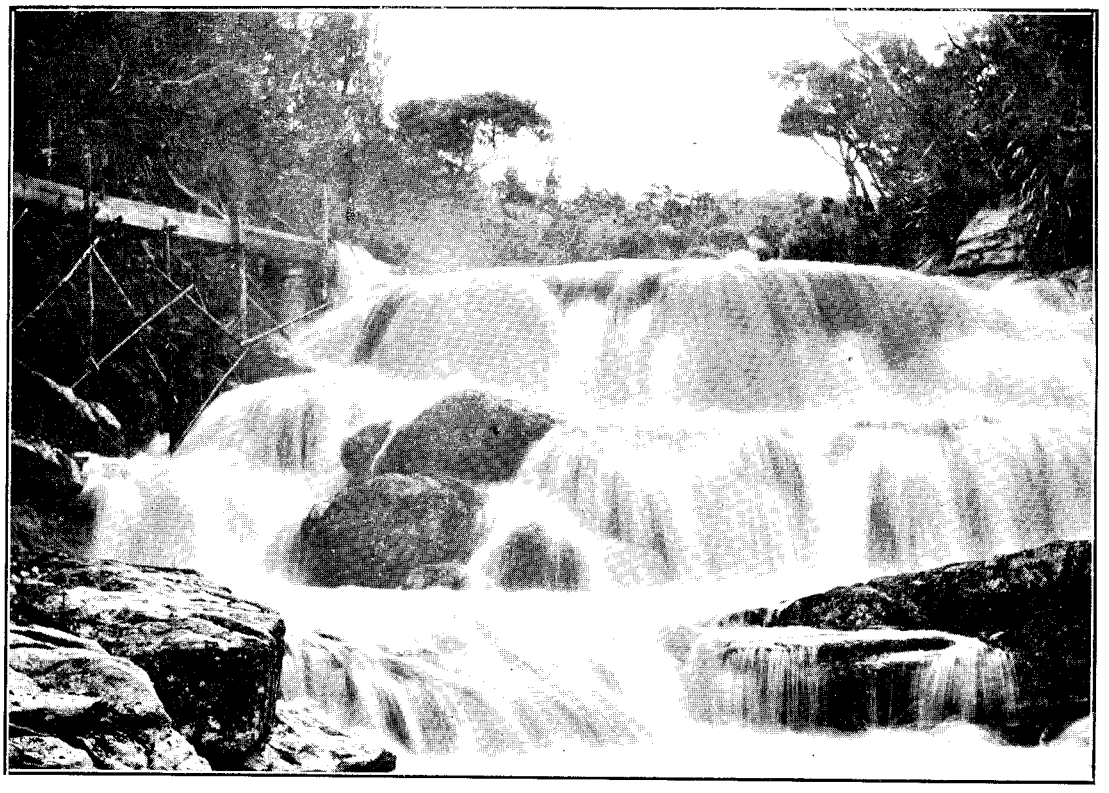
R. A. Edwards, photo.

BROAD BAY, PORT PEGASUS, STEWART ISLAND.



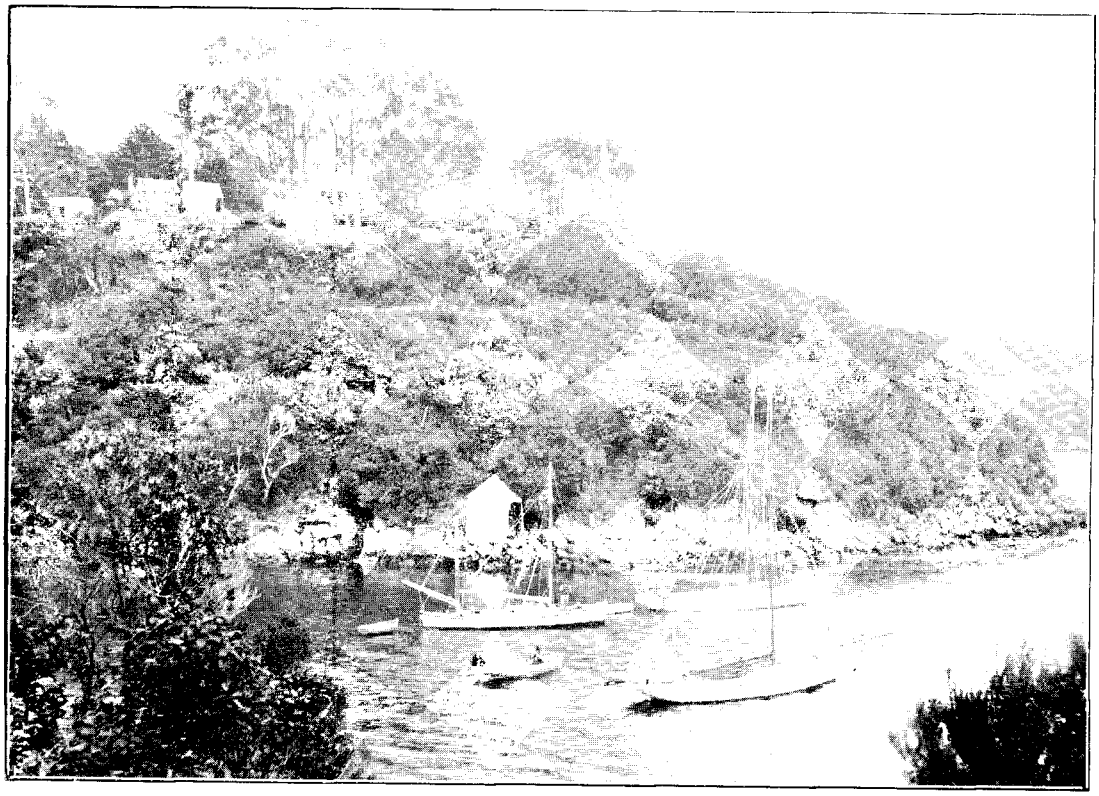
R. A. Edwards, photo.

IN KAIPIPI BAY, PATERSON INLET, STEWART ISLAND.



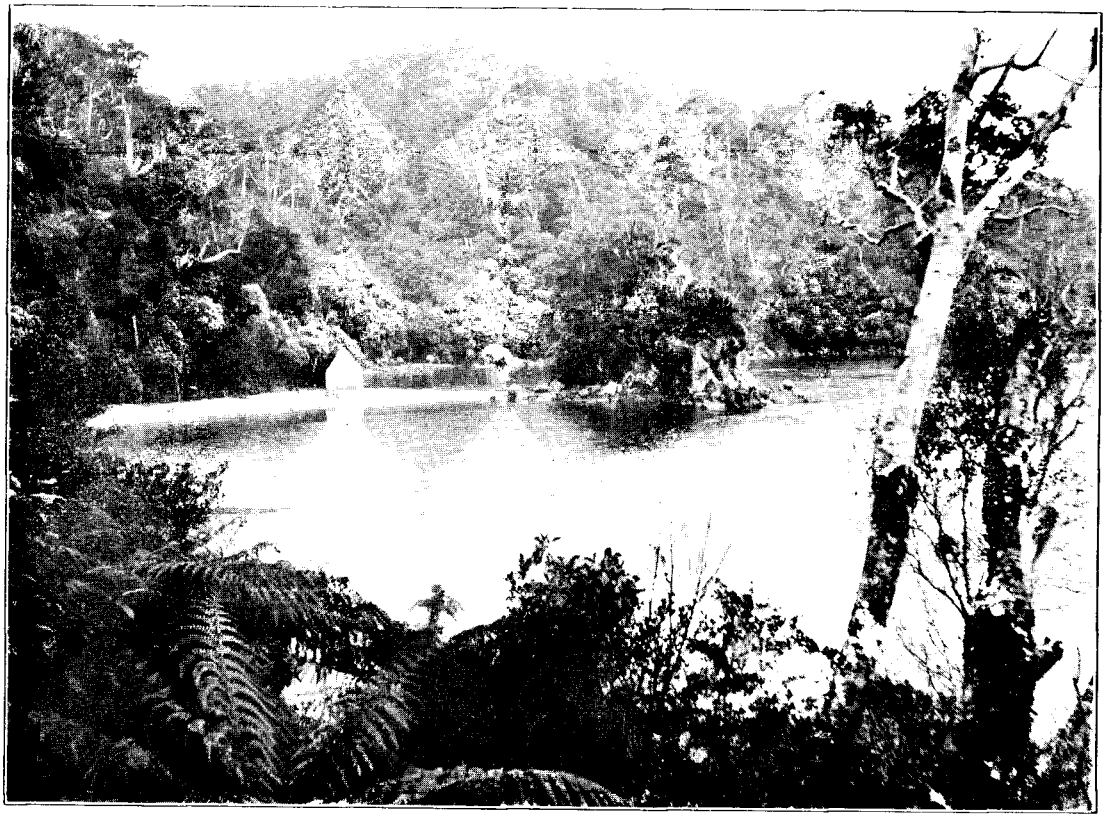
R. A. Edwards, photo.

FALLS AT PORT PEGASUS, STEWART ISLAND.



R. A. Edwards, photo

LEASK'S BAY, NEAR HORSE-SHOE BAY, STEWART ISLAND.



R. A. Edwards, photo.

GOLDEN BAY, PATERSON INLET, STEWART ISLAND.

The total area held under this tenure is 1,591 acres, the number of lessees being forty-seven, an increase of three over last year, but one lessee is in arrear with rent.

One lease containing 105 acres was surrendered.

Small Grazing-runs.

One ordinary run of 3,143 acres, and the remaining small grazing-run on Glenham Settlement 1,658 acres, were selected during the year. There were no forfeitures or surrenders. The net area held as ordinary small grazing-runs is 64,436 acres, the number of lessees being nineteen, and total annual rental £735 17s. 10d.

There are two small grazing-runs held under the Land for Settlements Act on the Glenham Settlement, total area 2,808 acres, annual rent £201 7s. 4d., these being the only runs on this tenure in the district.

Two lessees are in arrear for the amount of £47 1s. 2d. Most of the lessees on the ordinary small grazing-runs are residing on their holdings or adjoining; the total value of improvements effected by them being £5,995 10s., which is largely in excess of the requirements. The land on all these runs is mostly stocked with sheep.

Pastoral Runs, Ordinary Crown Lands.

Five pastoral runs containing an area of 124,325 acres were taken up during the year, the annual rental of same being £345. The licenses of five runs expired, area 94,361 acres; one run containing 8,154 acres was forfeited, and one surrendered containing 58,950 acres, making a total of 161,465 acres to be deducted from the area held last year. The total area now held is 1,379,392 acres, carrying a rental of £3,559 13s. payable by ninety licensees. Compared with last year these figures show a decrease in area of 37,140 acres, in rental £97 16s. 4d., and in licensees of two. None of the licensees are in arrear with rent.

Miscellaneous Leases and Licenses.

The number of leases or licenses granted during the year under review is fifty-four, covering an area of 4,376 acres, and carrying an annual rental of £206; they comprise one coal lease, eleven flax-cutting licenses, thirty-seven ordinary licenses, and five under the Land for Settlements Act. The total number of these leases or licenses held is 338 under the Land Act, covering an area of 44,412 acres, annual rental £929 18s. 7d., and twelve under the Land for Settlements Act for an area of 3,651 acres, rental, £138 11s. 3d. Gross totals: 350 lessees, area 48,412 acres, annual rental, £1,068 9s. 10d. There are no arrears under this tenure.

RANGERS' INSPECTIONS.

Ranger Campbell made 383 inspections of settlement holdings during the year, the area of the land inspected being 75,553 acres, the value of the required improvements being £22,963 14s., and the value of the actual improvements £45,094 9s. Besides these inspections he has made a number of special reports for the Land Board, and reported on numerous applications to complete purchase, transfer, surrender, &c. He reports on the general position of the settlers as follows: "The selectors on Crown lands are, on the whole, prosperous, and have made good progress on their holdings during the year; their improvements chiefly consist of buildings, fencing, and cultivation. During my inspections I heard very few complaints; the settlers are progressive and industrious, and seem to be satisfied and contented with their position. From my observations I have every reason to believe that their progress, prospects, industries, and pursuits are very good. With the exception of some work they do on the roads in summer, they are chiefly employed on their holdings, felling and clearing bush, fencing, sowing English grasses, and building. The sawmilling and flax-milling industries also give employment to many of the Crown tenants. Owing to the season being a good one, the selectors are well forward with their work."

Assistant Ranger Forrester made thirteen inspections of settlement holdings covering 3,134 acres, the value of required improvements being £151 17s. 7d., and that of the improvements effected £818 12s.; also a number of inspections of land applied for on grazing or flax licenses, and for the purchase of timber on small areas. He is principally employed in the inspection of sawmill areas and forest generally.

Assistant Ranger Traill made twenty-six inspections on Stewart Island over an area of 4,833 acres, and estimates the value of improvements made at £1,725 10s., the required value being £1,042 9s. He reports upon the condition of settlement, &c., on the island as follows: "The value of improvements effected by selectors for the year is not up to the average. In many instances, however, there are extenuating circumstances, several of the more industrious settlers having to leave their homes in quest of employment. Locally, for the most part of the year there is very little work to be got. It is difficult to get grass to take well, and it is apt to get overrun by inferior native growth. Although the average rainfall does not exceed that of Dunedin or Auckland, the atmosphere on Stewart Island is continuously more moist, which makes a good burn very difficult. The summer season was very dry for this district, but due advantage of it was not taken by settlers. The fishing industry has not been prosperous during the year. Generally speaking the selectors have not been able to better their condition. I have paid due attention to the preservation of the flora and fauna. The two sawmills continue to give employment to a number of men. The conditions on sawmill area No. 353A have been complied with—the output of timber is fair. During the year no serious bush fires have occurred and no trespass on Crown lands has come under my notice. Tracks have been cut to the tops of the two highest hills on the island for the benefit of tourists. A syndicate is being formed to test the Pegasus tinfields, and if successful will be of immense advantage to Stewart Island."

Forfeitures and Surrenders.

The number of forfeitures of ordinary Crown leases during the year was thirty-seven, the area being 11,728 acres; there were five surrenders of leases of the same class of land, including one pastoral run, area 59,891 acres.

The leases of six selectors on Land for Settlements estates were forfeited, area 1,387 acres.

Crown Tenants.

The total number of lessees of all classes is 1,760; last year the number was 1,725, increase 35.

Revenue.

The result of the year's transactions gives a gross revenue of £20,699 16s. 8d., being an increase of £279 13s. 2d. upon that of the previous year. The receipts from ordinary Crown lands show a decrease of £958 9s. 5d. This decrease must in a large measure be attributed to the falling-off in the receipts from State forests and timber licenses; the revenue from State forests being £1,335 5s. 2d. less than the previous year, and from timber licenses £206 16s. 9d. less—a total decrease in these two items of £1,542 1s. 11d. The revenue from land for settlements shows an increase of £944 1s. 8d. on the previous year, and upon endowment lands the increase is £294 1s.

Rebates of Rents.

The following table shows that the benefit of "The Crown Tenants' Rent Rebate Act, 1900," has been taken advantage of by a considerable proportion of the lessees who come within its provisions:—

Rebates granted during the Year 1903–4.

Tenure.	Number.	Amount.	Total Number of Leases.
		£ s. d.	
Deferred payment, rural	42	12 1 3	57
" village	5	0 14 4	9
Perpetual lease	64	36 12 2	78
Occupation-with-right-of-purchase	179	74 7 5	248
Lease-in-perpetuity, rural	167	111 8 6	251
" village-homestead settlements ...	174	23 9 9	263
Land for Settlements	49	160 9 3	84
Totals	680	419 2 8	990
Totals for years 1902–3	597	354 8 4	976
Increase	83	64 14 4	14

Arrears of Rent.

The total number of ordinary Crown lessees is 1,591, of these seventeen, holding 7,552 acres, are in arrear, the amount being £132 0s. 6d.; the respective figures last year having been 1,558 total number, seventy-six lessees in arrear, holding 13,358 acres; and the amount £292 14s. 11d., a reduction of fifty-nine in number in arrear, and £160 14s. 5d. in amount.

Of the seventy-one lessees of endowment lands three are in arrear for the amount of £89 15s. 7d., the same being the position last year.

Upon the lands held under the Land for Settlements Acts the arrears are much heavier in proportion. The total number of lessees of all classes is ninety-eight, and the number in arrear is eleven, the area held by the defaulters being 3,312 acres, and the amount owing £470 3s. Although the amount of arrears is still heavy, the position is better than last year, when sixteen lessees owed £566 12s. 11d.

Taking all tenures the total number of lessees is 1,760, the number in arrear is thirty-one, and the amount due £691 19s. 1d. This must be considered a very satisfactory result of the year's operations.

Office-work.

The total number of letters, telegrams, &c., dealt with during the year by the small clerical staff was 21,500, besides which a considerable amount of work is done daily at the Land Office counter, taking up much of the time of the clerical staff. This counter-work may be attributed to the large area of Crown lands within easy distance from Invercargill, and to the facility with which lessees and others can come into town owing to the number of railway-lines converging towards the town. It is an advantage in that it is conducive to a better understanding with the Crown tenants, most of whom interview me when in the office. Another matter I may refer to is, that owing to the great number of small holdings in this district amongst the total number of 1,760 Crown tenants, a very large amount of work is entailed in proportion to the revenue received.

Scenic and other Reserves.

During the year I have completed my proposals in connection with scenic reserves for preservation of native fauna and flora and other reserves, such as the proposed Sounds National Park, embracing both the mainland and Stewart Island.

The Sounds National Park of 2,500,000 acres includes all the West Coast country within this land district, and it covers probably, from a scenic point of view, scenic grandeur unsurpassed in the colony. The tourist traffic is increasing every year as the grandeur of this wonderland becomes more widely known, and as facilities in the way of better tracks and accommodation are provided. The question of granting sawmill areas within its limits has already arisen—whether it is desirable to do so or not—but as far as is known there is very little timber suitable for sawmilling within its boundaries, and what little there may be will probably be found in small patches in the West Coast sounds. I do not imagine the cutting-out of these would in any way destroy the scenic effect, therefore I would recommend the granting of licenses and encouragement of the sawmilling industry in the Sounds. Further, the milling industry, as I have stated before, would not be detrimental from a scenic point of view, but would rather have the tendency to develop small settlements in connection with the much-neglected fishing industry from which another source of revenue would accrue.

On the mainland the area proposed to be reserved for scenic purposes is 17,757 odd acres in various parts of the land district, and this seems to me a fair proposal in the meantime, as it is quite impossible to set aside every beauty-spot at once, but doubtless other scenic spots as they become known will be brought under your notice for reservation.

Stewart Island is yearly becoming a more favourite tourist resort, and the number of visitors from far and near are rapidly increasing in proportion as the charming scenery becomes more widely known. The several well-conducted tourist houses are during the summer months taxed to their utmost in providing accommodation; in fact, visitors now have to arrange weeks before, so as to make sure they may not suffer disappointment in finding on arrival that all the available boardinghouse accommodation has been taken up. During the summer months the "Theresa Ward," the Bluff Harbour Board's tug-boat, makes bi-weekly trips, but, not being built and equipped for such traffic, it follows that the conveniences and accommodation are wanting which would be accompaniments of a passenger-boat. No doubt, as traffic is increasing rapidly, this luxury at no far-distant period will be provided, when doubtless a large increase in the number of visitors to this lovely picturesque island will be the result. I have therefore recommended the large area of 46,032 acres to be set aside and reserved for scenic purposes, principally in the beautiful harbours of Paterson Inlet, Port Adventure, Lord's River, and, lastly, Port Pegasus, perhaps one of the finest harbours in New Zealand. I have also recommended the reservation of 208,650 acres for the preservation of native flora and fauna, and in this respect I may here mention that the mountain lily (*Ranunculus lyallii*) is found on Mount Anglem (Hananui), and the roa or tokaweka (*Apteryx*) in several localities of the island, but perhaps more particularly between Lord's River and Pegasus. The area now recommended for reservation for the purposes under review makes a grand total of 2,772,440 acres.

Whilst on the subject of scenic reserves, I might draw attention to the consideration of opening up a track to Lake Hauroko, which is within easy distance of civilisation and settlement—a beautiful sheet of water, completely surrounded by bush down to the water's edge, containing several small islands and islets, and enclosed by lofty mountains, some of which attain the altitude of 5,000 ft. to 6,000 ft., and from a charming and scenic point of view little, if at all, inferior to the better-known western cold lakes of Otago. This lake covers an area of twenty-six square miles, runs generally in a northerly direction from the end of the Hump Range, a distance of twenty-five miles, and is picturesquely surrounded by the lofty serrated peaks of the Princess on the west side and by the high Billow Mountains on the east. The cost of opening up a track would not be very great, as the distance from Clifden Suspension Bridge, approximately speaking, is about twenty-one miles. Of this distance up the Lillburn Valley eleven miles and a half are already formed, and only require gravelling to make a capital buggy-road, the grades being easy. From here a new road would require to be laid out through easy open country for a distance of about two miles and a half, keeping in a direction slightly to the westward of the Hindley Burn, which brings you to the margin of the Dean Forest, and from here, I believe, the south-east end of the lake could be reached, in a distance of some seven miles, through easy bush country, with little or no engineering difficulties to contend with. I believe, with a little exploring, and with the exception of crossing a very low saddle in the bush, the whole road, practically speaking, might when formed be considered level. The distances from Invercargill would be as follows: By rail to Orepuki, 43 miles; thence by road *viâ* Drummond's Ferry up the Waiau Valley to Clifden Suspension Bridge, 22 miles; from here to the lake, 21 miles: in all 86 miles from Invercargill. The distance *viâ* Otautau and Merrivale would be somewhat less: Invercargill to Otautau by rail, 32 miles; thence by road to Clifden Suspension Bridge, 22 miles; and thence to lake, 21 miles: in all 75 miles. Once Lake Hauroko is opened up by road, no doubt in the course of time Lake Poteriteri will receive attention. This beautiful lake is also surrounded by bush, is eighteen miles long, covers an area of some seventeen square miles, and runs in a north-and-south direction, and is three to eight miles west of Lake Hauroko, between the Princess and Cameron Mountains. The opening-up of Lake Hauroko, encircled by such grand mountain scenery, to tourist traffic might well be considered in future proposals, as even the scenery from Orepuki up the Waiau Valley and all along the route to the lake is in many places very beautiful.

State and Crown Forests.

During the year nine sawmill areas in State forests were surveyed and valued, in area 1,476 acres, from which a royalty of £1,293 11s. 9d. was received, also two areas covering 278 acres in ordinary Crown forests, from which the royalty amounted to £98 5s., thus making in all ten sawmill areas, in area 1,754 acres producing 3,585,500 superficial feet, from which a total revenue of £1,391 16s. 9d. was received. These results fall very much short of last year's record, when fifteen

areas were surveyed, producing 8,937,600 superficial feet, the royalty from which was £2,942 15s. 7d. The reason of this marked falling-off in royalty per acre shows that the bush surveyed and valued during the year is very much inferior to that of last year's operations, and this is only to be expected seeing that a number of the new areas completely cover old workings over which mills have previously worked.

The following gives the various transactions in State forests, the respective amounts, and the total revenue received therefrom. Nine sawmill areas, royalty, £1,293 11s. 9d., timber licenses for sleepers and telegraph-poles and fencing-material, mining-props, piles, firewood, &c., £65, lease and transfer fees £15 15s., making a total revenue of £1,374 6s. 9d. From ordinary Crown forests, two sawmill areas, £98 5s., timber licenses for similar purposes as referred to in State forest transactions, £33 13s. 7d., and royalty received from auction sales and assessments, £128 2s., totalling £260 0s. 7d.; thus making a total revenue and royalty from all sources of £1,634 7s. 4d.

The number of sawmill licenses issued in duplicate was seven, timber licenses eighty-one, and forty permits to settlers in terms of section 234 of "The Land Act, 1892."

During the year eighteen sawmill areas were surrendered, totalling in area some 4,300 acres, and two areas and attached reserves were forfeited for non-compliance with conditions and regulations. Generally speaking the mill-owners comply fairly well with the regulations and conditions imposed, but in some cases allowances require to be made, and concessions granted in cases where long tramways have to be constructed; mills are undergoing repair; in isolated localities where impassable winter roads obtain; the erection of mills in winter-time; and sometimes the difficulty of arranging with owners of private lands for tramway access, &c. The new form of license recently come to hand, and now being issued to sawmillers, is a very great improvement on the old one, as on the new form is given full particulars and information, and the license shows at a glance the state of the licensee's area and reserve at any time during its currency.

As a result of the year's milling transactions, I may state that there are now forty-eight sawmills under license, employing probably 530 men, with a pay-sheet of £64,536, and producing 34,128,000 superficial feet; and this is supplemented by eighteen private mills operating on lands disposed of, employing approximately about a hundred men, with a pay-sheet amounting to £12,000, and turning out about 7,140,000 superficial feet. It will therefore be seen that there are in all in this land district sixty-six sawmills at work, employing about 630 men, who receive in wages about £76,536, with an estimated output for the year amounting to 41,268,000 superficial feet. Of this production about 25 per cent. is used locally, the balance 75 per cent. finding its way to the various and numerous markets north of Clinton. Of this output about 30 per cent. is dressed at the mills, and the following are the various timbers cut with estimated percentages of same—viz., rimu 70 per cent., miro 15 per cent., kahikatea 11 per cent., matai 2 per cent., and totara 2 per cent.

Small quantities of kamahi and birch, or what is commonly called here white-birch (*Fagus menziesii*) are cut, but not in sufficient quantities to be worthy of mention. The latter is very plentiful in the Longwood Forest, and as some of the mills are attempting to put it on the market when its useful qualities become better known I anticipate that in the near future very large quantities of this timber will find ready market. I believe the great fault of this timber at the present time is its tendency to warp or buckle on the bench, when being sawn into ordinary marketable timber, but this fault might be altogether got over by the bush mills cutting it into junks or flitches, then sending it on to town mills to cut when seasoned. It is a very clean-growing and strong timber, and I believe takes a beautiful polish, and is admirably adapted for furniture and inside work of buildings. I am strongly of opinion that before long the State will receive a large revenue in royalty from this useful and now much-neglected timber, more particularly seeing that the favourite pines are annually becoming more scarce and difficult to obtain.

The days of using bullocks for hauling logs to loading-banks, &c., in this district have now been superseded by hauling-engines which are seen at every ordinary mill, and are found to be a very great improvement. The engines range from 6- to 12-horse power and are capable of hauling very heavy logs from long distances, by arrangement of pullies on the hauling gear. Generally speaking the most effective hauling-distance from the loading-banks is 12 chains or so, but in some instances where the bush is very rough and intersected by steep gullies, and where it would cost too much to lay down tramways, logs, I believe, have been hauled a distance of about 30 chains, but this is an extreme distance. Altogether, I understand, these engines are found to work very satisfactorily, and I believe the haulage is very much cheaper and more effective than hitherto obtaining under the once able directorship of "bullocky" with his fluent language and the persuasive tendency of his whip. And moreover the engines can take logs off broken country and out of gullies where previously the timber had to remain, although perhaps paid for by the miller. Every ordinary mill has one hauler and the larger mills have two, and there are now six locomotives ranging from 8- to 15-horse power owned by the millers, and doing good and capital work in conveying timber from the bush to the mills and to the railway sidings and other places of delivery.

My thanks are due to the mill-owners for the courtesy shown me, and the ready manner in which they furnished any information I required from them to embody in these notes.

JOHN HAY,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

APPENDIX II.—SURVEYS.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORTS OF CHIEF SURVEYORS ON THE SURVEY OPERATIONS FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1904.

AUCKLAND.

Minor Triangulation and Topographical Surveys.—This heading gives an area of 193,415 acres, costing 2.45d. per acre, which was undertaken for the purpose of providing sufficient data for reports and schemes of subdivision and the necessary poster lithographs to enable the land to be expeditiously placed on the market.

Rural and Suburban.—The year's work shows an increase over the last year's return. The total, 175,649 acres, cost 1.43s. per acre. A considerable area incomplete last year is now finished, which partly accounts for the greater area returned this year. Two sections, area 60 acres, were paid for privately.

Town Section Survey.—Four Native townships, under "The Maori Land Administration Act, 1900," and its amendment, "The Native and Maori Land Laws Amendment Act, 1902," have been laid out of a total area of 1,011 acres, cut up into 1,096 sections, at a cost of 18.51s. per allotment. These were Otorohanga, Taumarunui, Te Kuiti, and Waiotapu Townships. The first three are already important positions on the North Island Main Trunk Railway, and will no doubt justify the work expended on them in the near future. Waiotapu Township is also conveniently situated in a now well-known centre of thermal activity.

Land for Settlements.—The Bickerstaffe Estate, in the Otamatea County, containing 12,362 acres, was surveyed into sixty-four sections, under contract, by Messrs. A. L. Foster and J. W. Harrison, under the supervision of Mr. J. B. Thompson. The total cost was £899 6s. 8d., equal to an average of 1.45s. per acre. The Matamata Estate, situated in the Piako County, and containing 42,739 acres, was surveyed into sections by Messrs. F. V. Kelly and C. C. Otway, authorised surveyors for the Assets Realisation Board. On acquiring the estate for settlement considerable alterations in the section-boundaries became necessary consequent upon the closing of about fourteen miles of roads and the opening of new ones. This was done by Messrs. J. B. Thompson and H. F. Edgecumbe, under the supervision of the former. This work is now finished, and the photo-lithographic tracings, schedules, &c., will shortly be completed and forwarded to the Head Office.

Native Land Court Survey.—A total of 158,345 acres, costing 1.38d. per acre, and numbering eighty-nine blocks, is returned this year; 64,028 acres, or a trifle over a hundred square miles, is, however, the road and topographical survey of the Island of Niue, which was executed by Mr. H. D. M. Haszard for the Minister for Marine. The staff also contributed two blocks of 78,200 and 3,978 acres respectively. The first-named was to prepare a sketch-plan of the Motatau Block for the Tokerau Maori Council. This block forms the bulk of the rich volcanic land lying to the south-east of Lake Omapere. It is owned by Natives, who up to this have never had their claims investigated, and have resisted all attempts to have the lands occupied by Europeans. The latter area is for land at Waiotapu to be brought under the supervision of the Waiariki Maori Council. Thirty-five blocks, comprising 14,776 acres, were surveyed and paid for privately.

Gold-mining Surveys.—These surveys total seventeen, with an area of 2,046 acres, costing 3.75s. per acre, three claims for 75 acres being paid for privately. No great activity appeared in mining-work during this year.

Roads.—223.71 miles have been surveyed this year, costing £15.78 per mile. Total in hand, 152 miles.

Detention by Native Opposition.—This item, £36, now unusual, was caused by some fractious Native owners in Taumarunui Native Township while that survey was in progress.

Other Work.—Under this heading a total of £2,247, including £7 for a contract, comprises many and various duties, such as inspections, road explorations and grading, timber and Ranger's reports, plans and engineering surveys for Agricultural Department on their experimental farms at Wairangi and Ruakura; valuations, &c., Matamata Estate (land for settlements); track-construction, Oamaru Block; connecting the astronomical observatory for Professor Klotze at Pacific cable Station, Doubtless Bay.

Inspection.—This work has been carried on by the district surveyors. In the Waikato and King Country Districts Mr. L. Cussen's death has caused a gap which is not yet filled. The appointments of two inspecting surveyors are very necessary, as I find that the district surveyors have not the time to cary out the duties of inspection, owing to all being fully occupied in section surveys. The inspecting surveyors, if appointed, would also be available for standard work in the neighbourhood of Auckland City. This work is urgently required, as the trig. stations are becoming useless for subdivisional surveys, owing to the increase of buildings and plantations.

Field-work in Progress.—The district staff, ten permanent and thirteen temporary surveyors have in hand 319,933 acres of rural surveys. The principal work to be undertaken this year will be the survey and subdivision of Crown lands in Mangonui, Hokianga, Hobson, Awakino, Tauranga, Rotorua, and Opotiki Counties, the two largest areas being Oamaru and Tahora Blocks, of 84,000 and 60,000 acres respectively, situated in Opotiki County.

Land Transfer Surveys.—Two hundred and seventy-eight plans were examined and approved, comprising 1,425 subdivisions, of a total area of 109,281 acres. Fifty-four plans are not yet completely examined, thirteen being plotted, held back for inspection, &c. Fifty-five plans have been returned for revision, and are still in the hands of the surveyors. The Land Transfer staff has been kept fully occupied, as the amount of work to be examined and recorded is increasing.

Office-work.—The staff is still taxed to the utmost to keep pace with the great volume of work which passes through this office Two hundred and nine sectional and township plans, 167 plans and tracings of roads taken and closed, 49 Native Land Court plans were examined; also 139 tracings of roads drawn; and the boundaries of forty-six school districts were described for Board of Education. For the year 1903-4 sixty-one Native Land Court applications for authority were forwarded to Wellington—thirty-one have been granted, four refused, and twenty-six are in abeyance. Under Table 37, 2,444 instruments have been prepared, comprising four single copies, 132 duplicates, 412 triplicates, and 235 quadruplicates. Forty-three warrants in triplicate, containing 322 certificates of title, have gone forward. Under Table 38, 3,069 plans were placed on Crown grants, certificates, &c., comprising 80 duplicates, 703 triplicates, and 200 quadruplicates. For the Native Land Court were indorsed 134 Crown orders, 151 ordinary orders, five for Maori Councils, and nine for Land Purchase Department, a total of 299 copies in duplicate; 3,100 lithographs, county maps, &c., were printed locally, numerous tracings for posters, &c., Land for Settlements, &c., were prepared and sent to the Head Office for lithographing. The current work was very heavy. The numerous new settlers, the requirements of local bodies, &c., and the furnishing of field data to surveyors were attended to. Twenty-nine staff surveyors and thirty-three contract surveyors—total, sixty-two surveyors—were at work during the year, which in itself meant considerable office-work in examination and the checking of vouchers for payment of contracts. The surveys and preparation of Matamata Estate (Land for Settlements), with valuations, &c., involved a great deal of extra work, both field and office. The compiling of the schedule of reserves, a tedious work necessitating many and constant references to *Gazettes* and plans, has been taken in hand. The engagement of six additional surveyors, who were temporarily employed to meet the pressure of field-work, was terminated on the 30th September, 1903. During the year ten staff surveyors were working double parties, and three staff surveyors had three parties each employed. All are now reduced to the normal working-party, with two exceptions, one of which will reduce his party at the end of April and the other at the end of May.

Obituary.—In the death of Mr. Lawrence Cussen the Department loses an old and valued servant. Entering the service in November, 1869, and passing through various branches, he was principally engaged in triangulation work in the Waikato, Kaimanawa, Patea, King-country, and Urewera Districts. This work in itself was of a very arduous nature, involving many hardships and in earlier years great risk of life, owing to the disturbed state of the country after the troublous times of the Waikato War. His death occurred on the 10th November, 1903.

G. MUELLER,
Assistant Surveyor-General.

HAWKE'S BAY.

Topographical Survey.—The operations under this head comprise the topographical survey necessary for the preparation of sale-maps of Crown lands situated in the Ngatapa, Koranga, and Moanui Districts for selection before survey, the area surveyed being 42,033 acres, at a total cost of £1,052 7s. 7d., or 6.01d. per acre. This was surveyed by Mr. P. A. Dalziell. The country is heavy forest and broken, without roads, transport being difficult and expensive.

Minor Triangulation.—We have had no minor triangulation proper executed during this year, only the necessary breakdown or extension to govern settlement surveys.

Rural and Suburban.—The total area returned under this heading is 102,376 acres, at a total cost of £3,643 12s. 1d., or 0.71s. per acre, which is a large increase over last year's area, the cost being a little higher, but this must be expected as the work is now far back in country difficult of access. Of the 102,376 acres, 35,664 acres have been surveyed by contract and 66,712 acres by the staff. Under contract, Messrs. Kennedy Bros. and Morgan and Mr. J. A. Robertson surveyed portions of the Argyll Settlement, and Mr. Grant the Wigan Settlement, Poverty Bay. Of the area surveyed by the staff 21,737 acres is subdivisional survey for settlement by Messrs. Dalziell, Farnie, and Roddick, it being all heavy, broken forest, difficult of access. Mr. Brook's 34,586 acres includes the resurvey of the Gwavas Estate, 24,907 acres; 9,670 acres settlement survey Hangaroa District, and the survey of a cemetery at Mohaka and Ruakituri. Mr. Hay, 10,389 acres: Of this 9,600 acres is portion of the Argyll Estate, 52 acres 2 roods 8 perches Tikokino Recreation-ground and cemetery, 116 acres Te Mata State Farm, and 17¼ acres Dannevirke Rifle Range. The forest lands surveyed by Messrs. Dalziell and Farnie and Roddick were sections selected of unsurveyed lands in the Motu, Ngatapa, Urutawa, and Hikurangi districts.

Town Sectional Survey.—No surveys of this class have been made during the year.

Native Land Court Surveys.—Mr. Hay has surveyed 3,672 acres, being three subdivisions of the Tamaki Block. Licensed surveyors have surveyed 37,188 acres at the cost of the Native owners, being generally subdivisions and ordered by the Court, and the plans of which have been examined and recorded.

Road Surveys.—Owing to the staff being employed on settlement surveys, only 7 miles 45 chains of roads have been surveyed at a total cost of £154 8s. 11d., being £20.73 a mile, which is a little under last year's cost. Mr. Farnie has surveyed five miles to give access to Crown lands in the Waiapu District, Mr. Roddick 1 mile 20 chains in the Matakaoa District to give access to Crown lands, and two short roads have been surveyed by Messrs. F. S. Smith and Dalziell to give access to Crown and Native blocks.

Other Work.—Under this heading is included field inspections, reports on blocks, redefining section-boundaries, field-work, of which the plans are not completed, the cost of which is carried to next year, and miscellaneous work which cannot be classified under any of the usual headings.

Field Inspections.—Owing to the pressure of other work only nineteen inspections have been made, all by District Surveyor F. S. Smith. Some of these are large blocks such as Paramata and

Takapau, their cost for inspection being nearly £200. Of the nineteen inspections made, diagrams, &c., have been completed only of six blocks, the others being in hand. Generally the inspections show that the surveys are being executed in a satisfactory manner.

Summary of Year's Operations.—During the year eight survey parties have been employed and three contract surveyors, who have surveyed 42,033 acres topographical survey, 102,376 acres rural and suburban, and seven miles and a half of road. They have also completed a considerable amount of field-work which is not returned owing to the plans not being completed, the cost being carried on to next year. The principal operations have been the survey of the forest country for settlement at Motu and Hikurangi by Messrs. Roddick, Dalziell, and Farnie, and the subdivisional survey of the Wigan and Argyll Estates by Mr. Hay and contract surveyors, under the Land for Settlements Act. Licensed surveyors have surveyed 37,188 acres of Native lands, being subdivisional surveys as ordered by the Native Land Court, 176 Land Transfer surveys of an area of 83,452 acres, sixteen miles and a half of road, and ten miles of railways, &c., under the Public Works Act, &c., all of which plans have been examined and recorded. There is considerable increase generally in survey-work in all branches.

Proposed Operations for 1904-5.—The work for the coming year will be the survey and roading of the remaining Crown lands, about 50,000 acres in the Hangaroa, Motu, Koranga, and Ngatapa Districts where Messrs. Roddick, Dalziell, and Reay are now employed; the survey of Crown lands and roading in the Tokomaru District by Mr. Farnie, and in Hawke's Bay the subdivision of any estates which may be acquired, also the completion of the survey of the Olrig Estate by Mr. Brook. The completion of the standard survey of Gisborne should be continued. Owing to the pressure of settlement surveys, standard work had to stop, but it is very necessary and I hope to continue it this year.

Office-work.—A total of 225 plans have been checked and recorded and 1,998 plans placed on certificates, leases, and other instruments of title. Of these, thirty-nine are departmental plans of surveys of an area of 53,805 acres, and five are road-plans of seven miles and a half of road survey. Licensed surveyors have deposited 151 Land Transfer plans of a total area of 75,871 acres, twenty-one Native Land Court plans of a total area of 5,488 acres, and nine Public Works plans of a total area of 112 acres. Tracings of Hawke's Bay County and portion of Waipawa County have been made and forwarded for photo-lithography. Owing the the press of other work we have not yet been able to bring our records up to date, but hope to do so in the near future. We have had the usual correspondence with surveyors and others *re* surveys in operation, and generally the whole staff have been fully employed to keep current work up to date.

Miscellaneous.—During the year there has been nothing to call for special mention. Mr. W. Robertson, land clerk, was removed to Hokitika, Mr. E. H. Taylor taking up his duties. Mr. H. E. Walshe, clerical cadet, joined the magnetic survey staff, and two cadets have been appointed to the Gisborne staff—viz., Messrs. J. C. Young and P. D. N. Verschaffelt.

ERIC. C. GOLD SMITH,
Chief Surveyor.

TARANAKI.

Minor Triangulation.—Under this heading operations in Taranaki have been very limited, only amounting to 21,700 acres at a cost of 1.37d. per acre, Mr. Laing being credited with 16,000 acres of this in the Upper Tongaporutu District, and Mr. Bullard with 5,700 acres in the Lower Whangamomona District, both areas being in broken forest country. The work was of a tertiary character for the keeping under reasonable check the sectional or provisional surveys as the exigencies of prosecuting settlement surveys in back districts necessitated. I have again to advise you that, in terms of your previous instructions, triangulation and standard work has had to give place to the more pressing duty of placing new lands in the market.

Topographical or Provisional Settlement Surveys.—The output under this heading amounts to 114,196 acres, in 327 sections, and has really comprised the bulk of the year's field operations, the most of which have been in the Ohura-Mokau portions of the King-country, the latter including the surveys of Messrs. Skeet, Morpeth, Murcott, Weir, Paterson, and Hunt, who contributed 97,124 acres of the total, whilst Messrs. Basstian, in the Whangamomona District, and Laing, in the Upper Tongaporutu, returned respectively areas of 12,444 and 4,578 acres, the cost varying from about 3½d. to 8d. per acre, whilst the year's average for the entire land district has been about 5d. per acre. This cost, of course, only includes such work as could not be legitimately charged to the final sectional survey. In carrying out this very important branch of the year's operations, all roads were thoroughly explored, located, and pegged, whilst ridge and other sectional boundaries were either determined by theodolite, provisional traverse methods, or by cross-bearings, although in other cases the "lay" of the country was ascertained by topographical survey, after which the sectional lines were schemed out to fit in with the physical features. From the data thus procured, the proposed holdings were worked out on the maps, the whole, of course, being governed by subsidiary minor triangulation, and, so far as time would permit, by ordinary theodolite traverse. In all cases, prior to the lands being offered, at least the front pegs of every section were inserted and well flagged. As a precautionary measure also, every selector has had noted on his application, and has also been informed in writing, that all boundaries and areas are subject to amendment.

Rural and Suburban.—The total of this class amounts to 35,068 acres in 122 sections, at an average cost of about 1s. 4½d. per acre. With the exception of the subdivision of 8,255 acres of grazing-runs in the Upper Patea District by Mr. Frith, the bulk of the land is in the King-country, chiefly under forest, and all more or less difficult of access. Under these circumstances, I consider the cost both of this and the provisional work satisfactory, and this without any sacrifice in accuracy or completeness, as from the subjoined table it will be seen that the average error per mile for the closed traverses amounts to only 0.97 link on meridian, and 0.95 link on perpendicular, well within the limits allowed by the regulations.

Table of Traverse Closures for Year ending 31st March, 1904.

Name of Traverse.	Survey District.	Block.	Number of Closures.	Length in Miles.	Total Error.		Error per Mile.		Surveyor.	Remarks.
					On Meridian.	On Perpendicular.	On Meridian.	On Perpendicular.		
Road and ridge traverse	Opaku ..	VIII., XI., XII., XIV., XV.	4	30·25	20·6	23·2	0·7	0 8	J. F. Frith ..	Rough, broken, forest country.
	Pouatu ..	XIV.								
"	Ohura ..	IX., XIII., XIV.	11	27·00	23·9	15·4	0·9	0·6	W. T. Morpeth ..	Mostly hilly bush country with open fern.
	Heao ..	I. and II.								
Ridge traverse	Cape ..	III.	6	6·9	3·5	9·8	0·5	1·4	W. H. Skinner ..	Rough, open fern country.
Road and ridge traverse ..	Aria ..	XI., XII., XIV., and XVI.	5	22·0	21·5	20·1	1·0	0·9	W. H. Murcott ..	Undulating fern and light bush.
Ridge traverse	Waro ..	VI. and X.	3	14·2	16·8	9·5	1·2	0·7	W. Laing ..	Rough, broken, hilly, forest country.
Road traverse	Aria ..	II., III.	5	10·4	11·7	7·4	1·1	0·6	E. O. Weir ..	Undulating, fern, scrub, and light-bush country.
"	Totoro ..	IX.	4	12·0	29·0	42·7	2·4	3·5	L. Hunt ..	
Road and boundary traverse	Huiroa ..	XVI.	8	20·0	11·4	7·0	0·5	0·3	G. H. Bullard ..	Undulating open country.
	Ngaire ..	IV.								
Totals and means				142·75	138·4	135·1	0·97	0·95		

Town Sections.—These comprised about 54 acres in 162 lots, at an average cost of about £1.5 per lot. These were in seven different localities, four being in Ohura and one at Whangamomona, and were laid off by Messrs. Skeet, Murcott, Laing, Morpeth, Frith, and Skinner. These call for no special remarks, except that the sale of the Ohura Townships was a very successful one, and that I anticipate that the Whangamomona lots will all be sold.

Native Land Court.—This only comprised the small ordinary surveys near New Plymouth, the area amounting to about 259 acres.

Roads, Railways, &c.—Work under this heading amounted to thirty-one miles, at an average cost of £23 15s. per mile, the total expenditure being £735 3s. 6d. The bulk of this was either roads approaching Crown lands or roads taken through Native lands where the latter were intermixed with adjoining country that we were opening, so that, taken as a whole, the work was part and parcel and entirely in the interests of the progressive policy of Government settlement now going on. The roads were chiefly laid off in the Ohura, Upper Mokau, Whangamomona, and Upper Patea Districts, mostly by Messrs. Skeet, Morpeth, Murcott, Bullard, Weir, and Frith. The cost, however, is somewhat higher than usual; but I always feel that the cost in road surveys means but little if, in the end, the surveyor is reasonably sure that he has really secured the best line obtainable.

Other Work.—The expenditure amounting to £1,415 12s. 6d. under this heading is somewhat larger than usual, and comprises a vast amount of work that cannot well be got into the tabular returns; but, at the same time, in the innumerable matters that require attention in the Lands and Survey Department, what has been done were necessary and essential factors in our Lands and Survey administration. You will observe that the opening-up of pack-tracks in new blocks has been a very considerable item; but for these, intending selectors would have practically no means of judging what their future holdings would be like, and it is also to be remembered that in the earlier years of occupancy these tracks will be the only means of access for these holdings. I consider that such money is all well spent.

Inspections.—During the year I visited all the staff surveyors (except Mr. Frith, who was on miscellaneous duties), some of them on several occasions, and personally made practical and technical inspections of their work, forwarding to you thirty-two sheets of diagrams, &c., of the same. All the work checked, with the exception of one temporary officer not now in the service, was eminently satisfactory. The senior District Surveyor, Mr. Skeet, checked for me the work of the Land Transfer surveyors in practice in this provincial district, twenty-four sheets of diagrams, &c., of which were duly forwarded to you, making in all fifty-six technical diagrams sent during the year. Regarding the Land Transfer surveys generally, although there was nothing seriously the matter with any, in one or two instances the necessity of inspection was apparent, as several minor matters required attention in order to keep up with present-day requirements. I always feel that there is not the time to do as much inspection as one would wish, the calls upon a Chief Surveyor for Commissioner of Crown Lands' duties are so great and require such close attention, that for actual professional field-work the time becomes very limited, particularly as I always endeavour to keep ahead of my surveyors in provisionally exploring the blocks of new country prior to their preparation for settlement. The only blocks that I have gone through in this way this year are one of 5,000 acres in the Upper Mokau, between the Mokau and Mokauiti Rivers, and another of 44,000 acres between Mangaroa (in the Ohura country), and the Tongaporutu River on the coast, both of which I hope will be in the market in a few months. In this way a knowledge is acquired that I find to be of great benefit in dealing afterwards with the land.

Field-work in Progress and Proposed.—Although I have still in view, as in former years, the major triangulation round Mount Egmont, that, and also the extension of standard surveys in settled districts, particularly in localities where trig. stations have either been ploughed out or planted out by trees, must stand over till slacker times; but it will be necessary to extend minor triangulation over at least 100,000 acres or so in the Ohura-Mokau country for the checking of the large sectional surveys that I hope to see completed during the coming season. This and the general supervision of all Ohura surveys I purpose placing in Mr. District Surveyor Skeet's hands, and, after the completion of the two blocks to be opened under the partial-survey system, in Messrs. Skeet, Laing, Murcott, and Weir's hands, representing about 49,000 acres, and which should not take over three months to finish. I purpose, subject to your approval, employing Messrs. Morpeth, Murcott, Frith, and Weir to complete the sectional surveys of the Ohura-Mokau country consisting of about 72,000 acres, the great bulk of which has been already disposed of, and many of the settlers are now on the ground. Mr. Laing, after completing the provisional work now in hand for the offering of the Tongaporutu-Ohura Block, will remain on it and complete the final surveys. Mr. District Surveyor Bullard will complete for offering early in the season the Whangamomona-Wanganui Block of about 27,000 acres, and I purpose keeping him on till the final sectional work is finished. Following this course, whilst placing these blocks of new country in the market, will at the same time allow me, I hope, to complete most of the partially surveyed land that has been taken up during the past year. It is most essential that this should be done, as I dislike permanent settlement proceeding on unfinished surveys, and besides it is unfair to our settlers. Another matter I have also in view is the exploration and provisional location of the road-systems in the Taranaki portion of the Rangitoto-Tuhua Block, comprising about 205,000 acres, the bulk of which is Native land with a few Crown orders, but well fitted for close settlement, adjoining the large areas recently offered in Ohura. I venture to suggest that at the least the location of the arterial roads is a matter of colonial importance, and would be a leading-string to settlement; this vast area at present is practically a *terra incognita*, but with a little daylight into it, I feel, the block has great settlement possibilities, and it would also tend to materially strengthen and consolidate the new and important community fast being established in the Ohura-Mokau Districts in the Taranaki part of the King-country.

From the figures of the Chief Draughtsman, Mr. John Langmuir, the following is the general statement of office-work:—

Examination of Plans.—Mr. Carrington, the officer in charge of this important class of work, reports having checked six plans of settlement surveys, comprising ninety-one sections of an area of 4,020 acres, also seven plans of provisional selection surveys comprising 321 sections of an area of 114,216 acres, two trigonometrical plans of 16,600 acres, twenty-two plans defining 18¾ miles of lands taken and roads closed under the Land and Public Works Acts, &c., one plan of three-quarters of a mile of railway under the Public Works Act, eight Native plans comprising twenty-five sections of an area of 958 acres, and twenty-five miscellaneous plans of sixty-eight sections of 349 acres, making a total of seventy-one plans of 505 sections, embracing a gross area of 119,543 acres, of which 114,216 acres are classed as provisional selection, 16,600 acres trigonometrical, and 19½ miles of roads and railways. The traverse sheets numbered 103. All work was, when necessary, recomputed throughout. Mr. Cook examined fifteen miscellaneous plans in a similarly efficient manner.

Compilations.—Five new Crown-grant-record maps of towns and villages were constructed, and all current recording both of Crown-grant and road-record maps has been brought up to date. Seven new Land Transfer record maps of the Towns of New Plymouth, Stratford, Eltham, and Patea have been started and completed to date for all existing work. Fifteen new block-sheets were also started and finished during the year, but owing to pressure of other duties not as much progress as was anticipated has been made with this class of work. Where the block-sheets have been started, all current recording is up to date. In the older-settled districts, where the original surveys were executed on the magnetic meridian, a large amount of work under the Land Transfer Act has now taken place, and it will be desirable before long to undertake the construction of new block-sheets for the accurate recording of these, for preference on a scale of, say, 5 chains to an inch.

Publications.—Thirteen tracings of sale and other plans were prepared by Messrs. Gordon and Covil, and one by Mr. Cook for photo-lithographic purposes, entailing, as in the case of the Mokau-Ohura lands offered on the 10th March, a large amount of work, executed somewhat under pressure. Perhaps the most important part of this branch of indoor work has been the entire revision and compilation up to date of the whole of the 40-chain survey district maps in Taranaki. This means that the Head Office can now publish the whole land district, in survey districts, or in county or other geographical maps. To this end, twenty-five plans and tracings of survey districts on a scale of 40 chains to an inch were carefully gone through, and eleven new ones made, nine of these being included in the Ohura-Mokau sale lithograph maps. This is work that will be eventually most useful to local bodies, professional men, and the public generally.

Native Land Court Plans.—Six plans were dealt with, two duplicates were made for the Native Land Court, fifty plans were indorsed on Native Land Court orders, and two nominations under the Act were prepared.

Land Transfer Work.—This class of work during the latter half of the year decreased considerably. Mr. Skinner, Land Transfer draughtsman, reports as follows: One hundred and forty-nine Land Transfer plans and 177 traverse sheets of 636 sections and subdivisions, of an area of 6,926 acres 2 roods 39.6 perches, were checked and approved. Of these, Mr. Cook examined fifty-two plans and fifty-four traverse sheets. All this work is, of course, subject to mathematical computation throughout, and has been attended to with great efficiency by Messrs. Skinner and Cook. Mr. Skinner has also relieved the outdoor staff by making several field surveys.

Reserves.—During the year the writing-up of the Reserves Register and construction of index and detail plans to illustrate same have been completed. All reserves have also been more particularly classified according to their specific purpose, and also according to the local bodies' districts.

Titles.—Mr. Cook, Crown Grant Draughtsman, reports the examination and placing of 1,545 plans on Crown grants, Land Transfer certificates of title, Crown leases and licenses, and Native Land Court orders; and 186 leases and licenses were prepared. In addition to this duty, Mr. Cook has, in a most capable manner, examined a large number of Land Transfer and other plans, as well as attended to other matters requiring technical and professional knowledge.

"Thirds" and "Fourths" to Local Bodies.—Twenty-three proposals, amounting to £2,249 1s. for expenditure on roads and bridges, were made by the local bodies, and twenty-two were submitted and approved by the Land Board during the year, for a total sum of £2,242 9s. 9d. The amount of "thirds" and "fourths" to the credit of the local bodies in the Receiver-General's Deposit Account and the Receiver of Land Revenue's Deposit Account at the 31st March was £7,592 12s. 4d. All maps to illustrate the expenditure of "thirds" and "fourths" have been kept up to date, and a system of special files has been instituted, though a good deal is still required to be done in this direction, in order to have a thorough record of all operations.

Repairs to Maps, &c.—One hundred and seventeen plans and block-sheets with 180 lithographs and tracings were mounted during the year, and 270 block-sheets and surveyors' plans with nine roll maps were bound in silk, thus making a total of 495 repaired since I have been in charge here. About 400 Land Transfer plans and 600 surveyors' plans and block-sheets still require mounting and binding, and, as you have authorised the employment of a special man for this very urgent work, I trust that before the end of the current year all our maps will be in a thorough state of repair.

Miscellaneous.—Besides the ordinary routine work of the office, which includes the attending to and affording information to the public, supplying other Departments and local bodies with information, preparing working-tracings, &c., for surveyors in the field, reducing, registering, and recording plans received, &c., 140 tracings were made for the Valuer-General, twenty-three schedules and fifty-six lithographic maps showing existing forest and scenery reserves, and five schedules and nine maps of proposed reserves under "The Scenery Preservation Act, 1903," were

prepared for the Scenery Preservation Commission. The necessary action in connection with twenty-five road taking and closing plans, &c., under the Public Works and Land Acts was taken. A large number also of tracings and lithographs to illustrate outgoing correspondence were prepared, particularly has this been so in connection with answering inquiries as to the large areas of land offered for settlement during the year. This class of work takes up a great deal of time, but is all necessary, and much of it, I know, will yet bear good fruit.

Departmental Changes: Deaths.—It falls to my lot to have to record the loss during the year of two valued officers—viz., Messrs. G. P. Doile and C. T. Kelly, both in early life and before reaching their prime. Mr. Doile, Receiver of Land Revenue, who died after a brief illness on the 24th October, 1903, was a son of the late Captain Doile, well known in Wellington maritime circles. He entered the service as a cadet on the 6th May, 1880, and rose step by step through sheer merit to the important position of Receiver of Land Revenue in this district. Mr. Doile had been in this office for ten years and a half, and he was one of our most competent and zealous officers—courteous, prompt, and efficient in every detail of his arduous work, always willing to assist others when there was a pressure, and that often when the state of his health did not warrant it. He passed away, respected by his colleagues and by every one who had business with his branch of the Department. Mr. Kelly, Draughtsman in Charge of the Public Map-room and Safe, died after a long and painful illness on the 19th December, 1903. He was the son of the Hon. Thomas Kelly, M.L.C., and had been connected with the Department for seven years. Like Mr. Doile, he was a zealous and conscientious officer, throwing his whole heart into his work, and his untimely death in early manhood was deeply regretted by the staff and his friends, who were legion, he having been born and brought up in Taranaki.

In conclusion, I have much pleasure in again placing on record my full appreciation of the loyal and zealous assistance given to me by the entire staff. The year has been an eventful and trying one, and but for the willing help thus accorded my own personal labours would have been largely increased.

JAMES MACKENZIE,
Chief Surveyor.

WELLINGTON.

The gross area surveyed during the year under the various headings is approximately 83,059 acres, besides fifty-two miles of roads. The particulars are as follows:—

Topographical.—Messrs. Lowe, Frasi, and Scott completed 40,000 acres in the Kaitieke and Manganui Districts for selection before survey under "The Land Act, 1892."

Triangulation.—No triangulation was carried out during the year, although there is a very large area which was only partially completed last year (by Mr. Lowe), the field-work of which could probably be finished in about four months, and if done would enable the plans and computations to be gone on with and furnish a uniform, complete, and systematic check on the settlement and Land Transfer surveys over a large portion of the district, and enable many existing discrepancies to be satisfactorily adjusted. As this work is very important, I trust that when the present press of settlement surveys is over it may be resumed and completed.

Rural and Suburban.—The principal surveys of this class have been the subdivision of the Normandale Estate, Belmont District: and Awarua 4A 3B Block, Ohinewairua and Hautapu Districts; the Tapui Settlement, Hunua District, for improved-farm-settlement purposes; and a preliminary survey of some 62,871 acres in the Ohotu Block, under "The Maori Councils Act, 1900," was made prior to the block being opened for selection. 2,874 acres was subdivided in the Raketapauma Block for improved-farm settlement; and 528 acres in the Maungakaretu 5B Block, Maungakaretu District.

Other Work.—This includes the general miscellaneous work connected with survey operations and inspections of surveys, timber assessments, reports and plans on motive power, valuations and reports, road-deviations, and rebuilding and repairing trig. stations, &c.

Inspection of Surveys.—Mr. Inspector J. D. Climie reports that he made twenty-seven field inspections, including twenty Land Transfer, six staff, and one miscellaneous survey. Generally the work on the examination was found to be satisfactory, and in terms of the regulations. Surveys and plans of Buckle Street alignment, verification survey, Kairanga District, and determination of high-water mark round Evans Bay were completed. Several inspections were made and reports furnished on the city standard survey, besides office-work, and work in connection with new standard of length, &c. Altogether some fifty different works have been completed during the year.

Office-work.—Apart from the many duties of office routine which it would be impossible to enumerate, I may state that throughout the year in the ordinary survey branch 118 plans of sectional and Native surveys, containing 79,716 acres, were received; sixty-seven plans, comprising 386 allotments, containing 47,421 acres, were approved, reduced, and recorded on Crown-grant and Land Office maps. Twenty-four tracings and drawings were prepared for photo-lithography, comprising 133 sections, containing 100,689 acres. Nine Crown-grant-record maps were constructed, eight road-record maps completed, and fourteen county maps were prepared. Out of 183 plans in the statutory plans branch, 131 were dealt with and returned to the surveyors or local bodies for further information, or were suspended as to any possible action. Of the remaining fifty-two plans, forty-four were under action in the office, and eight outside. New plans to the number of seventy-seven came in during the year, with a further number of fifty-five for re-examination. Ninety-five examinations were made, sixty-five plans were approved, and fifty-nine sent out for further attention. Sixty-nine proclamations were received, 138 matters were recorded on plans, and eighty-three subjects passed through all their stages and were finally completed. New

plans were compiled for different statutory purposes. Many tracings were made for gazetting roads, &c., and of proclaimed subjects, for the Surveyor-General, Chief Engineer of Roads, and for the Valuation Department. Three specimen plans were prepared for inclusion in the new Survey Regulations; also a plan of the Wellington Botanical Gardens. Twenty-five block-sheets were compiled during the year, and the Arawaru and Waiopehu Survey Districts have now been completely plotted. The confusion of surveys in Block IV., Wairoa, has also at last been ended and the whole replotted, thus enabling titles to be amended.

Reservation of Land.—During the year the reserves ledgers have been kept up to date, also index and detail maps of each county posted up. Thirty-seven reserves have been vested, thirty-two permanently reserved, and sixteen sent forward for gazetting.

"Thirds" and "Fourths."—The allocation to the credit of the local authorities of the due proportion of rents under the various systems as fixed by "The Land Act, 1892," has been carried out, and £9,482 19s. 10d. was paid to the local bodies on approved proposals and hypothecations. Two hundred and eighty-five proposals for expenditure on roads, bridges, &c., were made by the local authorities; these were carefully examined, and 249 were submitted for the consideration and approval of the Land Board. Five certificates of hypothecation were also submitted for the approval of the Land Board and issued under the signature of the Chairman. The sum of £18,040 15s. 5d. was lying to the credit of local bodies in the Receiver of Land Revenue's Deposit Account on the 31st March. This is a decrease of over £1,500 compared with the amount of credit to that account on the same date last year, but it is very desirable that several of the local authorities should make greater efforts to send in proposals for the expenditure of the accrued "thirds" from sections in their respective districts for the benefit of settlers who are in many cases still struggling with the need of better road access to their holdings.

Native Land Court.—Thirty-four Native blocks, comprising 142 subdivisions, containing 46,788 acres, were surveyed by private surveyors, and ten blocks, comprising eighty-two subdivisions, containing 39,547 acres, in which the Government is interested, having advanced the cost of surveys, or having undertaken the work by staff surveyors and taken out liens in the Native Land Court, so that the total surveyed by the staff and authorised surveyors is 86,336 acres, and plans of nineteen blocks, comprising thirty-four subdivisions, containing 25,780 acres, were compiled.

Roads and Railways.—The 119 miles of roads traversed comprise fifty-two miles graded and surveyed, and sixty-seven explored and pegged, chiefly in the Ohotu, Pukeowhakapu, North Kaitieke, Te Tuhi, Puketotara, Ahuahu, and South Waimarino Blocks, and in the Ngamatea, Wangaehu, Waiopehu, and Mangawhero Districts. A considerable mileage has also been compass-traversed in the above blocks preparatory to opening up these lands for selection.

Miscellaneous.—The usual demands made on the office staff were attended to. These comprised supplying information to the public generally, and data for the execution of surveys by staff surveyors and others. One hundred and eighty-eight tracings, twenty-five general plans, 135 lithographs, twenty-six sale-plans, 214 application-forms, and 238 traverse-sheets were mounted, twelve maps repaired, besides a multitude of other duties.

Land Transfer Office (Survey Branch).—Three hundred and twenty-five working plans and 2,536 deeds and other instruments were passed; thirty single and 2,431 plans in duplicate were placed on certificates of title, being a considerable increase compared with last year; and fifteen miscellaneous plans were drawn or compiled.

Titles.—The officer intrusted with the duties of preparing leases, licenses, and warrants reports that one Crown grant, 184 certificates of title, 151 leases, and ninety-one licenses were prepared and issued. The arrears on the 31st March amounted to twelve leases.

Proposed Operations for 1904-5.—A staff of eight permanent and four temporary surveyors are at present engaged on field-work in different parts of the district, and have an area of some 178,000 acres of subdivision surveys in hand, consisting chiefly of pastoral lands in large sections; 62,871 acres of the Ohotu Block is included in the above area, and is being surveyed under the Maori Councils Act by Messrs. Carkeek, Stevenson, and Roberts. Mr. Climie will continue the inspections where necessary, and be available for other work as required. Messrs. Lowe and Marchant are subdividing an area of 40,000 acres in the North Waimarino Block, in the Kaitieke and Hunua Districts, to be opened for selection during the present year. Messrs. Thompson and Girdlestone will complete the roading and subdivision of the 1B and 1D Awarua Blocks of about 81,000 acres preparatory to being leased. Mr. Strachan's subdivision survey of the Retaruke and Kirikau Blocks is approaching completion, and I hope to have them available for settlement at an early date. Mr. McKay will complete the subdivisional survey as between Crown and Native lands in the Mairekura and Papahaua Blocks, in the Makotuku District, and will then be available for other settlement surveys, or to continue the road and railway surveys necessary in the Karioi and adjacent districts. Mr. Mountfort, after finishing some isolated surveys in the Makuri and Tiffin Districts, will complete the standard survey of Masterton, and then be available for other work as required. Messrs. Carkeek, Stevenson, and Roberts will continue the subdivision of the Ohotu Native Block. Mr. R. P. Greville was temporarily transferred to the Land for Settlements Department for work in the Blenheim District, and has not yet returned.

Transfers.—Messrs. W. J. Wheeler and H. J. Lewis were transferred to the Auckland District in October last, after a long and honourable service in this district. Messrs. Drew and Hovell were also transferred to the Westland District in July and August, 1903.

Retirements.—On completion of the urgent preliminary survey of lands to be opened for selection before survey in the South Kaitieke Block, Messrs. Frasi and Scott left the service in July and August, 1903, and Mr. Beere, who had been temporarily employed on the Ohotu Block, also left on the 31st March of the same year.

JOHN STRAUCHON,
Chief Surveyor.

NELSON.

Topographical Surveys.—Under this class there have been 74,335 acres surveyed by the staff surveyors, at an average cost of 2.4d. per acre. The country is nearly all rough and heavily timbered, but is well adapted for settlement, the flats in the various small valleys affording sites for homesteads, and the hill lands, when cleared, will carry good feed for sheep and cattle. The temporary staff, which consisted in the early part of the year of seven surveyors, has made topographical surveys of 152,500 acres, at an average cost of 4.71d. per acre. Messrs. Spence, Galbraith, and Beere completed the blocks allotted to them in August last, and their services were then dispensed with. Messrs. Macpherson and Hughes also finished the preliminary surveys of their blocks (each comprising some 30,000 acres) about the same time, but their services are retained in order that the division into sections may be carried out. Messrs. Wilson and Cumine were also engaged upon similar work, the former having completed a block of some 11,000 acres on the Buller River, between the Owen Junction and Longford, about 8,000 acres of which he subsequently sectionised. The latter officer has been retarded in his work owing to his services being enlisted in reconnaissance work, partly for the purpose of ascertaining the nature of the country beyond the area originally allotted to him, and also to report upon the probable lines of communication between the Owen and Matiri Valleys and northward towards the head-waters of the Wangapeka, Mokihinui, and other rivers. The tracings of most of the above-mentioned blocks are being prepared for the publication of sale-posters, and the work will be pushed forward as expeditiously as possible.

Trig. and Topographical Surveys.—The only area returned this year is 20,000 acres in the Matiri Survey District, in the Buller Valley, to govern the surveys executed by Mr. D. M. Wilson, and consisted of breaking down the major triangulation formerly extended across this valley from the main ranges and the lower hills fronting the Buller River, between the Owen and Matakitaki Rivers.

Rural and Suburban.—In this class 31,167 acres has been divided into 164 sections, of which about 22,400 were done by staff surveyors. With the exception of some 4,000 acres in the Westport District, consisting of small scattered sections, as surveyed by Mr. J. Snodgrass, District Surveyor, these areas are in rough hilly country covered with dense bush, and are consequently rather costly to execute. Mr. D. M. Wilson, of the temporary staff, returns 8,345 acres, being a portion of a block on the Buller River referred to under "Topographical Surveys."

Mining Surveys.—There has been very little done in this branch during the year, only four special claims with a total area of 292 acres being returned.

Roads and Railways.—Thirty-three miles and three-quarters of road have been traversed and pegged in order to locate same upon the district maps.

Other Work.—The work under this heading comprises topographical surveys partially finished in the field, sectional surveys north of the Mokihinui River, and the subdivision of the Maruia Plains, which is nearly completed in the field. These represent a gross area of some 35,000 acres. Several small surveys have been made for local bodies and other Departments; inspections made of sawmilling areas, forest reserves, and settlement holdings, and the necessary reports thereon furnished. Surveys of State coal-mines, road exchanges and roads for construction, trig. and rural surveys in the Lee and Wairoa Valleys, and rural surveys at Rainy River have also been executed, and revision surveys to adjust boundaries of disputed titles under the Land Transfer Act, and other small surveys. In addition to the foregoing there is included in this item the departmental work connected with the district offices at Westport and Reefton.

Office-work.—Several calls have been made upon the office staff during the year, entailing a considerable amount of work out of the ordinary way, such as preparation of special maps to show the position of sawmills, and returns of annual output and probabilities for the future; areas of milling-timber, tracings for sale-posters, sets of lithographic maps to show proposed forest and scenic reserves, and the ordinary work of posting up maps, registers, &c.

Proposed Operations.—The principal items are the completion of topographical surveys in hand; the surveys, for settlement purposes, at Maruia Plains, Wairoa, Rainy River, Karamea, Brighton, and in the Buller and Matiri Valleys; the survey of lands under application, interspersed with the settlement holdings, round about Golden and Tasman Bays; the usual work in connection with road-rights, engineering surveys for Roads Department; and inspections and revision of old surveys, and other miscellaneous duties.

W. G. Murray,
Chief Surveyor.

MARLBOROUGH.

The field staff in this district has been considerably reduced during the last two or three years, in order to satisfy the more pressing requirements of other districts. Last year only five surveyors were employed—two staff, two temporary, and one contract.

Summary of Field-work executed.

	Acres.	Cost.
Topographical survey only	35,000	177 18 3
Rural and suburban (eighty-nine sections)	26,000	1,877 14 7
Road surveys (32.5 miles)		513 0 0
Miscellaneous surveys, &c.		344 11 6

In addition, two sections, comprising 979 acres, at a total cost of £73 4s., were surveyed by contract and paid for out of deposits.

Minor Triangulation and Topography.—With the limited staff at my disposal this class of work had to be entirely suspended during last year. There is an area of about 140,000 acres in the locality of the Upper Pelorus that requires doing at the first opportunity, and, in addition, a considerable amount of the present work wants revising.

Topographical Surveys.—The 35,000 acres under this heading consists of a portion of Flaxbourne Estate, the survey of which was necessary for the conduct of the Crown's case in the Compensation Court.

Rural and Subdivisional Section Surveys.—These show a very large falling-off from last year's figures, which, however, were swelled by some 200,000 acres of pastoral country in very large areas.

Roads and Railways.—The 32½ miles returned under this heading consist mostly of the survey of roads in the Sounds to give greater facilities to the settlers.

Land Transfer Survey Branch.—Eleven plans for the purpose of dealing with lands under "The Land Transfer Act, 1885," were examined and approved. Of these, all but one were township allotments. This class of survey has been considerably restricted in this district, owing to the prohibitive cost to applicants, consequent on the want of adequate standard surveys in the principal towns.

Inspections of Surveys.—During the year I have made eight inspections of surveys, attended two meetings of the Land-purchase Board in Wellington, and made twenty-one inspections in connection with Crown lands settlement.

Summary of Work on Hand.—On the 1st April, 1904, there were on hand 63,820 acres of rural, Crown, and Land for Settlements lands; 140,000 acres of minor triangulation; and nineteen miles of roads. Four surveyors were at work. The survey and subdivision of the Flaxbourne Estate (55,700 acres), which is in process of being acquired under the Land for Settlements Act, will occupy three of our surveyors for more than half the year. In addition to the above, standard surveys of Blenheim, Picton, Havelock, and Kaikoura are urgently required.

Office-work.—Mr. Armstrong, Chief Draughtsman, reports that the publication of the Sounds and Kaikoura County maps has been appreciated by the public, especially the former map, for which there has been a good demand, and which will be largely used by tourists and others. The lithographing of the Marlborough Land District is nearing completion. Plans of five districts were completed during the year—viz., Molesworth, Taylor Pass, Tapuaenuku, Wharnside, and Tone—leaving only four remaining to be done—*i.e.*, Avon, Mount Olympus, Blue Mountain, and Cape Campbell. It is not necessary at present to publish two of these districts, and the other two will be published as soon as the survey of the Flaxbourne Estate and Awatere Runs now in progress is completed. For the same reason it is considered desirable to withhold the publication of the balance of part of the Marlborough County. A large plan of the Flaxbourne Estate, comprising 55,700 acres, showing the topography, &c., was drawn and lithographs of the same printed for the use of the Compensation Court. Twenty-nine surveyor's plans with tabulations were examined, 394 diagrams placed on leases and titles, and considerable additions were made to block-sheets and record maps.

C. W. Adams,
Chief Surveyor.

WESTLAND.

Topographical Survey.—Under this division is 79,600 acres of practically unknown country in the Kawhaka, Okarito, and Arawata Districts; of this, 6,000 acres were exploited by Mr. Harrop, with a view to location of settlement lands and also to delimit the milling-timber in the Kawhaka Valley. Mr. Drew also made a topographical survey of 41,600 acres in the Arawata Valley, and his plan is very complete, detailing the available farming lands, the milling-timber, and the best means of access. Mr. Douglas has thoroughly explored and mapped the wild, forest-clad hummocky country to the east of Okarito, and, as usual, furnishes much information of this tangled wilderness which is interesting and valuable.

Rural and Suburban.—An area of 30,380 acres has been completed during the year at a mean cost of 2.1s. per acre, and comprised blocks in various parts of the district, consisting of level bush lands, contiguous to existing roads, and suitable for settlement purposes. A fair amount of exploration was necessary in all cases to exclude scenic and milling-forests from the areas cut up.

Town-section Survey.—Nine hundred and fifteen acres of town lands were subdivided into suitable allotments. Two areas were thus located—viz., the Township of Runanga, on the State Coal-mine Reserve, near Greymouth, and the Village Township of Kokotahi, near Hokitika. The survey of the Town of Runanga was carried out on behalf of the Mines Department, and proved tedious owing to the difficulty of suitably defining the street-lines and grades.

Gold-mining Survey.—During the year six special claims (1,309 acres) and two coal leases (1,000 and 57 acres respectively), or a total of 2,366 acres, were surveyed by Messrs. Young, Macfarlane, Spence, and Cutten, contract surveyors, who were nominated and paid by the applicants.

Roads.—Upwards of twenty-six miles was explored for and laid out, all in heavily timbered country, and principally in connection with opening up lands for selection.

Other Work.—The sum in connection with this heading amounts to £446 0s. 6d., and is made up as follows: W. Wilson—Surveys, &c., for Department of Roads, £261 1s. 10d.; ditto for Mines Department, £44 1s. 10d.; reports, &c., for Postal Department, £34 16s. 4d.; and £6 for Land Board reports, &c. A. H. Harrop—Repairs to trigs., £22 10s.; reports, &c., for Postal Department, £44 0s. 6d.; and £25 7s. in connection with land reports. H. K. Hovell—Survey for Department of Agriculture, £5 16s. 7d.; and two Land Transfer surveys, £2 7s.

Inspections, &c.—My field inspections—twelve—proved that the field surveyors were properly equipped and carrying on their work in a careful manner; proposed road-routes were defined on the ground, schemes for subdivisions approved, and land-values duly apportioned.

We have had a very good season for field-work, but yet the loss of working-time, due to rain, has been very large. As heretofore, we take charge of all roads in this district: about one-fourth of my own time and nearly the whole of Mr. Surveyor Wilson's time has been taken up with inspections, surveys, &c., on behalf of the Department of Roads, which repays us for these services.

I beg to draw your attention to Table No. 44, which gives the cost of work done for other Departments during the year, aggregating £1,813 15s. 9d., which sum recoups 18 per cent. of the year's expense for this office. The execution of most of this outside work during the first nine months was a great tax on our then limited staff, and forced us to postpone much important work of our own.

Proposed Operations, 1904-5.—During this year we shall require the services of seven surveyors to overtake the work on hand. This work comprises the laying-out of allotments for sale in Towns of Ahaura, Kumara, Hokitika, and Waitaha; cutting-up of blocks all over the district for settlement purposes; definition of certain scenic reserves; and the surveys of twenty-five sections which have been taken up, and also of a large number of others which are now being applied for under the new regulations.

Office-work.—Mr. T. M. Grant, Chief Draughtsman, notes that the number of plans received and examined was eighty-seven, involving the recalculation of 141 traverse-sheets, including twenty-four town and six rural Land Transfer surveys, nine special-claim and coal-lease plans, forty-seven surveyors' field plots and tabulations, and the check of 352 sections in the Township of Runanga, this latter taking much labour. The compilation of sixteen new application maps occupied the time of one draughtsman. A number of well-worn maps have been repaired and edge-bound. One hundred and twelve miscellaneous tracings, 950 tracings of land dealings, and thirty-four for photo-lithography were made; four large and important tracings also accompanied reports on rivers for conservation of electric power, on scenic preservation, and on Harbour Board reserves. A few block-maps have been finished, and our county map advanced a stage; our timber-maps are being revised and checked with the Warden's records, and will be shortly in complete order; these maps are exceedingly necessary and valuable. Survey data for field surveyors and information for the Land Board have also taken up much time; maps were also mounted.

The office duties during the year have been exceptionally heavy in all branches, but all calls for service were cheerfully met by the staff, and it has only been by their unremitting attention that the current work has been kept up to date. I have much pleasure in acknowledging the proficient and cheerful assistance they have rendered to me.

G. J. Roberts,
Chief Surveyor.

CANTERBURY.

The operations during the year have been almost wholly restricted to purely settlement surveys, all triangulation and standard survey work having been for the time discontinued. The work completed and mapped comprised an area of 71,493 acres, subdivided, at a cost of 8½d. per acre, into 238 sections, averaging 300 acres, and also 10 acres divided into seventeen town sections, at a cost of 14s. per allotment.

The rural work embraces 5,358 acres of the Chamberlain Settlement (Opawa Estate), 33,525 acres of the Annan Settlement (Highfield Estate), and 24,407 acres of the Rosewill Settlement (Levels Estate). The foregoing are parts of settlements purchased under the Land for Settlements Acts. In addition to the above, a block of 8,193 acres of Crown land near Oxford was sectionised, and 10 acres near Sockburn cut up into village-homestead lots. It is gratifying to find that every section of the 71,493 acres is taken up, with the exception of a few village lots. Through the very commendable industry and energy of Messrs. District Surveyors Brodrick and McClure we were able to get all, excepting the Levels Estate, surveyed without outside assistance; but the latter, consisting of a block (including some Crown lands) of 38,700 acres, was too great a work for even these officers to carry out unaided in the limited time within which I was ordered to get it done. The survey of the subdivision was commenced on the 21st August, and with the very able assistance of Mr. District Surveyor Neill, who was temporarily transferred from Otago, Mr. Assistant Surveyor Maitland from Marlborough, and Mr. J. Spence, authorised surveyor, we managed to get the field-work out of hand and mapping sufficiently advanced to enable us to place the land in the market before the end of March. One draughtsman was in the field the whole time, moving from camp to camp assisting with the mapping, and a second one was similarly engaged during the latter part of the time. All engaged on this work, both field and office staff, are greatly to be commended for the untiring energy they displayed and the very willing and hearty assistance they rendered, which enabled the work to be finished by the time fixed.

There has been but little opportunity afforded for "other work," hence the cost for the year stands at the insignificant sum of £53 8s. 10d.

Inspection.—Twenty field checks have been made of the work of fifteen different surveyors; five of these checks were done by myself, five by Mr. Brodrick, three by Mr. McClure, and seven by Mr. J. W. Davis of the Land Transfer Branch. As will have been seen from the details of the inspections sent you from time to time, the work was found to be excellent, with three exceptions, two of which were by the same surveyor.

Land Transfer Work.—Mr. J. W. Davis, the Land Transfer draughtsman, reports that the past year has been a very busy one in that branch, the items in Table 39 showing an increase of

16 per cent. over last year's figures and of 45 per cent. above the average for the preceding five years. The number of plans passed was 339, and of deeds and other instruments passed 1,945. The total number of plans drawn on certificates of title was 4,053.

Office-work.—Mr. Shanks, the Chief Draughtsman, reports that during the year nineteen surveyors' maps delineating miscellaneous surveys and subdivisions of land acquired for settlement purposes were received, checked, and recorded, and a considerable amount of this work was plotted on block-sheets. The acquisition by the Crown of the Highfield and Levels Estates, now known as the Annan and Rosewill Settlements, was accountable for a large amount of the work performed by the draughtsmen; 31,287 acres of the surveys by Messrs. McClure, Maitland, and Spence were plotted and finished plans made, and Mr. Neill was assisted in his preliminary plotting. A portion of the Chamberlain Settlement and of the Crown lands at Oxford, which had been surveyed by Mr. McClure during the previous year, and which represented an area of 13,541 acres, was also mapped by the office staff, the cost being added to that of the surveyor's work. Maps were drawn for publication as follows: Sale maps of the Annan and Rosewill Settlements, Sockburn Village-homestead Settlement, 8,183 acres in Oxford District offered for optional selection, the Upper Hurunui Run, the plan of the runs in the Tekoa District brought up to date, the provisional map of the Levels County, and the first sheets of the Waimate and Geraldine Counties; the second sheets of the two last-named counties, and the first sheet of the Mackenzie County, are now being prepared for publication. In addition to the foregoing, an unusually large number of miscellaneous maps and tracings were drawn, 751 diagrams (582 of which were done by contract) were placed on lease-forms, and 271 leases and licenses prepared and issued. The record maps have been for many years past almost hopelessly in arrear, but, thanks to the appointment of a draughtsman for this special work, a great improvement in this respect has been made; nineteen new record maps have been constructed and 663 titles recorded. There is a great deal yet to be done before the recording is brought up to date.

Work in Hand and Future Operations.—The first work which the two staff surveyors have now in hand is the completion of plans of the unmapped portions of their later field-work, comprising in all about 16,200 acres. Both have for months past been kept so constantly in the field that their arrears of mapping include not only these later surveys, but also about seven miles of standard traverses done by them during late years; altogether the mapping to be done will occupy their time for two or three months of the winter. Field-work urgently needed includes the surveys of Darfield, Chertsey, and Dromore Townships, which have lately been leased in blocks for terms of seven years, and there are, besides, a number of scattered isolated surveys that require to be undertaken. It is earnestly hoped that opportunity will be afforded and authority given to extend the standard surveys in the vicinity of Christchurch, Timaru, and Geraldine. In places the Land Transfer surveys of subdivisions of properties are now being built on one another, in consequence of the absence of standard marks in the localities and of the uselessness of the trigs. on account of obstruction by plantations, buildings, &c. Such a state of things is greatly to be deplored.

THOS. HUMPHRIES,
Chief Surveyor.

OTAGO.

Rural and Suburban.—The work of this class completed during the year comprises a total of 71,651 acres, divided into 141 sections, at a cost of 0.57s. per acre. Of this amount District Surveyor Wilmot returns seventy-eight sections having an area of 5,188 acres, being composed of spotting surveys scattered over a wide extent of country, and consequently involving much travelling. District Surveyor Calder returns 31,639 acres, divided into forty-five sections. The area is made up of the subdivision of the block known as Keenan's Run, the survey of which was commenced last year, and against which the sum of £143 was brought forward from last year and charged against the completed work, and the subdivision of part of Patearoa Run. These surveys consisted of six small grazing-runs ranging from 2,600 acres to 5,100 acres, and the balance of the work of sections from 2 up to 680 acres. District Surveyor Neill was employed from the 1st September, 1903, to the middle of last January on the survey of part of Rosewill Settlement, in Canterbury. His field-work in Otago consisted of the completion of the survey of part of the original Patearoa Run, the area returned completed being 34,781 acres, divided into four pastoral runs (32,660 acres), and ten sections of an average area of 212 acres. He has still about 7,500 acres to map. This area is not included in this year's return. There were also three small sections surveyed by Messrs. Macgeorge and Baxter for fees deposited by the applicants, and one of 6 acres was surveyed by Mr. Mackenzie.

Town-section Survey.—Only four sections were surveyed during the year—three small sections in Clyde, and one large one of 97 acres in the Town of Alexandra South as a reserve for recreation purposes. The surveys were made by Mr. Wilmot.

Gold-mining Surveys.—Sixty-two sections or claims were surveyed during the year, representing a total area of 1,981 acres, most of the work being done by private surveyors at an average cost of 4.09s. District Surveyor Wilmot was the only member of the staff who carried out this class of work. He surveyed eighteen sections, having an area of 557 acres, at a total cost to the Department of £110 5s., being at the rate of 3.96s. per acre. The fees received for these surveys amounted to £103 3s. He also made four inspections and reports for the Wardens at Arrow, Cromwell, and Clyde, and furnished ten tracings and reports on mining surveys, at a total cost of £15 5s., the fees received amounting to £15 5s. 6d.

Inspections.—During the year I have visited the staff surveyors eight times, consulting, advising, and going over their field-work. I have pleasure in recording that the results were satisfactory.

Land Transfer.—During the year seventy-five plans were received from private surveyors for deposit, which with three exceptions have been examined, approved, and recorded on record maps. The following instruments of title were also dealt with, viz.: Sixty-nine applications to bring land under the Land Transfer Act, 1,980 transfers, 1,270 mortgages in duplicate, 779 certificates of title in duplicate, 314 leases in duplicate and triplicate, and 290 transmissions, making a total of 4,803 for the year.

Other Work.—The total expenditure for the year is £490 3s. 7d. Of this amount, Mr. Wilmot returns £236 15s. 6d., his principal item being £192 17s. 6d., the cost of field-work completed but not sent in. The balance of £43 18s. covers the cost of work for the Mines Department, reporting on subdivisions of Section 7, Block VI., Lauder District, and office-work. Mr. Calder's expenditure is £51 11s. 4d., for inspection and reports for the Land Board, correspondence and attendance on the public, expenses in connection with the Naseby office, making duplicate plans, and keeping the office records. Mr. Neill's expenditure is £194 14s. 3d., £30 14s. 10d. of which is for small surveys and the balance for unfinished work. Mr. Mackenzie's one item was the cost of cutting the boundary of the bush reserve in Blocks I. and II., Earnslaw District.

Office-work.—The amount of routine and special work compares favourably with that of previous years. The Land Transfer and Crown-grant-record maps, run maps, Land Office maps, as well as road and county maps, have all been kept well up to date. The usual number of field tracings for surveyors, tracings for Valuation Department and Head Office, have been prepared. Some time was devoted to the unfinished plans of the Otakau Native Reserve survey, but the services of Mr. Neill, who had the survey on hand, were required for more urgent work. Consequently the plans in the meantime are left in abeyance. The feature of the year's work has been the publication of a large number of district maps on the mile-to-the-inch scale, in continuation of the publication of the whole of the Otago Land District on this scale. For this purpose twenty-eight districts within Vincent County were drawn on a scale of 40 chains to an inch and forwarded to Head Office for reduction by photo-lithography to the mile scale. Twenty-seven districts in that portion of Lake and Wallace Counties within the Otago Land District, not previously published, were also drawn on the 40-chain scale for reduction at Head Office, including land on the West Coast outside of survey districts—thirty-two sheets in all. Eleven districts, comprising the unpublished portion of the Waitaki County, were commenced last year and completed this year, also the parts of Lake, Vincent, and Waitaki Counties formerly in the Canterbury Land District, but now part of the Land District of Otago. The following districts are in hand to complete the unpublished portions of Tuapeka, Taieri, Waikouaiti, Clutha, and Waitaki Counties, viz.: Beaumont, Whitecomb, Wart Hill, Sutton, Budle, Hummock, Hummockside, Rimu, and Kurow, the present lithograph of the last being on a very unusual scale—namely, sixty chains to an inch. The publication of these will complete the whole of the Otago Land District on the mile-to-the-inch scale, and when available will prove of great service to the Department, and, no doubt, be appreciated by local bodies and the public. A lithograph of Vincent County showing land-tenures was prepared for the Head Office. A set of lithograph maps illustrative of all reserves both in the towns and survey districts within the Otago Land District is under way and nearing completion. A map was prepared showing proposed extension of Green Island Borough, also map of portion of Maori Hill Borough. New indices were made of maps in small portfolios, about half the total number having been gone through. A map was also prepared showing gold-bearing Crown lands, coal and bush reserves. The total number of plans received from staff and private surveyors during the year was 213, which have all been checked, approved, and recorded on the various record maps of the class to which they belong. The number of Crown grants, certificates of title, and other instruments of title prepared and issued during the year were as follows: 270 certificates of title, 109 leases in perpetuity, 61 occupation leases, 67 occupation with right of purchase, 19 village homestead, 24 small grazing-runs, and 30 pastoral and miscellaneous, all in triplicate, also 89 miscellaneous licenses in duplicate, making a total of 1,933 copies, at a cost of £188.

Printing and Map-mounting, &c.—During the year there have been printed 350 copies of Block VI., Lauder District, 200 notes to Land Transfer forms, 50 copies public reserves Tokomairiro, 100 schedules, and 250 protractors. Of maps mounted, 419 were for Lands and Survey, 101 for Valuation Department, 89 for Rangers, 10 for Roads Department, 5 for Tourist Department, and 57 for Deeds Registry, and a number of record and other maps and portfolios have been repaired.

Future Operations.—The work to be undertaken during the year 1904-5 will be made up somewhat as follows: District Surveyor Wilmot will complete the survey of Moutere Block of 7,000 acres on which he is now engaged, and will afterwards take up the many spotting applications of various classes throughout his district, embracing occupation leases, special claims, applications to purchase, &c. These may appear an inferior class of work for an experienced officer. It might, however, be pointed out that the local knowledge possessed by Mr. Wilmot renders the surveys easier and more reliable, and the knowledge he has of settlement requirements is of great value in dealing with these cases by the Land Board. Naturally, a contract surveyor would interest himself only in the immediate work of laying off a given area, whereas the question of how it would affect the adjoining Crown lands would be considered by a staff surveyor. Mr. Calder's work will be the compilation of the surveys shown in report, and, in addition to this, the usual number of applications for goldfield privileges and settlement surveys will be dealt with as they occur. The spotting class of work has been somewhat kept back in his district in the past, so that I anticipate he will be fully employed during the year. The remark made in connection with Mr. Wilmot will also apply to Mr. Calder's case. In connection with both these officers I would like to point out that, although the miscellaneous and scattered surveys carried out by them may cost somewhat more than the actual fees received, the advantages to the settler and miner —who under ordinary circumstances could not afford to pay excessive survey and mileage rates

—more than counterbalance the loss. District Surveyor Neill will be employed during the year in completing the survey of the Native block on the Peninsula. The work was commenced by Mr. Langmuir previous to my arrival in this district, and continued when Mr. Neill could be spared from more important settlement-work. The revision of the triangulation in the immediate vicinity of Dunedin is also work he has on hand, and should be completed as soon as possible. As he is the only surveyor in the coastal districts there is always a certain amount of work which has to be effected in order to keep up with the subdivisional wants of settlement. I have entered into the question of the duties of the three surveyors in order to show that, although the greater part of the agricultural portion of this district has been already surveyed, there is still sufficient work for these officers, and that were they reduced it might mean delay in both settlement and mining work. During the year Messrs. Skey and Nicholson were retired on account of the age-limit having been reached, the former on pension and the latter with the usual allowance. I would like to place on record an acknowledgment of the services of these officers. Both were invaluable in the respective duties allotted to them. The assiduity and care in the important duty of preparation of leases in which Mr. Skey had been employed for years were marked features in the quality of the work carried out by him.

D. Barron,
Chief Surveyor.

SOUTHLAND.

Rural and Suburban.—Twenty-one sections, representing 2,199 acres, are returned as completed during the year, at a cost of £265 8s. 4d., or 2.41s. per acre. Of these, nine are sawmill areas, and the remainder comprise miscellaneous spotting surveys and surveys of applications under the Mining Districts Land Occupation Act. Messrs. Mathias and Otway completed the field-work of their provisional survey of 5,000 acres, all dense bush, in Blocks XIII. and XIV., Waiau District, opened as unsurveyed land. Mr. Hodgkinson, who had this work in hand last year, was, on account of ill health, unable to keep the field, and in September last, as there appeared to be no prospect of his being able to resume his duties, the Department was reluctantly compelled to retire him. The most important work done during the year was the survey of Edendale Settlement, comprising an area of about 19,495 acres in 122 sections, by Messrs. Mathias, Maitland, and Otway. The field-work was completed, but as the mapping was not ready the work could not appear in this year's returns.

Gold-mining Surveys.—Five hundred and sixty-two acres in nine sections were surveyed, at a cost of £104 15s. 9d., or 3.7s. per acre. With the exception of the coal-lease area these are all special dredging claims, surveyed by private surveyors, and paid for by fees deposited by applicants.

Road Surveys.—The only survey under this heading is one for road-deviation purposes of three miles and a half in Waiau Survey District, at a cost of £40 13s. 6d., or £11 12s. 5d. per mile.

Land Transfer.—Sixty-two plans, embracing an area of 11,037 acres, were received, checked, and passed, and diagrams were placed on six certificates in triplicate, and 437 in duplicate. A Land Transfer record map of Invercargill suburban lands on a scale of 10 chains to an inch was constructed, and all surveys plotted thereon to date. As one of the draughtsmen is now engaged continuously at this work considerable progress should be made with these maps during the current year.

Proposed Operations for Year 1904-5—When District Surveyor Mathias completes his plans of Edendale Settlement I propose, subject to approval, to extend the main standard survey from the Town of Invercargill embracing a radius of, say, fifteen miles. The old triangulation is obsolete, not reliable, neither is it now suitable for present requirements, as trig. stations in some cases have been destroyed, buildings have been erected, and with the growth of plantations and hedges trig. stations generally are not reciprocally visible from each other. A much-needed survey which is also absolutely necessary is the extension of the standard and alignment survey of Invercargill throughout the adjacent townships and boroughs. Without such a survey the Land Transfer and other surveys can be neither checked nor controlled properly, and the longer this important work is delayed the more difficult and expensive becomes the adjustment of errors and of alignments, which errors undoubtedly exist, and will no doubt be disclosed as the proposed survey proceeds. A standard survey of the Town of Gore is becoming an absolute necessity in the near future, as this borough is now an important centre, so, from a Land Transfer point of view, it is almost absolutely necessary that at least a few standard points within the borough be established so as to control the numerous surveys yearly effected. At the present time there does not exist one starting-point within the borough from which with any degree of certainty a survey could be started. I think I may fairly say such a condition should not obtain within this important borough, and I do not know who should bear the cost of such a survey, but possibly it might be borne equally between the Survey Department and the Borough Council. Then, again, a much-needed resurvey is that of the various subdivisions of South Riverton. I have consistently refused to approve of surveys in these subdivisions which have at various times been sent to me, and until the Borough Council and the owners of sections in adjacent subdivisions are prepared to hand in their titles and agree to a resurvey in accordance with actual occupation—and possibly this may require special legislation—I venture to say no survey should be undertaken until some such arrangement is come to. It is also very necessary that a few standard points be inserted and the alignments of the principal streets fixed, so that any surveys coming in may be checked and controlled. I am now referring to

Riverton proper, the Government township, in which there is not one reliable point from which to start or close a survey, and the bearings even in this survey as shown on working-plans are some 21 minutes in error. On such surveys I would propose employing Mr. Mathias during the ensuing year, but, as soon as the winter months are passed, for a while I would get him to take up and complete the survey of Block XIII., Waiau, which is all bush country and quite unsuitable for winter work in this wet climate. When Assistant Surveyor Otway has completed his plans of Edendale Settlement he will immediately commence the plans of the landless-Native surveys, containing an area of about 30,000 acres, lying between Wairaurahiri and Waitutu Rivers, work which has now been long in hand, the plans of which I hope to have finished before Mr. Otway commences any other work, with the exception possibly of taking up and finishing Block XIV., Waiau District. Should time and circumstances permit, I will have the unsurveyed portions, as suggested last year, of Seaward Moss thoroughly explored and investigated, a few levels taken to decide whether it can be drained or not, which is essential and necessary before any report and recommendation can be made in connection with its future possibilities. There are also a number of isolated and deviation road surveys to be overtaken. The work thus enumerated, I anticipate, will fully keep my small staff employed during the year.

Office-work.—During the year forty-three plans, representing an area of 5,791 acres, were received from the surveyors, checked, and passed. Lithographic drawings were made of Fiord County, Preservation District, Town of Limehills, and Edendale Settlement, and additions were made to the original drawing of Town of Lumsden for purposes of republication; fifty-eight lithographic tracings for sale plans were prepared, and reductions made and plan compiled of Blocks XIII. and XIV., Waiau Survey District, to be opened for selection before survey. Maps in duplicate and descriptions were prepared in connection with proposed scenic and other reserves in Stewart Island, Crown and Native lands, lands to be withdrawn from State forests, and other matters. Two new record maps were constructed, and fresh work placed on existing maps. Computations were made of the geodetic latitude and longitude of coastal trig. stations, Stewart Island, and the coast-line on Admiralty charts amended in accordance therewith. Reductions were made and a map compiled to illustrate the position of the triangulation in this land district. Diagrams were placed on sixty-nine leases in quadruplicate, thirty-five in triplicate, and thirty-six in duplicate. One hundred and fifty-seven tracings of various sorts were made, including a number of working-tracings for surveyors, and fifty-two deposit plans were traced for the Valuer-General. The number of plans and lithographs mounted was 200.

JOHN HAY,
Chief Surveyor.

APPENDIX III.

REPORT ON VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS BY J. E. MARCH, SUPERINTENDENT OF VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS.

THE number of sections taken up during the year under village-homestead regulations was 35, with an area of 490 acres, and 12 sections with an area of 340 acres under other tenure.

During the same period 27 sections, with an area of 503 acres, were forfeited or surrendered under village-homestead regulations, and 17 sections with an area of 189 acres under other tenure.

The number of settlers under village-homestead regulations on 31st March last was 1,425, holding an area of 31,076 acres, an average of 21¾ acres each; and the number under other tenure 589 settlers, holding an area of 12,069 acres, an average of 20½ acres to each settler.

The total number of settlers under all systems was 2,014, with an area of 43,146 acres, an average of 21¼ acres each.

The annual rent and interest on advances under village-homestead regulations was £5,058, equivalent to a rental of 3s. 3d. per acre. The annual rent of sections under other tenure was £1,411, equivalent to 2s. 4d. per acre. The total annual rent and interest was therefore £6,469. The amount actually paid during the year was £6,265.

The value of improvements on sections taken up under the village-homestead system is £156,217, equivalent to an average of £5 per acre, or £109 12s. 6d. to each settler. The improvements on sections under other tenure are valued at £41,026, equivalent to £3 8s. per acre, or £69 13s. to each settler.

The number of souls on the land under all systems is 5,411, of these 2,471 are in the North Island and 2,940 in the Middle Island.

The position of village settlements on 31st March last is classified as under:—

Number of Settlers.

	Resident.	Non-resident.	Total.
Under village-homestead regulations ...	1,123	302	1,425
Under other tenure	356	233	589
Totals	1,479	535	2,014
In the North Island	741	158	899
In the Middle Island...	738	377	1,115
Totals	1,479	535	2,014

Area held on the 31st March, 1904.

	A.	R.	P.
Under village-homestead regulations	31,076	1	8
Under other tenure	12,069	1	29
Total	43,145	2	37
In the North Island	19,612	1	15
In the Middle Island	23,533	1	22
Total	43,145	2	37

Annual Rent and Interest.

	£	s.	d.
Under village-homestead regulations	5,058	0	5
Under other tenure	1,411	2	6
Total	£6,469	2	11
In the North Island	2,768	19	3
In the Middle Island	3,700	3	8
Total	£6,469	2	11

Sections taken up during the Year.

	Number.	Area. A.	R.	P.	Rent. £	s.	d.
Under village-homestead regulations	35	489	3	14	84	16	6
Under other tenure	12	339	2	3	15	14	10
Totals	47	829	1	17	100	11	4
In the North Island	21	355	1	5	51	13	10
In the Middle Island	26	474	0	12	48	17	6
Totals	47	829	1	17	£100	11	4

Forfeitures and Surrenders during the Year.

	Number	Area. A. R. P.	Rent and Interest. £ s. d.
Under village-homestead regulations	27	503 0 13	63 4 8
Under other tenure	17	188 3 23	19 1 4
Totals	44	691 3 36	82 6 0
In the North Island	17	363 2 19	55 18 0
In the Middle Island	27	328 1 17	26 8 0
Totals	44	691 3 36	82 6 0

Amount advanced for Cottages, Bushfelling, &c.

	Cottages. £ s. d.	Bushfelling. £ s. d.	Total. £ s. d.
Under village-homestead regulations ...	9,084 5 0	6,030 10 4	15,114 15 4
Under other tenure	...	...	...
Totals	£9,084 5 0	£6,030 10 4	£15,114 15 4
In the North Island	4,482 0 0	5,221 13 2	9,703 13 2
In the Middle Island	4,602 5 0	808 17 2	5,411 2 2
Totals	£9,084 5 0	£6,030 10 4	£15,114 15 4

Repayments of above Advances.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
In the North Island	3,072 4 0	
In the Middle Island	1,161 13 9	
		4,233 17 9
Remaining unpaid		10,880 17 7
Total		£15,114 15 4

Amount received for Rent and Interest during the Year.

	Rent. £ s. d.	Interest. £ s. d.	Total. £ s. d.
Under village-homestead regulations	4,152 12 4	516 7 11	4,669 0 3
Under other tenure	1,596 15 5	...	1,596 15 5
Totals	£5,749 7 9	£516 7 11	£6,265 15 8
In the North Island	2,373 3 1	304 13 8	2,677 16 9
In the Middle Island	3,376 4 8	211 14 3	3,587 18 11
Totals	£5,749 7 9	£516 7 11	£6,265 15 8

The total amount received as rent and interest in connection with village-homestead settlements from the commencement of the system to the 31st March last was as under :—

	Rent. £ s. d.	Interest. £ s. d.	Total. £ s. d.
In the North Island	17,711 0 11	7,091 17 1	24,802 18 0
In the Middle Island	29,631 13 4	3,524 7 3	33,156 0 7
Totals	£47,342 14 3	£10,616 4 4	£57,958 18 7

Arrears of Rent and Interest on the 31st March, 1904.

	Number.	Area. A. R. P.	Rent. £ s. d.	Interest. £ s. d.	Total. £ s. d.
Under village-homestead regulations	59	1,294 3 27	134 16 4	94 11 4	229 7 8
Under other tenure	62	2,179 0 1	139 12 11	...	139 12 11
Totals	121	3,473 3 28	£274 9 3	£94 11 4	£369 0 1
In the North Island	91	2,724 2 32	188 7 10	83 11 11	271 19 9
In the Middle Island	30	749 0 36	86 1 5	10 19 5	97 0 10
Totals	121	3,473 3 28	£274 9 3	£94 11 4	£369 0 7

Value of Improvements on the Land.

	£	s.	d.
Under village-homestead regulations	156,217	0	0
Under other tenure	41,026	0	0
Total	£197,243	0	0
In the North Island	105,618	0	0
In the Middle Island	91,625	0	0
Total	£197,243	0	0

Number of Souls on the Land.

Under village-homestead regulations	4,225
Under other tenure	1,186
Total	5,411
In the North Island	2,471
In the Middle Island	2,940
Total	5,411

The village settlements in the District of Auckland number 17. The original number of settlers was 461, and the area taken up 21,229 acres. The present number of settlers is 195—namely, 45 under village-homestead lease, and 150 who have been permitted to exchange their holdings to lease in perpetuity. The area now held is 8,074 acres. It should be stated that the original area included certain endowment lands belonging to the City of Auckland and Borough of Parnell, which have since been handed over, and are not now included in the returns. The annual rent and interest of the lands now held is £588. The payments made during the year were £604, and there still remains £129 in arrears. Improvements to the value of £21,938 have been placed on the land, equivalent to £2 14s. 4d. per acre.

The Hawke's Bay District has 93 village settlers occupying an area of 745 acres, an average of 8 acres each. The annual rent and interest is £145 13s. 6d., equivalent to 3s. 10¾d. per acre. The amount actually paid during the year was £160 2s. 4d.; the arrears on the 31st March were only 12s. The improvements are valued at £7,146, equal to £9 11s. 10d. per acre.

In Taranaki there are no settlements under village-homestead conditions; 26 settlers occupy 110 acres of village-settlement land under other tenure, an average of 4 acres each. Improvements to the value of £863 have been placed on the land, equivalent to nearly £8 per acre.

The settlements in Wellington District number 43; and 585 settlers occupy 10,683 acres, an average of 18¼ acres each. The annual rent and interest is £2,018, equivalent to 3s. 9d. per acre; during the year £1,900 was paid. The improvements on the land are steadily increasing, and now amount to £75,671, equivalent to £7 per acre. Wellington still has the largest number of village settlers, and the prompt manner they pay their rent, together with the improvements made on the land, is an indication they are doing well.

In the District of Nelson 20 village-homestead settlers occupy 100 acres of land, which is situated close to the State Coal-mine. The rent and interest is as a rule promptly paid; and improvements to the value of £1,154 have been placed on the land, equivalent to £11 per acre.

In Marlborough 24 village settlers occupy 367 acres of land, an average of 15 acres to each settler. Rent and interest is always promptly paid; and the improvements placed on the land are valued at £2,510, equal to £6 16s. 9d. per acre.

The number of settlements in Canterbury under village-homestead conditions is 48; the number of settlers 344, who hold altogether 12,447 acres, an average of 36 acres to each settler. The annual rent and interest is £2,150, equivalent to 3s. 5d. per acre. The rent and interest paid during the year was £1,835, and the total amount paid into the Treasury since these settlements were formed is £24,883—namely, rent £23,157, and interest £1,726. Improvements to the value of £42,843 have been placed on the land, equivalent to £3 8s. 10d. per acre. In addition to village-homestead settlements, 59 settlers hold 583 acres of village land under other tenure, an average of 10 acres to each settler. The rent as a rule is promptly paid; and improvements to the value of £3,662 have been placed on the land, equivalent to £6 5s. 7d. per acre. All the settlements in Canterbury, with very few exceptions, are doing well.

In Otago District 244 village settlers occupy 3,719 acres, an average of 15 acres each. The annual rent and interest is £650, and during the year the settlers paid £717. The improvements on the land are valued at £15,923, equal to £4 5s. 7d. per acre.

The village settlements in Southland number 39; and 420 settlers occupy 6,119 acres, an average of 14½ acres to each settler. The annual rent and interest amount to £682, and during the past year £716 was paid. Improvements to the value of £25,533 have been placed on the land, which is equivalent to £4 3s. per acre. The settlers are industrious and prosperous, and of the 420 only two are in arrear to the extent of £1 6s. 7d.

The demand for land under village-homestead regulations is still great, but very little is available. The figures in this and previous reports prove conclusively that this system of land settlement might well be extended, as it enables a working-man to obtain a section of land and make a home for himself at a moderate cost.

J. E. March,
Superintendent of Village Settlements.

APPENDIX IV.—FORESTRY OPERATIONS.

REPORT BY HENRY J. MATTHEWS, CHIEF FORESTER.

In submitting the annual report for the year ending the 31st March, 1904, I have again to express my obligation to the officers in charge of the various stations, who have carried out their respective duties with commendable energy and skill, under exceptionally adverse circumstances.

The amount voted for plantation purposes for the year was £29,304, of which only £18,195 11s. 6d. was expended, this sum including £3,600 for purchase of the freehold of Dumgree Plantation, Marlborough.

The operations for the year have been highly successful at all stations. The total number of trees raised was over six millions and a quarter, as against nearly four millions for the previous year. An area of 1,040½ acres has been planted with nearly two million and a half trees. The six nurseries now contain approximately ten million trees, and the number raised to date is 18,293,682.

The work of the year is summarised in the following tables, and the schedules appended (A to F) contain particulars of the numbers and species grown at each station :—

NUMBER OF TREES GROWN IN NURSERIES AND PLANTATIONS, AND AREA PLANTED, FROM SEPTEMBER, 1896, TO 31ST MARCH, 1904.

—	Number in Nurseries, 31st March, 1904.	Values.	Number raised in Nurseries and Plantations, 1896 to 1904.	Values.	Number raised in Nurseries and Plantations, 1903-4.	Number planted in 1903-4.	Area planted in 1903-4.	Total Number in Plantations, 1904.	Total Area planted to 1904
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.			Acres.		Acres.
Eweburn Nursery	809,121	1,540 7 8	1,719,391	2,517 10 4	255,580	..	..	..	..
Tapanui Nursery	2,063,080	3,435 5 4	5,034,705	8,963 10 8	735,200	..	..	..	..
Rotorua Nursery	5,535,355	5,693 13 10	8,991,946	12,374 19 11	4,425,465	..	..	..	..
Starborough Nursery	911,391	1,625 17 0	1,107,150	1,277 2 0	245,000	..	..	..	..
Hanmer Springs Nursery	302,600	519 7 6	113,000	110 15 0	59,000	..	..	..	..
Naseby Plantation	..	..	..	..	..	68,080	25½	356,585	131¼
Dusky Hill Plantation	..	..	366,855	..	185,000	766,100	251¾	1,994,688	803¾
Raincliff Plantation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50,000	206¾
Hanmer Springs Plantation	..	..	222,300	..	131,800	325,150	122¼	422,550	150½
Whakarewarewa Plantation	..	..	81,680	..	33,680	207,665	154	823,088	471¾
Waiotapu Plantation	..	..	158,681	..	75,560	600,432	225	1,050,765	432
Kaingaroa Plantation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44,275	21
Dumgree Plantation	..	..	..	..	..	125,650	46	125,650	46
Ruatangata Plantation	312,000	615 0 0	313,124	629 1 0	313,124	2,524	15	2,524	15
Conical Hills Plantation	..	..	184,850	..	184,850	355,550	201	355,550	201
Government domains, reserves, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	133,632	..
Total ..	9,933,547	13,429 11 4	18,293,682	25,872 18 11	6,644,259	2,451,151	1,040½	5,359,307	2,479

Summary of Expenditure and Values.

		Expenditure for Year ended 31st March, 1904.	Expenditure from September, 1896, to 31st March, 1904.	Value of Improvements, Trees, &c., for Year ended 31st March, 1904.	Values of Improvements, Trees, &c., from September, 1896 to 31st March, 1904.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903 ..	£37,690 14 3				
Eweburn Nursery		717 0 1	6,354 19 8	2,105 5 5	5,361 14 10
Tapanui Nursery		1,559 9 2	8,828 6 2	7,350 3 9	12,243 13 9
Rotorua Nursery		3,372 16 8	10,960 17 11	9,438 7 9	11,882 1 11
Starborough Nursery		1,528 11 5	4,137 1 10	3,058 0 5	5,084 17 3
Hanmer Springs Nursery		383 11 7	494 11 8	807 11 5	807 11 5
Naseby Survey Paddock Plantation		245 6 10	1,610 16 3	655 12 6	3,089 17 2
Gimmerburn Plantation Reserve		19 4 1	407 2 9	19 4 1	407 2 9
Dusky Hill Plantation		813 5 7	7,164 10 1	3,892 18 6	16,241 18 8
Conical Hills Plantation		1,746 11 1	1,790 19 1	2,563 19 0	2,607 19 3
Raincliff Plantation		7 0 0	1,098 7 5	62 8 3	1,241 4 0
Hanmer Springs Plantation		775 16 10	1,845 10 8	1,971 7 7	3,290 11 10
Whakarewarewa Plantation		768 16 4	3,169 18 11	1,472 19 7	6,017 2 0
Waiotapu Plantation		982 17 5	1,766 8 4	3,505 5 3	6,984 6 1
Kaingaroa Plains Plantation		6 0 6	318 13 0	30 14 7	553 11 7
Wellington Nursery (proposed)		..	11 3 11	..	..
Naseby Domain		..	10 0 0	..	10 0 0
Albury Plantation		..	72 4 11	..	72 4 11
Torea Neck Reserve		..	1 7 6	..	1 7 6
Ruatangata Plantation		718 14 11	726 17 11	1,177 4 7	1,185 7 7
Dumgree Plantation		4,417 4 8	4,417 4 8	4,512 15 3	4,512 15 3
Clerical assistance		75 0 0	255 0 0	..	..
Supervision thermal reserves, &c.		..	336 16 9	..	..
Contingencies: Photographic material, stationery, books on forestry, fidelity insurance, travelling-expenses, &c.		58 4 4	107 6 4	..	45 17 0
	£ s. d.				
Value at 31st March, 1903 ..	57,513 16 0				
Less rent included in error—	£ s. d.				
Raincliff	11 4 0				
Gimmerburn ..	184 19 0				
Less trees and horse-feed at 31st March, 1903	18,300 6 2				
	18,496 9 2				
	£39,017 6 10	..	..	42,623 17 11 39,017 6 10	
Total		18,195 11 6	55,886 5 9	81,641 4 9	81,641 4 9

Output of Trees from Nurseries during Year 1903–4.

	Number.	Value. £ s. d.
Rotorua	896,015	2,190 19 1
Tapanui	946,775	3,253 3 3
Eweburn	96,300	277 18 5
Starborough	127,575	170 16 0
Hanmer	325,150	832 4 8
Ruatangata	1,124	14 1 0
	2,392,939	£6,739 2 5

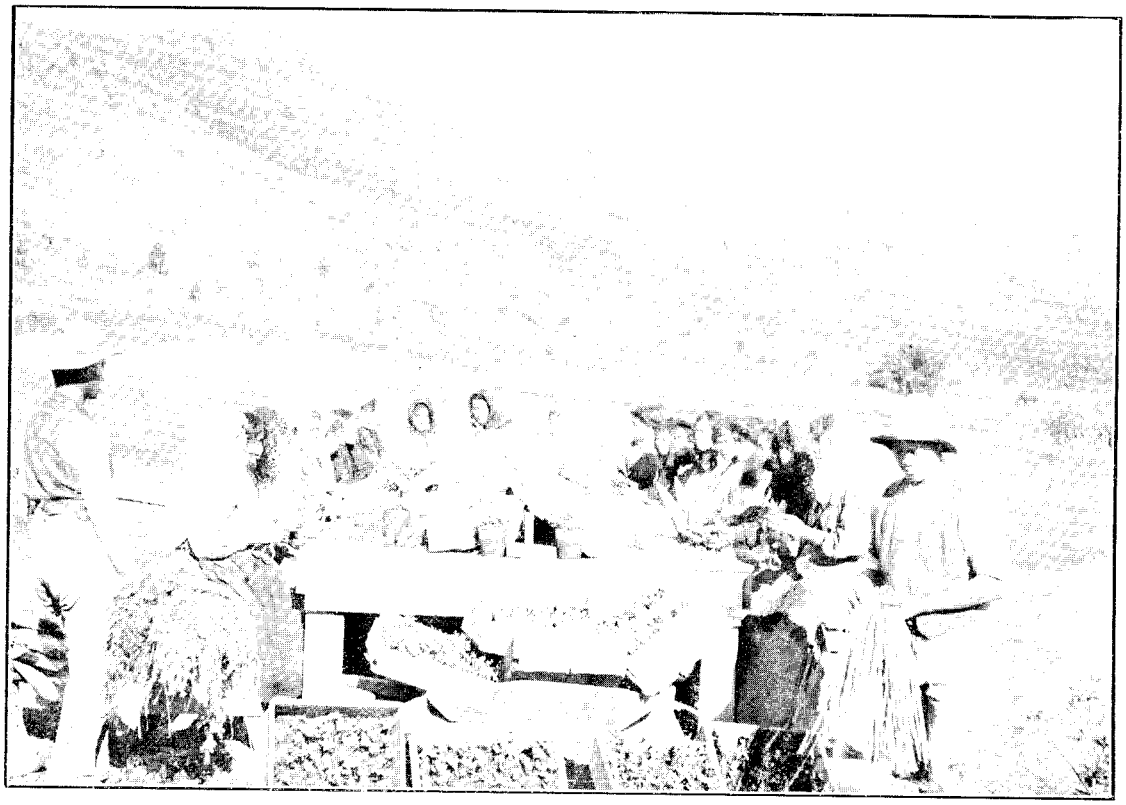
Of the above, 19,693 trees, of a total value of £194 2s. 10d., were supplied to local bodies.

Lining out Trees, Cost of, at Nurseries.

	Per 1,000. s. d.
Tapanui	4 7
Eweburn	7 2¼
Hanmer	3 9
Starborough	3 4
Rotorua	3 0

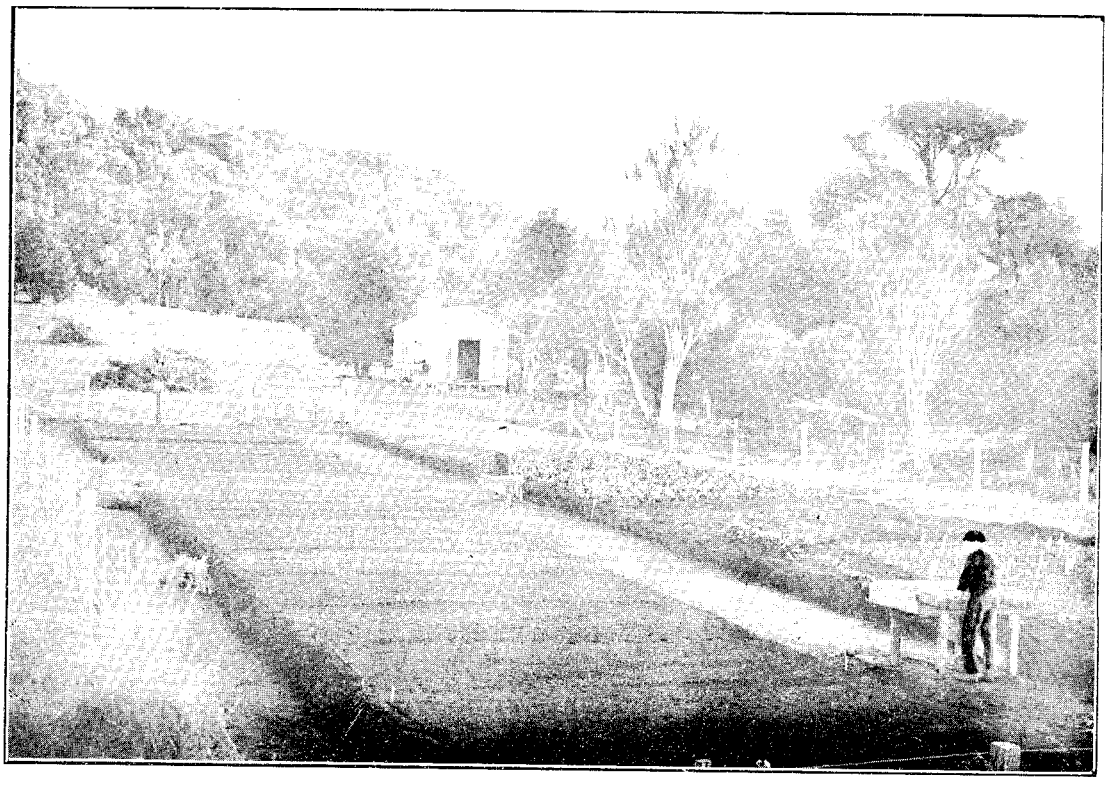
Cost of digging Pits, and Tree-planting at Plantations.

Station.	Digging Pits. Per 1,000. £ s. d.	Tree-planting. Per 1,000. £ s. d.
Dusky Hill Plantation	1 0 0	0 14 0
Hanmer Springs Plantation	1 5 6	1 0 7
Naseby Plantation	No pitting here.	0 14 11
Whakarewarewa Plantation	0 11 6	0 9 10
Dumgree Plantation	1 5 5¾	0 18 10½
Conical Hills Plantation	1 4 10	0 17 8



Grace Matthews, photo.

MOSSING EUCALYPTI AT ROTORUA NURSERY.



Grace Matthews, photo.

VIEW OF SMALL NURSERY, RUAKANGAKA, AUCKLAND.



MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM READINGS OF THERMOMETER (FAHRENHEIT) AND RAINFALL AT VARIOUS STATIONS FOR THE YEAR.

	Temperature.		Rainfall.	
	Minimum.	Maximum.	Inches.	Number of Days.
	Deg.	Deg.		
Eweburn Nursery	− 14	90	19·00	70
Tapanui Nursery	16	94	42·15	127
Starborough Nursery	21	92	28·01	100
Ruatangata Nursery	30	85	64·08	114
Rotorua Nursery	24	84	62·48	142
Waiotapu Plantation	15	88	57·88	140

TEMPERATURE IN INLAND DISTRICTS.

A most important factor connected with the afforestation of inland portions of the colony, is the abnormally low temperature experienced. In the South Island last winter no less than 14 degrees below zero (46 degrees of frost) was recorded by two separate thermometers at different locations on the 13th July at Ewebank Nursery, Central Otago. It is also worthy of record that frosts occurred during eleven months of the year. Notwithstanding this extreme temperature, it is satisfactory to note that the Department have not lost a single tree from this cause, although many settlers both in inland Otago and Canterbury have had the whole of their plantations (the result of many years' labour and expense) destroyed in a single night.

If further planting by private persons is contemplated in the districts referred to, it is imperative that the records of this Department be carefully perused in order to make a selection of trees which have been proved sufficiently hardy to withstand the abnormally low temperature of 46 degrees of frost. Further experiments are being made with different species of trees in order to test their suitability for the localities affected, but at present the selection is confined to narrow limits.

Coming to the North Island it will be found on reference to the meteorological records kept at Waiotapu Plantation, near Rotorua, that frosts occurred during every month of the year. As late as the 20th November a frost registering no less than 10 degrees was experienced, which did an immense amount of damage to the young growth on nearly all classes of trees. In this case it is not a question of the hardiness of a tree that requires to be considered, but the selection of those species which are late in starting into growth, as no tree when making its soft, sappy shoots in spring will withstand even one or two degrees of frost without injury. It is fortunate, however, that nearly all the trees affected at Waiotapu, except *Pinus strobus*, have now practically recovered.

NUMBER OF TREES AUTHORISED TO BE GROWN ANNUALLY.

In reference to the number of trees authorised to be grown annually—viz., 5,000,000—it is a most difficult matter to order the exact quantity of seed to produce this number. Careful calculations were made (from the results of previous sowings) in making up the seed-order for the past year, and yet one and a quarter million trees more than the authorised number were grown. This result was partly due to the exceedingly favourable spring experienced at all stations, but more particularly to the excellent quality of the seeds. The same quantity of tree-seeds may be procured for another season's sowing, and the resultant crop fall short by as many as have been raised in excess of the authorised number during the past year.

Another difficulty to contend with is in taking stock of seedling trees. The method adopted in estimating the number of trees in seed-beds is by stretching two cotton threads 12 in. apart across an average portion of the beds. The number contained in each foot is then counted in, say, a dozen places, and the approximate total easily arrived at by a simple calculation. It is found, however, that no matter how carefully the counting is done there is frequently a wide margin either above or below the estimated number, which is determined when the plants are lifted, sized, and counted by hand. At Rotorua Nursery, for instance, we have a crop of seedling larch estimated at three millions. Many of these are small plants which may survive the coming winter if it is a mild one, but which will certainly perish if the frosts are exceptionally severe. To allow for possible loss, the number has been reduced to two millions, but should a favourable winter be experienced there is little doubt that the beds will be found to contain fully three and a half million plants.

It is impossible to prepare estimates of expenditure with any degree of accuracy when the output of trees is of such an uncertain quantity, and for this reason it is imperative that some provision should be made to increase the total amount of appropriations should occasion arise, otherwise there will certainly eventuate a considerable loss to the State by allowing a number of trees to remain unplanted for want of funds, as in raising trees different species demand their immediate removal from the seed-beds when they have reached a certain stage of growth, the precise time being determined chiefly by the season experienced.

EXPERIMENTAL WORK.

Probably the most interesting feature of the Department's work during the year has been the successful raising in quantity of the native totara and puriri from seed, and in the case of the

former from cuttings at Ruatangata Nursery near Whangarei. Last autumn proved to be an excellent "seed-year" for both the species mentioned, and considerable quantities of these were collected and sown under cover of scrim shading. The results have been entirely successful—a hundred thousand totara and four thousand puriri—thus proving that with reasonable care and skill two at least of our most valuable and durable timber trees can be raised as easily as any exotic conifer. During wet weather the nursery staff prepared a number of cuttings of puriri and totara, in order to determine whether these could be increased profitably by this means. The totaras rooted very freely—fully 95 per cent.—and have since made quite 12 in. of vertical growth. The puriri, however, were a failure, owing to the cuttings being made rather late in the year, as well as to the unfavourable season experienced afterwards.

About a hundred thousand young totaras were also collected from the forests near Whangarei, at a cost of 10s. per thousand. These were planted closely together, and partially shaded for a few weeks until they recovered from the shock due to transplanting. There has been practically no loss amongst these "collected" plants.

Trial sowings of various eucalypti such as sugar-gum, spotted gum, white, red, and black ironbark, and the durable jarrah were also made, with promising results, and fully a hundred thousand of these valuable species are in stock. Experiments were also made with the cork-oak which proved successful considering the quality of the seeds procured from America. Five hundredweight of cork-acorns were ordered from Italy for this year's sowing, but unfortunately the seed-crop there last season was a total failure owing to a plague of insects which entirely demolished the leaves of the trees.

The quality of cork-bark produced from comparatively young trees in Auckland has been pronounced by experts as equal to the imported article, and as nothing can take the place of cork in its manifold uses an adequate supply of it will be of great economical importance in the future. In the meantime all the cork-oak plants raised are being planted for the production of seed, and later for establishing forests of cork-oak.

At Rotorua Nursery the growth of *Catalpa speciosa* has been a pronounced success, no less than half a million young plants being raised from 100 lb. of seed, part of which was kindly collected for this Department by Mr. J. P. Brown, the energetic secretary of the International Society of Arboriculture, Connersville, Indiana. This tree has been largely planted in America by railway companies for the production of sleepers and fencing-posts. According to reliable information published in American works on forestry, the catalpa is by far the most profitable tree to plant for such purposes. It is easily raised from seed, transplants well, is not fastidious as to soil and situation, and produces durable timber fit for railway-sleepers within twenty years. Instances are given of sleepers lasting for thirty years and fence-posts for sixty years. Sufficient time has not elapsed to express a definite opinion as to its suitability for general planting in this colony, but present indications are decidedly favourable.

New System of planting Eucalypti and other Trees.

The system of "mossing" young eucalypti plants, as described in the report herewith on Rotorua Nursery, has been so successful that the Department feel justified in treating fully a million during the coming season. Those who have experienced the difficulty of transplanting eucalypti successfully on the "bare-root" system will at once discern the advantages of "mossing," by which means the percentage of failures is reduced to the lowest possible limits. This system has also been applied to the well-known blackwood of Tasmania (*Acacia melanoxylon*), pines, and other trees with excellent results. One great advantage in planting "mossed" plants is that the work can proceed without risk of failure in almost any weather, as the delicate root-fibres are protected from drying winds by the moist, spongy nature of the sphagnum moss.

Rotorua Nursery is, fortunately, situated adjacent to the Native Village of Whakarewarewa, where Maori women and girls are eager to accept employment mossing eucalypti on piecework at 5s. per thousand. At present twelve *wahines* are employed at this work, earning from 4s. to 6s. 6d. per day. (See illustration.)

Prison Labour.

The employment of prison labour in preparing land and tree-planting has, on the whole, been fairly satisfactory. As mentioned in the report of Waiotapu Plantation, "some of the men are almost as industrious as free men, whilst others do just a sufficient amount of work to escape the displeasure of the officer in charge."

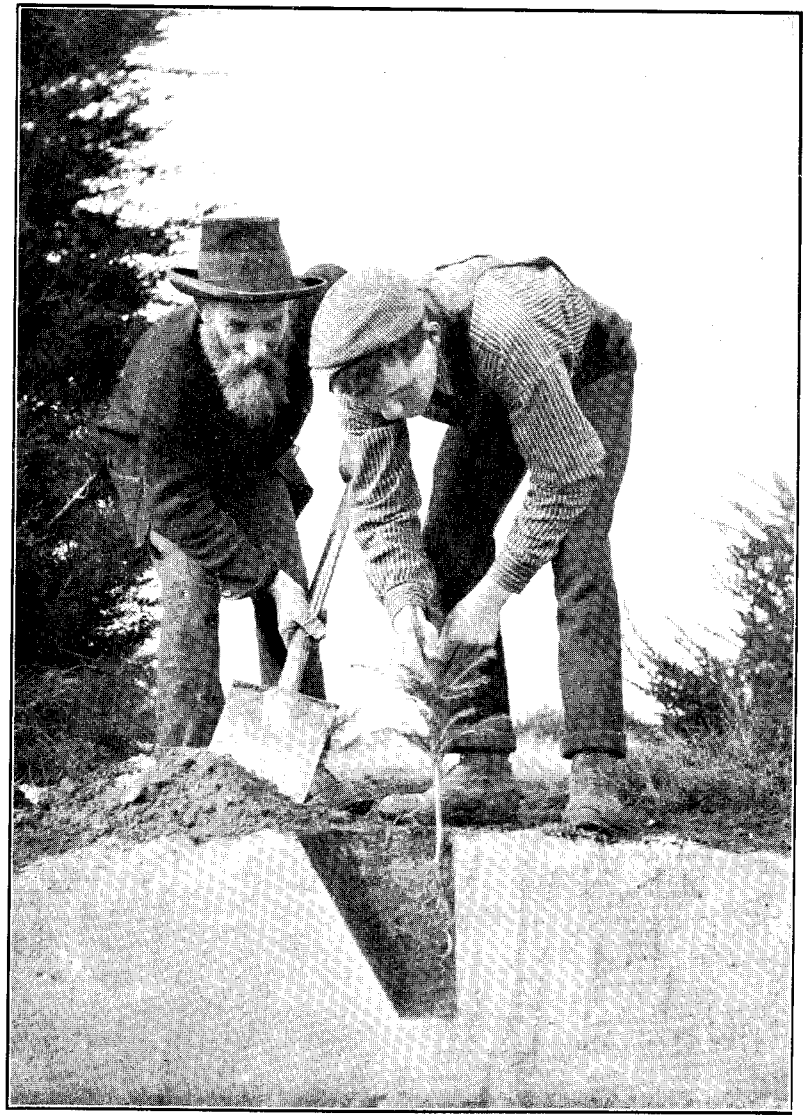
As indicated in last year's report, prison labour has been provided at Hanmer Springs, where both the nursery and plantation are worked by this class of labour.

A considerable amount of work has been undertaken and completed at Somes Island, Wellington Harbour, where about twenty prisoners were employed for some months in planting native trees and shrubs for shelter purposes on this exposed islet.

Arrangements have now been completed for the employment of thirty-seven prisoners at Dumgree Plantation, Marlborough; thirty-three at Waipa Valley, near Rotorua; and forty additional men at Waiotapu Plantation. This Department will then have 175 prisoners distributed over four stations.

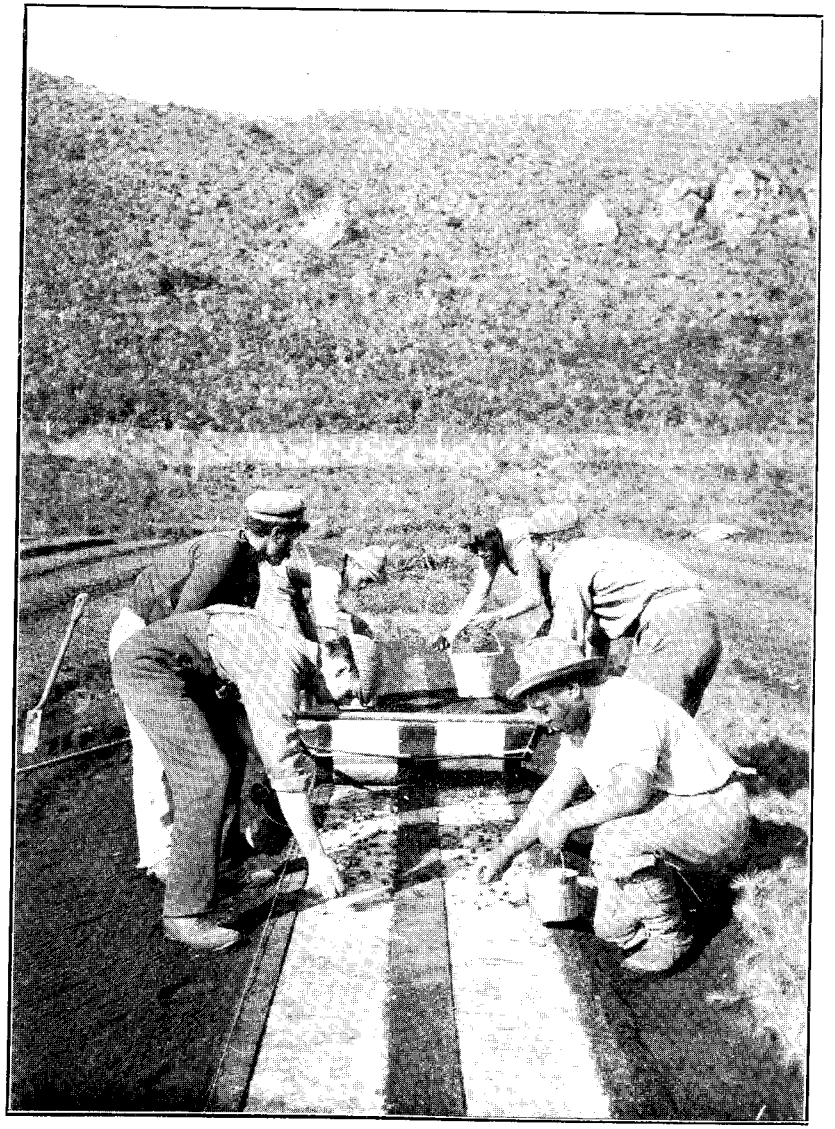
New Plantation Areas—Waipa Valley and Waiotapu Extension.

Immediately adjoining the Rotorua Nursery an area of about 8,000 acres of Crown lands is now being enclosed for plantation purposes. This area lies between the Rotorua–Waiotapu and the Rotorua–Wairoa Roads, the southern boundaries being Lakes Tikitapu and Rotokakahi, while the northern boundary is the Whakarewarewa Plantation. The land is for the most part



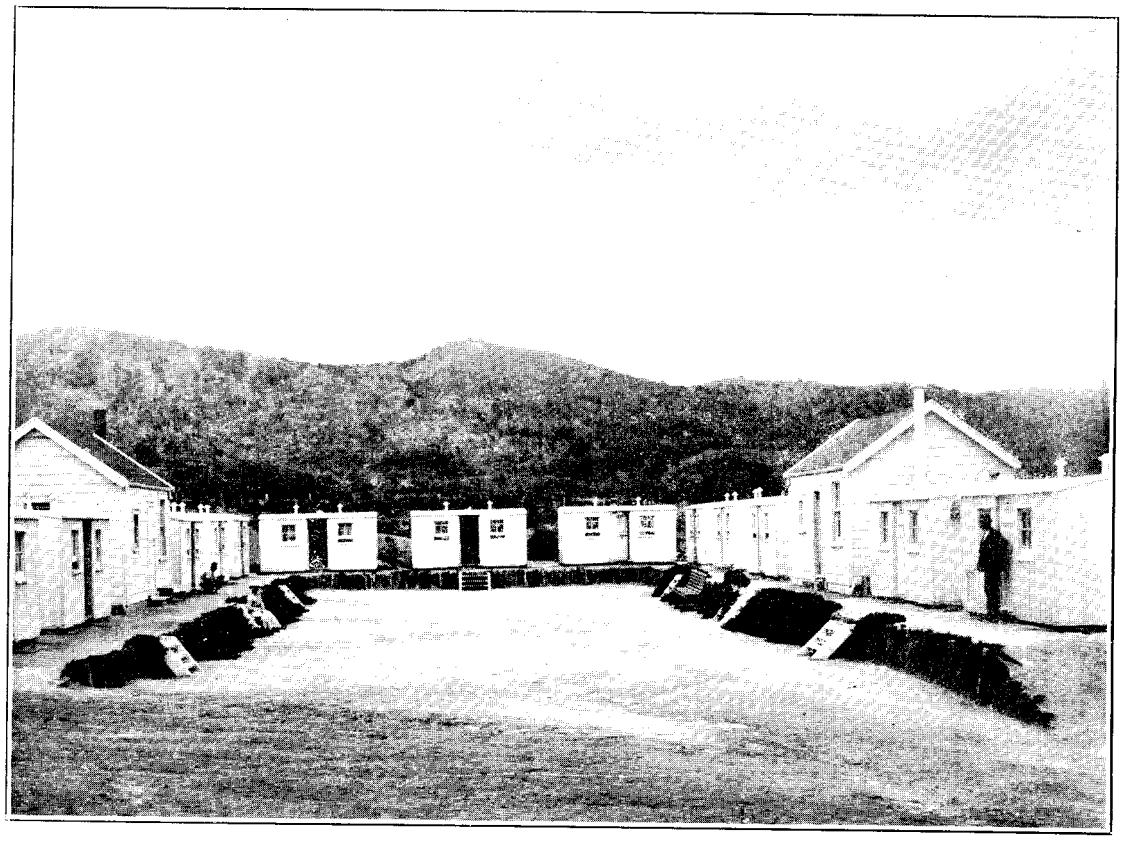
Grace Matthews, photo.

FOREST TREE-PLANTING IN OPERATION.



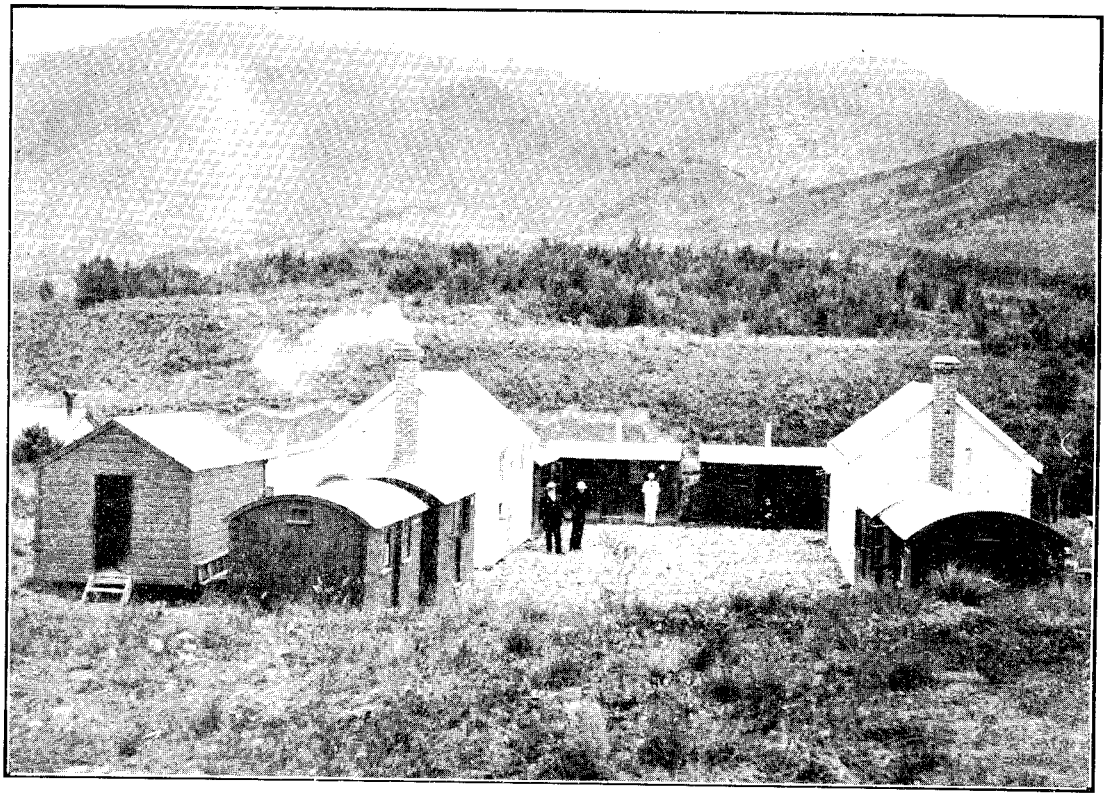
Grace Matthews, photo.

TREE SEED-SOWING AT ROTORUA NURSERY.



Grace Matthews, photo.

THE PRISON CAMP, WAIOTAPU, AUCKLAND.



Grace Matthews, photo.

THE PRISON CAMP, HANMER SPRINGS.

a wide open valley, in some places carrying a fair sole of natural grass, and in others covered with manuka scrub, tutu, and fern. The hilly portion is exceedingly steep and broken, but nevertheless contains fair soil, which is suitable for a wide range of timber trees. This plantation will be worked chiefly by prison labour, the camp and huts being almost ready for the present season's planting.

At Waiotapu an additional area of some 2,000 acres has been added to the plantation, and the prisoners have already erected about five miles and a half of substantial seven-wire fencing, with totara posts obtained from Tarawera Mountain. There is sufficient land available within easy distance of the present camp to keep eighty prisoners employed for about three years, after which time it will be necessary to move the camp to a central position within the planting-area. Several miles of roads have been formed to give access to the land, while clearing and pitting for next season's planting is well forward.

Reservations for Planting Purposes.

I have again to draw attention to the necessity for making extensive reserves for the growth of timber for the future. Legislation has now been passed to enable the Crown to acquire private lands for this purpose, but there are available many areas of Crown lands now included in pastoral runs which are well adapted for this purpose, and such should be reserved as the leases expire.

Although there are ample State-forest reservations available throughout the colony, many of these are situated in such out-of-the-way places that they are on that account undesirable for timber-growing, being essentially climatic reserves.

Every mile distant from a railway-line or shipping-port reduces the value of a plantation, both by making it more expensive to plant and by increasing the cost of bringing the mature timber to a market.

Plantation Reserves in Canterbury.

For many years a Plantation Board has been in existence in Canterbury for the management of some twenty separate plantation reserves, aggregating nearly 1,000 acres. These are widely scattered throughout Canterbury—from the Waiho River in the south to as far north as Mairaki and Rangiora. The Board derived its funds for planting from rentals received for unplanted portions of these reserves. Owing chiefly to the decease of the Chairman (who was an enthusiastic arboriculturist), the Board has now ceased to exist, and the areas lately under its control have been placed under the management of this Department.

A detailed examination of each reserve was made in the early part of the present year, when it was found that the system of planting adopted had been purely experimental—fast-growing trees being mixed up with slow-growing kinds, resulting in the suppression, and in many cases the total destruction, of the slow growers—by *Pinus insignis* chiefly. No attention has evidently been given to the soil-requirements of different species, as varieties requiring light dry land were found on heavy moist soil, and *vice versâ*. Several of the reserves are adjacent to large rivers subject to heavy floods, which periodically cover the whole surface. There is little, if any, soil on such portions—merely gravel or stones covered with heavy growths of noxious weeds, such as broom and gorse. The fencing, where it exists, has long been allowed to fall into disrepair, and in most cases is useless to exclude stock, which have free entry to the plantations. All the reserves are comparatively small in area—the largest 122 acres and the smallest 23 acres—and this, coupled with the fact that they are widely scattered, renders supervision costly, and makes them valuable merely for firewood purposes or as shelter for the adjoining neighbours' stock. Some are close to road or railway lines, and are surrounded by ill-kept gorse hedges, which adds considerably to the risk from fire.

From the foregoing it will be apparent that the work of the Plantation Board has not been a success from a forestry point of view. Each plantation is merely a mixture of uneven-sized trees planted much too far apart for timber purposes, of species unsuitable to the soils and situations.

It is impossible to make good the errors in planting without clearing the whole of the areas and starting afresh; but, as previously mentioned, the areas are so small and so widely scattered that the Government would not be justified in incurring the heavy expense necessary in replanting, fencing, and maintaining so many small blocks, in most cases of poor, dry soils or stony river-beds. The only suggestion that can be offered is that the reserves in question be sold or leased, and that an equivalent area of suitable land in one or two blocks be acquired for plantation purposes.

Manual on Tree-planting in New Zealand.

This work was completed early in the year, and is now in the hands of the printer for publication. It is hoped that the information supplied will be of some value to settlers who contemplate improving their holdings by tree-planting. Some sixty illustrations are given of various operations connected with tree-growing, and specimens of typical forest trees in different stages of growth. The publication cannot be said to be as complete as the writer intended, owing to its compilation being for the most part done at irregular intervals whilst travelling on the ordinary duties of the Department. Should the necessity arise in the near future for a second edition, a revision could be made, and the work brought up to date, in accordance with the experience gained during the interim.

Preservation of Scenery.

The question of preserving natural scenery, referred to in last year's report, has been put on a proper basis by the passing of the Scenery Preservation Act, which provides for the appointing of five Commissioners to make recommendations to the Government of suitable areas for reservation. This Commission (of which the writer is a member) has already commenced its duties.

The most important matter in connection with the preservation of beauty-spots, and a work of considerable magnitude, is adequate supervision, and, unless active measures of protection are at once adopted by fencing, clearing fire-lines, and (in some cases) planting belts of non-inflammable trees on the outskirts of such reserves, the labours of the Commission will in many instances have been in vain.

Another matter closely connected with the above is the question of handing over scenery reserves to local bodies for management. In many cases during the Commission's travels it was noted that few of these reserves are fenced to exclude stock, and practically no steps are taken to preserve the native bush or other natural features of such reserves. It is therefore a matter for grave consideration as to the wisdom of delegating the management of such to local Domain Boards, who have seldom the necessary means to adequately protect them from destruction.

Reference List of Trees and Shrubs.

In order to minimise space in printing the schedules of trees, a reference list of all trees and shrubs grown at the State nurseries has been prepared and appended hereto. This list will also afford a ready means of ascertaining the correct nomenclature of trees and shrubs, which is somewhat confusing owing to frequent alterations made by botanists in the naming of plants generally. The list indicates whether the species are evergreen or deciduous, synonyms are given where such exist, the common name, and the habitat of each tree or shrub. Such well-known trees as *Pinus insignis*, *Abies Douglasii*, and *Abies excelsa* are no longer known by these familiar names, but as *Pinus radiata*, *Pseudo-tsuga taxifolia*, and *Picea excelsa* respectively.

General.

The correspondence connected with the Department (consisting chiefly of requests for information by settlers in regard to tree-planting) has been unusually voluminous during the year.

The erection of nurserymen's cottages at Tapanui and Rotorua is urgently needed. At the former station the officer in charge is compelled to live more than a mile and a half from his duties, and, as nursery-work frequently necessitates as much as twelve hours per day during the busy season, the inconvenience of the present arrangements can be imagined. Proper work-sheds and men's quarters are also required at Tapanui, Eweburn, and Starborough Nurseries.

A large number of photographs of forest trees in different stages of growth have been taken during the year. These are absolutely necessary for the purposes of identification at the various stations, especially with regard to the eucalypti of Australia and Tasmania, which are most difficult to identify, both in the seedling and adult stages, without photographs from authentic specimens, these having been obtained from reliable sources in Australia and Tasmania. It is also proposed to make a photographic collection of typical New Zealand forest trees as opportunity occurs.

I have to express my indebtedness to Mr. H. A. Goudie, Nurseryman in charge at Rotorua, who is at present carrying on my duties whilst I am engaged on the Scenery Preservation Commission, for the valuable assistance he has rendered in compiling and checking the principal portion of the report.

Full reports and details of each nursery and plantation are appended.

Eweburn Nursery.

(Altitude 1,400 ft.)

The past winter has been the most severe experienced here since the commencement of operations, and owing to the very dry weather which followed in the spring during transplanting operations the growth of nursery stock has not been up to the average.

The rainfall for the year was 19 in., falling on seventy days, the maximum fall occurring in March, when 4·70 in. was registered on eleven days. The highest reading of the thermometer was 90° on the 10th January, 1904, and the lowest was 14° below zero on the 17th July, 1903. Frost occurred on 169 days.

Seed-sowing was commenced on the 21st October, and finished on the 30th October, the weather throughout being very favourable. All have done well, especially the larch, which average 6 in. in height.

Two-year-old trees still remain in the seed-beds, and all have done well with the exception of the larch, which suffered by being thrown out of the ground by the frost.

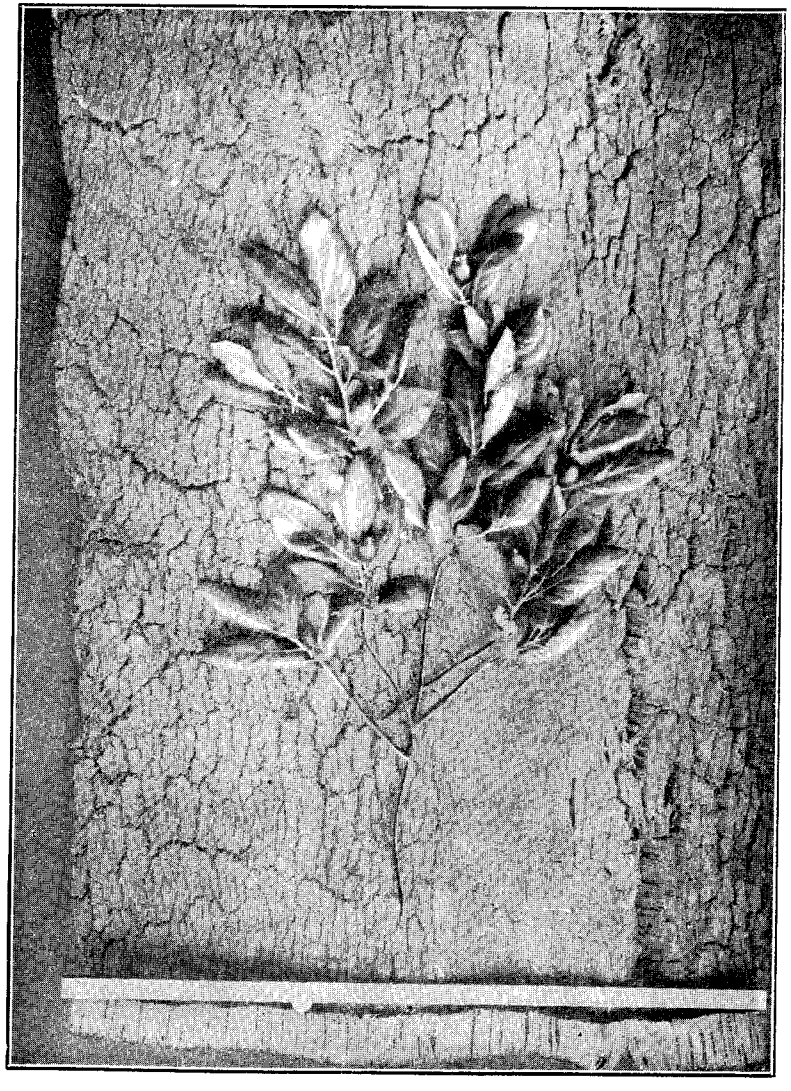
The experiment of "lining out" trees from the seed-beds has been satisfactory, and but for the drying winds and absence of rain when this work was in progress much better results might have been expected. In any case the losses are no greater than if they had been "lined in" closely, as has hitherto been the practice here.

The number of trees "lined out" was 298,096, and the average cost of this work was 7s. 2½d. per 1,000.

Trees sent out during the year number 96,300, and are valued at £277 18s. 5d.; and the number of trees sent out to plantations, Government reserves, &c., since the commencement of operations is 438,407, and their value £1,287 17s. 2d.

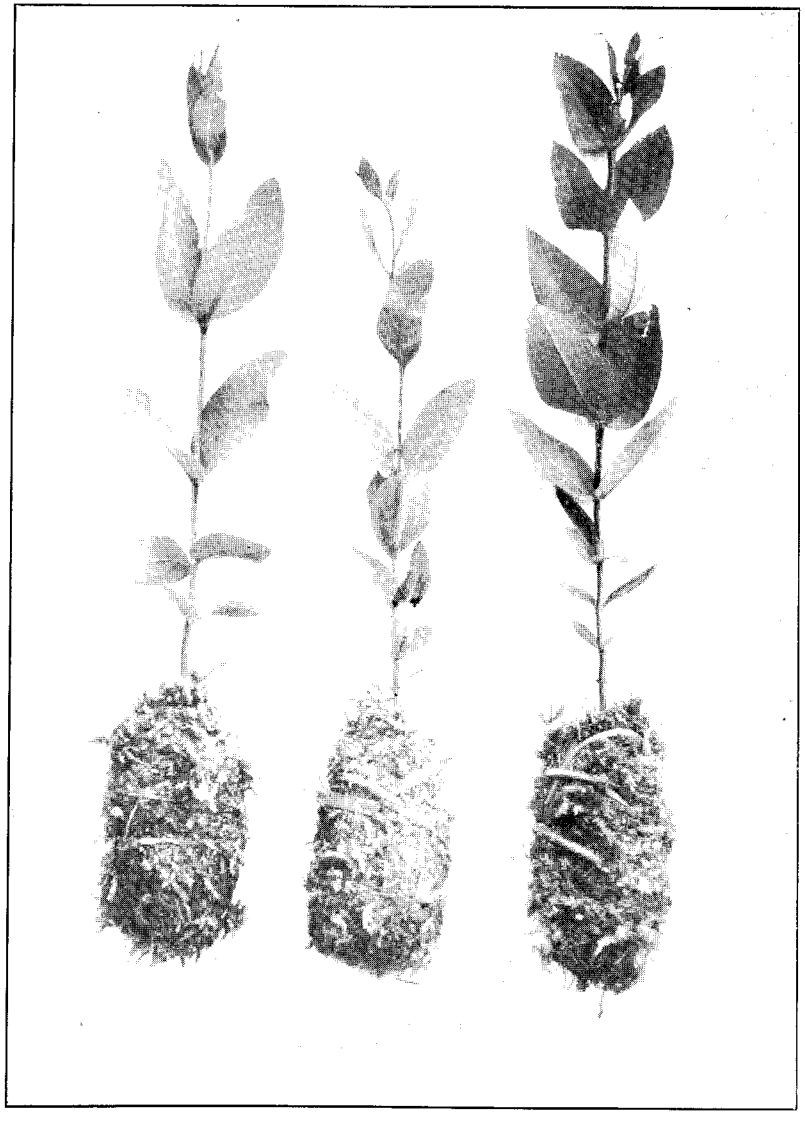
The number of trees of all ages in the nursery at present is 809,121, valued at £1,540 7s. 8d. (for particulars see Schedules A to A^8); and the number of trees raised since the initiation of the nursery is 1,719,391, their value being £2,517 10s. 4d.

The shelter plantations have made excellent growth, and the benefit derived from them is already noticeable.



Grace Matthews, photo.

SECTION OF CORK-BARK GROWN IN AUCKLAND.



Grace Matthews, photo.

EUCALYPTI MOSSED, SIX MONTHS OLD.

On the eastern boundary a piece of land ½ chain by 17 chains was ploughed, and planted with *Eucalyptus pauciflora*, in order to ascertain if this tree would succeed here. These have done fairly well, as have also the *Robinia pseudo-acacia* and *Pinus Halepensis* which were sown experimentally last year.

The draining of land with tiles was completed, and the result is highly satisfactory, the effect being very noticeable after heavy rains.

During the summer months the outside walls of the dwellinghouse and stable were plastered, and afterwards oiled and painted. This has greatly improved the appearance of the buildings, and no doubt will make them more lasting.

I would again draw your attention to the necessity of more living-accommodation for the workmen, and the urgent need of a sizing-shed and office. The present method of sizing trees under cover of a tent is far from being satisfactory, and in justice to the men this matter ought to be promptly attended to.

The average number of men employed during the year was five.

Details of expenditure, values, trees in stock, &c., are appended. The following is a record of rainfall and temperature for the year:—

Record of Rainfall and Temperature at Eweburn Nursery, 1903–4.

Month.	Rainfall.	Number of Days Rain fell.	Maximum Temperature.	Date.	Minimum Temperature.	Date.	Number of Days on which Frost occurred.
1903.	Inches.		Degrees.		Degrees.		
April	0·70	6	62	12th	23	25th and 26th	13
May	1·57	10	56	2nd	17	22nd	24
June	0·23	3	46	28th and 29th	12	7th and 8th	29
July	0·51	2	51	1st	14	17th	29
August ...	0·59	2	46	12th	8	6th and 7th	29
September ...	0·30	3	59	21st	18	6th	18
October ...	1·91	8	72	25th	25	4th and 5th	9
November ...	3·22	8	79	29th	30	11th and 20th	5
December ...	1·70	7	78	28th	34	5th and 19th	...
1904.							
January ...	1·44	5	90	10th	31	3rd	2
February ...	2·13	8	78	27th	30	25th	3
March ...	4·70	11	68	13th	25	15th	8
Totals ...	19·00	73	...	...	...	...	169

A. W. Roberts,
Nurseryman in Charge.

Naseby Survey Paddock Plantation, Otago.

(Area, 175 acres.)

The trees at this plantation have made very fair growth, and most of the species have done well. Where necessary the work of pruning has been carried out, and all trees trimmed to a single leader. Weed-growth has been kept down with a hand-hoe, and all fencing, &c., kept in repair. No damage has been done by hares or rabbits so far, although a few stray ones have occasionally been caught. An area of about 12 acres still remains unplanted, and if sufficient trees are available this block will be completed next planting season.

The area of this plantation was increased by 25½ acres, representing 68,080 trees which were planted permanently during the year. Deaths in former planting amounting to 27,920 were also filled in, making a total of trees planted for the year of 96,000. Planting cost an average of 14s. 11d. per 1,000.

Trees planted to date number 356,585, and cover an area of 131¼ acres.

One hundred and thirty chains of draining was done, at an average cost of 7s. 0¼d. per chain.

Details of expenditure and values are appended.

The average number of men employed during the year was four.

A. W. Roberts,
Nurseryman in Charge.

Gimmerburn Reserve.

(Area, 420 acres.)

This reserve was leased for cropping with turnips, and some 300 acres were broken up. For this season 100 acres has been resumed for planting, and the work of erecting a dividing-fence was commenced. Owing to the land being broken up and the consequent difficulty of getting pits to remain open, it is intended to "dibble in" the trees with spades. The probable number of trees available for planting is 149,000.

Some swampy creeks run along the whole length of the block, and it is intended to plant these with willow cuttings in order to produce quick shelter from the prevailing winds.

Details of expenditure and values are attached.

A. W. Roberts,
Nurseryman in Charge.

Tapanui Nursery.

(Altitude, 500 ft.)

During the year rain fell on 127 days, with a total of 42·15 in. (against 48·37 in. on 173 days of the previous year), the maximum monthly fall being recorded in May.

The lowest shade temperature was registered on the 16th July, it being 16°; and the highest 94°, on the 4th and 7th December and 7th January.

The season being so favourable for tree-growing operations considerable success has attended the work generally, and growth throughout has greatly exceeded that of the previous year. It is also pleasing to note the almost entire absence of "wire-worm," which proved so destructive to *Picea excelsa* and *Pinus Austriaca* last season. It is hoped the complete extinction of this pest will be effected by the proposed application of lime to the land during the coming autumn.

Hardwood-seed sowing was commenced about the beginning of July under favourable conditions, germination being very satisfactory amongst ash, walnut, and sycamore; and the growth of seedlings is sufficiently strong to enable a transfer of at least sixty thousand to the plantations this year.

Conifer-seed sowing was commenced on the 17th and completed on the 24th October. *Pinus Austriaca, Pinus radiata, Picea excelsa, Picea Sitchensis*, and *Betula alba* are all satisfactory, but the crop of *Larix Europea* is much below the average. This partial failure is attributed to inferior seed, a great amount of which, on examination prior to sowing, plainly showed signs of decay.

Two-year-old trees in seed-beds have made vigorous growth, no signs of any disease being apparent, and fully a hundred thousand (principally larch) are sturdy enough for transferring to plantation.

Oregon pine (*Pseudo-tsuga taxifolia*) has also made excellent growth, and has a healthy appearance, which hitherto has not been the case here with this tree.

The whole of the three-year-old lined out trees, with the exception of *Pinus Canariensis* (this species apparently not finding climatic conditions congenial to its growth), have developed into strong fibrous-rooted stock, *Pinus Austriaca* being particularly well grown.

Transplanting of one- and two-year-old seedlings was commenced on the 8th September (three weeks later than the previous year), and completed under favourable conditions on the 10th October. During that period a total of 323,400 trees were "lined out" on an area of 4 acres, the transfer from seed-beds costing 4s. 7d. per 1,000, including lifting, sizing, and puddling. "Lining in" was continued for ten days later, 100,900 seedlings being dealt with at a cost of 1s. 9d. per 1,000.

The total number of trees of all ages at present in the nursery is estimated at 2,063,080.

During the year 946,775 forest and native trees and shrubs, valued at £3,253 4s. 2d., were transferred to the following plantations, domains, &c.: Dusky Hill Plantation, 581,100; Conical Hills Plantation, 170,700; Hanmer Springs Plantation, 192,000; Lumsden Domain Board, 1,000; Queenstown Domain Board, 910; Hawkesbury Domain Board, 250; Tuapeka Domain Board, 250; Gore Domain Board, 165; Karitane Domain Board, 150; Agricultural Department, Gore, 250. Arrangements are being made for the transfer of fully 750,000 trees to plantations during the coming season.

The total number of trees grown to the 31st March, 1904, is 5,034,705, representing a total value of £8,963 10s. 8d.; and the total number of trees transferred to plantations, domains, &c., since the initiation of the nursery is 2,689,802, valued at £8,671 14s. 4d.

Considerable improvements have been effected on the property recently acquired for forestry purposes adjoining the nursery. An area of about 100 acres has been enclosed by a substantial rabbit-proof fence 170 chains in length. This work was carried out satisfactorily by contract at 5s. per chain. Flood-gates were hung over creek, and an additional 15 chains of fencing erected by day labour. Thirty-five acres of the lower portion of this property was then ploughed for growing horse-feed, and allowed to remain fallow during the winter months, in that way receiving immense benefit by the action of continued frosts. Prior to oats being sown the land was thoroughly worked up by discing, and brought to a fine tilth by the harrows and Cambridge roller. The resulting crop was highly satisfactory, although a great amount of labour was necessary in protecting the ripening grain from destruction by birds, owing to its maturing in advance of others in the district. A harvest of about 70 tons of oaten sheaves is expected, which will be threshed or chaffed, and supplies forwarded to other nurseries.

Twelve acres of the most fertile soil was selected and ploughed for nursery purposes, and roads 18 ft. wide formed. It is intended to confine all lining-out operations to this extension in the coming spring, and the present transplanting land, when relieved of trees, will be given an opportunity of recuperating by ploughing and sowing down in clover and grass.

Sixty chains of hedge (*Berberis vulgaris*, 9 in. apart) was planted around boundary-fence of nursery extension, strong growth resulting; and preparations are well ahead for a combined shelter and ornamental plantation within this enclosure.

The shelter plantation at southern and western portions of nursery has made excellent progress, and during the spring 420 *Fraxinus excelsior* and 350 *Alnus glutinosa* (in swampy land) were added, and have since made good headway.

Minor improvements in the form of painting buildings, implements, gates, &c., at termination of planting season, gravelling road, extension of shrubbery, erecting scrub breakwind for protection to seed-beds, and forming culverts were also effected.

An average of fourteen persons were employed throughout the year.

Spare portions of land were utilised in carrot-growing for horses, a yield of about 5 tons being obtained.

The total value of horse-feed produced this season is estimated at £170.

A sizing-shed is urgently required if winter work is to be carried out systematically, as the implement-shed at present used for sizing trees is quite inadequate for the purpose.

Details of trees grown and statements of expenditure and values are appended.

The following is a record of rainfall and temperature for the year :—

Month.	Rainfall.	Number of Days Rain fell.	Highest Reading of Thermometer.	Date.	Lowest Reading of Thermometer.	Date.
1903.	Inches.		Degrees.		Degrees.	
April	2·63	12	78	4th	30	17th and 25th
May	6·58	15	72	11th	27	17th
June	1·98	11	65	29th	19	16th
July	2·45	7	66	9th	16	16th
August	2·57	15	64	22nd	21	29th
September	0·84	7	71	19th	22	3rd
October	4·13	6	89	12th	29	3rd
November	4·84	12	91	30th	32	20th
December	3·20	15	94	1st	35	4th and 7th
1904.						
January	2·47	8	94	23rd	33	7th
February	5·65	10	91	9th	32	23rd
March...	4·81	9	82	7th	30	15th and 20th
Totals	42·15	127	...	...	...	...

R. G. Robinson,
Nurseryman in Charge.

Dusky Hill Plantation, Otago.

(Area, 845 acres. Altitude, 400 ft. to 800 ft.)

The total area of this plantation, less roads and a few small areas of native bush, has been planted with forest trees, and during the past year the trees have made excellent progress, a height-growth of from 2 ft. to 4 ft. being averaged by some of those planted during the first and second seasons. Particularly noticeable are larch, ash, Oregon pine, and Austrian pine.

Trees to the number of 581,100 were planted during the year, and seeds numbering 185,000 (172,900 acorns and 12,100 Spanish chesnuts) were sown *in situ*. All have done well, and, although the germination of the Spanish chesnuts did not exceed 85 per cent., the growth of these trees is highly satisfactory, and averages 6 in. in height. Planting trees and sowing seeds *in situ* cost on the average 14s. 1d. and 14s. 6d. per 1,000 respectively. The area planted during the year amounts to 251¾ acres, and the total area planted to date is 803¾ acres, representing trees to the number of 1,994,688.

A number of pits being left unplanted from the previous year, 54,000 "grubber-pits" only were required to complete planting during the past year, and this number was made by contract at a cost of £1 per 1,000.

Unfortunately, the late frosts experienced during last spring proved too severe for a number of broadleaf-trees (*Griselinia littoralis*) growing in the native-bush gullies, and it has been necessary to make provision for replacing these with Spanish chestnuts during the coming winter.

The rabbits have been nearly exterminated here, and during the year the expenditure on this work has been practically nil.

An amount of £127 8s. 11d. was expended on general maintenance, which included ploughing of roads, cutting scrub, making drains, repairing roads and water-tables, and removing undergrowth from young trees.

A thorough inspection of the plantation will shortly be made, and where trees have failed the pits will be reopened and replanted during the approaching winter.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £813 5s. 7d., employment being given to an average of twelve persons.

Details of expenditure and values are appended.

H. Howe, Forester.
R. G. Robinson, Nurseryman in Charge.

Conical Hills Plantation.

(Area, 1,050 acres. Altitude, 400 ft.)

Early in the year operations were commenced on this plantation, and a substantial rabbit-proof fence 302 chains in length was erected by contract at a cost of 4s. 6d. per chain (including the removal of the old fence). The total expenditure in connection with the erection of fence amounted to £377 1s. 5d., part of which was shared by the owners of adjoining properties, from whom refunds were received amounting to £63 6s. 9d.

Rabbits were very numerous when the property was acquired, but a thorough system of trapping and poisoning has thinned them out considerably, and as yet no damage to trees has been noticed. A considerable portion of the rabbiter's time will still be occupied, however, before this

pest is thoroughly eradicated. The roof of the Forester's cottage was repaired, and other minor improvements effected, which have made the building more comfortable.

During last winter 170,700 trees, principally ash and Norway spruce, were planted, at an average cost of 17s. 8d. per 1,000; and acorns to the number of 184,850 were sown *in situ* on the steep hillsides, at a cost of 13s. 1d. per 1,000 for preparing ground and planting same. The area planted for the year amounts to 201 acres.

Pitting: 572,630 pits were prepared at a cost of £1 4s. 10d. per 1,000, and 70,050 "grubber-pits" were made by contract at £1 per 1,000; and it is expected that an additional 320,000 pits will be prepared before planting operations commence.

The results of the first year's planting are very satisfactory, and the death-rate does not exceed 2 per cent. The average growth of Norway spruce and ash would reach about 3 in., while English birch, alder, and rowan have made a vertical growth of at least 6 in. An amount of £39 9s. 6d. was expended in keeping the young trees free from undergrowth, this work being done by day labour. Ninety chains of road was formed to give access to the main parts of the enclosure, and culverts were constructed where required. The expenditure for the year amounts to £1,746 11s. 1d., an average of thirteen persons being employed.

It is estimated that about 750,000 trees and about 250,000 acorns will be planted here during the coming winter and spring. Extension work, such as road-formation, draining, &c., will also be effected where necessary.

Details of expenditure and values are appended.

H. Howe, Forester.
R. G. Robinson, Nurseryman in Charge.

Hanmer Springs Nursery and Plantation.

(Area, 600 acres, approximate.)

During last spring the employment of prison labour was commenced at this plantation. Twenty-five prisoners, attended by three officers, arrived here between the 5th and 16th of September, but as a certain amount of preliminary work was necessary in connection with the prison camp it was not until the 21st September that actual forestry work was commenced. The prison camp is situated on the banks of Dog Creek, about half a mile distant from the township, and consists of eight huts, six of which accommodate twenty-five prisoners, and two are occupied by the warders in attendance. The employment of prison labour has so far proved very satisfactory, the men employed taking considerable interest in their work, and, although hardly to be compared with free labour in point of speed, the works undertaken have been carried out in a thorough and workmanlike manner. From the 21st September until the end of the financial year the average daily number of prisoners employed on forestry work was 19·14. Three men were also employed at cooking and other works in connection with the prison camp. During the year 193,350 trees were permanently planted. Of this number 55,670 spruce and alder were planted in swamps that occur in various parts of the reserve, and 2,650 *Pinus radiata* were planted round the banks of Dog Creek as shelter for the slower-growing trees.

Tree-planting was done chiefly by prison labour, but owing to prisoners arriving late in the planting season free labour had also to be employed to complete this work. Tree-planting by free labour cost £1 0s. 7d. per 1,000; 131,800 acorns were also planted in pits that were prepared for them at a labour-cost of 3s. 2d. per 1,000.

The area planted this year amounts to 122¼ acres, and the total area planted to date is 150½ acres, containing 422,550 trees; 111,143 pits for trees, and 103,237 pits for acorns, making a total of 214,380 pits, were dug by contract at an average cost of £1 5s. 6d. per 1,000; 49,600 pits were also dug by prison labour for next season's planting. Considering the very dry weather experienced during the planting season, and which continued until the latter part of November, very good results have been obtained amongst all trees planted, the loss through transplanting being estimated at 2 per cent., failures occurring chiefly among *Pinus radiata* and *Pinus laricio*. Acorns, however, have not made as good growth as they did the previous year, and rather a large percentage of failures will require replanting.

A fire-break 12 ft. wide has been cleared of tussock round the entire plantation reserve, a very necessary provision to prevent the spread of fire from the adjoining property. In the centre of the 99 ft. fire-breaks 64 chains of 12 ft. road have been formed, which gives access to the temporary nursery and various parts of the reserve.

The prison camp has been enclosed with 24 chains of netting fence, and a considerable amount of labour done in excavating and forming roads to the camp.

A galvanised-iron workshop 20 ft. by 12 ft., also a hut 14 ft. by 10 ft., have been erected, the latter for the accommodation of the workmen employed.

The following works have also been carried out: Clearing about 100 acres of scrub; making fifty-two seed-protecting frames 18 ft. long by 6 ft. wide; laying 600 ft. of water-pipes, with stand-pipes for watering seed-beds; ploughing and clearing an additional nursery-area of 3½ acres; erecting breakwinds around seed-bed ground; and digging 177 chains of drains.

Amongst this year's seedlings larch germinated very poorly. Pines, however, although rather a thin crop, have made good growth. Lining out one- and two-year-old trees sent from Tapanui Nursery was commenced on the 28th September and completed on the 23rd October, and during that time 199,600 trees were dealt with, the transfer to nursery lines costing 3s. 9d. per 1,000, a gang of prisoners being employed preparing the land prior to planting. All have made good growth, and will be permanently planted next spring, along with about 150,000 acorns.

The average number of workmen employed during the year was 6·18 (exclusive of prisoners).

The expenditure on nursery and plantation for the year amounted to £1,159 8s. 5d., and the total expenditure to date is £2,340 2s. 4d.

Details of expenditure, values and trees are appended.

Manuel P. Stark,
Assistant Forester.

Starborough Nursery.

(Altitude, 100 ft.)

Rain fell on 100 days during the year, with a total fall of 28·01 in. Maximum temperature registered, 92°; minimum, 21°.

Seedling trees, one year old: Seed-growing began on the 21st October, and, with the exception of larch, the crop is satisfactory. The larch-seed germinated poorly, and the crop is practically a failure. Unfortunately this is one of the many drawbacks that a nurseryman has to contend with, and over which he has no possible control.

Seedling trees, two year old: Larch have again made far too much top. In future it will be necessary to check this top-growth in order to produce trees which will stand this severe climate. Better trees will be produced in every respect by transplanting the one-year-old seedlings into nursery lines instead of leaving them in the seed-beds for two years as heretofore. All the one-year crop will be transplanted this coming season. *Pinus Austriaca*, *Pinus ponderosa*, and *Pinus laricio* have made splendid growth.

"Lining out" trees: This work was begun on the 29th August and completed on the 19th September, weather-conditions during transplanting being very favourable, and all have done well and made good growth—not 1 per cent. of loss. The cost of "lining out" 314,300 trees, lifting, puddling, and root-pruning was 3s. 4d. per 1,000, and the area occupied was 3¼ acres.

The number of trees raised during the year 1903–4 was 245,000, and their value £247 (see Schedule D). The total number of trees grown to date is 1,107,150, and their value £1,277 2s.

During the year 127,575 trees were transferred to plantations, domains, &c., viz.: Dumgree Plantation, 125,650; Government Biologist, 1,200; Seddon Domain Board, 685; Cobden Cemetery Trustees, 40.

The number of trees in the nursery at the 31st March, 1904, was 911,391, and the estimated number of trees available for transferring to the plantations next season is 396,000.

Considerable progress was made during the year with the work of formation and improvements. Forty chains of hedges was planted with 2,850 trees, which have all done well. An area of 20 acres 3 roods 9 perches has been planted with 41,781 shelter-trees on terraces, shelter-belts, and shrubberies, but owing to the exceptionally dry weather a small number of these have died. A comparison of the rainfall for the four principal growing months (October, November, December, and January) at the several nurseries might be of interest: Starborough Nursery, 5·60 in.; Ranfurly, 8·27 in.; Tapanui, 14·62; Rotorua, 17·69 in. The foregoing is a striking illustration of one of the many difficulties the Department has to contend with in tree-growing and planting in South Marlborough.

Buildings: A dwellinghouse for the Nurseryman-in-charge was completed on the 2nd December, 1903, at a cost of £290 14s. 7d. The increased control and great advantages of the State Nurseryman living on the spot are incalculable; his duties run seven days a week and all hours.

Stable and outbuildings: A concrete floor, thorough drainage, and other improvements have been effected at a cost of £29 6s. 3d.

The water-service has been extended and improved at a cost of £8 0s. 8d.

Seed-frames: To cope with the increase of stock, forty-nine new frames were provided at a cost of £45 17s. 8d.

Living-accommodation for the workmen, more shed-room, and a good office are urgently required, and in the best interests of the Department ought to be provided at the earliest possible moment.

Horse-feed to the value of £102 2s. 5d. has been grown during the year, and a quantity valued at £90 11s. 6d. has been sent to other nurseries and plantations.

The average number of men employed during the year was seven.

Details of expenditure, values, and trees in stock are appended.

The following is a record of rainfall and temperature for the year:—

Month.	Rainfall.	Number of Days Rain fell.	Maximum Temperature.	Date.	Minimum Temperature.	Date.
1903.	Inches.		Degrees.		Degrees.	
April	1·97	7	80	8th	38	22nd
May	4·76	13	72	12th	34	17th
June	1·40	10	62	14th	28	8th
July	4·01	6	68	26th	30	16th
August	2·64	11	66	19th	21	2nd
September	2·05	9	70	30th	26	3rd
October	0·74	5	86	15th	33	10th
November	2·52	10	91	25th	31	21st
December	0·81	7	88	26th	38	22nd
1904.						
January	0·58	3	92	21st	38	9th
February	1·46	6	90	29th	38	20th
March	5·07	13	84	13th	32	15th
Totals	28·01	100	...	...	...	...

N. Craig,
Nurseryman-in-Charge.

Dumgree Plantation.

(Area, 857 acres 2 roods; altitude, 100 ft.)

The Department having entered into possession of this plantation, work was begun on the 11th June, 1903. The land is chiefly river flats and terraces, situated some four miles and a half from Seddon. The soil is a light loam of no great depth, with a considerable portion stony. The situation is fully exposed to the north-west winds.

Pitting: 170,715 pits were dug, at an average cost of £1 6s. 5¾d. per 1,000.

Tree-planting: 125,650 trees were planted, at an average cost of 18s. 10¼d. per 1,000. Area planted, 46 acres.

Up to the middle of December all trees planted made good progress. A severe drought then followed, which lasted till the middle of February. Owing to the parching winds and the absence of rain, a large number of trees have died.

Forty-five thousand pits are prepared for the coming season's planting, and 24,794 pits are already marked in preparation to be dug by prison labour.

Fencing: 202 chains of rabbit-netting has been erected, enclosing 500 acres on three sides. The existing fences were strengthened and improved, and 50 chains of fencing was erected at a cost of £122 17s. 10d.

To give access to the plantation a road (breast cutting) 10 chains long was formed at a cost of £38 16s. 9d. For the drainage of storm-water 93 chains of drains was formed, costing £23 19s. Rabbiting cost £42 8s., and this pest is considerably reduced.

As mentioned in last year's report, it is intended to work this plantation by prison labour. Preparation of the camp-site, huts, &c., is now in progress, and it is hoped that forty prisoners will commence work about the beginning of June.

Average number employed, ten men and four boys during the planting season.

Details of values and expenditure are appended.

D. Buchanan, Assistant Forester.
N. Craig, Nurseryman-in-Charge.

Rotorua Nursery.

(Altitude, 1,000 ft.)

The decision of the Government to increase the annual output of trees from this nursery (as stated in last year's report) was very opportune, insomuch that the past season in this district has been a splendid one for tree-raising, and extraordinarily fine growth has been obtained amongst almost all classes and ages of trees. The total rainfall for the year amounted to 62·48 in., falling on 142 days; against 46·74 in., on 108 days, which was recorded for 1902–3. The lowest shade temperature was recorded on the 27th June, with 24° Fahr. (8 degrees of frost); and the greatest shade heat was reached in December and January, when 84° was registered.

Trees raised from seed during the year number 4,425,465, and are valued at £3,872 5s. 9d.; and the number of trees of all ages in the nursery is 5,535,355, valued at £5,693 13s. 10d. (for particulars see Schedules C to C²).

Transplanting operations were started and completed in August under very favourable weather-conditions, and all classes of trees, excepting *Pinus Canariensis* and *Pinus halepensis*, have done well. The two species of pines named have never been grown in this district previously, and owing to the bare habit of their root-system fully 90 per cent. of them died off. A further number of these trees have been raised from seed this year, and were "wrenched" early in March in order to induce a more fibrous root-growth. Transplanting cost on the average 3s. per 1,000 trees.

Seed-sowing was commenced on the 24th August, and was in progress till the 30th December, much time being lost by wet weather and wind, which prevented the sowing of light seeds such as catalpa and eucalypti. The crop on the whole is exceedingly fine, failures occurring only with *Acer saccharum*, *Liriodendron tulipiferum*, and *Sequoia sempervirens*, the crop of the first two being very poor, while the sequoia was a complete failure owing to inferior seed. Especially good results were got with catalpa, larch, and eucalypti, and a large number of these trees will be fit to transplant next winter.

During last winter trees to the number of 896,015 were transferred to the various plantations, Government reserves, &c., particulars of which will be found in Schedule C; and the number sent out since the initiation of the nursery is 5,462,496, and their value £10,693 13s. 3d.

The method of tying young eucalypti in moss, as mentioned in last year's report, has been highly satisfactory. Some 425,000 trees were thus treated, at an average cost of 16s. 6d. per 1,000 trees; and the result obtained after planting fully justifies the amount spent on them and the continuation of the system. The method of procedure is briefly as follows: A small quantity of sphagnum moss is taken in the left hand, and about two tablespoonfuls of soil laid on the centre of it. A single plant is then taken, and its roots inserted in the soil, after which the closing of the hand surrounds the soil and plant with moss, and forms a bundle about the size of an ordinary hen's egg, which is then tied securely with a thin strip of flax. These are then "heeled in" to await the arrival of spring, when they are transferred to their permanent positions in the plantation. It will be seen from the above that the same result could be obtained by "potting," but where a large number of trees is to be handled "mossing" is by far the cheaper method.

The increased number of trees raised during the year has occasioned a good deal of extension work. Further seed-bed land had to be prepared, the capacity of the water-cistern increased from 5,000 gallons to 15,000 gallons, and the water laid throughout the new seed-beds with pipes. A large workshop was also necessary for sizing and bundling the young trees. The dimensions of this building are 48 ft. by 20 ft. It is lined throughout, and well fitted with the necessary benches, &c., and has proved entirely suited to the purpose for which it was erected.

Extra seed-protecting frames were also required, and preparations were made to erect 750, but owing to the inability of some of the merchants to supply some of the material this work was greatly hindered, and only about two-thirds of the frames have been made. In order to cover all the seeds when sowing was in progress frames were improvised, which got over the difficulty temporarily.

A number of varieties of eucalypti were grown experimentally during the year, but so far nothing very definite can be said as to their hardiness. Experiments of this kind cannot be made in a hurry, and a good deal of patience is at times required to await the results. Most eucalypti grown from seed during the spring will survive the following winter (if protected with scrim or some other light covering), but after being planted out in an exposed place and making a summer growth the question of their hardiness is undecided until the frosty weather sets in. The following list of eucalypts were planted out last October: *Eucalyptus crebra, calophylla, capitellata, corymbosa, Eugenioides, ficifolia, Gunni, hæmastoma, maculata, Muellerii, macroryncha, paniculata, pilularis, resinifera, redunca, regnans, Sieberiana, salmonophloia, siderophloia, saligna,* and *urnigera.* Most of the varieties mentioned have made 18 in. of growth since being planted out, and thus the Department will be in a position by the end of next winter to offer some information on their hardiness and suitability for the soil and climate.

The average number of persons employed daily during the year was twenty.

Details of expenditure and values are appended.

The following is a record of rainfall and temperature for the year:—

Month.	Rainfall.	Number of Days Rain fell.	Highest Reading of Thermometer.	Date.	Lowest Reading of Thermometer.	Date.
1903.	Inches.		Degrees.		Degrees.	
April	4·14	9	73	6th	31	22nd
May	8·03	14	64	2nd, 4th, 5th	26	9th, 23rd
June	2·46	7	57	24th	24	27th
July	5·12	11	54	10th	25	26th
August	4·46	14	63	13th, 21st	27	2nd, 6th
September	2·11	8	71	26th	31	3rd, 6th, 7th, 10th, 19th, 25th
October	3·60	14	73	17th	42	4th, 21st, 26th
November	6·90	19	77	25th	31	21st
December	4·53	15	84	30th	42	20th, 28th, 29th
1904.						
January	2·84	10	84	28th	37	4th
February	4·87	10	82	18th	40	20th
March	13·42	11	75	9th	34	21st
Totals	62·48	142	...	...	...	...

H. A. Goudie,
Nurseryman-in-Charge.

Whakarewarewa Plantation.

(Area, 8,817 acres approximately. Altitude, 1,000 ft. to 1,500 ft.)

The unusually wet weather which has been prevalent during the greater part of the year has had a marked effect upon all the trees throughout this plantation, and it is pleasing to note that the general growth of both the established trees and those planted during the year has been beyond the average.

During the winter and spring months 280,075 trees were planted and 33,680 seeds sown *in situ*, making a total of 313,755 trees and seeds, which cost on an average 9s. 10d. per 1,000 to plant.

Clearing cost on the average £1 per acre, and pitting 11s. 6d. per 1,000. The new area planted amounted to 154 acres and 6 perches, making a total area to date of 471 acres 3 roods 6 perches, representing trees to the number of 823,088.

In order to facilitate the distribution of the young trees while planting was in progress 326 chains of roading 14 ft. in width was formed, at an average cost of 4s. 3d. per chain. This road enabled the trees to be delivered to a number of points throughout the plantation with a light wagon, thus expediting planting operations and making the work less laborious.

The varieties of trees planted may be been by referring to Schedule C3.

Eucalypti: The results obtained amongst this class of trees are very encouraging. All were tied up separately in moss before leaving the nursery, and in many instances a growth of 2 ft. is noticeable, while the growth on the average amounts to 18 in. Deaths occurred chiefly in the spongy fern land, where it is difficult to firm the soil around the young trees when planting, but on the whole from 5 per cent. to 7 per cent. would cover the loss.

Acacia melanoxylon: A trial lot of some 1,800 plants of this tree was planted with practically no loss, and the growth on the average equals the eucalypts. These plants were also mossed before leaving the nursery. No information as to the hardiness of this valuable timber tree will be available till after next winter.

Catalpa speciosa: There seems to be no doubt that this tree will withstand an average winter here, but it is evident that until the trees have established a thorough and far-reaching root-system which will penetrate to the colder subsoil a sudden drop in the temperature during spring after growth has commenced will check them considerably. Such was our experience with some five thousand of these trees which were planted during the year. In November one degree of frost blackened all the young leaves, and in some cases killed an inch of growth on the young shoots. American growers of the hardy catalpa have adopted the system of allowing the young plants to practically grow as they will for the first three or four years, in order that the root-system may become developed. When this has been effected, the plants are cut down close to the ground, with the result that one or more shoots break away from the remaining portion of the stem. All the shoots except the most vigorous one are then cut away, and with the help of the well-developed root-system the remaining shoot rapidly grows into a straight branchless sapling. The fact, therefore, of the frost nipping the growth while the tree is in the young state is not really so serious as at first appears, and is not a sufficient reason to warrant us discarding this tree.

Seeds sown in permanent situations comprise *Hikora ovata* (3,500), *Juglans regia* (13,800), *Castanea sativa* (15,180), and *Quercus pedunculata* (1,200), and the result is very satisfactory, although the pheasants and wekas scratched a number of the *Juglans* and *Hikora* nuts from the ground. As this plantation is nearly all planted, an adjoining block of land, containing some 8,000 acres, has been reserved, and will be fenced very shortly. Preparations are also being made to utilise prison labour in connection with this plantation, and it is expected that the camp will be started with forty prisoners in June next.

The average daily number employed during the year was six.

Details of expenditure and values are appended.

H. A. Goudie,
Nurseryman-in-Charge.

Waiotapu Plantation.

(Area, 3,200 acres, approximate. Altitude, 1,200 ft.)

During the year rain fell on 140 days, with a total fall of 57·88 in., the heaviest monthly fall occurring in March, when 11·20 in. was registered.

The lowest shade temperature occurred on the 17th June, when 15° Fahr. (17 degrees of frost) was registered; and the highest temperature was reached on the 15th January, when 88° Fahr. was registered.

The results of prison labour have again been satisfactory, and the value of work done, estimated at the cost of similar work done by free labour in the district, amounted to £902 3s.

The average daily number of prisoners employed was thirty, and the value of each man's work averages £30 1s. 5d. for the year. It must be noted, however, that some of the men are almost as industrious as free men, while others do just a sufficient amount of work to escape the displeasure of the officer in charge. Remembering that tree-planting operations, owing to the shortness of the planting season, require to be carried out as expeditiously as possible, the question of remunerating the industrious prisoner is worthy of consideration, and if an incentive was offered in the shape of more "marks" and more liberal rations it is our opinion that much better results would be obtained. The class of prisoner who is equally happy in or out of gaol would certainly place very little value on the extra "marks" which would go to reduce his sentence, but this man would no doubt strive to obtain more and better food if he thought such were procurable by industry. The majority of prisoners, however, are anxious to have their sentences shortened; but under the existing circumstances, where every man is treated alike provided they do not misconduct themselves, it is hardly to be expected that a man will strive to do more work than his indifferent neighbour.

Very satisfactory results have been obtained amongst the trees and seeds planted during the year, but unfortunately a number of the older trees were badly injured by a frost—10 degrees—which occurred on the 20th November. Such trees as *Pinus strobus*, *Pinus Austriaca*, and birch, which have been grown successfully in central Otago, were amongst those affected, the very obvious reason being that the frost occurred late in the spring after the trees had made a growth which, in some instances, reached 9 in. in height. All the trees which were affected have recovered, with the exception of *Pinus strobus*, the leaders of which were destroyed, thus causing the trees to branch and rendering them unfit for timber purposes.

Trees planted during the year number 596,275, and the number of trees raised from seed sown *in situ* is 75,560.

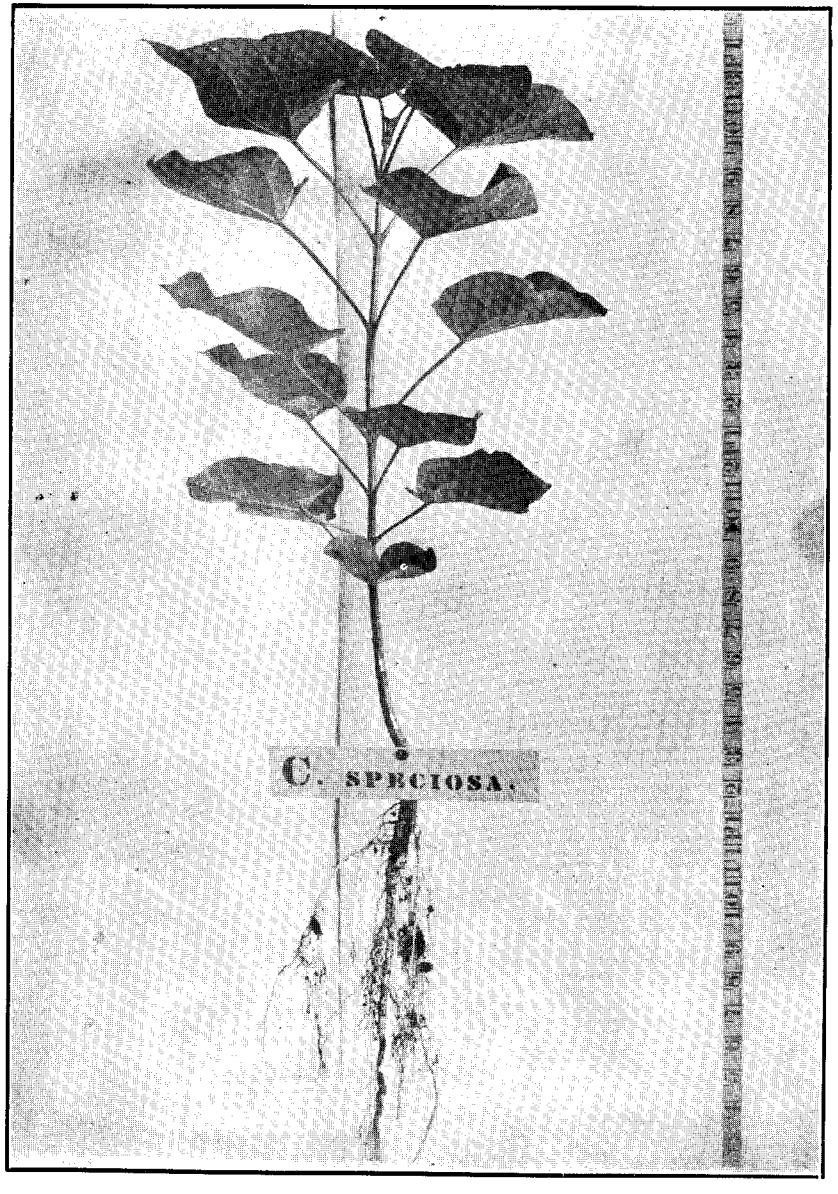
The new area planted with trees and seeds during the year amounts to 225 acres, and the total area planted to date is 432 acres, representing trees to the number of 1,050,765.

The seeds planted *in situ* are as follows: 5,015 *Juglans regia* (walnut), 52,552 *Castanea sativa* (Spanish chestnut), 995 *Corylus avellanus* (filbert), 16,998 *Quercus pedunculata* (oak).

Juglans regia germinated well, but they were badly nipped with the late spring frost, and rendered practically useless. *Castanea sativa* and *Quercus pedunculata* were sown in July, and germinated splendidly—about 98 per cent.—and by the middle of November most of them had made about 6 in. of growth, which, like the walnuts, was all destroyed by the late frost. They have, however, mostly sent up suckers from the roots, but a good deal of labour will be required to trim them to a single leader. *Corylus avellana* were sown on the fire-breaks, but germinated very poorly.

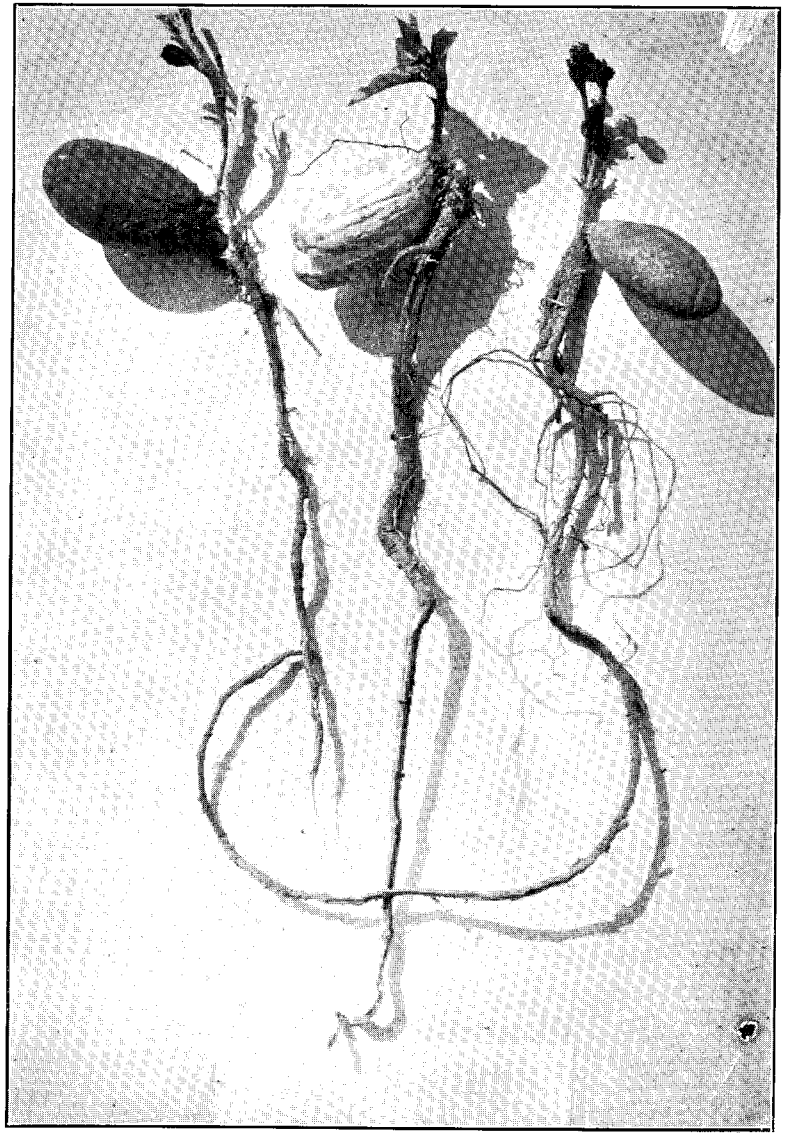
Trees grown experimentally include *Acer saccharum* (sugar-maple), *Catalpa speciosa*, *Acacia melanoxylon*, and eucalypti. The catalpas and sugar-maples were injured by the late frost, and it is doubtful if they will be suitable for extensive planting here. The acacia has so far made a vigorous growth, but it cannot with any certainty be said until next spring if it will succeed here.

Eucalypti include the varieties *E. teretecornis*, *E. amygdalina*, *E. Stuartiana*, and *E. pauciflora*, and all have done equally well, but their hardiness cannot be ascertained until after next winter.



Grace Matthews, photo.

CATALPA SPECIOSA.



Grace Matthews, photo.

CORK ACORNS GERMINATING.

The work of fencing the extension area of 2,000 acres was started in the spring immediately after the planting was completed, and good progress was made, although the work was necessarily slow owing to the rough nature of the land in some places. This work was very creditably performed by prisoners, and it is expected that it will be completed shortly.

A six-stall stable was erected in a satisfactory manner during the year by prisoners. It was built in sections and bolted together in order to facilitate removal when the camp requires to be shifted.

Details of expenditure and values are appended.

The following is a record of rainfall and temperature for the year :—

Date.	Rainfall.	Number of Days Rain fell.	Minimum Temperature.	Date.	Maximum Temperature.	Date.
1903.	Inches.		Degrees.		Degrees.	
April	4·17	9	24	21st	72	5th
May	7·56	16	20	8th, 10th	66	1st
June	2·30	8	15	7th	56	23rd
July	4·40	13	16	25th	56	5th
August	3·10	12	16	1st	63	10th
September	2·46	8	17	5th	70	23rd
October	1·82	12	28	3rd, 21st	78	13th
November	6·53	13	22	20th	80	25th
December	8·88	18	32	27th	83	30th
1904.						
January	1·53	12	26	3rd	88	15th
February	3·93	9	30	6th, 19th	83	27th
March	11·20	10	26	20th, 31st	78	2nd
Totals	57·88	140	...	...	...	..

JAMES HENDERSON, Forester.
H. A. GOUDIE, Nurseryman-in-Charge.

KAINGAROA PLAINS PLANTATIONS (FOUR).

(Total area, 25 acres. Altitude, 2,000 ft.)

The trees on these experimental plantations are all looking remarkably well, and during the past year they have made splendid growth. The late frost which was so badly felt at Waiotapu, did no damage here, owing no doubt to the fact that the trees start into growth much later on this exposed and elevated plateau than at Waiotapu.

The Hungarian brome-grass which was sown experimentally here two years ago has been completely killed by the frost.

A small quantity of saltbush (*Atriplex semibacata*) was sown during the year, but the seed did not germinate.

JAMES HENDERSON, Forester.
H. A. GOUDIE, Nurseryman-in-Charge.

RUATANGATA PLANTATION, KAMO, NEAR WHANGAREI.

(Area, 65 acres, approximate. Altitude, 320 ft.)

The rapid denudation of the native forest in this district demands that a vigorous policy of reafforestation should be immediately commenced, and in order to experiment with a number of trees the Department entered into possession of this block of land and commenced operations in May last. Some of the native trees, such as totara and puriri, were grown with splendid results, but the slow growth of these trees under ordinary circumstances does not assure the timber-supply of the near future, and a number of more rapid-growing exotic trees were raised in order to ascertain which are best suited to the soil and climatic conditions. When this information is obtained (probably two years hence) it is intended to raise large quantities of the most suitable kinds, and plant part of the forest reserve at Puhipuhi.

From the 14th May, 1903, to 31st March, 1904, the total rainfall recorded was 64·08 in., falling on 114 days. The lowest temperature recorded during that period was 30° Fahr. (2 degrees of frost), recorded on the 23rd August; and the greatest shade temperature was reached in December, when 85° Fahr. was registered.

A building comprising men's hut and tool-house was erected, and a water-supply laid through the temporary seed-beds. Fifty seed-frames 18 ft. by 6 ft. were constructed to protect seed-beds.

Fencing: Seventy chains of substantial ring-fencing was erected, and the existing fences repaired, the adjacent owners sharing the cost.

One thousand cork-oaks (*Quercus suber*), started in paper pots, were permanently planted out last season. These have made fair progress, their growth being somewhat checked by the attacks of insects and game. Unfortunately a portion of the seed arrived from America in a sweated condition, its vitality being destroyed.

Trees to the number of 312,000 have been grown during the year, among which are the following: *Podocarpus totara*: Seed collected in the district was sown last August, producing a hundred thousand sturdy plants averaging 6 in. in height. *Vitex littoralis* (puriri): The seed of this well-known tree was also locally collected, and sown last November. It germinated well, producing four thousand seedlings averaging 4 in. in height.

Experimental trials were made with *Podocarpus totara*, *P. Halli*, and *Vitex littoralis*. Both varieties of podocarpi succeeded well, *P. Halli* proving especially strong in growth. The puriri failed, chiefly owing to unfavourable conditions. Cuttings would undoubtedly succeed under more favourable circumstances, although generally trees raised from cuttings are not so satisfactory as those grown from seed, all conditions being equal.

During early summer a hundred thousand young totaras were collected from the forests, where they would have probably been destroyed by stock, and closely lined in under covered frames, which were removed as the plants became established. Small lots of *Podocarpus dacrydioides* (white-pine) and *Knightia excelsa* (rewarewa) were treated in a similar manner, all making rapid growth, with practically no loss.

Eucalypti: Ten varieties of these valuable trees, particulars appearing elsewhere, were sown, with a fair general result. A series of heavy thunderstorms considerably damaged the crop, rain falling with tropical violence on these occasions.

Trees planted permanently: The experimental planting of 2,500 trees transferred from Rotorua Nursery, comprising oak (in variety), *Juglans regia* (walnut), *Hikora pecan* (pecan-nut), *Hikora ovata* (hickory), *Catalpa speciosa*, *Acer saccharum*, *Sequoia sempervirens*, *Alnus glutinosa* (alder), and twenty varieties of eucalypti, has been highly satisfactory, despite a trying season and, in some cases, the attacks of insects and game.

A number of eucalypti died owing to dry weather experienced immediately after planting. Those established made the remarkable growth of 2 ft. to 3 ft., notably *E. teretecornis*, *E. amygdalina*, *E. obliqua*, *E. pauciflora*, *E. Gunni*, *E. virgata*, and *E. corynocalyx*. The other trees mentioned have made good growth, and, as far as can be ascertained at present, seem likely to be suitable for this district.

Considerable labour has been expended in general clearing, opening 30 chains of drains, and destroying noxious weeds (gorse, briar, inkweed, &c.) throughout the plantation. An area of 25 acres of gorse land has been ploughed and roughly levelled and worked, and it is intended in the near future to lay this land out in nursery-breaks for transplanting purposes.

Many thanks are due to residents in the district for their assistance and information concerning the gathering of native trees and seeds, &c., which largely contributed to success.

The following is a record of rainfall and temperature for the year:—

Date.	Rainfall.	Number of Days Rain fell.	Maximum Temperature.	Date.	Minimum Temperature.	Date.
1903.	Inches.		Degrees.		Degrees.	
May, 14–31	1·96	7	78	21st	39	22nd
June	7·09	14	63	10th, 13th, 23rd	33	26th
July	5·34	15	61	10th, 12th	33	1st, 28th
August	4·65	13	65	9th, 15th, 19th, 20th	30	23rd
September	5·65	12	71	23rd	37	25th
October	6·30	11	78	16th	43	6th, 21st
November	9·01	14	80	24th, 25th	42	23rd
December	3·54	8	85	29th	47	1st
1904.						
January	1·88	6	82	11th	43	11th
February	8·87	7	82	18th	43	9th
March	9·79	7	80	5th, 9th	39	21st
Total	64·08	114	...	...	...	...

L. J. Adams,
Assistant Forester.

Report of Tree-planting Operations at Somes Island Quarantine Station, Wellington Harbour, 1903–4.

In order to improve the appearance of this barren island, as well as to provide shelter for the quarantine buildings, tree-planting operations were commenced here by prison labour on the 2nd April, 1903, and the work was completed on 5th September, 1903.

The average daily number of men employed was 11·73.

On the whole the work done by prisoners was satisfactory, although pitting was necessarily slow owing to the hard and stony nature of the ground, crowbars being in use continually. A belt of *Coprosma Baueriana* was planted next to the beach round the east, south, and western sides of the island, and above these a large variety of trees and shrubs (chiefly natives) adapted to exposed situations and sea-spray. These have done well in spite of the heavy gales and dry season which followed planting. The area planted is about 25 acres, and of this about five acres had to be cleared of scrub and other herbage before pitting could be commenced. Other works were also carried on, such as clearing grass and undergrowth from around trees in shelter plantations, and the pruning of trees, &c., on road to lighthouse. In all, 28,646 pits were dug and planted up, and about three hundred trees were "lined out" in prepared ground for the purpose of filling in blanks next season.

The following is a list of trees planted: *Coprosma Baueriana* (one year), 10,875; *Coprosma Baueriana* (two years), 6,125; *Shawia paniculata*, 3,400; *Olearia Traversii*, 2,450; *Veronica speciosa*, 135; *Escallonia macrantha*, 900; *Corokia buddleoides*, 30; *Hymenanthera Chathamica*, 25; *Metrosideros tomentosa*, 1,360; *Griselinia littoralis*, 1,610; *Myoporum lætum*, 700; *Corynocarpus lævigata*, 500; *Tamarix gallica*, 386; *Metrosideros lucida*, 100; *Senecio rotundifolius*, 50: total trees planted, 28,646. Trees lined-in for filling blanks: *Griselinia littoralis*, 190; *Shawia paniculata*, 100. Total number of trees purchased, 28,936.

Details of expenditure are as follows: Tools, &c., £15 17s. 7d.; purchase of trees, £221 5s. 5d.; wages of Assistant Forester and travelling-expenses, £90 8s. 9d.; supervision, £12 15s. 3d.: total expenditure, £340 7s.

W. G. Morrison,
Assistant Forester.

Statement of Expenditure to the 31st March, 1904.

Eweburn Nursery.	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	5,637	19	7
Tree-growing	285	2	8
General maintenance	135	5	8
Nursery-formation, drainage, &c.	34	16	0
Horse-shoeing and general repairs	56	17	7
Horse-feed	59	2	5
Tree-seeds	33	18	5
Tools, implements, &c.	52	2	8
Fuel	15	4	8
Supervision	44	10	0
	£6,354	19	8

Tapanui Nursery.	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	7,268	17	0
Tree-growing	854	16	8
General maintenance	43	17	6
Nursery-formation	92	14	3
Horse-shoeing and repairs	33	9	4
Horse-feed purchased and grown	125	0	6
Manures	9	19	1
Tree-seeds	48	18	5
Tools, implements, &c.	50	11	0
Fencing	235	12	1
Miscellaneous works	4	0	4
Supervision	60	10	0
	£8,828	6	2

Rotorua Nursery.	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	7,588	1	3
Tree-growing	1,345	11	11
General maintenance and repairs	194	0	9
Nursery-formation	108	14	6
Horse-feed	100	15	8
Manures	77	7	1
Tree-seeds	249	7	2
Tools, implements, &c.	126	5	11
Seed-frames	695	9	0
Water-supply	140	6	1
Buildings (new) and alterations to existing buildings	218	1	8
Miscellaneous	6	16	11
Supervision	110	0	0
	£10,960	17	11

Starborough Nursery.

	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	2,608	10	5
Tree-growing	291	16	0
Maintenance	297	1	1
Nursery-formation	139	0	9
Buildings	320	0	10
Fencing	76	5	3
Water-supply	8	0	8
Tools and implements	12	15	6
Horse-feed	117	18	1
Tree-seeds	31	15	9
Seed-frames	45	17	8
Horse-shoeing and general repairs	48	3	10
Manures	50	7	6
Miscellaneous works	40	8	6
Supervision	49	0	0
	£4,137	1	10

Hanmer Springs Nursery.

	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	111	0	1
Tree-growing, sowing seeds, &c.	86	16	0
Transfer of trees, railage, and cartage	5	0	5
Nursery-formation	20	9	0
Manures	2	16	3
Tree-seeds	22	0	0
Seed-frames	83	8	2
Tools	31	19	10
General maintenance	27	7	6
Water-supply	39	10	4
Buildings	36	7	9
Miscellaneous	2	3	0
Supervision	25	13	4
	£494	11	8

Naseby Survey Paddock Plantation.

	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	1,365	9	5
General maintenance, draining, &c.	97	16	6
Planting 96,000 trees	71	10	10
Cartage of trees from nursery	11	19	9
Miscellaneous works	8	14	2
Portion of Nurseryman's salary	37	15	7
Supervision	17	10	0
	£1,610	16	3

Gimmerburn Reserve Plantation.

	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	387	18	8
General maintenance	7	14	1
Nurseryman's salary (portion)	5	0	0
Supervision	6	10	0
	£407	2	9

Part of this enclosure has been leased for cropping purposes, and rental amounting to £262 8s. 6d. has been received to date.

Dusky Hill Plantation.

	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	6,351	4	6
Digging 54,000 pits for tree-planting, at £1 per 1,000	54	0	0
Planting 581,100 trees, at 14s. 1d. per 1,000	409	9	2
Preparing ground and planting 172,000 acorns, at 14s. 6d.	125	7	1
Preparing ground and planting 12,100 chestnuts, at 12s. 1d.	7	6	8
Tree-seeds	11	19	8
Cartage of trees from Tapanui Nursery	21	0	0
Cutting and burning scrub	16	2	7
General maintenance	127	8	11
Miscellaneous works	10	11	6
Nurseryman's salary (proportion)	15	0	0
Supervision	15	0	0
	£7,164	10	1

Conical Hills Plantation.

	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	44	8	0
Digging 572,630 pits for tree-planting, at £1 4s. 10d. per 1,000	712	15	9
Digging 70,050 grubber-pits for tree-planting, at £1 per 1,000	70	1	0
Planting 170,700 trees, at 17s. 8d. per 1,000	151	1	9
Preparing ground and planting 184,850 acorns, at 13s. per 1,000	120	5	6
Tree-seeds—acorns	7	0	9
Cutting and burning flax and scrub	34	3	11
Cartage of trees from Tapanui Nursery	11	11	0
General maintenance	34	9	6
Fencing—labour and material, 302 chains £377 1 5			
Less refund party fence 63 6 9			
	313	14	8
Road-formation	78	4	7
Tools, &c.	34	14	5
Miscellaneous works	105	1	7
Nurseryman's salary (proportion)	25	0	0
Supervision	48	6	8
	£1,790	19	1

Raincliff Plantation.

	£	s.	d.
Amount to 31st March, 1903	1,091	7	5
Supervision	7	0	0
	£1,098	7	5

Portion of this enclosure was leased for grazing purposes, for which rental amounting to £11 4s. was received.

Hanmer Springs Plantation.

	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	1,069	13	10
Pitting, digging, and marking	291	0	6
Planting trees and seeds *in situ*	87	14	3
Clearing	105	0	3
Cartage of trees	3	19	0
Draining	51	17	3
Roading	19	2	0
Fencing—labour and material	53	8	0
Tools and implements	51	9	3
Buildings	37	10	8
General repairs	2	10	6
Tree-seeds	18	5	0
Miscellaneous	20	0	2
Supervision	34	0	0
	£1,845	10	8

Whakarewarewa Plantation.

	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	2,401	2	7
Pitting	125	17	10
Clearing and burning	136	9	0
Tree-planting	115	17	6
Road-making	58	8	6
Carting trees from nursery	5	3	9
Horse-feed	25	18	4
Tree-seeds	21	13	2
General maintenance	194	8	3
Nurseryman's salary (proportion)	65	0	0
Supervision	20	0	0
	£3,169	18	11

Waiotapu Plantation.

	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	783	10	11
Buildings—new stable	109	3	5
Carting trees from Rotorua	43	0	6
Extension area, fencing, &c.	430	17	5
General maintenance and repairs	5	7	9
Horse-feed	33	18	6
Tools and implements	84	15	6
Tree-seeds	28	1	1
Tree-planting (by free labour)	40	7	3
Forester's salary	140	0	0
Nurseryman's salary (portion) and travelling-expenses	25	10	0
Supervision	41	16	0
	£1,766	8	4

Kaingaroa Plains Plantations (Four).

	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	312	12	6
Seed of saltbush	1	2	6
Proportion of Nurseryman's salary, travelling-expenses, &c.	4	18	0
	£318	13	0

Ruatangata Plantation.

	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	8	3	0
Fencing	57	18	8
Buildings—men's hut and tool-house	44	13	7
Tools and implements	43	5	1
Seed-frames	61	14	3
Water-supply	24	2	3
Tree-seeds purchased and collected	32	17	7
Manures	1	8	1
Nursery-formation	191	9	5
Tree-growing	119	15	6
Pitting	7	13	11
Planting trees, freight, railage, &c.	16	2	5
General maintenance	64	18	10
Miscellaneous works	23	11	4
Supervision	29	4	0
	£726	17	11

Dumgree Plantation.

	£	s.	d.
Cost of land	3,600	0	0
Digging 170,715 pits	311	10	2
Marking 24,794 pits	17	12	0
Planting 125,650 trees	118	11	3
Cartage of trees	2	9	0
Fencing	122	17	10
General maintenance	110	9	9
Tools and implements	38	19	0
Miscellaneous works	57	18	4
Portion of Nurseryman's salary	6	17	4
Supervision	30	0	0
	£4,417	4	8

STATEMENT OF VALUES FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1904.

Eweburn Nursery.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903				5,117	9	8			
Less value of trees	1,828	0	3						
" value of horse-feed	33	0	0						
				1,861	0	3			
							3,256	9	5
Trees as per Schedule A							255	11	7
" A^1							807	13	6
" A^2							369	8	0
" A^3							107	14	7
" A^4							277	18	5
Tools, implements, &c.							52	2	8
Nursery-formation							34	16	0
Horse-feed in stock							20	5	0
Improved value							179	15	8
							£5,361	14	10

Tapanui Nursery.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903				12,239	1	4			
Less value of trees	7,285	13	7						
" value of horse-feed	59	17	9						
				7,345	11	4			
							4,893	10	0
Trees as per Schedule B							694	0	6
" B^1							929	12	6
" B^2							1,811	12	4
" B^3							3,253	3	3
Tools, implements, &c.							50	11	0
Nursery-formation							92	14	3
Improved value							108	7	10
Fencing							235	12	1
Horse-feed in stock							174	10	0
							£12,243	13	9

Rotorua Nursery.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903		9,681 2 0	
Less value of trees	7,194 7 10		
" horse-feed ...	43 0 0		
		7,237 7 10	
			2,443 14 2
Trees as per Schedule C		...	3,872 5 9
" C^1		...	1,047 13 3
" C^2		...	773 14 10
" C^3		...	2,190 19 1
Tools and implements, &c.		...	126 5 11
Water-supply		...	140 6 1
Seed-frames (new)		...	695 9 0
Buildings		...	218 1 8
Nursery-formation		...	108 14 6
Horse-feed in stock		...	37 10 0
Improved value		...	227 7 8
			£11,882 1 11

Starborough Nursery.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903		3,204 4 2	
Less trees	1,030 2 0		
" horse-feed	147 5 4		
		1,177 7 4	
			2,026 16 10
Trees as per Schedule D		...	247 0 0
" D^1		...	458 1 9
" D^2		...	920 15 3
" D^3		...	261 7 3
Tools and implements		...	12 15 6
Water-supply		...	8 0 8
Nursery-formation		...	139 0 9
Improved value by labour		...	468 13 1
Seed-frames		...	45 17 8
Buildings		...	320 0 10
Fencing		...	76 5 3
Horse-feed in stock		...	100 2 5
			£5,084 17 3

Hanmer Springs Nursery.

	£ s. d.
Trees as per Schedule E	59 0 0
" E^1	52 15 0
" E^2	407 12 6
Nursery-formation	20 9 0
Seed-frames	93 16 2
Tools	31 19 10
Water-supply	44 10 4
Buildings	44 7 9
Improved value by labour	53 0 10
	£807 11 5

Naseby Survey Paddock Plantation.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	2,511 7 1	
Less horse-feed	77 2 5	
		2,434 4 8
Trees planted as per Schedule A^4		277 0 8
Cartage of trees		11 19 9
Planting 96,000 trees		71 10 10
Improved value		153 2 1
Tools, &c.		8 14 2
Horse-feed transferred		18 16 0
Increased value		114 9 0
		£3,089 17 2

Gimmerburn Reserve Plantation.

	£ s. d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	387 18 8
Improved value by labour	19 4 1
	£407 2 9

Dusky Hill Plantation.

	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	12,349	0	2
Trees planted as per Schedule B[8]	2,343	7	9
Trees raised from seeds—185,000	150	10	1
Cartage of trees from nursery	21	0	0
Planting trees	608	2	7
Improved value by labour	168	0	5
Increased value	601	17	8
	£16,241	18	8

Conical Hills Plantation.

	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	44	0	3
Trees planted as per Schedule B[3]	689	17	3
Trees raised from seeds—184,850	127	1	8
Cartage of trees from nursery	11	11	0
Planting of trees	473	8	5
Value of 471,980 pits	586	1	4
Tools, &c.	34	14	5
Improved value by labour	325	6	3
Fencing	313	14	8
Increased value	2	4	0
	£2,607	19	3

Hanmer Springs Plantation.

	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	1,319	4	3
Trees planted as per Schedule E[3]	433	16	0
" E[4]	398	8	8
Pitting	365	8	6
Planting	216	8	3
Clearing	215	6	3
Cartage of trees	3	19	0
Draining	51	17	3
Roading	46	18	0
Fencing	53	8	0
Tools and implements	51	9	3
Buildings	53	10	8
Improved value by labour	34	0	0
Increased value	46	17	9
	£3,290	11	10

Raincliff Plantation.

	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	1,178	15	9
Improved value by labour	7	0	0
Increased value	55	8	3
	£1,241	4	0

Whakarewarewa Plantation.

	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	4,544	2	5
Trees planted as per Schedule C[8]	465	1	0
Trees raised from seed—33,680, at 15s. per 1,000	25	5	2
Cartage of trees	5	3	9
Pitting	125	17	10
Clearing and burning	136	9	0
Planting	115	17	6
Roadmaking	58	8	6
Improved value by labour	279	8	3
Increased value	261	8	7
	£6,017	2	0

Waiotapu Plantation.

	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	3,479	0	10
Trees planted as per Schedule C[8]	1,553	10	9
Seeds planted—75,560, at 15s. per 1,000	56	13	4
Carting trees from Rotorua	43	0	6
Fencing	466	12	5
Improvements by labour	316	18	9
Tools and implements	84	15	6
Planting trees	397	17	3
Clearing and burning	124	4	3
Pitting	117	4	9
Roadmaking	86	4	6
Buildings	123	15	9
Increased value	134	7	6
	£6,984	6	1

Kaingaroa Plains Plantations (Four).	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	522	17	0
Improvements by labour, &c.	4	18	0
Increased value	25	16	7
	£553	11	7

Ruatangata Plantation.	£	s.	d.
Amount at 31st March, 1903	8	3	0
Trees as per Schedule F	615	0	0
,, F^1	21	2	2
Fencing	57	18	8
Buildings...	44	13	7
Tools and implements	43	5	1
Seed-frames	61	14	3
Water-supply	24	2	3
Nursery-formation...	191	9	5
Pitting	7	13	11
Planting	16	2	5
Improved value by labour	94	2	10
	£1,185	7	7

Dumgree Plantation.	£	s.	d.
Value of land	3,600	0	0
Trees planted as per Schedule D^3	160	6	3
Cartage of trees	2	9	0
Planting trees	118	11	3
Value of 170,715 pits	311	10	2
Value of 24,794 pits marked	17	12	0
Improved value	140	9	9
Fencing	122	17	10
Tools	38	19	0
Increased value	Nil.		
	£4,512	15	3

REFERENCE-LIST OF FOREST TREES AND SHRUBS GROWN AT THE VARIOUS NURSERIES AND PLANTATIONS, 1903–4. (E, EVERGREEN; D, DECIDUOUS.)

Name of Tree.	Synonym.	Common Name.	Habitat.
Acacia melanoxylon (E) ..	..	Blackwood	South-east Australia.
Acer saccharum (D) ..	Acer saccharinum ..	Sugar-maple	North America.
„ pseudo-platanus (D) ..	..	Sycamore	Europe and Asia.
Æsculus hippocastanum (D)	..	Horse-chestnut	South-east Europe.
Alnus glutinoso (D) ..	..	Alder	Europe and Asia.
Benthamia fragifera (E) ..	..	Indian strawberry.. ..	India.
Betula alba (D)	..	Silver-birch	Europe.
Berberis Nepaulensis (D) ..	..	Barberry	Northern India.
Castanea sativa (D) ..	Castanea vesca ..	Sweet or Spanish chestnut..	Europe and Asia.
Catalpa speciosa (D) ..	Bignonia catalpa ..	Hardy catalpa	United States.
Chamæcyparis Lawsoniana (E)	Cupressus Lawsoniana	Lawson's cypress, or white-cedar	Northern California.
Chamæcyparis thyoides (E)	Retinospora ericoides	White-cedar	Eastern United States.
Cordyline Hookerii (E) ..	Dracæna Hookerii ..	Toi	North Island, New Zealand.
„ Australis (E) ..	„ Australis ..	Ti, or cabbage-tree ..	New Zealand.
„ indivisa (E) ..	„ indivisa ..	Toi	South Island, New Zealand.
Corokia buddleoides (E) ..	..	Korokia	New Zealand.
Corylus avellana (D)	..	Filbert	Britain.
Corynocarpus lævigata (E)	..	Karaka, New Zealand Laurel	New Zealand.
Eucalyptus amygdalina (E)	..	Almond-leaved peppermint-gum	Victoria, New South Wales, and Tasmania.
„ calophylla (E)	..	Red-gum..	South-west Australia.
„ capitellata (E)	..	Head-flowered stringy-bark	New South Wales and Gippsland
„ corymbosa (E)	..	Bloodwood	New South Wales and South Queensland.
„ coccifera (E) ..	..	Mountain-peppermint ..	Alpine districts of Tasmania.
„ corynocalyx (E)	..	Sugar-gum	South-east Australia.
„ crebra (E) ..	..	Narrow-leaved ironbark ..	New South Wales and Queensland.
„ ficifolia (E) ..	..	Scarlet-flowering gum ..	South-west Australia.
„ globulus (E) ..	..	Blue-gum	Tasmania and Victoria.
„ Gunni (E) ..	..	Cider-gum	Victoria, New South Wales, and Tasmania.
„ hæmastoma (E)	..	Gum-topped stringy-bark ..	Tasmania and Victoria.
„ leucoxylon (E)	Eucalyptus sideroxylon	Victorian red ironbark ..	South Australia.
„ macroryncha (E)	..	Stringy-bark of Victoria ..	Victoria.
„ marginata (E)..	..	Jarrah	South-west Australia.
„ Muellerii (E) ..	..	Mountain red-gum ..	Mountains of Tasmania.
„ maculata(E) ..	..	Spotted gum	New South Wales and Queensland.
„ obliqua (E) ..	..	Stringy-bark or messmate ..	Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania.

REFERENCE-LIST OF FOREST TREES AND SHRUBS GROWN AT THE VARIOUS NURSERIES AND PLANTATIONS, 1903–4. (E, EVERGREEN; D, DECIDUOUS.)

Name of Tree.	Synonym.	Common Name.	Habitat.
Eucalyptus pauciflora (E)	Eucalyptus coriacea	White or drooping gum	Ditto.
" paniculata (E)	" fasciculosa	Red ironbark	New South Wales and South-west Australia.
" pilularis (E)		Blackbutt	New South Wales, Queensland, and Gippsland.
" regnans (E)		Swamp-gum	Tasmania and Victoria.
" saligna (E)		Grey or flooded gum	New South Wales and South Queensland.
" Stuartiana (E)		Apple-scented gum	Tasmania and South-east Australia.
" Sieberiana (E)	Eucalyptus virgata	Yowut, mountain ash	Ditto.
" siderophloia (E)	" persicifolia	Sydney ironbark	Eastern Queensland and Port Jackson.
" teretecornis (E)		Red-gum of Queensland	New South Wales and Gippsland
" urnigera (E)		Urn-bearing gum	Tasmania.
" redunca (E)		The wando or white-gum	Western Australia.
" resinifera (E)		Red or forest mahogany	New South Wales and Queensland.
" viminalis (E)		Swamp or manna gum	Tasmania and Victoria.
Eleagnus Japonica (E)		Wild olive	Japan.
Escallonia macrantha (E)		Chilian gum-box	Chili.
Fraxinus excelsior (D)		English ash	Europe and Asia.
Fagus fusca (E)		Red beech or birch	New Zealand.
" Solandri (E)		Red, white, black, or brown birch	"
Griselinia littoralis (E)		Broadleaf, papauma	"
Hikora ovata (D)	Carya alba	Shagbark, hickory	Eastern North America.
" pecan (D)	" olivæformis	Pecan-nut	"
Juglans cineria (D)		Butternut	"
" nigra (D)		Black walnut	"
" regia (D)		Walnut	Europe and Asia.
Juniperus Virginiana (E)	Juniperus Barbadensis	Red cedar	North America.
Knightia excelsa (E)		Rewarewa or honeysuckle	North New Zealand.
Larix Europea (D)	Pinus larix	European larch	Europe.
Liriodendron tulipiferum (D		Tulip-tree, basswood	United States.
Laburnum vulgare (D)	Cytisus laburnum	Laburnum	Europe.
Ligustrum lucidum (E)		Shiny-leaved privet	China.
Myoporum lætum (E)		Ngaio	New Zealand.
Melicytus lanceolatus (E)		Narrow-leaved hinehine	"
Metrosideros tomentosa (E)		Pohutukawa	North Island, New Zealand.
" lucida (E)		Southern rata	South Island, New Zealand.
Olearia Traversii (E)		Akeake	Chatham Islands.
Picea excelsa (E)	Abies excelsa	Norway spruce	Europe.
" Sitchensis (E)	" Menziesii	Tideland spruce	Alaska, Northern Canada.
" Canadensis (E)		White-spruce	North-east United States.
Pinus Austriaca (E)		Austrian pine	Southern Europe.
" Canariensis (E)		Canary pine	Canary Islands.
" contorta (E)	Pinus Murrayana, Pinus Bolanderi	Twisted pine	Alaska to California.
" Coulterii (E)	Pinus macrocarpa	Great-coned pine	California.
" excelsa (E)	" pendula	Himalayan pine	Himalayan Mountains.
" flexilis (E)		Limber pine	Rocky Mountains, Sierra Nevada
" Halepensis (E)		Aleppo pine	Levant.
" Lambertiana (E)		Sugar-pine	Northern California, Oregon.
" laricio (E)		Corsican pine	Southern Europe.
" muricata (E)		Prickly-coned or Bishop's pine	California.
" ponderosa (E)		Heavy or bull pine	North-west America.
" ponderosa, var. Benthamiana (E)		Bentham's yellow-pine	British Columbia.
" pinaster (E)	Pinus maritima	Cluster-pine	Southern Europe.
" radiata (E)	" insignis	Monterey pine	California.
" rigida (E)		Pitch-pine	New England to Virginia.
" Sabiniana (E)		Nut-pine	California.
" strobus (E)		Weymouth pine	North America.
Populus deltoides (D)	Pinus monilifera, Pinus Canadensis	Canadian or black Italian poplar	"
Podocarpus totara (E)	Nageia totara	Totara	New Zealand.
" Hallii (E)	" Hallii	Large-leaved totara	"
Pseudo-tsuga taxifolia (E)	Abies Douglasii	Oregon pine	British Columbia, Pacific Coast, &c.
Pittosporum eugenioides (E)		Matipo, tarata	New Zealand.
" tenuifolium (E)		" tawhiri	"
" Buchanani (E)		" tawhiwhi	"
Pyrus aucuparia (D)	Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan-tree, mountain-ash	Europe and Asia.
Quercus coccinea (D)		Scarlet oak	Eastern North America.
" macrocarpa (D)		Burr oak	"
" pedunculata (D)	Quercus robur	British oak	Europe and West Asia.
" palustris (D)		Pin-oak	South-east of North America.
" suber (D)		Cork-oak	Southern Europe.
Raphiolepsis ovata (E)		Indian hawthorn	India.
Retinospora, varieties (E)		Cypress	Japan.
Robinia pseudo-acacia (D)		Black loquat or false acacia	Pennsylvania Mountains.
Senecio rotundifolius (E)		Leatherleaf	New Zealand.
Sequoia sempervirens (E)	Taxodium sempervirens	Redwood	California.
Sophora tetraptera (E) or (D)	Edwardsia microphylla	Kowhai	New Zealand.
Shawia paniculata (E)	Olearia Fosterii	Golden-akeake	"
Tamarix gallica (E)		Tamarisk	Europe.
Veronica, species (E)		Koromiko	New Zealand.
Vitex littoralis (E)		Puriri	North New Zealand.

SCHEDULE A.—ONE-YEAR-OLD TREES.—Details of Trees grown at Eweburn Nursery, 1903–4. (Eighth Crop).

Name of Tree.	Number in Seed-beds.	Height in Inches.	Amount of Seed sown.	Value per Thousand.	Total Value.	Remarks.
			Lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Pinus Austriaca	116,640	1	42	1 0 0	116 12 10	Very good.
„ ponderosa	12,580	1	7	1 0 0	12 11 7	Fair.
Larix Europea	126,360	6	140	1 0 0	126 7 2	Very good.
Total	255,580	..	189	..	255 11 7	

SCHEDULE A[1].—TWO-YEAR-OLD TREES.—Details of Trees grown at Eweburn Nursery, 1902–3. (Seventh Crop.)

Name of Tree.	Number in Seed-beds.	Height in Inches.	Value per Thousand.	Total Value.	Remarks.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Pinus Austriaca	350,000	3	2 0 0	700 0 0	Strong plants.
„ Halepensis	2,400	6	2 0 0	4 16 0	„
„ ponderosa	22,000	4	2 5 0	49 10 0	Very good.
Larix Europea ..	10,000	4	2 5 0	22 10 0	Poor growth; thrown out with frost.
Robinia pseudo-acacia ..	20,000	24	1 10 0	30 0 0	Partly killed by frost.
Sorbus aucuparia	318	18	2 15 0	0 17 6	Strong plants.
Total	404,718	..	..	807 13 6	

SCHEDULE A[2]. — THREE-YEAR-OLD TREES. — Details of Trees grown at Eweburn Nursery, 1901–2. (Sixth Crop.)

Name of Tree.	Number in Nursery Rows.	Height in Inches.	Value per Thousand.	Total Value.	Remarks.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Betula alba	2,250	18	3 0 0	6 15 0	Strong plants.
Pinus Austriaca	106,680	3	3 0 0	320 0 9	Very fair.
„ Benthamiana ..	125	3	3 0 0	0 7 6	Poor growth.
Larix Europea	10,400	12	3 5 0	33 16 0	Strong plants.
Sorbus aucuparia	2,250	18	3 15 0	8 8 9	„
Total	121,705	..	..	369 8 0	

SCHEDULE A[3].—FOUR-YEAR-OLD TREES.—Details of Trees grown at Eweburn Nursery, 1900–1. (Fifth Crop.)

Name.	Number in Lines.	Height in Inches.	Value per Thousand.	Total Value.	Remarks.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Pinus Austriaca	4,668	3	4 0 0	18 12 5	Fair.
„ ponderosa	2,900	3	3 5 0	9 8 6	Poor growth.
Larix Europea	18,680	10	4 5 0	76 4 1	Strong plants.
Pinus laricio	870	3	4 0 0	3 9 7	Poor growth.
Total	27,118	..	..	107 14 7	

SCHEDULE A[4].—Trees transferred from Eweburn Nursery to Plantations, &c., 1903–4.

Where sent.	Name.	Total.	Value per Thousand.	Total Value.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Naseby Survey Paddock ..	Betula alba	1,125	2 15 0	3 1 10½
	Pinus Austriaca (two-year)	4,000	2 15 0	8 0 0
	„ „ (three-year)	69,650	3 0 0	208 19 0
	„ ponderosa (two-year)	9,075	2 5 0	20 8 4½
	„ „ (three-year)	4,550	3 5 0	14 15 9
	„ „ var. Benthamiana ..	4,675	2 5 0	10 10 4½
	„ laricio	2,450	4 0 0	9 16 0
	Larix Europea	300	3 5 0	0 19 6
	Sorbus aucuparia	175	2 15 0	0 9 7½
		96,000		277 0 8
Kokonga School	Pinus Austriaca	100	3 0 0	0 6 0
	„ ponderosa, var. Benthamiana ..	25	2 5 0	0 1 1½
	„ laricio	50	4 0 0	0 4 0
	Larix Europea	50	3 5 0	0 3 3
	Sorbus aucuparia	25	2 15 0	0 1 4½
	Betula alba	50	2 0 0	0 2 0
		300		0 17 9
Total		96,300	..	£277 18 5

SCHEDULE B.—ONE-YEAR-OLD TREES.—Details of Trees grown at Tapanui Nursery, 1903–4. (Seventh Crop.)

Name of Tree.	Number in Seed-beds.	Height in Inches.	Amount of Seed sown.	Value per Thousand.	Total Value.	Remarks.
			Lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Picea excelsa	72,000	1	14	1 0 0	72 0 0	Germinated evenly.
Pseudo-tsuga taxifolia	22,000	3	10	1 5 0	27 10 0	Good sturdy trees.
Pinus Austriaca	149,000	1¼	23	1 0 0	149 0 0	Excellent crop.
„ ponderosa	6,000	1½	5	1 0 0	6 0 0	Medium crop.
„ radiata	5,750	10	8	1 0 0	5 15 0	Good growth.
„ strobus	500	1	3	1 0 0	0 10 0	Germinated poorly.
Larix Europea	39,000	3	140	1 0 0	39 0 0	„
Betula alba	158,000	2	30	1 0 0	158 0 0	Very fine crop.
Fraxinus excelsior	107,000	5	120	1 0 0	107 0 0	Splendid results.
Acer pseudo-platanus	142,000	12	70	0 10 0	71 0 0	
Juglans regia	21,000	8	300	2 0 0	42 0 0	
Laburnum vulgare	12,000	12	10	1 5 0	15 0 0	Good growth.
Æsculus hippocastanum	200	6	2	2 0 0	0 8 0	Strong growth.
Griselinia littoralis	250	2	2	1 10 0	0 7 6	Fair crop.
Pittosporum Buchananii	500	2	3	1 0 0	0 10 0	„
Total	735,200	..	..	..	694 0 6	

SCHEDULE B[1].—TWO-YEAR-OLD TREES.—Details of Trees grown at Tapanui Nursery, 1902–3. (Sixth Crop.)

Name of Tree.	Number in Seed-beds.	Height in Inches.	Value per Thousand.	Total Value.	Remarks.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Picea excelsa	240,000	4	1 5 0	300 0 0	All these trees have made excellent growth, and are nearly all sufficiently advanced for transference to plantations.
Pseudo-tsuga taxifolia	95,000	6	1 10 0	142 10 0	
Pinus ponderosa	14,000	8	1 5 0	17 10 0	
„ „ var. Benthamiana	15,500	9	1 5 0	19 7 6	
„ rigida	700	7	1 5 0	0 17 6	
Larix Europea	248,000	20	1 5 0	310 0 0	
Fraxinus excelsior	85,000	15	1 5 0	106 5 0	
Alnus glutinosa	27,000	6	1 0 0	27 0 0	
Robinia pseudo-acacia	3,000	24	1 0 0	3 0 0	
Betula alba	500	4	1 5 0	0 12 6	
Eucalyptus pauciflora	2,500	20	1 0 0	2 10 0	
Total	731,200	..	..	929 12 6	

SCHEDULE B[2].—THREE-YEAR-OLD TREES.—Details of Trees grown at Tapanui Nursery, 1901–2. (Fifth Crop.)

Name of Tree.	Number in Nursery Lines.	Height in Inches.	Value per Thousand.	Total Value.	Remarks.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Picea excelsa	269,500	6	3 0 0	808 10 0	All these trees have made excellent growth, and will be transferred to plantations during the present season.
Pseudo-tsuga taxifolia	1,500	15	3 5 0	4 17 6	
Picea Sitchensis	2,400	15	3 5 0	7 16 0	
Larix Europea	56,250	24	3 5 0	182 16 3	
Pinus Austriaca	98,900	8	3 0 0	296 14 0	
„ ponderosa	6,400	7	3 5 0	20 16 0	
„ radiata	7,500	15	3 0 0	22 10 0	
„ ponderosa, var. Benthamiana	9,000	7	3 5 0	29 5 0	
„ strobus	4,250	4	3 5 0	13 16 3	
„ Halepensis	1,000	6	3 5 0	3 5 0	
Fraxinus excelsior	93,700	18	3 0 0	281 2 0	
Acer pseudo-platanus	10,000	26	2 15 0	27 15 6	
Quercus pedunculata	27,050	12	3 0 0	81 3 0	
Alnus glutinosa	4,150	18	3 0 0	12 9 0	
Juglans regia	600	6	4 5 0	2 11 0	
Betula alba	75	36	3 0 0	0 4 6	
Pyrus aucuparia	600	48	3 15 0	2 5 0	
Cerasus lauro-cerasus	200	30	10 0 0	2 0 0	
Laburnum vulgare	150	30	2 10 0	0 7 6	
Chamæcyparis Lawsoniana	120	20	4 5 0	0 10 2	
Ligustrum lucidum	50	24	2 0 0	0 2 0	
Picea Canadensis	40	15	3 5 0	0 2 7	
Sophora tetraptera	250	12	4 5 0	1 1 3	
Pittosporum tenuifolium	1,750	15	3 5 0	5 5 0	For hedges.
Metrocytus lanceolatus	200	15	4 5 0	0 17 0	For ornamental plantation purposes.
Phormium tenax	200	24	3 0 0	0 12 0	
Fagus fusca	170	36	5 5 0	0 17 10	
„ Solandri	130	36	5 5 0	0 13 8	
Griselinia littoralis	25	12	4 5 0	0 2 2	
Cordyline Australis	420	23	3 0 0	1 5 2	
Total	596,680	..	..	1,811 12 4	

SCHEDULE B[8].—Trees transferred from Tapanui Nursery to Plantations, Domains, &c., 1903–4.

Where sent.	Name of Tree.	Number.	Height in Inches.	Value per Thousand. £ s. d.	Total Value. £ s. d.	Remarks.
Dusky Hill Plantation	Pinus Austriaca	149,875	12	4 0 0	599 10 0	The past season being extremely favourable for tree-growing in this locality, complete success resulted in planting operations of each of these varieties.
	„ laricio	3,950	12	4 0 0	15 16 0	
	„ ponderosa	18,450	12	4 5 0	78 8 3	
	„ ponderosa, var. Benthamiana	9,150	14	4 5 0	38 17 9	
	„ strobus	450	10	4 5 0	1 18 3	
	Picea excelsa	81,850	12	4 0 0	327 8 0	
	„ Sitchensis	10,750	14	4 15 0	51 1 3	
	Pseudo-tsuga taxifolia ..	450	15	4 15 0	2 2 9	
	Larix Europea	85,525	18	4 5 0	363 9 7	
	Fraxinus excelsior ..	70,800	14	4 0 0	283 4 0	
	Quercus pedunculata ..	63,300	18	4 0 0	253 4 0	
	Acer pseudo-platanus ..	75,425	20	3 15 0	282 16 10	
	Betula alba	1,800	22	4 0 0	7 4 0	
	Alnus glutinosa	6,000	18	4 0 0	24 0 0	
	Pyrus aucuparia	1,000	24	4 15 0	4 15 0	
	Juglans regia	825	15	5 5 0	4 6 7	
	Castanea sativa	50	15	5 5 0	0 5 3	
	Populus (var.)	800	20	2 0 0	1 12 0	Planted in swamp.
	Sophora tetraptera ..	650	10	5 5 0	3 8 3	
		581,100			2,343 7 9	
Conical Hills Plantation	Picea excelsa	76,350	12	4 0 0	305 8 0	The result of the first year's planting here is very satisfactory, each variety making good headway.
	Fraxinus excelsior ..	86,625	14	4 0 0	346 10 0	
	Pyrus aucuparia	2,750	22	4 15 0	13 1 3	
	Alnus glutinosa	725	15	4 0 0	2 18 0	
	Betula alba	250	18	4 0 0	1 0 0	
	Juglans regia	4,000	15	5 5 0	21 0 0	Planted on fire-breaks.
		170,700			689 17 3	
Hanmer Springs Plantation	Pinus Austriaca	70,000	4	1 0 0	70 0 0	Two-year-old seedlings for lining out at Hanmer Springs Nursery.
	„ radiata	20,000	3	1 0 0	20 0 0	
	Picea excelsa	43,000	3	1 0 0	43 0 0	
	Larix Europea	40,000	9	1 5 0	50 0 0	
	Alnus glutinosa	19,000	9	1 0 0	19 0 0	
		192,000			202 0 0	
Dusky Hill Plantation, as per details above ..		581,100	..	..	2,343 7 9	
Conical Hills Plantation, as per details above ..		170,700	..	..	689 17 3	
Hanmer Springs Plantation, as per details above ..		192,000	..	..	202 0 0	
Hawkesbury Domain Board—forest trees ..		250	..	..	1 2 0	
Gore Domain Board—native trees and shrubs ..		165	..	..	2 0 8	
Tuapeka Domain Board—trees and shrubs ..		250	..	..	2 2 0	
Queenstown Domain Board—ornamental shrubs ..		910	..	..	6 10 4	
Lumsden Domain Board—shelter-trees		1,000	..	..	2 11 3	
Karitane Domain Board—cabbage-trees (balled) ..		150	..	..	1 16 4	
Agricultural Department, Gore—forest trees, &c.		250	..	..	1 15 0	
Total		946,775	..	..	3,253 3 3	

SCHEDULE C.—ONE-YEAR-OLD TREES.—Details of Trees grown at Rotorua Nursery, 1903–4. (Fourth Crop.)

Name of Tree.	Number in Seed-beds.	Height in Inches.	Amount of Seed sown. Lb.	Value per Thousand. £ s. d.	Total Value. £ s. d.	Remarks.
Pseudo-tsuga taxifolia	60,000	4	16½	1 5 0	75 0 0	Good growth.
Picea Sitchensis	60,000	1	8	1 5 0	75 0 0	Germinated well.
Pinus Austriaca	300,000	4	74	0 15 0	225 0 0	Splendid plants.
„ ponderosa, var. Benthamiana	25,000	3	16	1 5 0	31 0 0	„
„ Canariensis	60,000	6	28	1 0 0	60 0 0	„
contorta	1,300	1	0½	1 5 0	1 12 6	Poor growth.
„ Coulterii	400	4	0½	1 5 0	0 10 0	Splendid plants.
„ flexilis	600	1	1	2 0 0	1 4 0	Poor growth.
„ Halepensis	20,000	4	63	1 0 0	20 0 0	Fine large plants.
„ radiata	250,000	6	22½	1 0 0	250 0 0	„
„ Lambertiana	40	3	1	1 5 0	0 1 0	„
„ laricio	20,000	3	5	1 0 0	20 0 0	Germinated thinly.
„ muricata	45,000	6	5	1 0 0	45 0 0	Germinated well.
„ ponderosa	2,100	3	1	1 0 0	2 2 0	Good growth.
„ strobus	13,000	1	7	1 0 0	13 0 0	Poor growth.
Larix Europea	2,000,000	3	659	1 0 0	2,000 0 0	Splendid plants.
Acer saccharum	200	3	28	1 5 0	0 5 0	Crop a failure.
Catalpa speciosa	500,000	9	106	1 0 0	500 0 0	Splendid plants.
Liriodendron tulipiferum	1,500	4	10	1 0 0	1 10 0	Crop poor.
Juglans cinerea	325	12	24	2 10 0	0 16 3	Good growth.
„ regia	2,000	4	108	2 0 0	4 0 0	„
Eucalpytus amygdalina	250,000	6	10	0 10 0	125 0 0	
„ coccifera	8,000	6	1	1 10 0	12 0 0	
„ pauciflora	100,000	6	17	0 10 0	50 0 0	
„ Gunni	100,000	6	9	0 10 0	50 0 0	
„ Muellerii	3,000	6	0¼	1 10 0	4 10 0	All these eucalypti made very fast growth.
„ obliqua	80,000	6	4	0 10 0	40 0 0	
„ Stuartiana	200,000	6	20	0 10 0	100 0 0	
„ Sieberiana	20,000	6	4	0 10 0	10 0 0	
„ teretecornis	150,000	6	10	0 10 0	75 0 0	
„ urnigera	3,000	6	0¼	1 10 0	4 10 0	
Robinia pseudo-acacia	150,000	9	100	0 10 0	75 0 0	Patchy.
Total	4,425,465	..	..	..	3,872 0 9	

SCHEDULE C[1].—TWO-YEAR-OLD TREES.—Details of Trees grown at Rotorua Nursery, 1902–3. (Fourth Crop.)

Name of Tree.	Number in Seed-beds.	Number in Nursery Lines.	Height in Inches.	Value per Thousand.	Total Value.	Remarks.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Picea excelsa	300,000	..	3	1 0 0	300 0 0	All these trees have made remarkably fine growth owing to the abnormally wet weather experienced throughout the spring and summer months.
Pseudo-tsuga taxifolia	100,000	..	3	1 5 0	125 0 0	
Picea Sitchensis	9,000	..	4	1 5 0	11 5 0	
Pinus strobus	75,000	..	4	1 5 0	93 15 0	
„ ponderosa	..	60,000	4	2 5 0	135 0 0	
„ rigida	..	4,000	3	2 5 0	9 0 0	
„ Halepensis	..	3,000	6	2 5 0	6 15 0	
„ Canariensis	..	700	6	2 5 0	1 11 6	
„ Sabiniana	..	20	4	2 5 0	0 1 0	
„ excelsa	..	150	3	2 5 0	0 6 9	
„ Coulterii	..	150	5	2 5 0	0 6 9	
Alnus glutinosa	..	9,000	10	2 0 0 1 5 0	18 0 0	
Larix Europea	200,000	5,000	18	2 5 0	261 5 0	
Juniperus Virginiana	250	..	9	1 5 0	0 6 3	
Catalpa speciosa	..	20,000	15	2 0 0	40 0 0	
Robinia pseudo-acacia	..	4,000	18	1 10 0	6 0 0	
Acer saccharum	..	7,000	5	2 0 0	14 0 0	
Juglans cinerea	..	1,000	12	4 5 0	4 5 0	
„ regia	..	5,000	9	4 0 0	20 0 0	
Betula alba	..	400	18	2 0 0	0 16 0	
Total	684,250	119,420	..	..	1,047 13 3	

SCHEDULE C[2]. — THREE-YEAR-OLD TREES.—Details of Forest Trees grown at Rotorua Nursery, 1901–2. (Third Crop.)

Name of Tree.	Number in Nursery Lines.	Height in Inches.	Value per Thousand.	Total Value.	Remarks.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Picea excelsa	120,000	4	2 5 0	270 0 0	Most of these trees will be transferred to the plantations next planting season.
Pseudo-tsuga taxifolia	6,000	6	2 5 0	13 10 0	
Picea Sitchensis	2,500	9	2 5 0	6 2 6	
Alnus glutinosa	10,000	15	2 10 0	25 0 0	
Juglans cinerea	600	24	6 0 0	3 12 0	
Larix Europea	17,000	18	3 0 0	51 0 0	
Pinus Austriaca	90,000	9	3 0 0	270 0 0	
„ ponderosa	11,000	9	3 5 0	35 15 0	
„ strobus	11,000	6	3 5 0	35 15 0	
„ laricio	6,000	6	2 0 0	12 0 0	
Æsculus hippocastanum	120	24	8 10 0	1 0 4	
Sequoia sempervirens	2,000	15	10 0 0	20 0 0	
Berberis Nepaulensis	30,000	18	1 0 0	30 0 0	
Total	306,220	..	..	773 14 10	

SCHEDULE C[3].—Trees, &c., transferred from Rotorua Nursery to Forest Plantations, &c., 1903–4.

Where sent.	Name of Tree.	Number.	Height in Inches.	Value per Thousand.	Total Value.	Remarks.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Waiotapu Plantation	Juglans regia	13,084	18	4 0 0	52 6 8	All these trees are well adapted for this district, and have done well since being planted.
	Pinus ponderosa	67,675	9	3 5 0	219 18 10	
	„ „ var. Benthamiana	6,900	9	3 10 0	24 3 0	
	„ Austriaca	167,825	6	2 0 0	335 13 0	
	„ laricio	67,650	9	3 0 0	202 19 0	
	Betula alba	11,525	15	3 15 0	43 4 4	
	Robinia pseudo-acacia	8,450	15	1 0 0	8 9 0	
	Pseudo-tsuga taxifolia	33,825	12	4 0 0	135 6 0	
	Picea Sitchensis	15,625	18	4 0 0	62 10 0	
	„ excelsa	2,650	9	2 10 0	6 12 6	
	Larix Europea	48,950	15	4 0 0	195 16 0	
	Sequoia sempervirens	3,050	15	10 0 0	30 10 0	
	Castanea sativa	1,325	24	4 10 0	5 19 3	
	Corylus avellana	660	36	8 10 0	5 12 2	
	Acer saccharum	50	9	1 10 0	0 1 6	Experimental. Killed by late frost.
	Catalpa speciosa	50	15	1 10 0	0 1 6	Ditto.
	Cerasus lauro-cerasus	1,125	18	4 0 0	4 10 0	For a hedge.
	Populus deltoides	250	24	6 0 0	1 10 0	Large stools.
	Acacia melanoxylon	1,256	8	1 10 0	1 17 8	Experimental. Have done well.
	Pinus radiata	4,200	6	1 10 0	6 6 0	For shelter breakwinds.
	Eucalyptus teretecornis	78,413	6	1 10 0	117 12 4	All these trees were tied separately in moss before being planted, and have made good growth.
	„ amygdalina	49,530	6	1 10 0	74 5 10	
	„ Stuartiana	12,207	6	1 10 0	18 6 2	
		596,275			1,553 10 9	

SCHEDULE C[3].—Trees, &c., transferred from Rotorua Nursery, &c.—*continued.*

Where sent.	Name of Tree.	Number.	Height in Inches.	Value per Thousand.	Total Value.	Remarks.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Whakarewarewa Plantation	Pinus Austriaca	663	12	4 0 0	2 13 0	Used for filling in blanks.
	Sequoia sempervirens ..	983	15	10 0 0	9 16 7	Ditto.
	Alnus glutinosa	2,003	12	2 0 0	4 0 0	"
	Larix Europea	23,525	12	3 0 0	70 11 6	Planted on new area.
	Juglans regia	30	18	4 5 0	0 2 6	Used for filling in blanks on fire-break.
	" cinerea	34	18	6 0 0	0 4 1	Ditto.
	Catalpa speciosa.. ..	5,425	12	1 0 0	5 8 6	Experimental. Very satisfactory growth.
	Cordyline Australis ..	86	18	3 0 0	0 5 2	Used for filling in blanks on fire-break.
	Æsculus hippocastanum ..	13	18	6 0 0	0 2 1	Ditto.
	Acacia melanoxylon ..	1,839	6	2 0 0	3 13 6	All these trees were tied up individually in moss before leaving the nursery, and have made very rapid growth since they were planted.
	Eucalyptus amygdalina ..	121,322	6	1 10 0	181 19 7	
	" pauciflora ..	34,750	6	1 10 0	52 2 6	
	" Stuartiana ..	89,402	6	1 10 0	134 2 0	
		280,075			465 1 0	
Waiotapu Plantation	As per details above ..	596,275	..	..	1,553 10 9	
Whakarewarewa Plantation	" ..	280,075	..	..	465 1 0	
Ruatangata Plantation	Principally trial lots of eucalypti	5,172	..	..	7 10 3	
Acclimatisation Society, Tirau	Shelter-trees	200	..	..	3 18 0	
Native School, Whakarewarewa	Shelter and ornamental ..	375	..	..	1 19 3	
Town Board, Rotorua	Oriental planes	2,225	..	..	111 5 0	
Tourist Department, Rotorua	Ornamental shrubs ..	11,693	..	..	47 14 10	
Total ..	..	896,015	..	..	2,190 19 1	

SCHEDULE D.—ONE-YEAR-OLD TREES.—Details of Trees grown at Starborough Nursery, 1903–4 (Third Crop.)

Name of Tree.	Number in Seed-beds.	Height in Inches.	Seed sown.	Value per Thousand.	Total Value.	Remarks.
			lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Larix Europea	2,400	1 to 1½	112	1 0 0	2 8 0	Very poor.
Betula alba	4,000	3 to 12	8	1 0 0	4 0 0	Strong stuff.
Pinus ponderosa, var. Benthamiana ..	1,600	2 to 3	5	1 0 0	1 12 0	Good plants.
" strobus	4,000	1 to 2	5	1 0 0	4 0 0	Fair plants.
" Austriaca	225,000	1½ to 2	28	1 0 0	225 0 0	Strong plants.
Pseudo-tsuga taxifolia	8,000	2 to 3	10	1 5 0	10 0 0	Good plants.
Total	245,000	..	..	..	247 0 0	

SCHEDULE D[1].—TWO-YEAR-OLD TREES.—Details of Trees grown at Starborough Nursery, 1902–3. (Second Crop.)

Name of Tree.	Number in Seed-beds.	Number in Nursery Lines.	Height in Inches.	Value per Thousand.	Total Value.	Remarks.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Larix Europea	150,000	..	9 to 30	1 5 0	187 10 0	Strong growth.
Pinus laricio	50,000	..	3 to 6	1 0 0	50 0 0	Good stuff.
" ponderosa	20,000	..	3 to 6	1 5 0	25 0 0	"
" rigida	2,000	..	3 to 9	1 5 0	2 10 0	"
" Austriaca	20,000	..	3 to 6	1 5 0	25 0 0	"
Pseudo-tsuga taxifolia	70,000	..	2 to 4	1 10 0	105 0 0	"
Pinus radiata	..	15,000	9 to 12	2 5 0	33 15 0	
" Halepensis	..	2,600	8 to 16	2 5 0	5 17 0	Healthy well-rooted stuff.
" Canariensis	..	750	4 to 10	2 5 0	1 13 9	
Betula alba	..	1,900	18 to 24	2 0 0	3 16 0	
Robinia pseudo-acacia	..	18,000	30 to 48	1 0 0	18 0 0	
Total	312,000	38,250	..	..	458 1 9	

SCHEDULE D[2].—THREE- AND FOUR-YEAR-OLD TREES.—Details of Trees grown at Starborough Nursery, 1901–2. (First Crop.)

Name of Tree.	Number in Nursery Lines.	Height in Inches.	Value per Thousand.	Value per Hundred.	Total Value.	Remarks.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Pinus Austriaca	220,000	4 to 10	3 0 0	..	660 0 0	All healthy, well-rooted plants.
„ strobus	20,000	3 to 6	3 0 0	..	60 0 0	
„ ponderosa	4,400	4 to 10	3 0 0	..	13 4 0	
„ „ var. Benthamiana..	4,000	9 to 15	3 0 0	..	12 0 0	
Larix Europea	30,000	12 to 18	3 0 0	..	90 0 0	
Berberis Nepaulensis	34,000	30 to 36	2 0 0	..	68 0 0	
Pyrus aucuparia	250	36 to 48	..	0 10 0	1 5 0	
Raphiolepsis ovata..	70	4 to 6	..	1 0 0	0 14 0	
Eleaganus japonica	25	9 to 12	..	1 5 0	0 6 3	
Benthamia fragifera	36	12 to 15	..	2 10 0	0 18 0	
Retinospora (assorted)	20	15 to 18	..	2 10 0	0 10 0	
Chamæcyparis Lawsoniana	300	24 to 36	..	1 0 0	3 0 0	
Veronicas (assorted)	3,000	6 to 15	3 10 0	..	10 10 0	
Olearias (assorted)	40	9 to 15	..	1 0 0	0 8 0	
Total	316,141	..	..	..	920 15 3	

SCHEDULE D[3]. — Trees, &c., transferred from Starborough Nursery to Dumgree Plantation, Rotorua Nursery, Domains, &c., 1903–4.

Where sent.	Name of Tree.	Number.	Rate per Thousand.	Value.	Remarks.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Dumgree Plantation ..	Larix Europea	100,000	1 5 0	125 0 0	Owing to the exceptionally dry summer a number of these trees have perished.
	Betula alba	14,000	2 0 0	28 0 0	
	Robinia pseudo-acacia ..	10,800	0 10 0	5 8 0	
	Pinus radiata	850	2 5 0	1 18 3	
		125,650	..	160 6 3	
Government Biologist, Wellington	„	1,200	2 5 0	2 14 0	
Cemetery Trustees, Cobden ..	Shrubs (assorted)	40	..	1 5 0	
Domain Board, Seddon ..	Trees and shrubs (assorted)	685	..	6 10 9	
		127,575	..	170 16 0	
Rotorua Nursery ..	30 tons chaff, at £2 10s. per ton	..	..	75 0 0	
	178 bushels oats, at 1s. 9d. per bushel	..	..	15 11 6	
Total	..	..	..	261 7 3	

SCHEDULE E.—ONE-YEAR-OLD TREES.—Details of Trees grown at Hanmer Springs Temporary Nursery, 1903–4.

Name of Tree.	Estimated Number in Seed-beds.	Height in Inches.	Amount of Seed sown.	Value per Thousand.	Total Value.	Remarks.
			Lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Larix Europea	20,000	3	84	1 0 0	20 0 0	Very poor crop.
Pinus ponderosa	15,000	2½	10	1 0 0	15 0 0	Strong plants.
„ Austriaca	24,000	2	14	1 0 0	24 0 0	Good growth.
Total	59,000	..	..	..	59 0 0	

SCHEDULE E[1].—TWO-YEAR-OLD TREES.—Details of Trees grown at Hanmer Springs Temporary Nursery, 1902–3.

Name of Tree.	Estimated Number in Seed-beds	Height in Inches.	Value per Thousand.	Total Value.	Remarks.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Larix Europea	35,000	10	1 5 0	43 15 0	Have done well.
Eucalyptus pauciflora	9,000	20	1 0 0	9 0 0	„
Total	44,000	..	..	52 15 0	

SCHEDULE E[2].—TWO-YEAR-OLD TREES.—Details of Trees transferred from Tapanui Nursery, 1903–4.

Name of Tree.	Number in Nursery Lines.	Height in Inches.	Value per Thousand.	Total Value.	Remarks.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Pinus Austriaca	70,000	4	2 0 0	140 0 0	These trees have made good growth, and will be permanently planted next spring.
„ radiata	20,000	14	2 5 0	45 0 0	
Picea excelsa	43,000	4	2 0 0	86 0 0	
Larix Europea	40,000	12	2 5 0	90 0 0	
Alnus glutinosa	19,000	12	1 0 0	19 0 0	
Picea excelsa	3,700	6	3 5 0	12 0 6	Three-year-old trees.
Betula alba	3,900	16	4 0 0	15 12 0	„
Total	199,600	..	..	407 12 6	

SCHEDULE E[3].—Three-year-old Trees transferred to Hanmer Springs Plantation, 1903–4.

Name of Tree.	Number.	Height in Inches.	Value per Thousand.	Total Value.	Remarks.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Pinus Austriaca	47,200	4	3 0 0	141 12 0	These trees have all done well since being permanently planted.
„ ponderosa	12,850	4	3 5 0	41 15 3	
„ radiata	2,650	5	3 0 0	7 19 0	
Alnus glutinosa	3,000	12	3 0 0	9 0 0	
Betula alba	2,080	15	3 0 0	6 4 9	
Larix Europea	29,370	12	3 5 0	95 9 0	
Quercus pedunculata	131,800	4	1 0 0	131 16 0	Planted *in situ*.
Total	228,950	..	..	433 16 0	

SCHEDULE E[4].—Four-year-old Trees transferred to Hanmer Springs Plantation, 1903–4.

Name of Tree.	Number.	Height in Inches.	Value per Thousand.	Total Value.	Remarks.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Picea excelsa	52,670	8	4 0 0	210 13 7	Planted in swamps. With the exception of *P. laricio*, these trees have all done well since being planted.
„ Sitchensis	16,500	16	4 15 0	78 7 6	
Pinus Austriaca	18,180	15	4 0 0	72 14 4	
„ laricio	3,800	10	4 0 0	15 4 0	
„ ponderosa	3,100	6	4 5 0	13 3 6	
Larix Europea	1,950	20	4 5 0	8 5 9	
Total	96,200	..	..	398 8 8	

SCHEDULE F.—Details of Trees grown at Ruatangata Plantation, 1903–4. (First Crop.)

Name.	Number in Seed-beds.	Height in Inches.	Value per Thousand.	Total Value.	Remarks.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Podocarpus totara	100,000	6	2 10 0	250 0 0	Splendid crop of seedlings.
„ „	100,000	15	3 0 0	300 0 0	Collected from the forests.
„ dacrydioides	5,000	8	1 10 0	7 10 0	„
Knightia excelsa	1,000	12	1 10 0	1 10 0	„
Vitex littoralis	4,000	4	1 5 0	5 0 0	Seedlings. Good results.
Eucalyptus corymbosa	10,000	6	0 10 0	5 0 0	Sturdy crop.
„ corynocalyx	20,000	6	0 10 0	10 0 0	Good growth.
„ crebra	10,000	3	0 10 0	5 0 0	Slow, but even.
„ marginata	8,000	6	0 10 0	4 0 0	Fairly vigorous.
„ maculata	20,000	6	0 10 0	10 0 0	Good even crop.
„ leucoxylon	15,000	6	0 10 0	7 10 0	Inferior, owing to storms.
„ paniculata	5,000	6	0 10 0	2 10 0	Fair crop.
„ reduncа	5,000	6	0 10 0	2 10 0	Fast and sturdy.
„ resinifera	2,000	6	0 10 0	1 0 0	Germinated sparsely.
„ siderophloia	6,000	6	0 10 0	3 0 0	Good.
„ in variety	1,000	6	0 10 0	0 10 0	„
Total	312,000	..	..	615 0 0	

SCHEDULE F[1].—Details of Trees planted out permanently at Ruatangata Plantation, 1903–4.

Name of Tree.	Number.	Value per Thousand.	Total Value.	Remarks.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Eucalypti, in variety	1,085	1 10 0	1 12 6	Remarkable growth.
Quercus suber	1,124	12 10 0	14 1 0	Growth very satisfactory.
Alnus glutinosa	315	..	5 8 8	Very fast growth.
Acer saccharum				
Catalpa speciosa				
„ bignonoides				
Hikora ovata				Very satisfactory.
„ pecan				
Juglans regia				
„ cinerea				
Quercus coccinea				Growth only medium.
„ palustris				
„ macrocarpa				
Sequoia sempervirens				Exceedingly strong and healthy.
Ornamental shrubs				Fair growth.
Total	2,524	..	21 2 2	

APPENDIX V.

SETTLEMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE WORKMEN UPON LAND.

By J. E. MARCH, Superintendent of Village Settlements.

ON the 30th January of last year I was instructed to undertake the work of ascertaining how many of the co-operative workers upon the main trunk railway-line, or upon road-works in that portion of the Wellington District, or in the Taranaki and Auckland Land Districts, in Clifton or Kawhia Counties, were desirous of settling upon the land in the vicinity of the main trunk railway-line. The settlements were to be under improved-farm-settlement conditions, as being the most suitable for the class of country, and the areas, as the Act provides, were to be somewhere about 200 acres, to enable a living to be made.

I accordingly proceeded at once to Mangaweka, Taihape, and Mataroa, held several meetings there, explained the regulations, and interviewed a large number of the workmen, forwarding from time to time the applications I received for land. I then went to Raetihi, and to the Stratford–Whangamomona line, interviewed all the men working there, and received a number of applications; from thence I proceeded to Te Awamutu, Te Kuiti, Ongarue, Taumarunui, and Piriaka, held several meetings, and fully explained the regulations. The total number of applications received in the various districts was 581, and the area applied for 111,660 acres, classified as under:—

Where working.	Applications by						Total Applications and Area applied for.	
	Married Men.		Single Men.		Widowers.			
	No.	Area applied for.	No.	Area applied for.	No.	Area applied for.	No.	Area applied for.
		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.
On railways ...	237	45,660	282	54,900	8	1,500	527	102,060
On roads ...	16	2,950	35	6,200	3	450	54	9,600
Total ...	253	48,610	317	61,100	11	1,950	581	111,660

Of this number 418 were recommended and approved to acquire land, classified as follows, showing also the result of the several ballots:—

Particulars.	Co-operative Workmen.		
	Married.	Single.	Total.
Recommended and approved by Cabinet to 31st March, 1904 ...	194	224	418
Less those who left the works or acquired land on their own account	22	48	70
Remaining	172	176	348
Successful applicants in ballot	128	20	148
Number still unprovided-for	44	156	200

The number of sections and area of land set apart in each district and allotted was as under:—

Land District.	Number of Sections.	Area set apart.
		Acres.
Wellington	19	3,378
Taranaki	102	19,014
Auckland	27	4,667
Total sections and area allotted	148	27,059

Before any land was open for settlement it was proposed that specially qualified delegates selected by the men themselves should visit and inspect the land, and satisfy themselves as to the locality and suitability or otherwise of the land set apart for the purpose, and report to a future meeting. This plan answered very well so far as regards the land in the District of Wellington, but it was found impossible in the other districts to obtain the class of men required as delegates unless they were liberally paid for their services. The men appeared quite satisfied with the description of the various sections as given by the surveyors, and many of the co-operative workers appeared to have good local knowledge of the land set apart for settlement and its capabilities. It was therefore decided, in accordance with later instructions, that each successful applicant in the ballot must personally inspect the section allotted to him, and give his written approval and acceptance of the same or his refusal within a given time, otherwise the section would be reallotted. This course was carried out, and has proved satisfactory.

There was a large demand for sections in the Districts of Wellington and Taranaki; but, having only 121 sections available in such small areas, many of the men were disappointed in being unable to obtain land in either of those districts.

In the Auckland District the estimated area of land was given as 34,000 acres, which would have provided 170 sections of 200 acres each; but, on the land being carefully inspected, it was found that on several blocks there was a large quantity of valuable milling-timber—far too valuable to be destroyed by fire—and on other blocks there was the risk of the land being affected by the "bush or cattle disease." It was also found on closer examination that a considerable area of land which was believed to be suitable for close settlement was poor pumice country, and quite unfit for small holdings. Other blocks were found to be of a hilly and broken character, with poor soil, and hence unsuitable; and the result was that out of an estimated area of 34,000 acres only 4,667 acres were found suitable.

It was the desire of the several Commissioners, as well as of myself, to strictly carry out the instructions, namely: "That no lands of poor quality, or which are by situation or other circumstances unfit and unsuitable for allotment amongst the co-operative labourers, shall be balloted for."

Several sections allotted in the first ballot, were, from various causes, not taken up; these have been reallotted amongst the married men who had hitherto been unsuccessful.

I have conferred with the Commissioners of Crown Lands at Wellington, New Plymouth, and Auckland, and they state that no more Crown lands are available in their respective districts for allotment under improved-farm-settlement conditions, as the Crown lands remaining are quite unsuitable to be settled on in the limited areas provided for by the Act.

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the kindly help and assistance which I at all times received from the officers in charge of the railway and road works.

J. E. March,
Superintendent of Village Settlements.

APPENDIX VI.—SANCTUARIES FOR ANIMALS AND BIRDS.

GAME-FARM RESERVE NEAR PARAPARAUMU.

THE following report has been received from Mr. A. F. Lowe, the Secretary of the Wellington Acclimatisation Society :—

Although the late caretaker started with a good head of pheasants the result of the year's operations was not so satisfactory as could be wished. Owing to a log-fire which swept over part of the reserve, and to the visits of stoats and ferrets, large numbers of the birds were lost. There is, however, now no reason to fear a repetition of the damage by fire. Some of the stoats have been trapped, and in order to keep out vermin of all kinds special enclosures of fine wire netting have been made, within which the breeding-birds were placed some months ago, and no further loss has taken place. The old pens have been thoroughly repaired and renovated, and special precautions taken to prevent ingress of any vermin. A further stock of breeding-pheasants has been purchased, which, with those in hand, should give quite a sufficient number of breeding-birds for the coming season.

Mr. Crossley having resigned his position as caretaker, the society took steps to advertise for applications to fill the vacancy, and advertisements were published in the four large centres of the colony (Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin). As a result fifty applications were received, and from these Mr. Hector Ross, of Fullarton, Palmerston South, was selected as caretaker and game-breeder. Mr. Ross is now in charge of the reserve, and feels quite confident that it is a suitable place for raising game-birds. Mr. Ross being a married man, the society is now arranging for a suitable addition to the present whare on the ground.

Appended hereto is a detailed statement of the receipts and expenditure at the reserve for the year ending the 31st March last. The credit balance carried forward is £20 18s. 8d :—

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING THE 31ST MARCH, 1904.

Receipts.				*Expenditure.*			
1903–4.	£	s.	d.	1903–4.	£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward	67	4	3	By Salary of caretaker	109	4	3
Government subsidy (eighteen months) ..	150	0	0	Purchase of black-game	50	12	6
Refund of fencing	6	14	5	Purchase of horse	12	0	0
Taranaki Society (contributions) ..	20	0	0	Pack-saddle	3	0	0
Rent of reserve (twelve months) ..	13	0	0	Cartage	9	10	0
				Pheasant-food (wheat, &c.)	10	19	6
				Building-materials	28	12	2
				Petty accounts	3	10	8
				Bone-mill	1	13	0
				Fowls purchased	6	17	11
				Balance	20	18	8
				Bank balance .. £36 12 11			
				Less two cheques outstanding, £6 10s. and £9 4s. 3d. 15 14 3			
				20 18 8			
	£256	18	8		£256	18	8

RESOLUTION ISLAND.

THE following notes and memoranda were received from Mr. Richard Henry, caretaker at Resolution Island :—

Pigeon Island, 9th June, 1903.

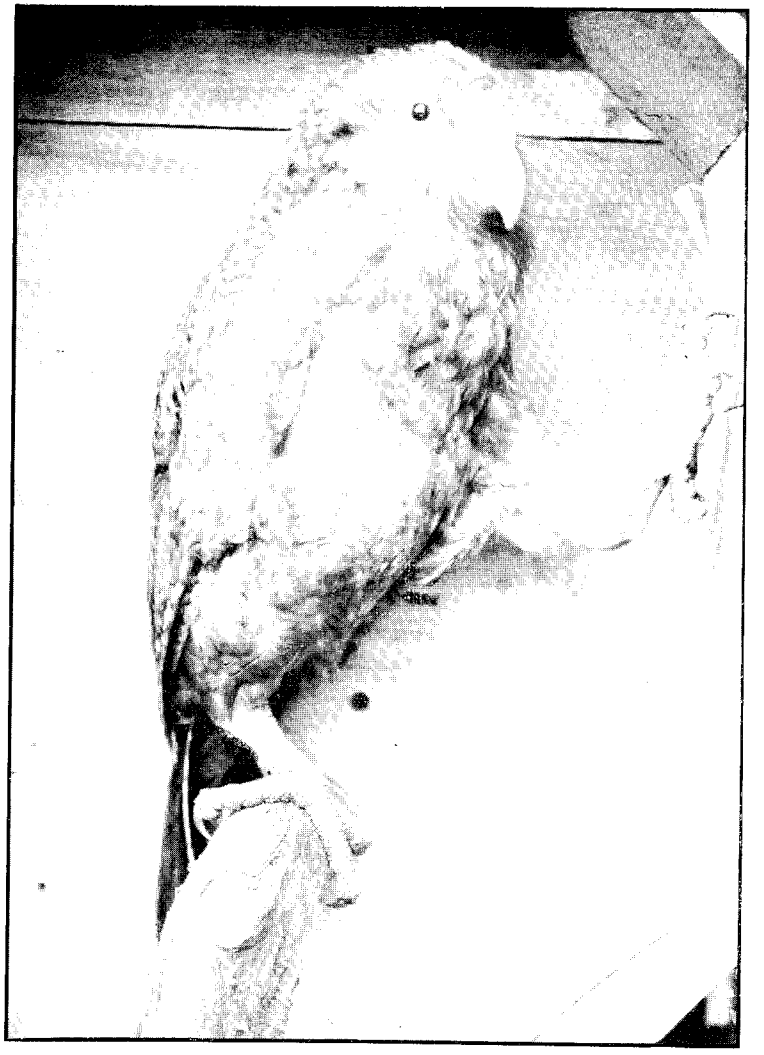
The man in charge of Little Barrier Island, Mr. Shakespear, sent word by the "Hinemoa" last trip asking for some live kakapos, So I went out and camped on Cooper Island on the 1st instant, and when the rain stopped on the 4th went across and hunted in the high valley and got six kakapos in three days. I found several others but could not get them out from between the rocks. The bottom of the valley is full of broken rocks and the kakapos know where it is warmest in the frost. I snared two with a long stick and got them out, but if the dog can get in he soon puts them out of sight. The sun hardly looks into that valley at this time of the year, and it was freezing all day, and the creek hanging with icicles. It is the wind off the frozen mountain-tops that makes it so cold up the sound compared to what it is at Pigeon Island. I put three more kiwi on Cooper Island—grand ones—for new blood.

27th June, 1903.

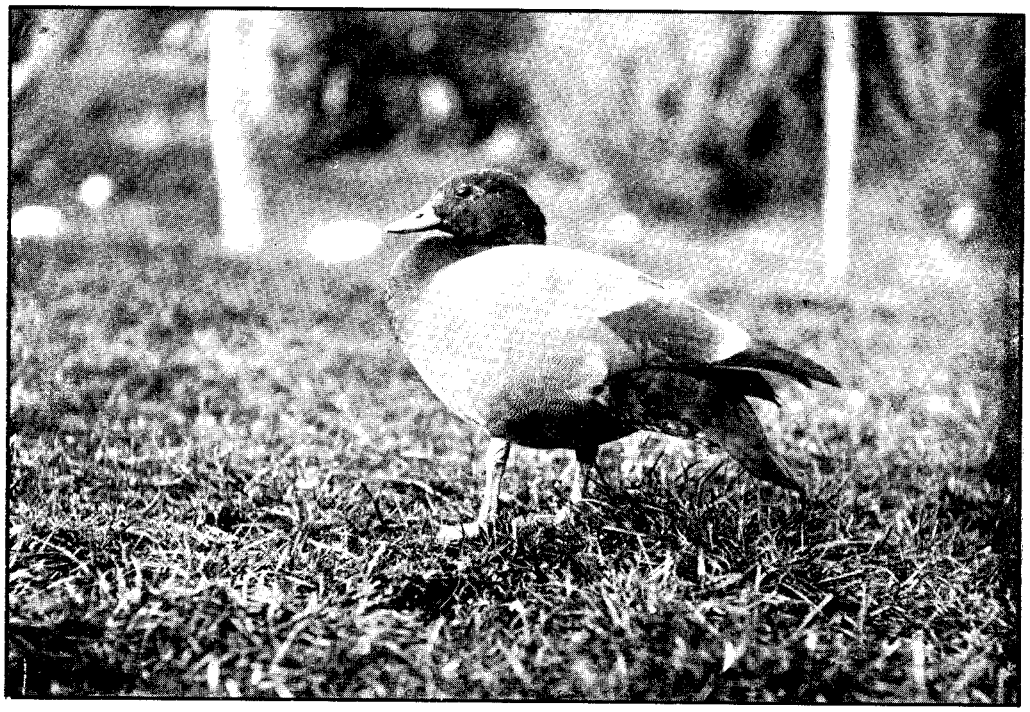
I have been feeding my kakapos now for twenty-three days, and three of them will eat nothing but berries and a few other trifles that hardly keep them alive. Two of them started at once to eat plenty of oats and peas, and are quite fat and happy all the time, while the other one will eat plenty of raw potatoes, and will go up all right. I thought I could starve the others into eating oats, but when they say "No," they stick to it to the bitter end, and I shall have to let them go, for they would only die on the steamer.



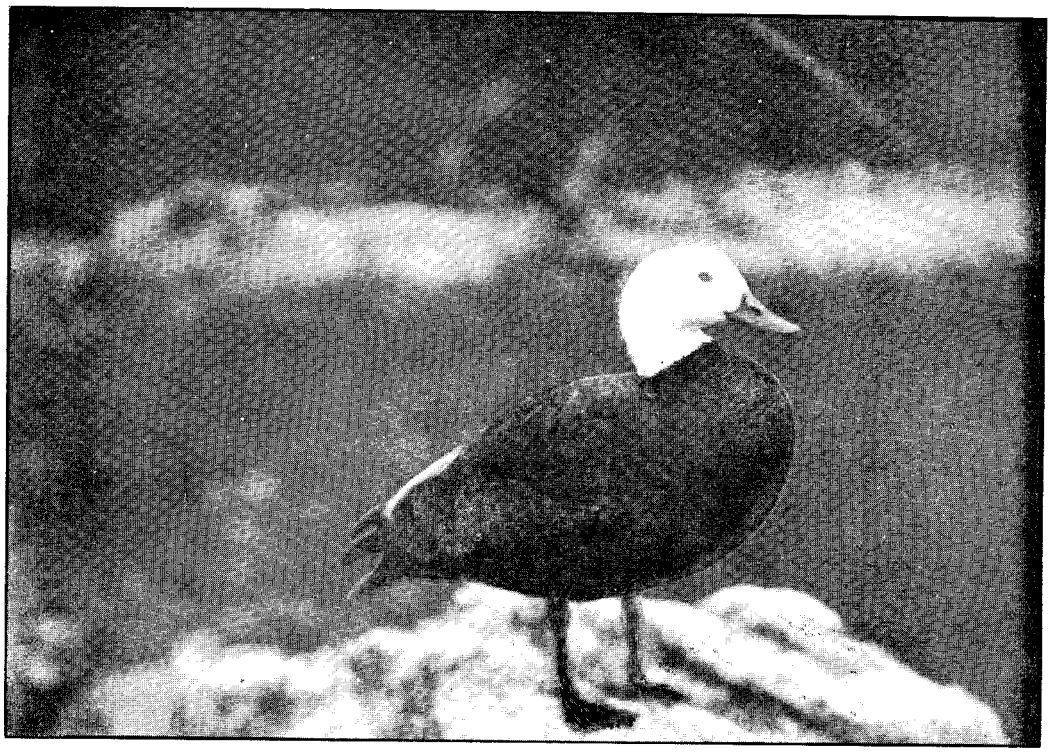
ELASTIC CABBAGE TREES ON PIGEON ISLAND, DUSKY SOUND.



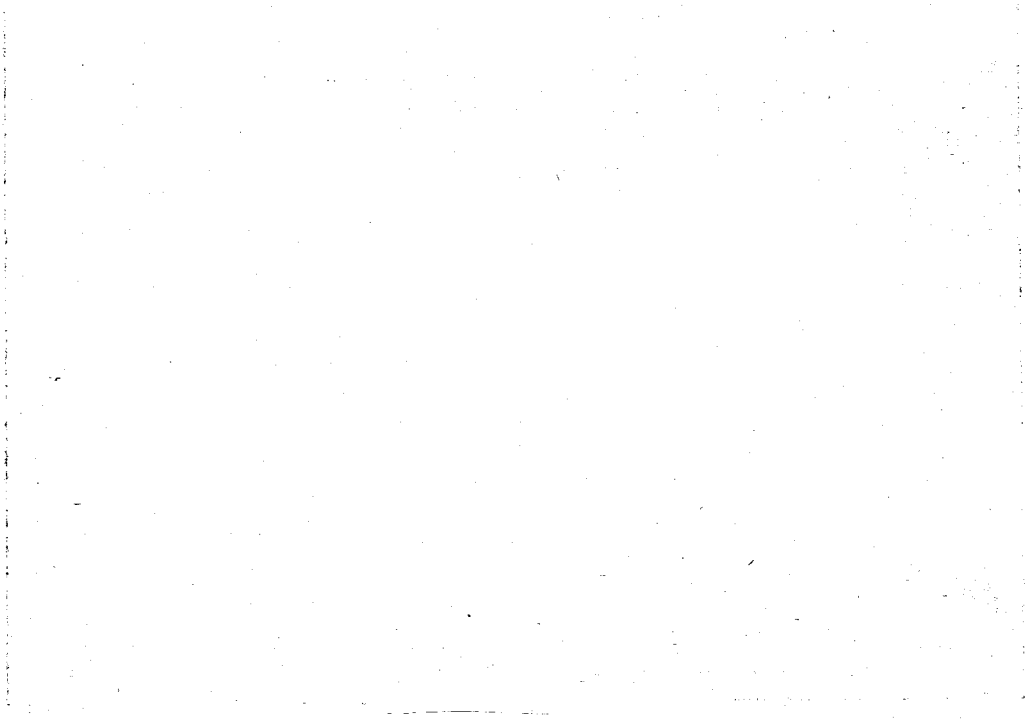
KAKAPO.

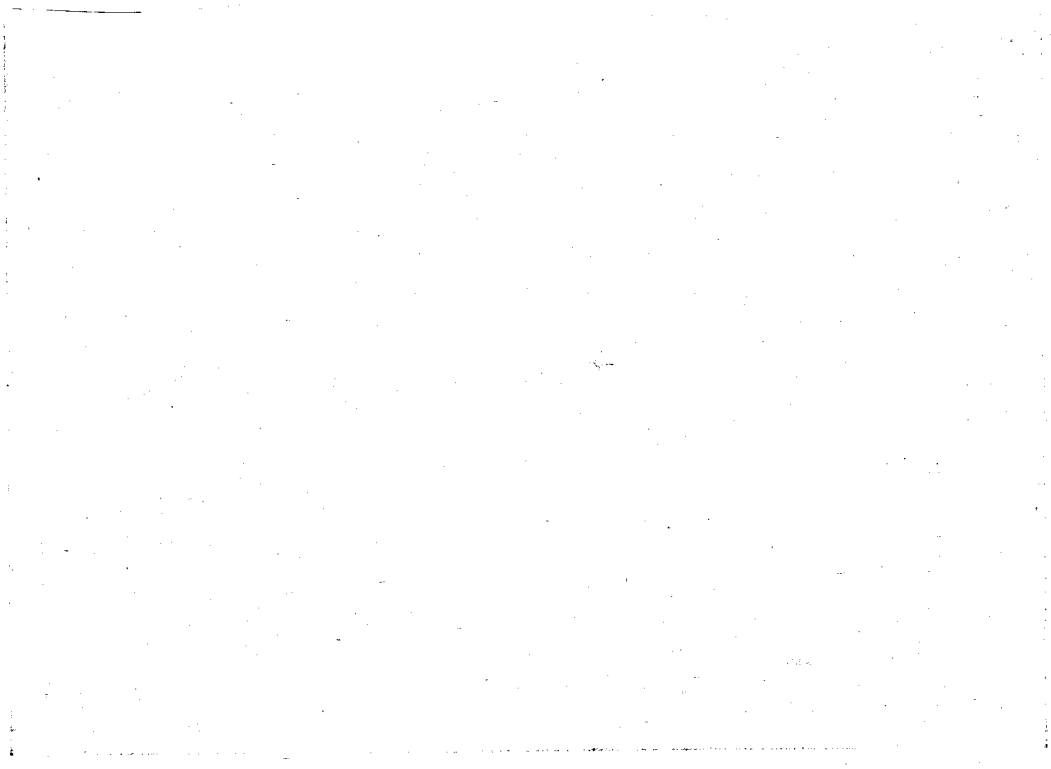


PARADISE DUCK (MALE), RESOLUTION ISLAND.



PARADISE DUCK (FEMALE).



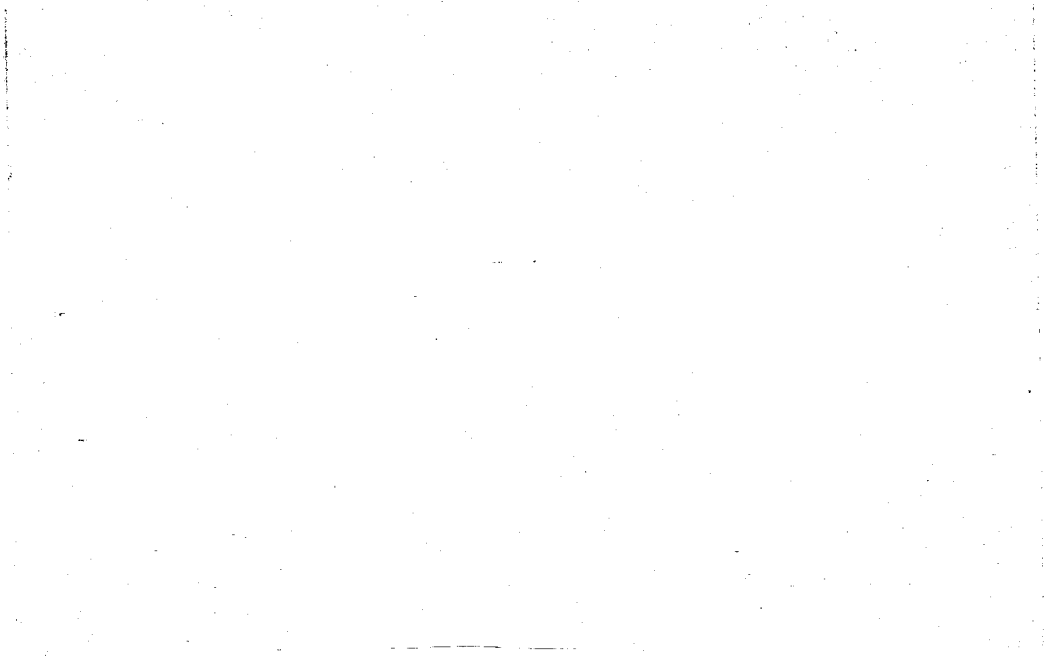




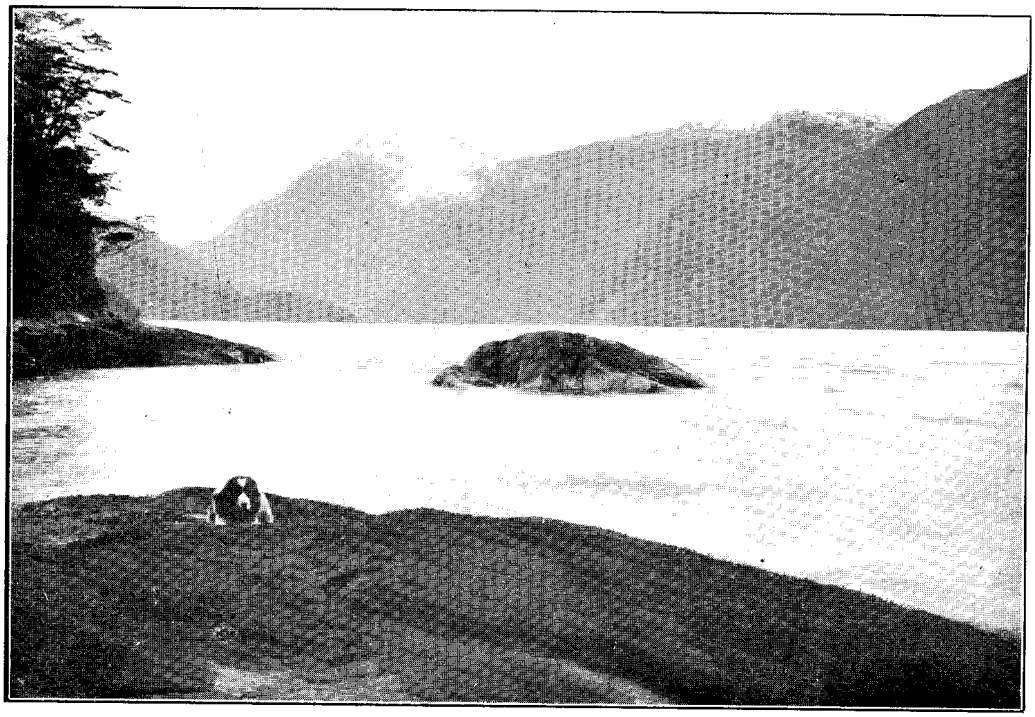
TEAL.



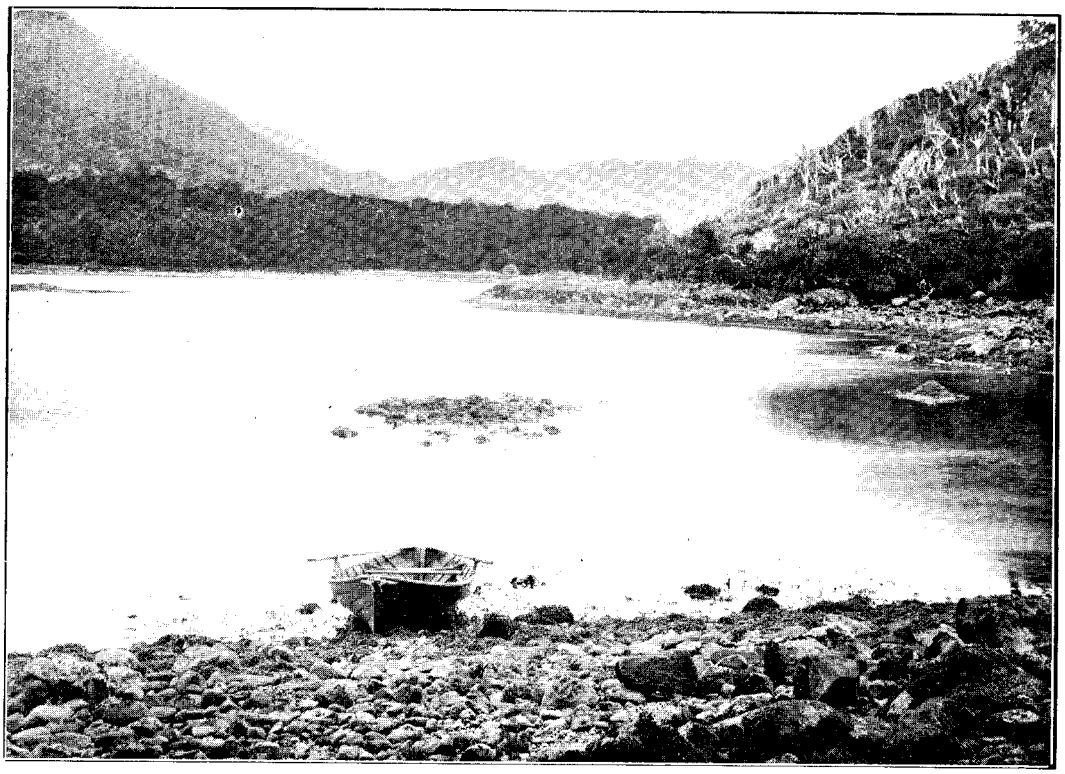
WOODHEN.







MOUNT SOLITARY, AT HEAD OF DUSKY SOUND.

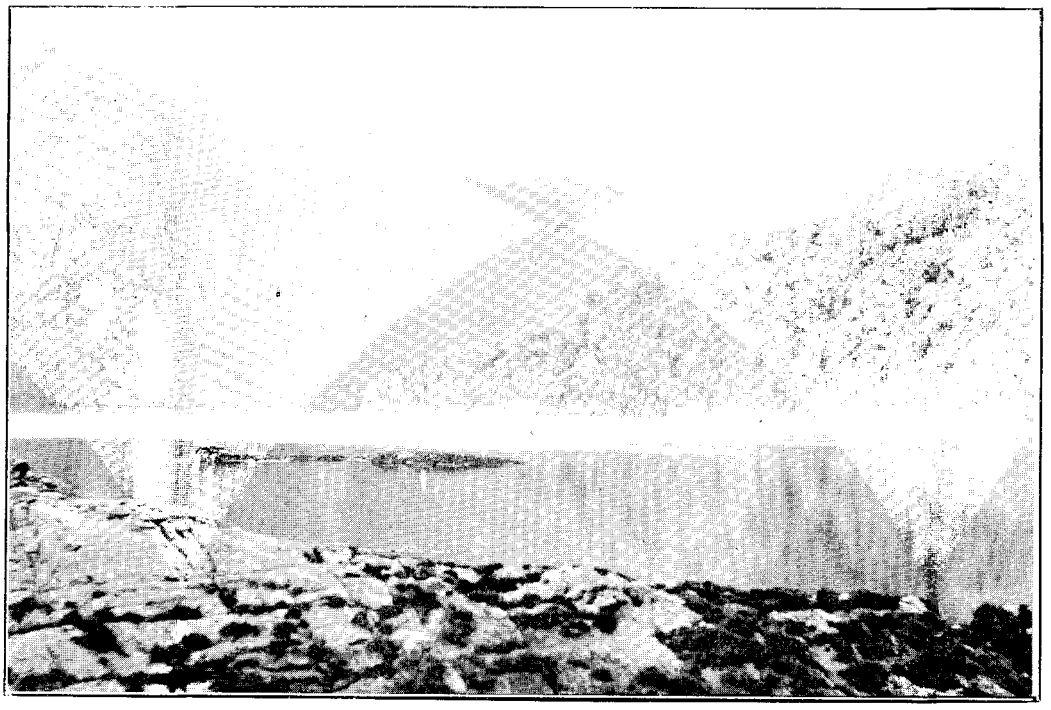


DUSKY SOUND.

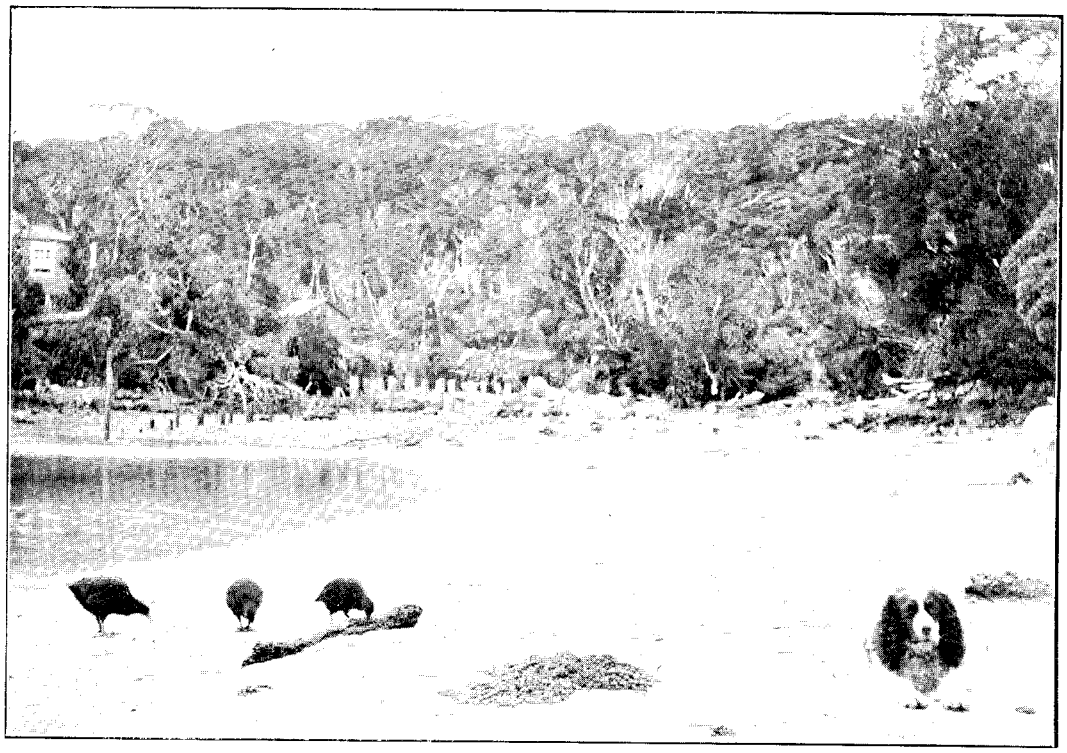
THE BANK OF STONES NEAR THE SKIFF IS SYDNEY SANDSTONE—THE BALLAST OF AN OLD WRECK.



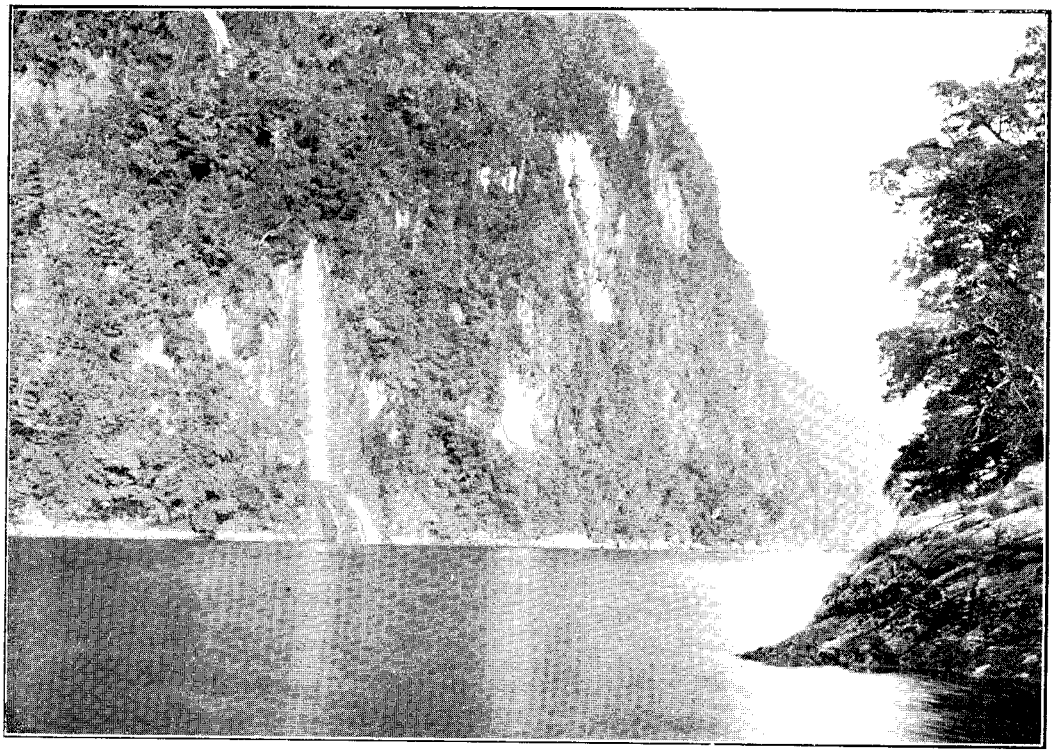
FROM THE "STUDIO" DOOR, ON PIGEON ISLAND, DUSKY SOUND.



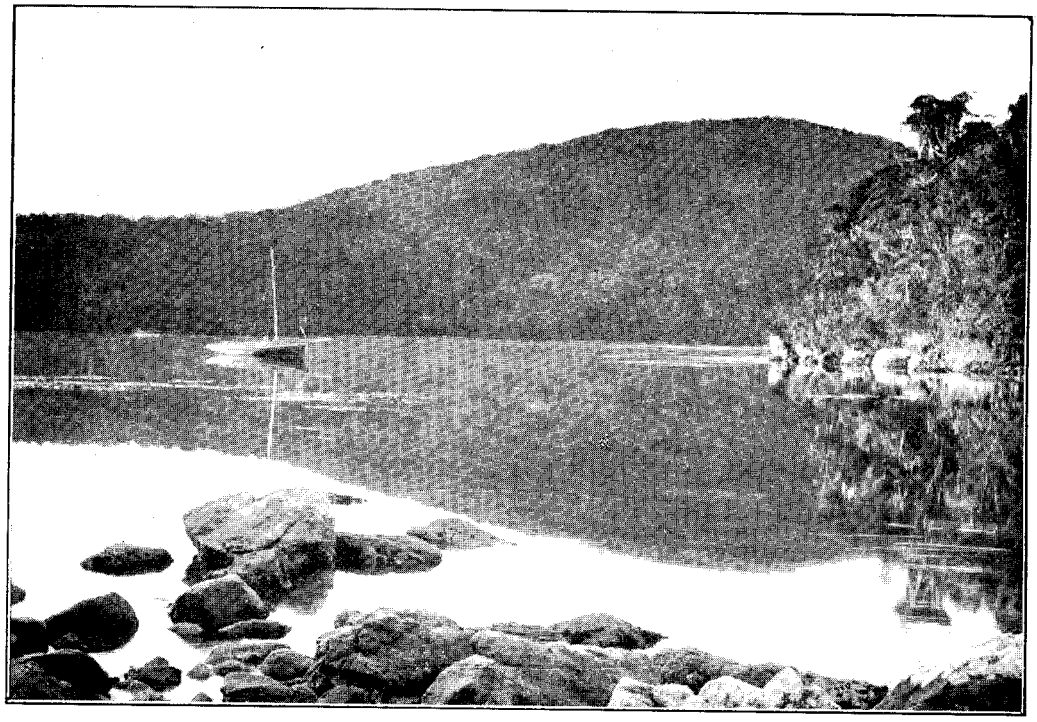
THE HEAD OF FACILE HARBOUR, DUSKY SOUND.



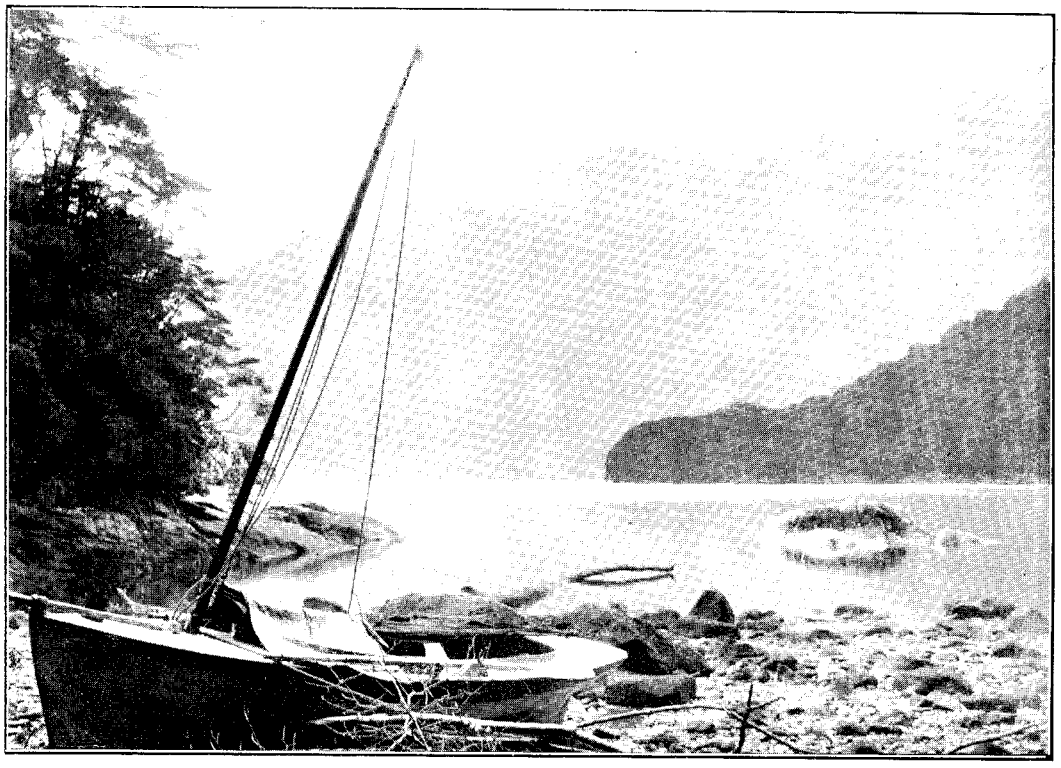
ON PIGEON ISLAND, DUSKY SOUND.



NINE FATHOM PASSAGE, S.E. CORNER OF COOPER ISLAND, DUSKY SOUND.



FROM PIGEON ISLAND HOMESTEAD, DUSKY SOUND.



EAST COVE ON COOPER ISLAND, DUSKY SOUND.

With all other birds you can hold a *post-mortem* and get some idea of what they eat, but not so with kakapos, for you will find the pulp in their crops so perfectly chewed that you can get no idea of what it is. That is what makes them so hard to feed. But now I am getting the potato-eater so very tame that I shall soon be able to take him out in the bush, and then I will watch him all day to find out what he eats. I tried that before, but never had them tame enough. They were always so anxious to get away that they would not eat anything. This one always runs to me now when I come into the store, and will let me take him up in my arms without attempting to bite. If he does not want my hand too near him he puts the top of his beak to it and pushes it away kindly but firmly—very sensible in all things but the value of foreign tucker.

23rd July, 1903.

The steamer came this evening, and goes at 2 a.m. I am only getting away three kakapos, the others would not eat the food available and would only die on the steamer, so I let them go. Two of those have actually got fat since I got them living on oats and peas, while the third one lives on raw potatoes and fern-leaves. I will try them again for next steamer.

SHARKS.

Dusky Sound, 19th June, 1903.

The water at Pigeon Island has been very clear all this month, and as I have to stay at home to attend to my captives for the steamer, I have been cultivating the acquaintance of a shark that always comes up for the refuse of the fish. I generally give him a fish or two, because I want his photo., if he would only keep still for a second, but he comes rather late for short exposures, and he has a great fancy for putting his tail up and shaking up the water so that the camera cannot see him when he is close enough. Otherwise the water is clear enough to see him 40 ft. deep.

He is a very slow creature, and hunts for the dead fish just as if he were blind. He does not appear to see it at a distance 3 ft., but his scent is perfect, for he is sure to get it, even if it is buried in the seaweed. I saw him playing with the roots of some kelp that was caught in the tramway, which he worried and bit pieces off as if he thought he was having a feed. So I got a long rod with a piece of rope-yarn and a dead fish on the end of it to give him something better to play with. It was instructive, for it completely disposed of the idea of his being a hunter of any sort. He did not show activity and intelligence, enough to catch a cuttle-fish or a prawn unless he ran into them by accident. As for him catching a lively fish, we might as well expect him to come ashore and catch a woodhen. I even let him catch hold of my fish, and though he sometimes bit the head off it, I frequently pulled it out of his mouth while he was fumbling with it, and then he would go on chopping his lips as if he thought he still had it in his mouth and was eating it. He is as slow in his thoughts as he is in his movements. Any one could have the same experience if he would only stay his hand for a little while without hurting the shark. He made it perfectly clear to me that he knew nothing about dealing with live things—nothing whatever.

At first he was a little afraid, and ran away from me when he saw me very close to him out on the end of the plank, but now he takes no notice, but pays all his attention to scenting out the fish. If I let it lie on the bottom in one place for a while he will stick to that place and hunt it over time after time, though he might have seen it going away when he was within 5 ft. of it. Of course, he knows by the scent of it that it is dead, and by the same means he may know that there are no other fish about to take it; and as his slow intellect cannot understand resurrections he is right enough in thinking that it ought to be there at all events.

Some of those dead fish will float while others will sink, and he knows by the scent of them whether they are floaters or not, because when I tie a stone on one to sink it he persistently looks for it at the surface just over where it is, which he never does with one that sinks of its own accord. He also knows by the scent of it what sort of game he is looking for, because when I tie a good blue-cod on my line he ignores all the scraps and everything else until he gets that first. How he manages this is hard to conceive from our dull-scented point of view, but it is equally hard for us to imagine the difference in the scent of a fish just recently dead and one that is alive. Yet if such a creature as this did not know that slight difference perfectly well he would never get a fish to eat, except by accident, which would be a very poor way for him to get a living and do his duty in promptly clearing away all the dead things.

He is a "perlon" (*Notidanus*) with the rounded nose and long slender tail, and is the sort that always comes to eat the grey sharks when we throw dead ones in the shallow water. The perlon is the slowest in its movements, but long ago I knew that none of them were active fish-hunters, because I could tell that by the clumsy way they would come to take my bait. When I would see one of them coming I could easily pull my bait away from him, and surely any ordinary fish could get out of the way ten times faster than I could handle the line. Yet we can read everywhere that sharks are very destructive to other fishes.

The sharks do not in the least object to fresh water for a while if there is food in it, and it is about as warm as the sea. At the heads of the sounds they must be in it for days in summer-time, but I think they do not like it when it is very cold. They do most of their foraging at night and late in the evenings.

I believe that all the sharks that I am acquainted with depend wholly on their scent for finding their food; and that not one of them ever attempts to catch a live fish unless it is sickly and nearly dead. These items are easily proved, and they are the most important in their history; yet there is hardly a word about them in the books, but plenty of stories about the swiftness and ferocity of the sharks and their destructiveness to the fish. I used to believe those stories, but it was for want of a few minutes' thought. I remember the sharks taking the schnapper off our lines at Port Phillip Heads, but now I also remember seeing the schnapper so thick on the sand-banks that we could not see the bottom through them; and if the sharks could do so, why did they not go and catch plenty of schnapper for themselves instead of sneaking one or two off our lines?

They did not average one a day off my line, and I am sure that did not pay them if they were good fish-hunters. The fact evidently was that they could not catch a fish for themselves, but were attracted to our lines by the scent of the baits, and of the bleeding fish that had been hooked in the gills. And when a shark was steering straight for a bait that a fish had just taken and was pulling backwards in distress, it was an easy matter for him to bite it off. That simple thing has originated a whole literature of erroneous shark stories. The sharks will eat whale-food, cuttle-fish, and other slow things to keep themselves ready for the dead fish when they come, but the statement that they are swift hunters is directly opposite to the facts. On the other hand there are a whole host of swift hunters who will take nothing else but live fish; and yet hardly a word in the books about their destructiveness, but all the blame laid on the poor fools of sharks who do not catch a live fish in a generation, unless it ought to be caught. We are very particular about the species in the books, and their beautiful names, but any sort of habits will do, though the latter are by far the most important. If the truth was very difficult to get in this case there might be some excuse, but it is quite easy to get for any one who would spend a holiday with that object in view. The reason that it is not got on every holiday is through the intense desire to kill the things first and study them afterwards—the fashion of the collectors.

To experiment with a perlon, throw a grey shark in the shallow water, and if there is one in all the regions round about he will come up to eat it in the evening, but he does not care for it if it has been long in the water.

When I used to go from Te Anau to Milford Sound we always went out fishing for fun, and once when we had very poor sport, Mr. Sutherland's son-in-law, who knew the place well, said "Let us go over to the Cliff and catch sharks." And we did so. I remember that it was in very deep water, and so close to the cliff that the bottom was sure to be full of fallen rocks, and that we soon got a shark or two, until they bit our hooks off. Well, there are several such places about here that I avoid now when I go fishing, because I always caught sharks there. And when there are strange fish in the bay in summer-time I sometimes go out at night to see what I can catch, but I only get sharks of some sort, and perhaps a skate or a conger-eel. Those items imply that many of the sharks sleep away in deep places during the day and only go foraging in the night, or come up when they get a scent of anything freshly killed. When I throw a dish of fish-refuse in the water near evening, a shark will be up for it in about ten minutes, though he probably has several hundred yards to come, and from a depth of 30 fathoms; which implies that he must have had news of the fallen food almost as soon as it reached the water. Therefore, his scent is as good to him as a wireless telegraph, perhaps more genuine and more wonderful when we think how that dishful could send messages in all directions through a waste of waters, and lay lines of scent that he could follow back with ease. It would never do to have a creature like him with keen sight and great activity as well, for then nothing else could live near him. It would be as bad as having a man with the scent of a dog as well as his gun. That would be too destructive a combination for Nature's purposes, for her plans are laid to save the best and let the others go; and of these she developed wonderful specialists in their own departments—the shark's is to scent out the dead things and eat them up at once.

The Sydney fishermen had the idea that the kingfish used to run about biting other fish for amusement when they had enough to eat, which was hard to believe for want of satisfactory evidence; but now the proportion of bitten fish that I sometimes get here makes me think that there may be something in it. If the kingfish did so they would be most likely to kill or disable the inferiors, which would be all in order, for it would be the best possible way of reducing any fish that became too numerous. Instead of having a sickly horde to starve each other, it would leave the best, and let the others go to the bottom into the shark's department. Then it would be the shark's business to scent them out, and assist in cleaning up a floor that is under more than half the living things in the world. It would only be a division of labour such as we have recently learned to apply in our factories, thinking it quite a new idea, though it may be as old as the hills. We look on the fish as lower creatures, but if such supervision as theirs went all round there would be fewer ailments and a great deal less misery over water.

Pigeon Island, Dusky Bay, 7th August, 1903.

I have not been out far since the steamer was here. I have been on Resolution a few times—without a dog—at some of the roa's camping-places which I had located formerly, and I find that they occupy the same dens every winter, but leave them in the spring and go away up the mountain.

My tame paradise drake brought home a mate with him, and I have her now up at the door as tame as he is, but she goes away every night. The first day she came she was not the least afraid of me, but terribly afraid of the pet sheep, which shows that she came from some of the lonely valleys in the mountains.

Lately I have been among the penguins for eggs. The second egg is not laid until about a week after the first one, and they have sense enough not to start the hatching until the second is laid. So I only take the single eggs. Then they are sure to be fresh. I am only preserving three dozen this year. Last year I had too many, and they kept good all the year in lime-water. The two eggs in the nest are always different in shape, size, and colour; the biggest is the roundest and whitest.

Both birds take their turns at hatching, but I do not think that they go for any food until some time after the young ones appear—unless they go at night.

They are orderly creatures in all their manners, when not disturbed, as if they had some sort of village government. After watching for a time almost any one would get that idea, though from a hurried visit he would get exactly the opposite idea. There is one fellow who has his nest in quite a narrow door, with a lot of others inside. He takes that nest every year, and I wondered how the others got in and out, because when I frightened an intruder in he gave it an awful

worrying. So this year, I watched him at a distance, and saw him let the others in and out with kindness—he salutes them as they go, he is the doorkeeper. They are generally timid, and hurry away into the far end of the cave when I go in. Then there is an awful row and confusion, but no real fighting—just a case of the intruders getting punished without returning it. All the caves and holes are occupied, and then hapus are established in favourite places in the bush. When we took too many eggs from one of those for two years running, the whole community left the place and established a new home, though it was evident that they had occupied the old place for generations.

When there is a real fight it seems to be a pitched battle between two champions, and an awful fight they make of it. It is very seldom they fight. I watched one this year right out to a finish, and it took patience. The beaten one swam away slowly on the surface, and the victor came ashore at the rookery, and then several others went down to look at him. If any of them had a grudge against him they could then have soon polished him off. I thought he was in danger, and went down, but it was probably because they did not know him—his head was so swelled, and scarred, and blind. After he had laid there for a little while he was quite unable to stand up, so we may guess what the defeated one must have got. The defeated one must have been either a member turned out of the hapu, or an outsider who tried to force his way in. He will not try it again for a while. If I could feed them I would try and tame one, but what fish they eat are generally very small, and they eat a lot of other things that I could not get.

25th September, 1903.

To-day I had a visit from a whale. It came quite close to my place and blew such a breath that it roused the whole community. The two ducks flew out and flew round it in a friendly way to have a good look at it, and the gulls—my two pet gulls—the others are all away. Probably that blow was a harbinger of good times for them, for even if they cannot eat the whale-food itself other things come with it that they can eat. The whale was a very slow creature and lay on the surface for such a time—having a sleep perhaps in the calm water. It had a bit of a fin or a hump near its tail, so that it may have been what is known as a humpback. The water was thick with little creatures, ones that I have not noticed here before, about the size of pin-heads. I caught a lot of the largest of them and will send them to Dr. Benham.

The other fish have nearly all left Facile this last week or two, or they keep down, and very quiet. I soon miss them, especially the parrot-fish which are always making signs if they are present. They may have gone out to meet this whale-food, or there may be a shoal of mysis down the bay. I believe that the fish can smell that food ten miles away, for I cannot see how else they know where it is when it is so often on the move and very irregular as to time and place. I cannot catch a cod lately though they never refuse a bait. When they are full to the neck they will take the bait and hold it in their mouths for safe keeping. I have seen one do that.

26th September, 1903.

Kakas and tuis are as plentiful as ever. They are sucking the *panax* blossoms now. Pigeons are also plentiful everywhere that I have been, but the bell-birds are getting scarcer every year. The blackbirds are getting more numerous. I am never out of hearing of them now, no matter where I go. A few thrushes and starlings appear sometimes but never stay long, also skylarks. In the hard frost I had six native larks down from the mountain-tops. They found some grains of wheat and stayed for a week or two. When I was on Mount Bradshaw I saw native larks there.

November 16th, 1903.

On the 1st instant I started away for kakapos, but a head wind would not let me up the sound, so I sailed to the south coast and camped there in three different places from Fanny Bay to Cascade without getting a single kakapo in seven days. I thought that it was my dog's fault that I could not get them there last time, but now I know that they are very scarce there. However, I was in no hurry, for I did not expect the steamer before the 20th so I came home on the 8th, and on the 10th got a wind that took me to Cooper Island (twenty miles) and camped just west of Kakapo Valley. I was not many minutes ashore until I saw some of the kakapo's work. At night three or four of them were coughing and calling within hearing, and one climbed up my tent. I cannot catch them at night without being hurt, they are so much in their element in the scrub when it is dark, and I am so much out of it. I soon caught five and came home with a good wind on the 14th. That is the way in Dusky. The wind is either very good or very bad and I could never keep to a date within a week or two. The kakapos are all good ones that I got out of holes without being touched by the dog, though he wears a muzzle he is very rough with them when they bite him. Two of them are eating oats, the others are not hungry enough yet, but I think I shall get them all right. My dog was first-class—showed me the holes but did not go into them till I came up. He sees me feeding the kakapos in the tent, and thinks they are not to be worried.

Long ago I heard that the Maoris said that kakapos were gregarious and migratory. This I could not reconcile to my own experience, though it may be right in a wider sense. The kakapo's idea of gregariousness may be that two of them will not stay within half a mile of each other, and yet they may be plentiful in a district; and their migrations may not be according to the seasons like other creatures, but according to a series of years. I should have suspected something of the sort but for the doubt about the presence of ferrets. I do not think it was ferrets that cleared them from the south coast here, because there are plenty of woodhens there now; and the north coast is just as accessible to the ferrets where there are plenty of kakapos. More likely the kakapos moved away themselves. It would be a long and difficult journey for them to come round the Sound. They would need to have started last year; and how did they know that the north side would be the best for food so far ahead? Their habit of refraining from breeding—sometimes for two seasons at a stretch—shows that they can foretell seasons of scarcity, though our native plants are the

most erratic fruit-bearers. The greatest puzzle of all their doings is that none of them breed in the off seasons. I think that such a thing does not happen with any other creatures on the face of the earth—it seems as if none others were under such a firm control. This is one of the true stories that will not be believed in the future—"Can't understand it; won't believe it."

7th December, 1903.

The "Hinemoa" came this evening and stays till morning. I have only three kakapos to send away. One died, and I let another go; it would not eat, and would only die. The three I have are doing fairly. None of them will eat peas or potatoes—nothing but fern-stalks and oats. I heard from the captain that the three I sent last time went to Little Barrier in good trim. One of them became such a pet that they were sorry to part with it on the steamer.

There has been a grand season here for weather, and fish and birds are flourishing, and I myself am in the best of health.

SPARROWS.

Pigeon Island, 18th December, 1903.

The sparrows came here this season about October. They came in little parties until there may have been a hundred of them. There were no rata flowers when they first came, but I saw them sucking the honey out of the *panax*. They seemed to have such a craving for other food that they could not keep away from my little grass-patches, and I shot over a dozen of them, mostly at the store-door, where they came for the refuse oats out of the kakapos' food-boxes. I examined them closely. They were in poor condition, with nothing in them but a little honey, grass chopped up fine, a grain or two of oats, and a very little chickweed-seed. That was the complete bill-of-fare of every one I opened. Therefore, October and November is their starvation-time, and should be their poisoning-time. When I reported them fat here I had been feeding them in a spout for some time.

I also saw in the paper that poison had been effective in October, so I thought that I would try my hand at it. I peeled the grass off a couple of square yards in a wire-net enclosure where they went for chickweed, and laid down some good wheat. This they ate up at once. Then I laid some poisoned wheat according to Mr. John Grigg's method of using strychnine. This they ate very sparingly for a few days until they all disappeared, though I did not see a feather, or the sign of a dead one, nor dead woodhens.

But it was not long until another flock of them gathered, strangers, I know, that had not been shot at, because they held their concerts within twelve yards of the house. Some of the old poison was left, and I threw a little good wheat on it until I could get more ready, but they did not wait for that. They ate the old stuff and disappeared, though it had rained heavily since I laid it out. I do not think that many of them were poisoned, or I should have found some trace, though they might have been, for they would not have far to go to be hid in the bush. A harrier hawk will not go 10 ft. away after a slight dose of strychnine, but I do not know what a sparrow might do.

I think that a few of them got poisoned and then the others took the hint of some mysterious danger, as they did about the shooting, and then they all left Pigeon Island. They can communicate with each other without a doubt—either by talk or signs—but as they are great rogues they are likely to be poor believers and above taking advice, as in the case of men, so that many of them will come to grief with strychnine.

I had experience of the risk of poison and was very cautious. I weighed out 2 oz. of wheat, which numbered about twelve hundred grains, damped it with preserved milk in default of skim-milk, dusted 6 gr. of strychnine over it and left it to dry before I laid it out.

It is now twenty days since the last flock of sparrows left, and I have only seen an odd wanderer since that does not stay here for a day.

Probably the sparrows could be kept in order if every farm had enclosures specially for laying poison. Wire netting and barbed wire might do. They might be only wanted for a month or two in the year and could be utilised for growing a few trees. When the sparrows' starvation-time would be coming on for want of any more grain, they could be fed there for a week or two before laying the poison. It would prevent them leaving for the bush, and would be far cheaper than feeding them for the whole summer. With that much forethought there is not the slightest doubt about it being effective if everyone worked together and at the right time. Experiments on a small scale are useless, because the sparrows go elsewhere, but if they found poison there also they would find it very hard to resist, when there appeared to be nothing else. Of course they would learn that there was danger about those enclosures, and would be inclined to swap places with sparrows ten miles away. But their cunning shifts would not avail them if there was poison in every possible place during October and November. The dead ones would be better kept out of sight as much as possible, and for that purpose payment might be continued to the boys, to ensure a fair experiment.

Poison prepared as above seems to be very durable, portable, and cheap when so little is required; and safe if only a little is laid at one time and place. Even pigs and cats might escape through the poison being too widely scattered, as it was in the case of my woodhens.

21st January, 1904.

I closed my last letter on the 7th December, but I want to tell you about the fish that came before that.

On the 24th November I saw the gulls at Parrot Island and went to see what game they had. The red whale-food or "prawns" were in the passage, and among the weeds round the little islands were swarms of mysis hurrying about, with all sorts of fish after them. I tried my line in the deep water as usual but could not get a bite. I then tried in the shallow passages between the little

Islands. I caught a few trumpeter and saw many more, but they were rather shy of the movement of my boat, though she is the same colour as the weeds. So I went ashore for a rod and moored her over a bed of weeds. I could see several trumpeter at a time struggling for my bait and I caught thirty-seven in two hours. The heaviest of them weighed 7lb., but most of them were about 4lb. They are very strong and active fish, and skite around with their broad sides to the water, so that the rod needs to be strong to yank them straight in, or they would tangle in the weeds and get off. Of course I caught a great many wrasse also, for the weeds are full of them. I tried in the clear water, the weeds were such a nuisance, but the fish were all near the surface and would not come near my boat. I saw several strangers to Dusky, like "yellow-tail," but could not catch them. The hapuka were also up near the surface and took away my hooks and lines if I did not watch them closely. It is nearly two months since they came there, and I think that I could load my canoe with them every fine morning, but I have only been over a few times. Yesterday they were particularly hungry and in good biting trim, so that they may soon disappear now. The fish are all rolling fat, especially the sharks. I bring home a few of them, boil them down, mix them with lime, and it makes a grand fertiliser for my grass-plots and garden.

To go against this I wrote to you on the 16th December, 1902, that "There is a great scarcity of fish and sea-birds in the sound all this year." It is the food that controls the presence of the fish, and it is a great puzzle to me how they know where it is. When they were scarce here they were plentiful somewhere else, and I cannot imagine them smelling it half-way round New Zealand; nor can I imagine any of them bringing messages to their hungry fellows. They might get eaten for their pains. There are some wonderful things that we do not know about fish—about their migrations, and their ability to tell where is the best place to go to, for there is no regularity in the seasons—here at all events.

23rd February, 1904.

On the 14th the schooner "Endor" called here, and I induced her to come with me to get kakapos and take them to Riverton for Wellington. We went up the sound and caught nine, and came home here last evening. She is likely to sail to-morrow, and I will send this note with her.

I am sending six of the kakapos to the Tourist Department, two to the Hon. Mr. Carroll, and one to Mr. T. Mackenzie. I have made big cages for them, and by going away promptly they are stronger and better able to stand the journey.

I also brought home two moulting paradise ducks and a young redbill for pets.

The good weather still continues and makes things pleasant here.

Pigeon Island, 20th March, 1904.

I had another schooner here on the 4th March—the "Anna," from the Bluff. She came up with some men who wanted to see the asbestos at Mount Pender. She was windbound, and stayed at my place for a couple of days. She met the "Emma Sims" up the sound. That is the third visitor I have had since February, and I greatly felt the want of being able to get about better. I could have more of their company, at all events. So I sent word by the "Anna" to Mr. Melland, of Dunedin, to buy me a little oil-engine, and send it down for my cutter. My journeys from this place are so crooked that I never get a fair wind all the way, but am often delayed for days by puffy winds. I have had such experience of this that I gave up the sailing-boat, and prefer to depend on the oars in the little boat and the camp in the wet bush. With the oil-engine I can camp aboard, and perhaps have less rheumatics, also less delay in getting anywhere.

The moulting paradise ducks that I brought home were quite easily tamed by feeding them in the netting for a few weeks. I did not cut their wings, and they would not have gone away, but another pair that I had been feeding came back after their moult, and the drake was such a fighter that he thrashed my pets severely, and would not allow them to stay in the place. They came back several times, and showed a strong inclination to stay, but were afraid to be seen by the fighter. The fighter and his mate are now as tame as the woodhens; they come to the doorstep for food, and camp on the grass at the back of the house every night. I caught the fighter one day when he was fighting, took him up in my arms, and he did not seem to be much afraid, but kept up his war-cry. When I let him go he did not fly 10 ft., but washed his back in the water, as if to get the taint off him. He has plenty of cheek and sense. He claimed this place as his, because he was here before. He was absent for his moulting thirty-eight days, and was barely able to fly when he came back, perhaps swam most of the way in his eagerness for more wheat. They are beautiful now in their new plumage, and I am very glad to have them. They are very local in their habits, and it is useful to know that the moulters can be so easily tamed, for the wild ones will be extinct in twenty or thirty years, and the only hope of saving them is by many people keeping them in preserves. The duck, I think, is the prettiest bird in New Zealand, and has the prettiest manners.

14th April, 1904.

The "Hinemoa" called to-day, and stays to-night. She has the oil-engine for the little cutter, and I have been very busy getting lessons from the kindly engineers. I think everything is right, and that I shall not have to camp in the bush again.

APPENDIX VII.

THE MAGNETIC OBSERVATORY AND THE MAGNETIC SURVEY.

Mr. HENRY F. SKEY, B.Sc., Magnetic Observer, reports as follows upon the work of the Observatory during the year 1903–4:—

As in previous years, the work of the Observatory has been carried out successfully by Dr. C. C. Farr, with such slight assistance as I was able to render him when not engaged upon the field-work of the Magnetic Survey. The value of the Observatory to science has become very evident from the numerous requests for special information submitted by various national observatories throughout the world, *e.g.*, the Royal Observatories of St. Petersburg and of Potsdam (Germany). A large amount of information, involving the preparation of eighty-four copies of magnetograms and details of base-lines, &c., has been forwarded to Professor Birkeland, of the University of Christiania. This special information was needed for the discussion of the magnetic and auroral observations made at the stations of the Norwegian Northern Light Expedition in Iceland, Finmark, Nova Zembla, and Spitzbergen during 1902 and 1903.

The routine work of the observatory has been carried out in all essential details; but during my absence in the field the want of a permanent skilled assistant was sadly felt by Dr. Farr.

THE MAGNETOGRAPHS.

The magnetographs have been kept in operation successfully throughout the year, and the 550 slow-speed magnetograms obtained have been carefully developed and annotated, and together with those of the previous year are ready for measurement and reduction during the winter. The sensitiveness of the magnetographs was again determined in March, 1904. The values of the sensitiveness obtained are practically the same as those found in May, 1903.

On several days extraordinary magnetic storms are shown. For example, on the curves for the 10th to the 12th January, one of which is reproduced herewith, a large storm appears.

On the 31st October to the 1st November, 1903, there occurred what is probably the largest magnetic storm recorded over the world. The declination, horizontal-force, and vertical-force magnetograms obtained here on that day are reproduced herewith.

The Director of the Potsdam Observatory has kindly forwarded a copy of the Potsdam magnetograms for that day, and Mr. Bernacchi, of the British National Antarctic Expedition, has shown me his corresponding magnetogram obtained in the Antarctic near the foot of Mount Erebus. On the latter the extent of the disturbances is, as might be expected, very much larger than here or at Potsdam. Indeed Mr. Bernacchi had the ill fortune to attempt, towards the end of this day, to determine the constants of his magnetograph by the usual method of deflections in ignorance of the fact that such a storm was in progress. As may be imagined the attempt was not a success. The total range of variation of declination here was 1° 50′, whereas the whole normal diurnal range of declination at the time of year is here about 12′. At Cheltenham Magnetic Observatory (Maryland), the Primary Base Station of the United States Magnetic Survey, the total range of declination was 1° 37′, whilst at the Central Observatory, Tokio, it was only 38′; both values many times the ordinary diurnal range at these places. At Kew (England) the total range during the storm was about 2° 15′. In Germany it was 3° 5′. In the Antarctic the range was probably about 6°.

For a few hours during the height of this storm almost the whole telegraph system of the world was interrupted, even the submarine cables becoming unworkable. The local magnetograms for the preceding day show that it was practically calm, but at 6.30 p.m. on the 31st October the storm commenced, continuing at its height for about twenty-four hours. The very large disturbances of declination came at about 6 a.m. on the 1st November. The range of disturbance of the horizontal magnetic force was here certainly much over ·00377 c.g.s. units, and of the vertical force certainly much over ·00190 c.g.s. units.

The interpretation of these magnetograms was briefly explained in last year's report, but it may be explained here that these curves are actually drawn on photographic paper by magnets which move as the particular magnetic element changes.

The values of the element at a time corresponding to given points on the straight base-line differ by an amount proportional to the differences of the ordinates of the corresponding curves.

To give some concrete idea of the changes represented by the curves, and to facilitate comparison with curves obtained at other observatories, it is desirable to give the actual value of some of the maxima and minima on the curves.

Taking the declination curve first,—At 5 p.m. on the evening of the 31st the declination was just slightly above the usual value, being then about 16° 29′ east, with small rapid oscillations of a few minutes of arc. At 6 p.m. (New Zealand time), however, the storm commenced to increase, the oscillations being of about 10′ amplitude until shortly after 7, the oscillations then decreasing until about 8, when they increased in amplitude and period, a rapid change of nearly 30′ occurring

a 9.10, at which time the declination rapidly decreased to 15° 52′, returning to its former value a few minutes afterwards. A noticeable maximum occurred at 9.54 (16° 28′), and then the storm became very violent for about six hours, the principal maxima and minima occurring as under,—

New Zealand Time.	Maximum.	Minimum.
10.55 p.m.	15° 45′	...
11.20	...	16° 59′
0.05 a.m.	15° 09′	..
1.22	...	16° 24′
1.34	15° 30′	...
1.38	...	16° 35′
1.41	15° 33′	...
2.38	15° 12′	...
2.53	...	16° 13′
3.40	15° 21′	...
4.20	...	16° 30′
5.18	..	16° 42′

After 5.30 a.m. the storm subsided, and from 6.30 a.m. onwards the declination varied between 16° 40′ and 16° 15′ with rapid oscillations of from 2′ to 8′, having periods of between one and ten minutes, the declination ultimately having an approximate value of 16° 30′.

The steepest portion of the curve, indicating the most rapid rate of change of the declination, occurs between 1.38 and 1.41 a.m., when the declination is seen to be changing at the rate of 20′ per minute. At Kew at the same time the declination was varying at the rate of 23′ per minute.

In the horizontal-force magnetogram the curve shows similar large perturbations. Small rapid oscillations of this force occurred from 9.30 a.m. on the 31st., and there were soon superposed on these larger variations which at about 6 p.m. became very large. At 6.25 p.m. the maximum force during the storm was reached—viz., ·22871 c.g.s. units. The following are the chief maxima and minima of horizontal force, the curves leaving the paper at intervals mentioned:—

New Zealand Time.	Maxima. C.g.s.	Minima. C.g.s.
6.25 p.m., 31st October	...	·22872
7.15	22590	...
8.05	...	·22749
9.21	...	.22639
9.52 (Off paper)	...	(On again) 10·00
10.00	...	·22499
10.13	...	·22598
10.30 (Off paper	...	(On again) 11·34
11.24	·22499	...
11.35	...	·22657
11.40 (Off paper. No record until 3.40 a.m., 1st November).		
3.40 a.m., 1st November	·22499	...
4.13 a.m. (Off paper, and from this cause there is no record until 2.20 p.m.)		
2.20 p.m.	·22552	...
2.56	...	·22649
5.35	·22534	...
5.52	...	·22634
From 7.00 on	·22571±	...
5.22 a.m., 2nd November	·22590	...

In the vertical-force magnetogram, as in the declination and horizontal-force curves, there is a remarkable sudden dip in the curve at about 1.20 p.m. on the 30th. On the 31st at 6 p.m., the commencement of the storm, the vertical force decreased irregularly from ·55245 c.g.s. units to ·55159 at 9.12, increasing to ·55197 at 9.20, and decreasing again to ·55136 at 9.30. It increased again to ·55203 at 10.8 and the light spot left the paper at 11 o'clock, at which time the vertical force was only ·55125. No record was obtained hereafter until 1.22 a.m., when the maximum recorded value of vertical force during the storm was recorded—viz., ·55308. No doubt the fluctuations of the force exceeded this limit during the interval of no record, for evidently the motions of the light spot were too rapid to be recorded until about 1.15 a.m., when the spot came to rest about the middle of the paper. At 1.35 the motions again became too rapid to be recorded until 2.48 (·55168 c.g.s.). At 2.53 the vertical force was ·55190, at 2·59 it was ·55171, and then the motions again became too rapid to be recorded until 3.40 (55137). At 4.30 the value was ·55153, and again there was no record until 5.10 (·55143). At 5.20 the value was ·55184, and shortly afterwards the record again ceased until 5.54 (·55156). At 6.20 it fell to ·55137, and thereafter the vertical force increased rapidly, reaching a value of ·55215 at 7.38. At this time the rate of increase became much less rapid, and small irregular oscillations were superposed on the curves. The increase, however, still went on, and by 11.4 a.m. the vertical force had increased to ·55251, by 12.30 to ·55266, and by 1.36 p.m. to ·55314. At about 10 p.m. the vertical force regained a fairly normal value of ·55245 c.g.s.

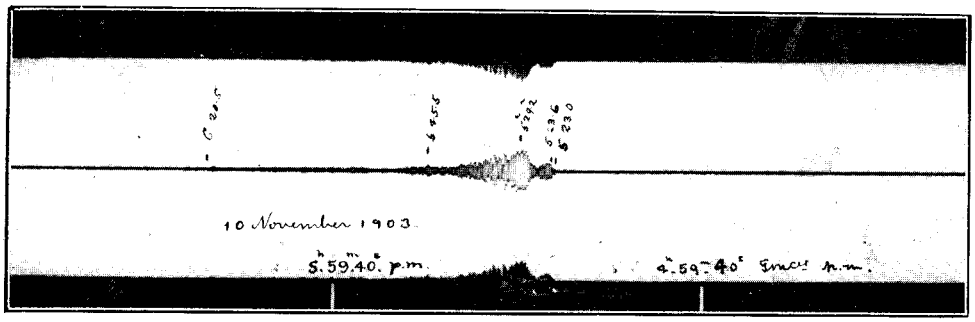
Large magnetic storms were also recorded on the following days: 1903—April 6–7, April 9 (very large), May 6, June 2, June 30–July 1, July 28–29, August 11–12, August 22–23 (very large), August 26–27, September 19–20, September 23, October 12–13, November 22, December 2–3, December 20–21, December 30–31 (very large); 1904—January 11, January 30, February 5–7, March 4–6.

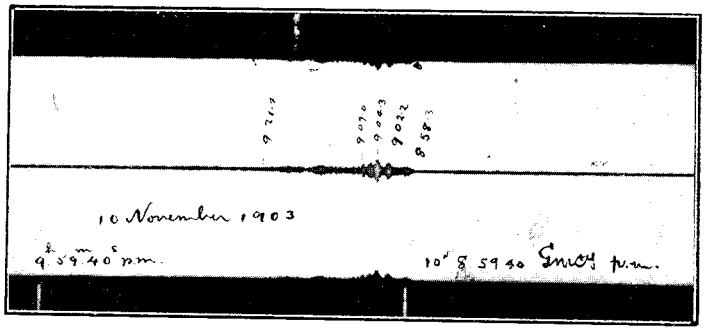
The standardisation of the variometers by twice-monthly absolute observations of the magnetic declination, horizontal force, and magnetic inclination has also been continued throughout the year. A list is appended of the absolute values obtained from the observations. It is hardly necessary to explain that the variability of these values is real and not due to errors of observation:—

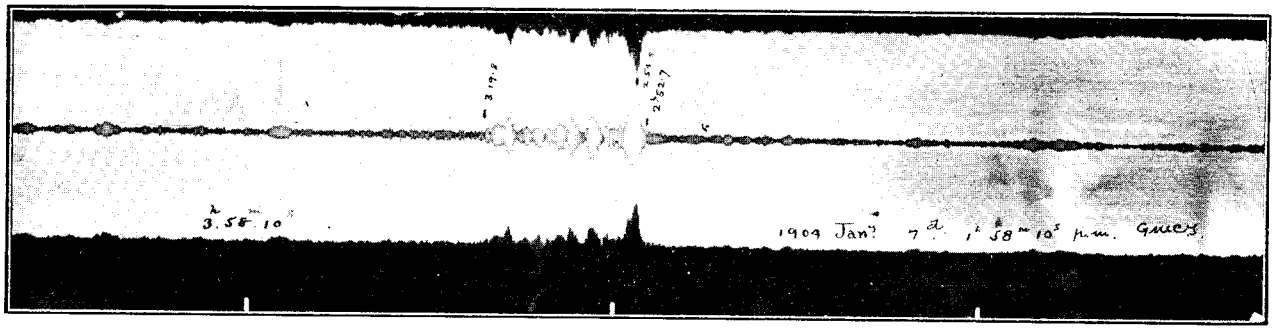
THE MAGNETIC OBSERVATORY, CHRISTCHURCH: ABSOLUTE MAGNETIC OBSERVATIONS DURING THE YEAR 1903–4.

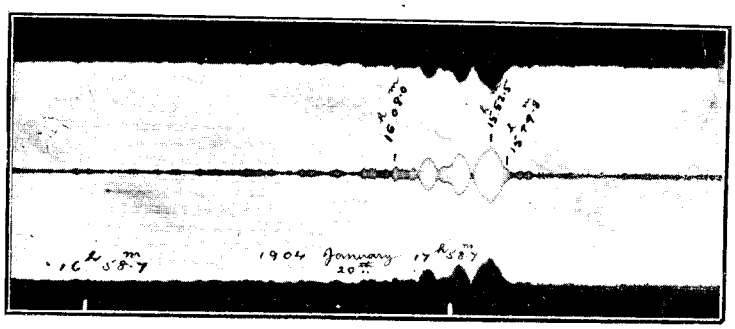
Date.	Declination E.		Horizontal Force.		Inclination.			Mean corrected to 1901 Standard.
	Declination.	New Zealand Standard Time	C.g.s.	New Zealand Standard Time.	Needle No.	Inclination.	New Zealand Standard Time.	
1903.	° ′	H. m.		H. m. H. m.		° ′	H. m. H. m.	° ′
January 13	16 15·7	10 46	·22676	11 5 to 12 5	1	67 38·9	14 28 to 15 21	
					2	67 40·1	15 15 to 15 55	67 41·3
					3	67 42·0	16 0 to 16 35	
„ 27	16 22·5	14 44	·22672	15 52 to 17 16	..	..	..	
„ 28	..	..	..	..	2	67 41·3	14 51 to 15 33	67 40·6
					3	67 40·2	11 58 to 12 35	
February 5	16 15·6	10 45	·22687	14 52 to 15 45				
„ 6	..	..	..	..	2	67 41·7	12 15 to 12 50	67 40·5
					3	67 39·6	11 30 to 12 10	
„ 20	16 14·4	11 4	·22649	11 22 to 12 19	2	67 41·7	15 30 to 16 16	67 40·1
					3	67 38·9	14 32 to 15 25	
March 5	16 19·8	12 30	·22666	11 5 to 12 20	2	67 43·0	14 55 to 15 36	67 41·2
					3	67 39·8	15 38 to 16 15	
„ 18	16 19·6	11 36	·22675	11 43 to 12 43	2	67 39·6	15 20 to 16 0	67 39·3
					3	67 39·4	14 30 to 15 15	
April 3	16 21·0	14 55	·22648	11 30 to 12 30				
„ 4	..	..	..	..	2	67 41·3	15 10 to 16 0	67 40·7
					3	67 40·5	10 54 to 11 40	
„ 24	16 21·3	14 20	·22668	14 50 to 15 43				
„ 25	..	..	..	..	2	67 44·0	10 2 to 10 38	67 42·9
					3	67 42·1	10 42 to 11 14	
May 12	16 16·6	10 36	·22680	11 5 to 12 34	2	67 40·3	15 28 to 16 9	67 41·2
					3	67 42·5	14 37 to 15 23	
June 4	16.18·6	11 21	·22667	11 54 to 12 58	2	67 43·9	15 3 to 15 42	67 43·8
					3	67 44·0	15 48 to 16 23	
„ 24	16 17·6	11 22	·22653	11 54 to 12 55	2	67 44·7	15 0 to 15 30	67 43·0
					3	67 41·6	14 20 to 14 57	
July 10	..	..	..	..	2	67 42·8	15 40 to 16 8	67 41·6
					3	67 40·8	15 1 to 15 35	
„ 11	16 17·8	..	·22655	11 49 to 12 55				
„ 28	16 16·5	10 59	·22662	11 25 to 12 37	2	67 44·9	14 58 to 15 27	67 43·2
					3	67 41·9	15 31 to 16 7	
August 14	16 17·6	11 7	·22658	11 24 to 12 28	*1	67 41·9	16 20 to 16 50	
					2	67 44·8	14 57 to 15 30	67 43·2
					3	67 42·8	15 35 to 16 12	
„ 28	..	..	..	..	1	67 41·3	16 9 to 16 38	
					2	67 44·7	15 32 to 16 4	67 43·0
					3	67 43·0	14 55 to 15 29	
„ 29	16 17·3	11 4	·22661	11 24 to 12 28				
September 15	16 17·8	11 25	·22636	11 42 to 12 40	1	67 41·2	16 39 to 17 1	
					2	67 44·0	15 30 to 16 0	67 42·5
					3	67 42·2	16 3 to 16 34	
October 5	16 18·5	11 5	·22658	11 48 to 12 53				
„ 6	..	..	·22653	11 0 to 12 33	1	67 41·5	14 50 to 15 24	
					2	67 44·2	15 30 to 16 0	67 42·6
					3	67 42·2	16 5 to 16 32	
„ 16	16 19 0	10 55	·22622	11 20 to 12 30	1	67 42·9	14 50 to 15 40	
					2	67 44·7	15 45 to 16 17	67 43·5
					3	67 42·8	16 21 to 17 4	
November 2	..	..	·22546†	11 0 to 12 12				
„ 3	16 15·4	15 5	..	..	1	67 47·3	10 55 to 11 36	
					2	67 49·0	11 42 to 12 17	67 47·4
					3	67 46·0	12 20 to 12 50	
„ 16	16 19·9	10 50	·22611	11 24 to 12 35				
„ 17	..	..	..	..	1	67 44·2	11 12 to 11 51	
					2	67 45·2	11 58 to 12 36	67 43.9
					3	67 42·2	15 12 to 15 45	
December 2	16 19·9	10 47	·22663	11 11 to 12 23	1	67 43·9	14 25 to 15 0	
					2	67 44·3	15 5 to 15 35	67 43·6
					3	67 42·6	15 40 to 16 7	
„ 17	..	..	..	10 47 to 11 58	1	67 44·3	14 15 to 14 47	
					2	67 45·8	15 30 to 15 58	67 44·3
					3	67 42·7	14 53 to 15 22	
„ 30	..	..	..	..	2	67 41·1	14 58 to 15 37	
„ 30	..	..	..	..	3	67 40·7	15 40 to 16 20	67 42·4
„ 31	16 25·0	12 40	..	..	3	67 45·3	11 25 to 12 15	

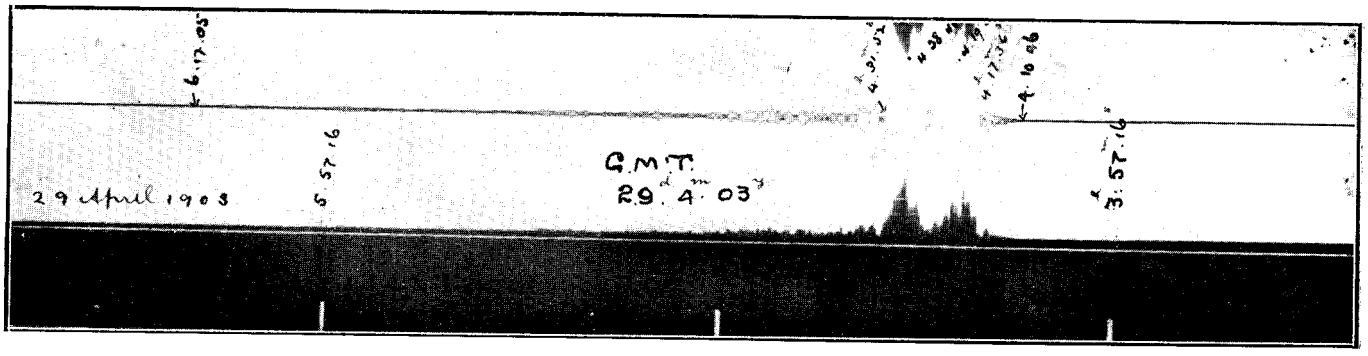
*New Axle. †Very stormy day.

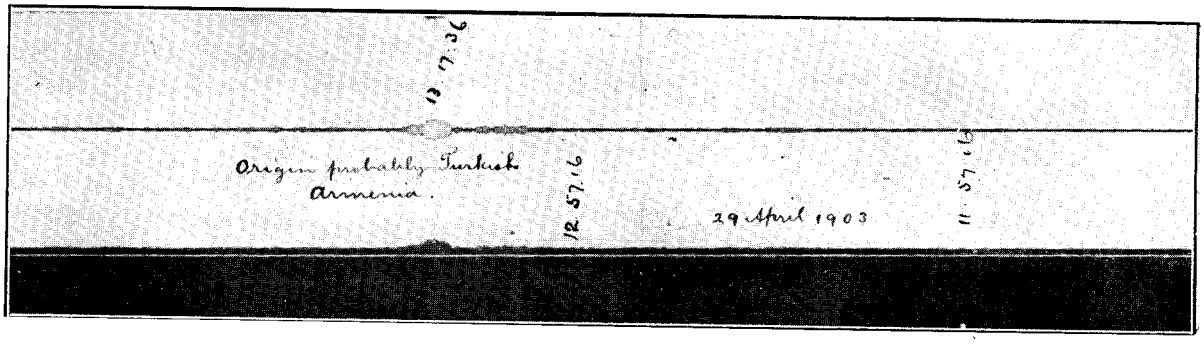

10 November 1903
5.59.40. p.m.
4.59.40 Greenwich p.m.

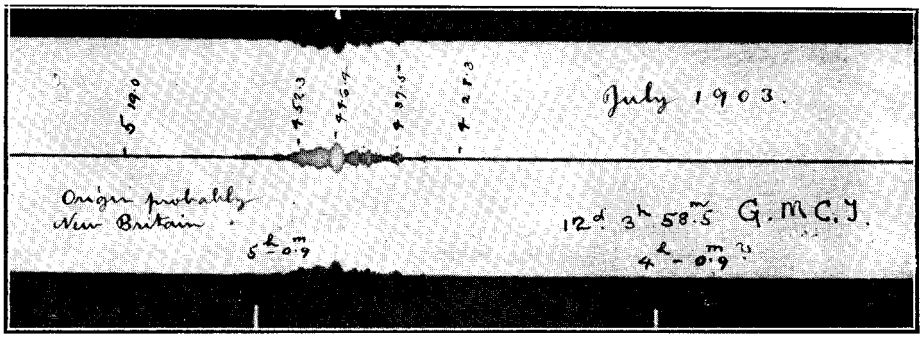

10 November 1903
9.59.40 p.m.
10.8.59.40 Greenwich p.m.

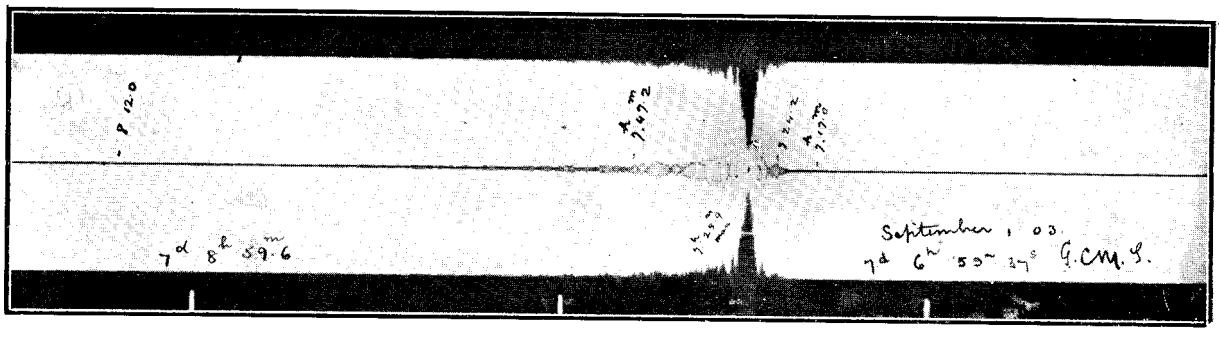

3.58.10
1909 Jan? 7d 1.58.10 p.m. Greenwich


10.58.7
1904 January 20d 17.58.7


29 April 1903
G.M.T.
29. 4. 03


Origin probably Turkish Armenia.
29 April 1903


July 1903.
Origin probably New Britain.
12d 3h 58m.5 G.M.C.T.


7d 8h 59m.6
September, 03.
7d 6h 55m 37s G.C.M.T.

Observations of the Electric Potential in the Atmosphere.

These observations were carefully carried on until the 6th November last, when the want of an assistant compelled Dr. Farr reluctantly to abandon them. The relative observations were made with the Kelvin water-dropper and portable electrometer on ordinary days at 9.30 and 10.30 a.m., and 12.30, 2.30, and 4.30 p.m. On Sundays no observations were taken. We have then a series of observations extending over eighteen months from the 17th June, 1902, to the 6th November, 1903, and a record of the simultaneous values of the pressure, temperature, humidity, and direction and velocity of the wind, and the amount and nature of clouds visible. On the international term days all these observations, electrical and meteorological, were made regularly at intervals of an hour and a half.

Besides these relative observations, absolute observations of the electric potential were made at intervals in the open park simultaneously with relative observations with the water-dropper at the magnetograph-house. The absolute value of the potential has always been measured at two different heights above the surface of the ground—viz., 1·14 metre and 1·63 metre, and in the same spot, chosen so that the equipotential surfaces should not be distorted by the proximity of trees or buildings.

These observations will be reduced and published and will be discussed in the next annual report. Being the only systematic records of the electric potential of the atmosphere ever made in Australasia, they are of great value to science. They will be resumed as soon as possible, but it is eminently desirable that the records should be as continuous as the magnetic records are, and this can only be done by making the installation self-registering by means of photography as in the case of the magnetographs. This would involve some slight expense, comparatively trifling, however, compared with the increase in the efficiency of the Observatory. Electricity and magnetism are so closely related that the study of the one cannot be separated from the study of the other, and it is just as valuable to have a record of the electrical changes as of the magnetic changes going on around our globe.

Below is given a list of days on which marked electrical storms were detected, and the time and value of the largest observed difference of potential between the earth and a fixed point in the air, 8·5 ft. above the surface of the earth and 5 ft. distant from the south wall of the magnetograph-house. The eaves of the roof are 10·5 ft. above the ground and extend 2 ft. beyond the wall.

List of Days on which the Maximum Differences of Electric Potential were observed at Christchurch, 1902 and 1903.

Date.	New Zealand Standard Time.	Observed Difference of Potential (Volts).	Wind (Beaufort Scale).	Clouds (0 to 10).	Remarks.
1902.					
July 2	12.30 p.m.	*1,650+	S.W., 2	10, nim.	Raining heavily; few flakes snow.
" 6	10.30 a.m.	1,051+	W., light	4, cirrocum.	Very variable.
" 14	9.40 a.m.	1,325−	S.W., light	10, nim.	Snowing.
September 6	12.30 p.m.	1,475−	N.W., 3	7, cirrostratus	
November 13	9.30 a.m.	978−	N.W., 2	10, cum.	
1903.					
March 15	3.35 p.m.	1,847−	N.W., 3	1, cum.	
April 20	2.30 p.m.	889−	S.W., 4	10, nim	Raining; very variable.
May 12	10.30 a.m.	1,036+	Calm	9, cirrus	
June 29	9.30 a.m.	933+	Calm	0	
July 1	10.30 a.m.	855+	Calm	10, cum.	
August 27	2.30 p.m.	889−	S.W., 2	10, nim.	
October 15	12.30 p.m.	817−	E., 5	4, cum.	Irregular; air dusty.

*Very variable; sparks audible on discharging the water-dropper. The electrometer was ultimately discharged owing to the excessive potential.

Electrical Dissipation.

Work with the Elster and Geitel dissipation apparatus and the Exner electroscope has been performed on many term days, but owing to the difficulty of keeping a good insulation in this electroscope, the observations on several of the term days have been of little value. Dr. Farr has reduced—to a large extent, in his evenings—the observations made on the following days: In 1902, September 1, and in 1903, January 1 and 15, February 1 and 18, and March 1. A paper written thereon has been forwarded to England for publication. The chief deduction Dr. Farr has been able to make is, that on the average, negative electricity is dissipated more quickly than positive, but with interesting and important exceptions. On occasions, positive electricity dissipates the quicker for hours together, and on these occasions very often the atmospheric charge is negative. During the two north-westerly gales observed in, a positive charge was dissipated many times quicker than a negative one, and on these occasions the atmospheric charge was negative. The rate of dissipation is often faster by night than by day, and hence it cannot be altogether an effect of sunlight. Dr. Farr suggests that it is due to ionisation by wind to some extent.

Meteorological Observations.

The regular meteorological observations have been made on all days at 9.30 a.m., and as already stated whenever observations of the electric potential have been made.

The barograph and the thermograph have been kept continuously in operation throughout the year, and in the next annual report it is hoped to issue tables of the hourly values of the pressure and temperature of the air, with the annual and monthly means, &c.

The meteorological observations at Greenwich noon, in connection with Antarctic expeditions, were continued until the end of March, 1903.

Complete sets of these observations made at six New Zealand lighthouses and on board the Government steamers "Hinemoa" and "Tutanekai," and the s.s. "Kamona," with partial sets made on board the s.s. "Zealandia," "Waikato," and "Rakanoa," have been received from the Marine Department. Thanks are due to those gentlemen who so zealously undertook this observing in addition to their regular duties. These observations will after a few necessary details come to hand be forwarded, together with those made here, to the proper quarter.

The Antarctic Expedition.

The recent visit of the ships of the British National Antarctic Expedition does not altogether come within the period covered by this report, but nevertheless it may be touched upon here, as it was so intimately connected with the work of the year.

The "Discovery" and the relief ships "Morning" and "Terra Nova," steamed into Lyttelton Harbour on the 1st April. It soon became known that the expedition had been eminently successful in all its work, observational as well as exploratory, and in particular I was glad to hear that Mr. Bernacchi had been very successful in obtaining an almost unbroken series of magnetograms in spite of the vicissitudes of the climate. This was very satisfactory in view of the expense the New Zealand Government had gone to in order to enable this Observatory to co-operate in the work. That the climate down in Victoria Land in winter is not the best for scientific work may be judged from the fact that unless steps were taken to warm the huts, it sometimes happened that clocks would stop, owing, it is supposed, to the extreme lowness of the temperature unduly contracting their driving-springs. Upon consulting Captain Scott, it was arranged that the necessary standardisation at the Observatory and comparison of the magnetic instruments of the expedition should be commenced as soon as possible. For that purpose, Lieutenant Armitage and Mr. Bernacchi brought their instruments ashore, and during the next two months these were carefully standardised here and compared with the standard instruments of the Observatory. The instruments included the unifilar magnetometer and two dip circles used in Victoria Land by Mr. Bernacchi as his standards, also the two Fox circles and the two Lloyd-Creak dip circles used for determining the total magnetic force and the magnetic inclination at sea. These Lloyd-Creak circles were specially designed for the use of the Antarctic expeditions by Captain H. Creak, R.N., late Superintendent of the Compass Department to the Admiralty. Photographs of these instruments set up on the piers of the Absolute House are reproduced herewith. For these I am indebted to the courtesy of the Lyttelton Times Company, for whom they were photographed by Mr. L. Hinge. Previous to the departure of the expedition early in June, Lieutenant Armitage, for the purpose of adjusting the ship's compasses, took a series of swings here with his horizontal and vertical vibrating needles. Mr. Bernacchi again swung in the Absolute House the relative gravity pendulums belonging to the expedition, but the result will not be known until after the return of the "Discovery" to England, when all the gravity observations made will be reduced.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Bernacchi, I have been able to secure copies of some of the magnetograms obtained in Victoria Land. These, of course, can not be published, but it is interesting to note that even on the few curves we were able to compare were some marked coincidences of phenomena. For example, on the Christchurch magnetograms of the 28th June, reproduced herewith, there is on all the curves a marked peak at 8 p.m. This peak also exists, but is very much larger, on the corresponding Antarctic magnetogram. It may be taken as a general rule that the variations of force become greater as we pass towards the polar regions. Coincidences have also been found on the term-day quick-speed records, and the collation of these results from all the co-operating observatories may be expected to yield exceedingly valuable results. Besides the coincidences mentioned above, which reveal world-wide disturbances, some remarkable disagreements in the curves, due possibly to purely local disturbances, have been found to exist. Hence it may be possible to some extent to localise the storms, as is done in the case of ordinary weather storms. From the term-day quick-speed records it may be possible to determine the rates at which the local magnetic storms travel, and perhaps the velocity of propagation of some magnetic disturbances over the earth. The results of the magnetic work are looked forward to by the scientific world with the greatest interest.

The British Admiralty, in co-operation with the Royal Society, having undertaken the compilation of the magnetic observations obtained at British observing-stations in connection with the expedition, a request has been received from the Secretaries of the Royal Society asking that the magnetic observations obtained here should be reduced here as soon as possible, and the results forwarded to the Hydrographic Department. The reduction of these involves, besides other work, 360,000 measurements of magnetogram ordinates and the conversion and correction of these measurements.

Milne Seismograph No. 16.

This instrument has been kept continuously in operation throughout the year, and records of sixty-eight earth-movements have been obtained from the 31st March, 1903 to 31st March, 1904. Most of these have been very slight, and indeed it seems to be a peculiarity of this instrument that while it rarely omits to record an earthquake of any magnitude happening on the other side of the world, it very often gets no record at all of small local shocks felt within some hundreds of miles.

For the information of those observatories, to whom it is proposed to forward copies of this report, it seems advisable to reproduce herewith the Christchurch seismograms of eight of the most marked earth-movements.

During the year experiments with the seismograph were undertaken to aid in the investigation of the correct mode of interpreting the seismograms. The pillar bearing the instrument was alternately gradually loaded first on the one side and then on the other, thus giving the boom regular periodic accelerations, the period being varied between twelve and nineteen seconds. The resulting seismograms were found to indicate, as was expected from theory, that the vibrations of the boom of the instrument in every case had the same period as the artificial accelerations given to it, but that the amplitude of the oscillations was dependent upon the relation between the natural period of the boom and the forced period. With the natural boom-period of 16·5 seconds, and a forced vibration of 15 seconds period, the resulting seismogram showed marked interference effects, beats being produced of about three-minutes period. The lens-shaped throbbings on this diagram are not unlike a common feature in many of the seismic records—viz., the "echoes," so called by Professor Milne. Dr. Farr has written papers upon this subject, which have been published in the proceedings of the Physical Society of London, Vol. xviii., and also in the Philosophical Magazine for October, 1903. The paper was read before the Physical Society, and evoked a considerable amount of discussion.

The experiments have demonstrated, what was surmised from theory, that the amplitude of the earth-movement cannot be deduced from the measured amplitude of the seismogram, unless we are able to measure also the period of the forced vibrations on the seismogram. In order that this may be done it will be necessary to drive the seismograph-tape at a much quicker speed. Additions have been made to the instrument here for that purpose, but some further adjustment is still necessary for it to be successful. It is hoped to make a further trial shortly, and ultimately to determine the extent of the horizontal east-and-west movement of the earth here during earthquakes.

In No. 16 of the publications in foreign languages of the Imperial Earthquake Investigation Committee of Japan, Professor A. Imamura makes use of the Christchurch records of nine earth-movements in 1902, along with records at other observatories, in determining the points of origin of the earth-waves.

A list of earthquakes recorded this year is appended.

Records of Milne Seismograph No. 16, at Christchurch, New Zealand.

Latitude: 43° 31′ 50″ S. Longitude: 172° 37′ 18″ E. Time employed: Greenwich Mean Civil Time.

No. 1, 2, . . . for each month. Time: G.M.C.T., as stated above. P.T. = Preliminary tremors less than 2mm. complete range; A.T. = After-tremors less than 2mm. complete range; B.E. = Beginning and end of vibrations not less than 2mm.; Amp. = Half range in millimetres.

Date.	P.T. from	B.	Maxima. From	Maxima. To	Amp.	E.	A.T. till	B.P.	Remarks.
					APRIL, 1903.				
	H. m.	H. m.	H. m.	H. m.	Mm.	H. m.	H. m.	Secs.	
1	2 48·1	..	..	..	..	2 54·7	2 54·7	..	Local. Felt by Mr. Skey, at Pipiriki, who happened to be watching chronometer. Began at 2h. 51m. 50s. Ended 2h. 52m. 10s.
1	3 00·7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Sudden and short.
29	4 10·8	4 17·6	4 19·6	4 28·8	4·2	4 31·9	6 17·1	..	
29	..	..	13 17·6	..	0·6	..	..	..	P.T. and A.T. obscured.
					MAY, 1903.				
8	4 32·5	..	4 42·0	..	1·0	..	5 04·6	..	
13	6 42·4	6 49·0	7 01·7	..	6·5	7 27·9	9 18·4	..	
19	8 14·0	..	..	..	0·5	..	8 30.5	..	
27	23 40·6	..	..	..	0·4	..	23 42·7	..	
29	23 01·5	..	..	..	0·2	..	23 04·6	..	
					JUNE, 1903.				
8	5 34·5	5 45·8	5 49·5	..	1·0	..	7 08·9	..	
9	11 16·6	11 18·1	11 18·7	..	0·7	11 23·2	12 04·9	..	
10	16 49·7	16 59·2	17 02·8	..	1·5	17 11·4	..	..	Minute thickenings for some hours.
15	22 18·1	22 21·3	22 22·9	..	1·0	..	22 53·1+	..	
21	7 43·9	..	..	..	..	..	8 17·3	..	Minute irregularities for considerable time before and after.
					JULY, 1903.				
2	21 21·6	21 28·9	21 30·5	..	1·4	21 34·9	22 13·3	..	
9	4 52·2	..	5 19·3	..	..	..	5 26·7	..	Thickening of line merely.
10	4 11·4	..	4 15·0	..	..	..	4 36·6	..	
12	28·34	4 37·5	4 46·7	..	2·5	4 52·3	5 19·0	..	Origin(?) New Britain
19	13 10·5	..	13 15·0	..	..	..	13 23·1	..	Thickening of line m.
28	4 35·0	..	..	..	..	..	4 47·0	..	"
					AUGUST, 1903.				
1	10±	..	..	..	..	..	20±	..	Tremor. (Shocks felt in Hawke's Bay Province).
7	7 54·2	..	7 55·2	..	0·3	..	8 01·4	..	
19	9 43·6	..	9 55·0	..	0·5	..	10 15·7	..	
24	7 29·7	..	7 36·4	..	..	..	7 53·8	..	Thickening of line merely.

Records of Milne Seismograph No. 16, at Christchurch, New Zealand—continued.

Date.	P.T. from	B.	Maxima. From	Maxima. To	Amp.	E.	A.T. till	B.P.	Remarks.
					SEPTEMBER, 1903.				
	H. m.	H. m.	H. m.	H. m.	Mm.	H. m.	H. m.	Secs.	
3	6 05·3	6 25·3	6 26·5	..	1·2	6 30·4	7 24·3	..	
5	5 45·2	..	5 49·4	..	..	..	5 57·6	..	Thickening of line merely.
7	7 17·0	7 24·2	7 28·9	..	14.0	7 47·2	8 12·0	..	
8	5 23·4	..	5 36·9	..	0·6	..	6 31·7	..	
23	0 17·0	..	0 21·7	..	0·8	..	0 32·0	..	
23	7 19·1	..	7 23·2	7 31·5	0·5	..	7 50 0	..	
26	6 15·0	6 17·2	6 17·8	..	1·3	6 18·0	6 39·4	..	
					OCTOBER, 1903.				
4	5 02·4	5 04·1	5 05·7	..	1·0	5 12·0	5 29·5	..	
13	22 04·1	..	22 10·4	..	0·5	..	22 14·5	..	
14	3 32·2	..	3 52·8	..	0·8	..	4 09·3	..	
17	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 09·0	..	In progress while attending to instrument.
20	14 48·9	14 52·0	14 51·0	..	2·2	14 58·7	15 38·6	..	
20	Indefinite	14 29·9	14 36·5	..	11·5	..	..	..	Obscured by night tremors.
				H. m. H.	m.				
30	3 30·1	4 05·1	Max. bet'n	4 10 4	20 6·0+	4 30·2	6 29·9	..	Attending to instrument
30	12 00±	15 07·0	15 07·3	..	1·3	15 12·4	21 00±	..	during maximums.
					NOVEMBER, 1903.				
1	18 02·5	..	18 07·7	..	1·0	..	18 36·2	..	
2	3 00·0	..	3 01·1	..	0·6	..	3 08·3	..	
10	17 23·0	17 23·6	17 29·2	..	3·5	17 45·5	18 20·5	..	
10	20 58·3	21 02·2	21 04·3	..	1·8	21 07·0	21 23·4	..	
					DECEMBER, 1903.				
23	..	1 12·3	1 19·3	1 20·0	3·6	1 25·2	2 13·3	..	
23	23 45·0	..	23 51·3	23 55·4	0·6	..	24 08·0	..	
24	21 26·0	..	21 32·2	..	0·9	..	21 40·4	..	
28	3 07·0	..	3 35·7	..	1·0	..	4 12·1	..	
31	Indefinite	14 10·7	14 13·8	..	4·5	14 24·1	Indefinite	..	Obscured by night tremors.
					JANUARY, 1904.				
2	00 05·8	..	00 10·0	..	1·0	..	00 41·8	..	
7	Indefinite	2 52·7	2 54·8	..	7·5	3 19·8	Indefinite	..	P.T. and A.T., obscured by night tremors.
10	3 01·8	3 12·4	3 13·0	..	2·9	3 19·0	4 13·0	..	
20	Indefinite	15 49·8	15 52·5	..	4·5	16 08·0	Indefinite	..	P.T. and A.T., obscured by night tremors.
25	..	..	..	..	..	3 53·0	4 06·7	..	In progress while attending
29	0 12·3	..	0 41·0	..	0·9	..	1 09·2	..	to instrument.
					FEBRUARY, 1904.				
4	10 31·4	10 35·0	10 35·8	..	1·0	..	11 03·4	..	
8	5 47·5	..	5 51·1	5 54·2	0·8	..	6 05·1	..	
18	5 59·9	6 03·1	6 03·9	..	2·0	6 05·9	6 16·2	..	
20	10 15·0	..	10 19·0	..	0·8	..	10 30·0	..	
22	Indefinite	1 29·7	1 31·0	..	1·8	1 32·7	2 06·3±	..	
28	5 42·8	..	6 00·5	..	0·5	..	6 45·3	..	
					MARCH, 1904.				
1	Indefinite	3 22·2	3 23·7	..	2·5	3 29·9	Indefinite	..	P.T. and A.T., obscured by night tremors.
1	Indefinite	4 26·0	4 30·1	..	4·0	4 39·9	Indefinite	..	P.T. and A T., obscured by
2	9 09·9	9 13·0	9 15·0	..	2·5	9 31·5	9 49 ±	..	night tremors.
3	8 49·1	..	8 50·7	..	0·5	..	8 56·4	..	
3	11 02·8	11 11·7	11 20·4	..	1·8	11 30·4	11 52·9	..	
15	7 50·1	..	7 55·4	..	0·5	..	8 16·5	..	
25	Indefinite	15 08·9	15 11·0	..	4·5	15 15·6	Indefinite	..	P.T. and A.T., obscured by
28	10 07·8	10 20·3	10 21·8	..	1·0	10 23·9	Indefinite	..	night tremors.

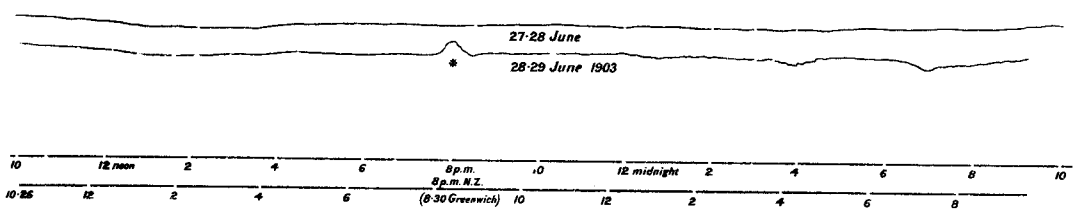
THE MAGNETIC SURVEY.

The magnetic survey of New Zealand was resumed in the spring of 1903, and field-work continued from the beginning of September until early in February, 1904. The fresh stations were taken in the northern part of the Middle Island; but owing to the absence of roads it was very difficult to get to stations right in the interior. However, thirty-seven new stations were placed as uniformly as possible in the interior, a chain of stations having already been taken round the coast-line. Four of these former stations were reobserved in order to determine the secular change since the previous observations made in the summer of 1899-1900, and thus connect the old and the new stations. Several fresh stations were placed around Nelson with a view to further elucidating the disturbance already found to exist there from the previous observations. All of the field observations have been reduced, some in the field, and the rest at the Observatory after the cessation of field-work. In making and reducing these observations I was assisted by Mr. Cadet Walshe, of the Gisborne Survey Office, who rendered cordial and efficient help at all times.

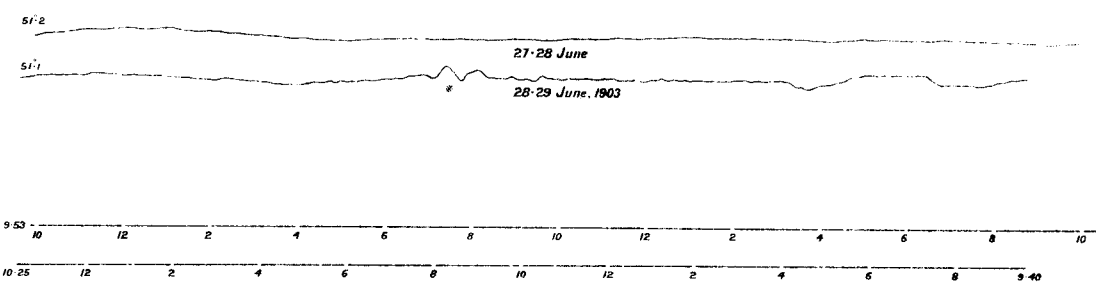
A small theodolite was found a very useful adjunct in determining the geodetic positions of the magnetic stations. A list of the new and repeat stations, with their latitudes and longitudes, is appended.

The magnetometer and dip circle used were those originally lent by the Kew Committee of the Royal Society, and used throughout the Survey, with the exception of the stand, which was replaced by a new one of heavier and stronger pattern. Previous, however, to taking them into the field, a careful comparison was instituted between them and the Observatory standard magnetometer and dip circle, with results practically the same as those found before; and on returning them

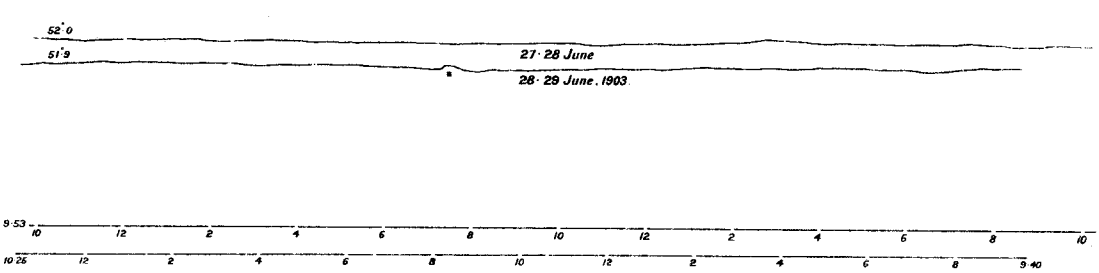
—Dec. Chch.—



—H.F.Chch.—



—V.F.Chch.—



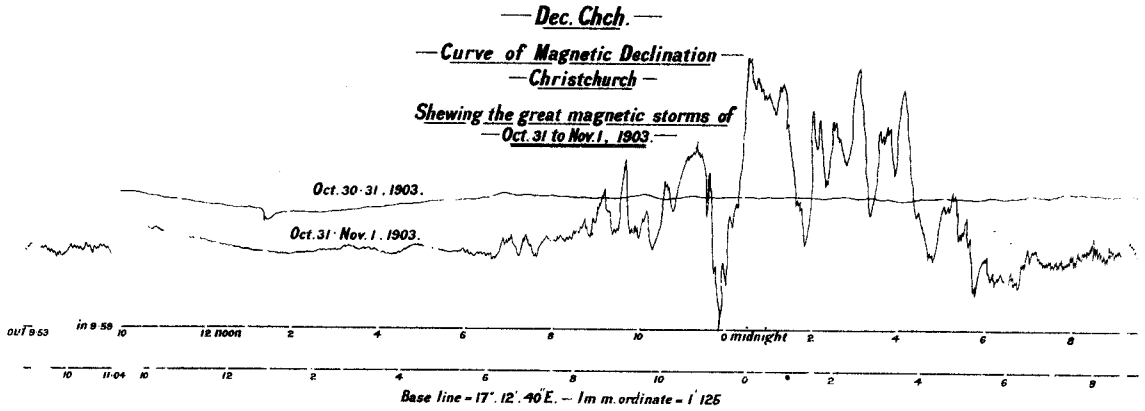
—Dec. Chch.—

—Curve of Magnetic Declination—

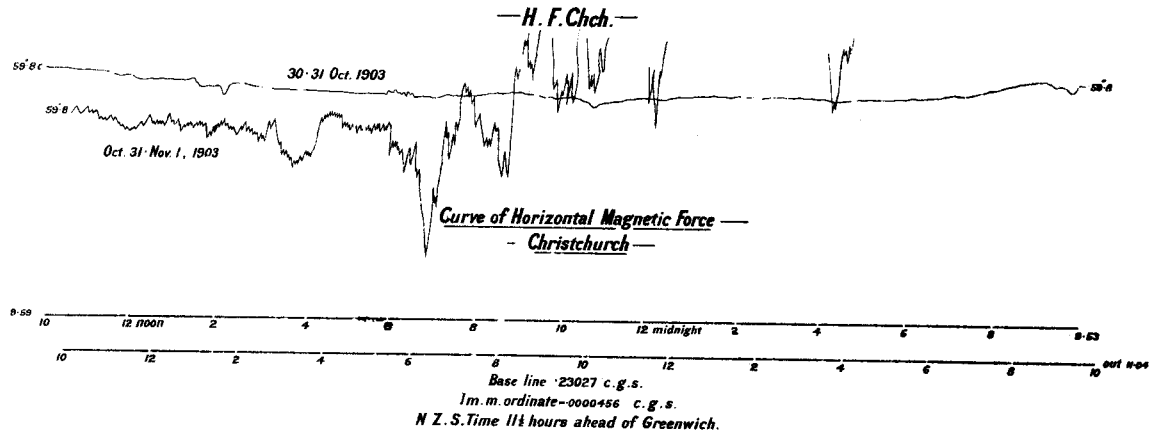
—Christchurch—

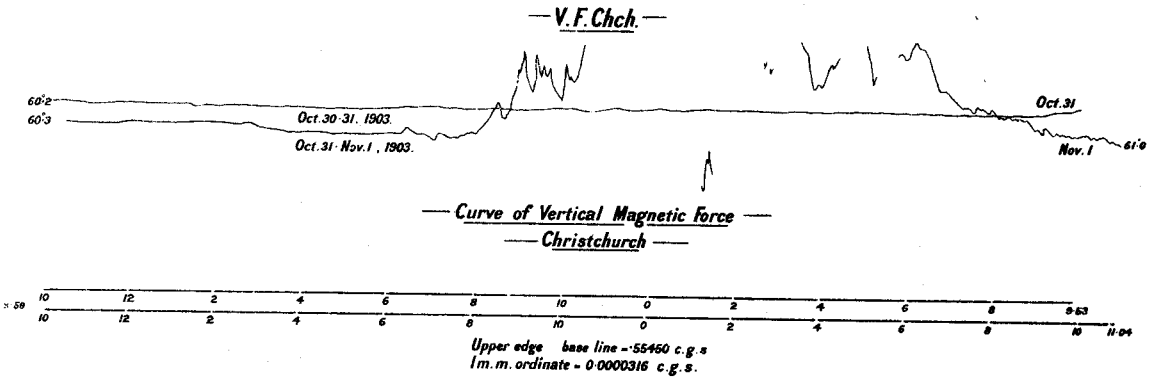
Shewing the great magnetic storms of

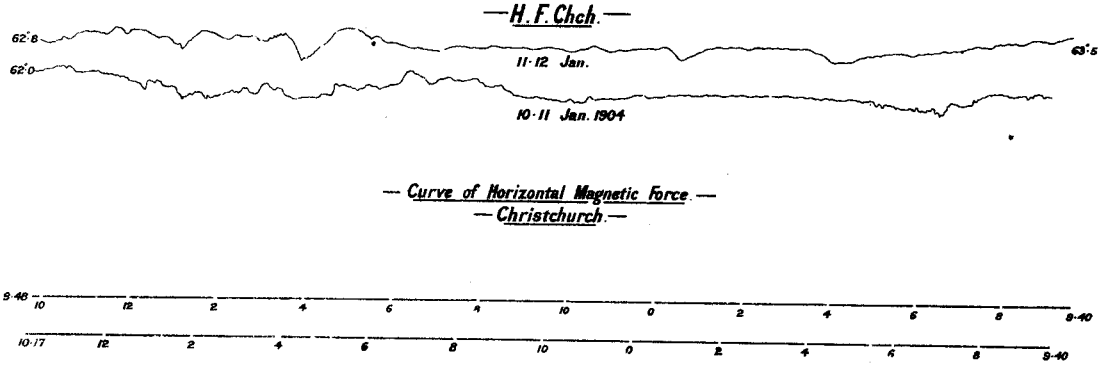
—Oct. 31 to Nov. 1, 1903.—



Base line = 17°. 12'. 40"E. — 1m m. ordinate = 1' 125


—H. F. Chch.—
59·8
59·8
30·31 Oct. 1903
Oct. 31·Nov. 1, 1903
59·8
Curve of Horizontal Magnetic Force —
— Christchurch —
9·59
10 12 noon 2 4 6 8 10 12 midnight 2 4 6 8 9·53
10 12 2 4 6 8 10 12 2 4 6 8 10 out 11·04
Base line ·23027 c.g.s.
1m.m. ordinate=·0000456 c.g.s.
N Z.S.Time 11½ hours ahead of Greenwich.


—V. F. Chch.—
60·2
60·3
Oct. 30·31. 1903.
Oct. 31·Nov. 1, 1903.
Oct. 31
Nov. 1
61·0
— Curve of Vertical Magnetic Force —
— Christchurch —
9·59
10 12 2 4 6 8 10 0 2 4 6 8 9·53
10 12 2 4 6 8 10 0 2 4 6 8 10 11·04
Upper edge base line = ·55450 c.g.s
1m.m. ordinate = 0·0000316 c.g.s.


—H. F. Chch.—
62·8
62·0
11·12 Jan.
10·11 Jan. 1904
63·5
— Curve of Horizontal Magnetic Force —
— Christchurch —
9·48
10 12 2 4 6 8 10 0 2 4 6 8 9·40
10·17 12 2 4 6 8 10 0 2 4 6 8 9·40

to the Observatory in February another careful comparison was made, no appreciable change being found in the field instruments. It does sometimes happen that the roughness of travel affects magnetometers used in field-work, altering their indication slightly, but the one used (N.A.B.C. Jones) is not so affected, probably because it is a comparatively old instrument. In comparing magnetometers the practice is to observe simultaneously the values of the magnetic elements with the two instruments erected at spots not too widely apart, and to repeat the observations, reversing the positions of the magnetometers. Below are given details of the comparison of the abovementioned instruments made in this way.

Station.	Date.	Magnetometer.	Value of H.: C.g.s.	Difference in Value of H.: N.A.B.C.—No. 1.
	1903.			
1	Oct. 5	No. 1	·22670	·00008
2	" 5	N.A.B.C.	·22678	
2	" 6	No. 1	·22653	·00015
1	" 6	N.A.B.C.	·22668	
Mean	...	...	...	+ ·00012

Station.	Date.	Dip Circle.	Needle Number.	Inclination.	Mean.	Difference: Circle 147—Field Circle.
	1903.			° ′ ″	° ′ ″	
1	Oct. 5	No. 147	1	67 41 37		
			2	67 43 22	67 42 33	
			3	67 42 41		+ 32″
2	" 5	Field	1	67 42 02		
			2	67 42 00	67 42 01	
2	" 6	No. 147	1	67 41 30		
			2	67 44 13	67 42 38	
			3	67 42 11		+ 58″
1	" 6	Field	1	67 41 42		
			2	67 41 39	67 41 40	
Mean ...	...	...	...	...	...	+ 45″

Station.	Date.	Magnetometer.	Value of H.: C.g.s.	Difference in Value of H.: N.A.B.C.—No. 1.
	1904.			
1	Feb. 17	N.A.B.C.	·22634	·00019
2	" 17	No. 1	·22615	
2	" 19	N.A.B.C.	·22667	·00009
1	" 19	No. 1	·22658	
Mean	...	...	...	+ ·00014

Station.	Date.	Dip Circle.	Needle Number.	Inclination.	Mean.	Difference: Circle 147—Field Circle.
	1904.			° ′ ″	° ′ ″	
1	Feb. 18	No. 147	1	67 45 23		
			2	67 46 17	67 45 19	
			3	67 44 18		+ 45″
2	" 18	Field	1	67 43 40		
			2	67 45 28	67 44 34	
2	" 19	No. 147	1	67 45 09		
			2	67 47 02	67 45 37	
			3	67 44 41		+ 47″
1	" 19	Field	1	67 43 44		
			2	67 45 56	67 44 50	
Mean ...	...	...	...	...	...	+ 46″

Magnetic Stations in the North Part of the South Island.

Station.	Latitude S.	Longitude E.	Station.	Latitude S.	Longitude E.
	° ′ ″	° ′ ″		° ′ ″	° ′ ″
Darfield	43 30 00	172 07 30	Thorpe	41 16 34	172 52 29
Springfield	43 20 37	171 56 32	Maitai Valley ...	41 17 26	173 22 11
Castle Hill	43 12 34	171 43 06	Whakapuaka (No. 2)...	41 12 39	173 23 45
Bealey	43 01 19	171 36 32	Rai Saddle	41 11 27	173 33 14
Otira	42 49 57	171 33 40	Pelorus Bridge ...	41 17 56	173 34 27
Taipo	42 45 14	171 24 11	Homewood	41 05 26	173 56 39
Greymouth (No. 2) *...	42 26 11	171 12 10	Tawhitinui	41 02 18	173 56 41
Ahaura	42 20 57	171 32 59	Penguin Bay ...	41 08 12	173 49 53
Reefton	42 07 09	171 51 51	Wairau Valley ...	41 33 47	173 32 00
Lyell	41 47 46	172 02 59	Birch Hill	41 39 09	173 17 01
Murchison	41 48 11	172 19 35	Jordan	41 49 16	173 45 41
Nardoo	42 01 03	172 22 00	Langridge	41 59 32	173 24 44
Little Hope ...	41 38 10	172 41 31	Molesworth ...	42 05 21	173 15 33
Lake Station ...	41 46 04	172 44 40	Acheron	42 23 20	172 57 16
Tophouse	41 45 50	172 54 06	Hanmer	42 31 33	172 49 21
Motupiko	41 27 15	172 50 03	Waitohi	42 55 17	172 34 41
Foxhill	41 26 16	172 57 48	Port Robinson ...	42 51 51	173 18 28
Richmond	41 20 21	173 10 39	Okuku	43 01 30	172 22 39
Upper Moutere ...	41 16 02	173 00 29			

*Former station now has iron-roof building in close proximity. Station No. 2 is much further removed from the city.

Repeat Magnetic Stations in South Island during 1903–4.

Station.	Latitude S.	Longitude E.	Station.	Latitude S.	Longitude E.
	° ′ ″	° ′ ″		° ′ ″	° ′ ″
Hokitika	42 43 12	170 58 46	Nelson A	41 16 53	173 17 29
Westport	41 45 22	171 36 24	Nelson C	41 15 59	173 18 09

A request has been forwarded to the Board of the National Physical Laboratory for a continuance of the loan of the field instruments until the autumn of 1905, and a reply is expected shortly. There now only remains, as far as field-work is concerned, to place about fifty stations in the interior of that part of this island lying to the south of Christchurch. It is hoped to do this next summer, and to reobserve at several of the stations already existing round the south coast.

Electric Tramways.

Since the Christchurch Tramway Board have decided to instal the single-trolly system of electric tramways, the question has arisen as to the necessity of removing the Observatory to some spot unlikely to be affected by the strong electric currents passed through the ground by such a system. I understand that the Engineer to the Board is taking measures to minimise as far as possible the fall of potential along the rails. Even this, however, will give no assurance of safety to the Observatory, although it will greatly diminish the extent of the artificial disturbances of the magnetic field here. There are several other districts in the colony that would be suitable, but it is undesirable to remove the Observatory any further from the present spot than is absolutely necessary in order to get undisturbed records. It was considered necessary to shift the Magnetic Observatory at Paris a distance of thirty miles, and in the case of Christchurch it should not be necessary to remove more than forty miles, allowing for all probable extension of the Christchurch tramway system. It will be necessary to have legislation effected to guarantee the Observatory absolute protection within a radius of twenty-five miles. Any electric tramways within this radius must be on the double-trolly system, or some of the other systems already widely used, which do not use the earth or rails as part of their circuits. The possible electrification of our railways is, of course, to be considered; but it is usual for railways, which involve long-distance transmission of electrical energy, to use a three-phase system, which does not interfere with magnetic observatories. Moreover this protection, granted primarily to the Observatory, would also be a protection to gas and water mains and telephone-installations within the specified area. I would point out that at Tokio the Magnetic Observatory is quite unaffected by the electric tramways, because there the double-trolly system was adopted in preference to the single-trolly system which has been permitted here.

The next year's work of the Observatory will include,—

(1.) The ordinary routine work of magnetic observing, &c.

(2.) The measurement and reduction of all the accumulated curves, magnetic and meteorological, which have already been commenced.

(3.) The completion of the field-work of the magnetic survey.

(4.) Preparations for the removal of the instruments to a site secure from disturbances.

Table 1.—Summary of Lands absolutely disposed of from the Foundation of the Colony, with Total Cash received to the 31st March, 1904.

Land District.	Total Area sold and held on Freehold.	Total Area granted or reserved under Acts.	Total Area sold or otherwise finally disposed of from the Foundation of the Colony.	Total Cash received to the 31st March, 1904, exclusive of Rents.	Total Area disposed of on Leasehold Tenures of a Permanent Character.	Total Area open for Selection on 31st March, 1904.	Total Area remaining for Future Disposal, exclusive of Area in preceding Column, of Native Lands, and of Pastoral Leases.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Auckland	2,055,861 3 7	3,428,129 2 3	5,483,991 1 10	843,123 11 5	974,544 3 37	1,134,204 0 0	406,557 3 25
Hawke's Bay	1,419,490 1 10	377,085 1 21	1,796,575 2 31	714,791 2 9	560,227 3 32	64,093 3 0	265,488 1 0
Taranaki	430,743 2 30	676,777 3 22	1,107,521 2 12	849,157 19 5	334,454 2 35	152,248 1 31	322,823 0 0
Wellington	2,177,352 1 5	1,308,533 3 9	3,485,886 0 14	2,424,071 12 5	516,747 1 22	133,857 0 0	417,226 2 23
Nelson	489,571 3 26	845,389 1 38	1,334,961 1 24	448,500 17 2	132,975 1 9	271,416 0 0	3,047,128 0 0
Marlborough	852,795 2 18	214,483 2 17	1,067,279 0 35	341,747 8 2	401,251 1 1	58 0 0	160,000 0 0
Westland	66,114 3 28	131,493 0 3	197,607 3 31	75,300 11 4	35,621 3 27	117,185 0 0	2,841,177 0 0
Canterbury	3,530,039 3 34	1,542,796 2 37	5,072,836 2 31	6,463,249 5 2	540,228 1 2	3,970 0 0	632,580 2 21
Otago	2,056,430 2 34	697,623 0 39	2,754,053 3 33	2,205,705 6 6	900,122 2 11	99,359 1 4	941,749 0 0
Southland	1,591,839 0 29	594,369 0 38	2,186,208 1 27	1,893,575 5 2	259,504 0 18	1,175,817 0 0	506,720 0 0
Totals	14,670,240 1 21	9,816,681 3 27	24,486,922 1 8	16,259,222 19 6	4,655,678 1 34	3,152,208 1 35	9,541,450 1 29*

* Inclusive of about 4,000,000 acres of barren and worthless country.

Table 2.—Lands opened for Sale and Selection during the Year ended 31st March, 1904.

Land District.	Optional System.	Cash by Auction.	Lease by Auction and Application.	Village Allotments.	Pastoral Runs.	Small Grazing-runs.	S.G. Runs, Land for Settlements.	Lease in Perpetuity only.	Lease in Perpetuity, Land for Settlements.	Native Towns.	Totals.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Auckland	174,105	256	946	2,673	531,566	40,020	..	9,028	12,354	85	771,033
Hawke's Bay	86,970	..	..	..	..	29,521	8,034	..	36,716	338	161,579
Taranaki	52,646	24	130	..	..	..	..	60,745	1,228	..	114,773
Wellington	77,512	697	109	224	100,301	1,780	..	380	9,279	95	190,377
Nelson	12,235	164	13	..	..	..	..	21,245	..	..	33,657
Marlborough	361	..	775	..	..	16,020	..	2,564	416	..	20,136
Westland	..	11	..	196	591,790	..	..	17,301	1,333	..	610,631
Canterbury	8,275	29	1,093	10	190,623	..	28,310	..	42,934	..	271,274
Otago	14,047	1,000	10,680	..	287,250	38,461	..	3,368	1,225	..	356,031
Southland	51,802	132	4,033	293	108,288	3,143	..	15,463	1,502	..	184,656
Totals	477,953	2,313	17,779	3,396	1,809,818	128,945	36,344	130,094	106,987	518	2,714,147

Table 3 (Part I.).—Summary of Lands taken up during the Year ended 31st March, 1904 (exclusive of Pastoral Runs and Miscellaneous Leases).

For Details see	Tenures.	Auckland.	Hawke's Bay.	Taranaki.	Wellington.	Nelson.	Marlborough.	Westland.	Canterbury.	Otago.	Southland.	Total Area taken up during Year.
		A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Table 5	Cash lands	7,293 1 16	3,262 0 33	105 2 13	2,041 0 2	3,945 0 30	37 3 6	20 0 0	3,577 1 19	893 3 11	1,299 3 22	22,476 0 32
„ 6	Deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
„ 7	Perpetual lease and small areas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
„ 8	Occupation with right of purchase	94,250 0 39	18,265 2 22	11,295 0 19	11,545 3 39	429 1 33	..	1,820 0 0	3,479 1 22	909 2 17	4,957 2 6	146,952 3 37
„ 9	Lease in perpetuity	27,802 2 23	4,484 3 35	37,800 0 20	2,437 3 16	4,895 1 5	6,802 0 0	692 1 11	1,380 3 6	6,958 0 39	9,116 2 32	102,370 3 27
„ 10	Agricultural leases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13 1 0	..	13 1 0
„ 11	Occupation lease under "Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894"	1,892 2 18	..	..	..	242 1 37	..	27 3 2	..	2,729 0 6	80 0 9	4,971 3 32
„ 12	Village settlement, cash	..	..	..	..	..	..	8 0 6	..	..	..	8 0 6
„ 12	Village settlement, deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
„ 12	Village settlement, perpetual lease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
„ 12	Village settlement, occupation with right of purchase	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 1 0	..	..	0 1 0
„ 12	Village settlement, lease in perpetuity	..	50 0 0	..	..	..	..	196 2 22	..	49 1 34	217 1 29	513 2 5
„ 12	Village-homestead special settlement	..	..	..	262 0 18	..	..	..	10 1 7	..	..	272 1 25
„ 14	Special-settlement associations	610 0 0	..	..	119 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	729 0 0
„ 32	Improved-farm special settlement	..	..	19,014 0 0	97 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	324 3 14	19,435 3 14
„ 15	Homestead	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
„ 16	Small grazing-runs	..	30,286 1 28	..	2,810 0 0	7,468 0 0	22,858 0 0	..	..	38,484 1 34	3,143 0 0	105,049 3 22
	Totals	131,848 3 16	56,349 0 38	68,214 3 12	19,312 3 35	16,980 1 25	29,697 3 6	2,764 3 1	8,448 0 14	50,037 3 21	19,139 1 32	402,794 1 0
	Cheviot Estate.											
Table 5	Cash lands	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
„ 9	Lease in perpetuity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
„ 12	Village-homestead special settlement	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
„ 16	Grazing-farms	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Land for Settlements Acts.											
„ 5	Cash	..	0 2 16	..	1 2 0	..	..	..	1 1 16	1 0 0	..	4 1 32
„ 9	Lease in perpetuity	2,526 0 8	36,420 3 1	1,021 0 26	6,117 0 6	..	249 1 11	1,333 1 30	41,603 2 26	1,744 1 29	1,128 2 18	92,144 1 35
„ 12	Lease in perpetuity (village)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
„ 14	Special-settlement associations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
„ 16	Small grazing-runs	..	6,382 2 0	..	..	..	3,385 0 0	..	28,310 0 0	..	1,658 1 0	39,735 3 0
	Grand totals	134,374 3 24	99,153 0 15	69,235 3 38	25,431 2 1	16,980 1 25	33,332 0 17	4,098 0 31	78,363 0 16	51,783 1 10	21,926 1 10	534,678 3 27

Table 3 (Part II.).—Summary of Lands: Transactions up to the Year ended 31st March, 1904.

For Details see	Tenures.	Exchanges from other Tenures during the Year.	Area held at 31st March, 1903.	Total Exchanges during the Year.	Total Forfeitures during the Year.	Total Surrenders during the Year.	Total Expiries during the Year.	Total Area held on 31st March, 1904: Past and Current Transactions.	Total Area made Freehold to Date.
	Ordinary Crown Lands.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Table 5	—Cash lands	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,798,710 3 20
„ 6	—Deferred payment	..	79,664 1 37	..	..	..	..	70,667 3 39	923,435 2 11
„ 7	—Perpetual lease	..	161,578 0 11	3,344 2 22	1,437 1 35	219 2 32	..	130,028 2 33	732,170 0 5
„ 8	—Occupation with right of purchase	..	1,016,626 1 31	496 0 31	30,794 0 34	6,778 3 23	..	1,107,128 1 2	21,693 2 35
„ 9	—Lease in perpetuity	8,285 2 25	1,052,365 2 9	..	15,892 1 9	8,252 0 36	..	1,138,867 2 16	..
„ 10	—Agricultural lease	..	555 1 37	..	..	..	6 0 0	562 2 37	140,895 3 23
„ 11	—Occupation lease under "Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894"	..	15,945 2 9	..	132 2 0	302 0 13	139 3 16	20,313 0 12	..
„ 12	—Village settlement, cash	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,058 1 8
„ 12	—Village settlement, deferred payment	..	443 1 36	..	..	..	..	378 3 28	12,133 1 5
„ 12	—Village settlement, perpetual lease	..	2,427 1 37	158 0 32	6 3 27	..	..	2,178 3 27	2,056 1 39
„ 12	—Village settlement, occupation with right of purchase	..	30 1 4	..	1 0 0	..	..	29 2 4	..
„ 12	—Village settlement, lease in perpetuity	15 0 0	6,537 0 12	..	346 2 32	..	..	6,718 3 25	..
„ 12	—Village-homestead special settlement	..	23,076 0 31	98 3 20	295 3 1	..	..	22,951 1 35	..
„ 14	—Special-settlement associations ..	..	121,016 2 11	..	1,659 2 23	1,517 3 37	..	117,844 1 38	91,347 0 34
„ 32	—Improved-farm special settlement ..	..	44,207 2 15	..	1,878 2 8	99 2 0	..	61,664 0 31	..
„ 15	—Homestead	..	188 0 37	..	..	..	..	158 0 37	80,274 2 28
„ 16	—Small grazing-runs	..	1,274,470 0 27	699 3 0	5,074 0 35	24,933 3 36	10,322 1 28	1,338,489 2 30	..
	Totals	8,300 2 25	3,799,132 2 24	4,797 2 25	57,549 1 4	42,104 1 17	10,468 1 4	4,017,982 2 34	14,809,776 0 8
	Cheviot Estate.								
Table 5	—Cash lands	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,690 2 34
„ 9	—Lease in perpetuity	..	24,403 1 9	..	..	..	..	24,403 1 9	..
„ 12	—Village-homestead special settlements	..	2,480 1 0	..	..	..	..	2,480 1 0	..
„ 16	—Grazing-farms	..	45,977 2 9	..	..	..	..	45,977 2 9	..
	Land for Settlements Acts.								
	Cash lands	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11 2 24
„ 9	—Lease in perpetuity	..	346,146 2 14	..	4,389 2 33	404 0 13	..	433,624 0 17	..
„ 12	—Lease in perpetuity (village) ..	..	448 1 36	..	0 2 16	..	..	447 3 20	..
„ 14	—Special-settlement associations ..	..	2,114 1 9	..	..	..	..	2,114 1 9	..
„ 16	—Small grazing-runs	..	90,089 2 16	..	1,177 0 0	..	..	128,648 1 16	..
	Grand totals	8,300 2 25	4,310,792 2 37	4,797 2 25	63,116 2 13	42,508 1 30	10,468 1 4	4,655,678 1 34	14,816,478 1 26

Table 4.—Analysis of Holdings taken up during the Year ended 31st March, 1904.

Tenure.	No. of Selectors.	Average Holdings of Selectors.					
		No. of Selectors under 1 Acre.	No. of Selectors 1 to 50 Acres.	No. of Selectors 51 to 250 Acres.	No. of Selectors 251 to 500 Acres.	No. of Selectors 501 to 1,000 Acres.	No. of Selectors 1,001 Acres and upwards.
Ordinary Crown Lands—							
Cash lands	431	160	198	46	15	10	2
Deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Perpetual lease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Occupation with right of purchase	402	..	32	165	108	77	20
Lease in perpetuity	489	150	37	153	96	38	15
Agricultural lease	2	..	2	..	..	..	..
Occupation lease under "The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894"	97	1	52	44	..	..	..
Village settlement, cash	10	10	..	..	..	..	..
Village settlement, occupation with right of purchase	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Village settlement, lease in perpetuity	21	..	18	3	..	..	..
Village-homestead special settlement	23	6	15	2	..	..	..
Special-settlement associations	4	..	..	3	1	..	..
Improved-farm special settlement	106	..	1	105	..	..	..
Small grazing-runs	39	..	..	..	2	6	31
Pastoral runs	129	..	1	35	13	36	44
Thermal springs, Rotorua	2	1	1	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	593	61	359	92	25	22	34
Totals	2,349	390	716	648	260	189	146
Cheviot Estate—							
Cash lands	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lease in perpetuity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Village-homestead special settlement	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grazing-farm	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	2	1	1	..	..	..	..
Land for Settlements Acts—							
Cash lands	4	1	3	..	..	..	..
Lease in perpetuity	405	34	109	103	100	59	..
Lease in perpetuity, village	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small grazing-runs	19	..	..	..	..	..	19
Miscellaneous	34	6	19	3	3	2	1
Grand totals	2,813	432	848	754	363	250	166

Table 5.—Return of Crown Lands sold for Cash during the Year ended 31st March, 1904.

District.	Area disposed of.								Average Price per Acre.			Cash. received.
	Town.		Suburban.		Rural.		Total.					
	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Town.	Suburban.	Rural.	
		A. R. P.		A. R. P.		A. R. P.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland	53	79 2 30	6	13 3 13	66	7,199 3 13	125	7,293 1 16	12 6 2	1 19 6	0 18 3* 4 6 4	7,624 8 6
Hawke's Bay	2	0 0 33	..	..	6	3,262 0 0	8	3,262 0 33	547 1 6	..	0 19 0·4 1 0 0	3,220 19 2
Taranaki	12	4 3 11	..	..	4	100 3 2	16	105 2 13	57 15 4	..	41 17 3	1,073 2 3
Wellington	49	28 0 15	..	..	10	2,012 3 27	59	2,041 0 2	138 15 0	..	1 2 5·2 0 15 0·3	5,920 3 1
Nelson	42	64 3 26	2	43 2 0	18	3,836 3 4	62	3,945 0 30	4 13 5	3 11 6·1	0 8 1·3 0 12 7·4	2,134 16 9
Marlborough	1	0 2 1	..	..	4	37 1 5	5	37 3 6	20 5 0	..	1 6 1	56 19 1
Westland	..	..	..	..	1	20 0 0	1	20 0 0	..	..	0 7 6	7 10 0
Canterbury	24	16 3 8	..	..	21	3,560 2 11	45	3,577 1 19	30 0 0* 21 0 6·7	..	0 17 4·1 2 0 3·9	3,470 7 3
Otago	8	4 3 9	59	144 1 16	22	744 2 26	89	893 3 11	30 9 7	5 5 10	0 9 5 1 12 11	1,665 18 0
Southland	5	2 3 0	7	18 0 33	9	1,278 3 29	21	1,299 3 22	22 14 6	5 16 5	0 6 9·7 1 0 0	623 11 3
Totals	196	202 2 13	74	219 3 22	161	22,053 2 37	431	22,476 0 32	30 0 0* 95 0 1·4	4 3 3·8	0 13 7·3 6 1 2	25,797 15 4
Land for Settlements—												
Hawke's Bay	..	..	..	..	1	0 2 16	1	0 2 16	..	..	22 19 2	13 15 0
Wellington	..	..	..	..	1	1 2 0	1	1 2 0	..	..	25 0 0	50 0 0†
Canterbury	..	..	..	..	1	1 1 16	1	1 1 16	..	..	6 4 7	8 8 3
Otago	..	..	..	..	1	1 0 0	1	1 0 0	..	..	11 10 0	11 10 0
Totals	..	..	..	..	4	4 1 32	4	4 1 32	..	..	16 8 5·25	83 13 3

* Where two average prices are given, the first is for lands selected when an option was given to acquire them under other tenures, and the second when no such option was given.

† Inclusive of £12 10s. received on account of a transaction during the previous year.

Table 6.—Return of Deferred-payment Lands: Transactions during the Year ended 31st March, 1904.

District.	Forfeitures during the Year.			Exchanges during the Year.			Capitalised during the Year.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1904, including Capitalised Holdings.			Amount received during the Year ended 31st March, 1904.
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Yearly Instalments payable.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Yearly Instalments payable.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Yearly Instalments payable.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Yearly Instalments and Interest payable.	
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	2,185 2 27	92 6 8	54	6,144 3 30	202 14 11	597 7 6
Hawke's Bay	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2,140 1 13	87 10 2	60 5 6
Taranaki	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1,349 2 15	104 18 9	556 5 8
Wellington	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	981 0 22	18 10 8	386 13 0
Nelson	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	223	22,881 0 29	1,241 10 8	1,605 18 0
Marlborough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	180 1 38	17 0 6	26 9 1
Westland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	97 15 7
Canterbury	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	11,135 0 39	819 2 6	830 6 3
Otago	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39	12,403 0 27	505 16 10	882 10 9
Southland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	57	13,451 3 26	343 15 2	387 12 10
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	2,185 2 27	92 6 8	400	70,667 3 39	3,341 0 2	5,381 4 2

District.	Freehold acquired during the Year.		Made Freehold from Commencement of System to 31st March, 1904.			Selectors in Arrear on 31st March, 1904.		
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Number of Selectors	Area.	Total Amount realised, exclusive of Interest.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount.
		A. R. P.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland	..	18	2,185 2 27	288	35,185 2 19	22,276 16 4	7	1,084 2 33	33 8 2
Hawke's Bay	..	..	..	804	83,341 1 20	88,605 9 7	..	..	..
Taranaki	..	10	1,167 0 0	1,297	155,972 0 38	237,159 16 0	..	..	..
Wellington	..	9	975 0 12	653	136,219 1 31	150,827 6 10	1	213 0 22	0 18 2
Nelson	..	32	3,489 0 39	1,384	126,317 2 13	104,125 10 10	1	62 3 35	6 11 8
Marlborough	..	3	162 0 28	47	4,457 3 32	3,245 3 0	..	..	..
Westland	..	1	137 2 23	100	4,571 3 12	4,282 11 3	..	..	..
Canterbury	..	1	116 1 30	110	16,660 0 5	38,898 18 1	..	..	..
Otago	..	5	505 3 5	1,097	180,213 0 16	217,843 12 3	1	200 0 0	3 16 11
Southland	..	5	218 0 9	1,264	180,496 1 25	244,927 7 10	1	226 0 0	4 15 10
Totals	..	84	8,957 0 13	7,044	923,435 2 11	1,112,192 12 0	11	1,786 3 10	49 10 9

Table 7.—Return of Perpetual-lease Lands: Transactions during the Year ended 31st March, 1904.

District.	Taken up during the Year.			Exchanges to other Tenures during the Year.			Forfeitures during the Year.			Surrenders during the Year.		
	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland	..	..	..	1	147 1 16	2 15 0	1	500 0 0	10 16 8	1	52 1 0	0 13 0
Hawke's Bay	..	..	..	4	167 3 8	10 4 10	..	..	..	..	..	..
Taranaki	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	31 0 0	1 11 0	..	..	..
Nelson	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	196 0 16	2 17 0	..	..	..
Marlborough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury	..	..	..	..	150 0 0	17 10 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago	..	..	..	2	2,879 1 38	117 7 10	..	..	..	1	167 1 32	7 6 2
Southland	..	..	..	10	..	..	2	710 1 19	29 2 10	..	..	..
Totals	..	..	..	17	3,344 2 22	147 17 8	5	1,437 1 35	44 7 6	2	219 2 32	7 19 2

District.	Freeholds acquired during the Year.			Made Freehold from Commencement of System to 31st March, 1904.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1904.			Amount received during the Year ended 31st March, 1904 (exclusive of Amount from Perpetual Leases made Freehold).	Selectors in Arrear, 31st March, 1904.		
	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Amount realised.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Total Amount realised, exclusive of Interest.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.		No. of Selectors.	Area.	Amount.
		A. R. P.	£. s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland	51	10,933 1 5	6,048 12 4	464	143,277 1 22	68,324 19 7	260	50,366 0 11	1,337 7 3	1,359 9 8	14	2,313 0 37	37 18 2
Hawke's Bay	7	3,674 3 3	2,089 13 1	289	130,690 2 14	99,879 17 7	10	5,247 2 25	431 13 3	397 19 4	..	..	..
Taranaki	6	1,728 1 6	1,309 8 0	392	99,179 0 38	91,113 13 8	21	5,893 0 0	334 14 11	319 10 2	..	..	..
Wellington	17	6,599 0 0	5,340 9 5	768	301,019 2 35	269,238 11 10	34	1,636 3 5	425 17 7	609 3 7	1	300 0 0	11 5 3
Nelson	6	1,633 1 20	581 5 0	22	8,069 2 31	2,639 8 6	17	3,129 0 31	60 15 2	63 15 8	..	..	..
Marlborough	2	172 3 16	101 5 0	4	522 1 16	233 15 0	8	1,574 0 31	44 11 0	43 17 1	..	..	..
Westland	..	..	..	6	482 3 20	482 17 2	7	580 1 8	28 0 4	26 1 4	5	480 1 8	16 5 8
Canterbury	2	66 0 0	148 0 0	79	14,186 3 29	21,661 12 11	37	3,416 2 18	256 4 4	234 5 0	..	..	..
Otago	8	1,152 2 24	825 2 6	99	16,906 3 38	13,015 14 6	232	44,395 0 1	1,689 14 6	1,695 4 3	2	428 1 1	6 7 9
Southland	4	587 1 15	524 0 9	77	17,834 1 2	13,588 0 3	78	13,789 3 23	511 19 10	532 3 2	1	310 2 0	1 5 2
Totals	103	26,547 2 9	16,967 16 1	2200	732,170 0 5	580,178 11 0	704	130,028 2 33	5,120 18 2	5,281 9 3	23	3,832 1 6	73 2 0

Table 8.—Return of Occupation-with-right-of-purchase Lands taken up during the Year ended 31st March, 1904.

District.	Taken up during the Year.				Forfeitures during the Year.			Surrenders during the Year.			Exchanges during the year.		
	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Average Upset Rent per Acre.	Annual Rental.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.
		A. R. P.	s. d.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland	275	94,250 0 39	0 4·8	1,895 9 4	59	14,032 0 24	394 19 8	9	3,502 0 23	98 6 4	..	..	..
Hawke's Bay	25	18,265 2 22	1 0·1	922 19 10	1	1,405 0 0	72 0 2	1	876 0 0	28 3 6	..	..	..
Taranaki	17	11,295 0 19	0 9·9	450 8 2	7	7,292 1 0	270 17 5	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington	26	11,545 3 39	0 10·2	490 16 6	11	4,715 0 0	179 6 11	1	715 2 0	31 6 0	..	..	..
Nelson	5	429 1 33	0 4·9	8 16 2	1	199 2 9	5 0 0	3	769 0 0	14 17 10	..	..	..
Marlborough	..	..	..	..	1	727 0 0	18 3 6	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland	8	1,820 0 0	0 8·6	65 10 8	..	..	..	1	564 0 0	31 11 10	..	..	..
Canterbury	15	3,479 1 22	0 1·2	172 13 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago	8	909 2 17	0 5·9	22 13 10	5	1,361 3 10	27 18 8	2	352 1 0	13 1 8	1	496 0 31	18 12 0
Southland	23	4,957 2 6	0 5·6	116 6 6	9	1,061 1 31	41 0 4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	402	146,952 3 37	0 7·0	4,145 14 0	94	30,794 0 34	1,009 6 8	17	6,778 3 23	217 7 2	1	496 0 31	18 12 0

District.	Freeholds acquired during the Year.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1904.			Amount received during the Year ended 31st March, 1904.*			Selectors in Arrear, 31st March, 1904.		
	No.	Area.	Amount received.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	On the Year's Transactions.	On Past Transactions.	Total.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Amount.
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland	44	7,715 0 22	4,713 14 9	1,977	522,020 2 24	13,544 12 2	947 14 8	10,800 12 0	11,748 6 8	111	21,182 2 23	496 19 9
Hawke's Bay	5	3,163 0 0	2,423 12 8	225	103,963 2 0	4,586 5 11	461 9 11	4,218 8 2	4,679 18 1	1	240 2 0	8 5 8
Taranaki	1	200 0 0	310 0 0	334	133,097 1 30	6,227 14 7	268 13 6	5,735 4 8	6,003 18 2	27	12,876 3 0	348 7 6
Wellington	18	6,122 1 33	6,325 13 0	614	182,891 0 21	10,497 17 5	251 4 6	10,143 17 5	10,395 1 11	10	3,171 1 7	102 9 10
Nelson	..	..	..	198	39,423 1 35	758 12 2	31 14 11	589 14 11	621 9 10	1	46 0 0	0 11 6
Marlborough	1	50 0 0	25 0 0	38	10,904 3 9	511 5 6	..	481 7 1	481 7 1	2	433 0 0	11 16 1
Westland	..	..	..	103	17,944 1 3	591 2 0	82 13 0	537 15 1	620 8 1	6	933 0 29	35 15 1
Canterbury	..	..	..	29	4,929 3 24	280 3 8	86 6 6	163 8 10	249 15 4	..	..	..
Otago	1	32 2 10	33 0 0	223	38,618 3 22	1,102 10 4	13 13 0	1,019 9 5	1,033 2 5	5	830 1 16	20 14 8
Southland	5	940 1 3	736 7 3	248	53,334 0 34	1,410 4 4	58 3 3	1,243 17 2	1,302 0 5	3	2,776 1 26	29 11 7
Totals	75	18,223 1 28	14,567 7 8	3,989	1,107,128 1 2	39.510 8 1	2,201 13 3	34,933 14 9	37,135 8 0	166	42,490 0 21	1,054 11 8

* Exclusive of amount paid for acquiring freehold.

Table 9.—Return of Lease-in-Perpetuity Lands, 31st March, 1904.

District.	Taken up during the Year.				Exchanges from other Tenures during the Year.			Forfeitures during the Year.		
	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Average Rental per Acre.	Annual Rental payable.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental payable.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.
		A. R. P.	s. d.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Ordinary Crown Lands—										
Auckland	113	27,802 2 23	0 7·7	902 1 2	3	190 2 3	5 15 2	26	4,814 2 3	96 12 10
Hawke's Bay	8	4,484 3 35	0 8·1	151 17 0	4	167 3 8	8 3 8	2	627 1 15	23 10 10
Taranaki	82	37,800 0 20	0 10·3	1,539 12 4	..	..	..	6	3,616 2 0	92 14 2
Wellington	10	2,437 3 16	0 9	90 12 0	1	282 3 0	5 13 2	10	2,343 3 10	81 10 10
Nelson	28	4,895 1 5	0 4·1	84 14 6	..	..	..	2	246 0 15	5 7 6
Marlborough	9	6,802 0 0	0 3·6	102 3 0	7	3,920 0 0	64 0 6	..	..	..
Westland	159	692 1 11	6 4	219 5 2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury	6	1,380 3 6	0 9·3	48 10 0	7	308 0 32	49 1 8	2	695 1 0	15 2 2
Otago	52	6,958 0 39	0 6·6	192 6 0	9	3,416 1 22	110 16 8	13	2,519 1 25	60 2 10
Southland	22	9,116 2 32	0 3·3	128 13 6	..	..	..	3	1,029 1 21	24 11 4
Totals	489	102,370 3 27	1 1·8	3,459 14 8	31	8,285 2 25	243 10 10	64	15,892 1 9	399 12 6
Land for Settlements—										
Auckland	45	2,526 0 8	4 8·8	598 6 0	..	..	..	6	247 3 16	55 18 4
Hawke's Bay	75	36,420 3 1	5 5·4	9,783 1 10	..	..	..	3	1,074 2 12	321 19 0
Taranaki	20	1,021 0 26	63 2·8	904 17 4	..	..	..	1	67 1 0	78 7 0
Wellington	36	6,117 0 6	6 3	1,912 4 2	..	..	..	14	315 3 2	181 18 5
Nelson	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough	21	249 1 11	25 10·8	322 18 4	..	..	..	2	168 1 38	40 11 6
Westland	5	1,333 1 30	2 7	174 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury	186	41,603 2 26	7 2·5	14,977 3 8	..	..	..	4	488 0 0	137 0 8
Otago	11	1,744 1 29	5 1·2	445 6 2	..	..	..	4	640 2 7	71 12 4
Southland	6	1,128 2 18	4 6·5	256 13 6	..	..	..	6	1,387 0 38	262 18 4
Totals	405	92,144 1 35	13 10·6	29,374 11 0	..	..	..	40	4,389 2 33	1,150 5 7
Cheviot Estate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ellesmere Endowment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Table 9.—Return of Lease-in-Perpetuity Lands, 31st March, 1904—*continued.*

District.	Surrenders during the Year.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1904.			Amount received during the Year ended 31st March 1904.			Selectors in Arrear, 31st March, 1904.		
	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	On the Year's Transactions.	On Past Transactions.	Total.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Amount.
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Ordinary Crown Lands—												
Auckland	4	1,738 2 28	64 10 4	1,174	273,332 2 20	7,224 13 7	422 16 7	6,440 8 1	6,863 4 8	64	11,001 2 8	275 6 6
Hawke's Bay	1	1,600 0 0	36 16 0	186	102,538 0 9	3,249 10 9	75 18 6	3,413 19 5	3,489 17 11	2	1,866 0 30	19 15 11
Taranaki	3	1,500 0 0	65 15 10	377	123,744 3 6	5,492 1 8	777 1 4	4,275 0 3	5,052 1 7	21	6,766 2 0	147 12 0
Wellington	1	380 0 0	15 19 4	459	132,663 2 18	5,733 12 7	99 0 2	6,001 18 6	6,100 18 8	12	2,723 1 24	99 14 4
Nelson	2	292 0 25	4 18 10	200	58,400 3 26	872 0 9	124 9 9	576 17 3	701 7 0	1	291 0 0	2 3 8
Marlborough	2	1,001 0 0	16 1 10	220	112,582 0 23	2,650 14 10	209 8 2	2,178 9 5	2,387 17 7	2	490 0 0	14 0 10
Westland	..	..	..	221	11,882 2 28	526 18 2	216 5 0	192 0 11	408 5 11	3	539 0 0	15 14 8
Canterbury	1	57 0 0	6 16 10	235	75,002 2 24	4,228 15 2	48 6 0	3,763 7 6	3,811 13 6	3	345 0 0	7 18 8
Otago	5	854 2 35	26 17 6	681	172,182 1 9	5,116 4 2	123 6 9	3,454 5 10	4,577 12 7	11	3,137 1 38	53 13 5
Southland	2	828 2 28	16 11 4	251	76,537 3 13	1,877 12 8	64 6 9	1,838 19 9	1,903 6 6	3	839 3 32	24 16 9
Totals	21	8,252 0 36	254 7 10	4,004	1,138,867 2 16	36,972 4 4	2,160 19 0	32,135 6 11	35,296 5 11	122	28,000 0 12	660 16 9
Land for Settlements—												
Auckland	3	331 0 5	73 2 6	212	35,637 0 28	5,529 15 3	298 6 0	5,526 7 0	5,824 13 0	7	1,697 1 18	29 1 7
Hawke's Bay	..	..	..	328	92,310 0 19	29,203 18 6	4,891 10 11	23,031 10 5	27,923 1 4	34	10,533 0 5	1,745 12 0
Taranaki	1	19 2 0	64 11 0	30	2,430 1 11	2,369 14 2	539 2 10	1,466 5 3	2,005 8 1	5	215 0 30	191 9 0
Wellington	..	..	..	216	20,196 2 4	8,100 13 10	1,612 6 2	7,434 10 9	9,046 16 11	..	..	..
Nelson	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough	..	..	..	164	40,644 2 5	7,835 7 0	202 0 0	10,289 8 11	10,491 8 11	13	2,498 3 27	391 2 4
Westland	..	..	..	26	4,990 1 4	538 11 8	87 0 0	423 0 1	510 0 1	7	1,128 2 0	84 19 9
Canterbury	4	13 1 30	29 0 2	1,021	158,354 3 3	55,439 17 10	7,486 12 5	38,071 1 5	45,557 13 10	44	2,840 2 33	568 1 9
Otago	2	40 0 18	13 6 2	384	56,725 1 34	19,643 4 4	335 15 4	22,992 4 8	23,328 0 0	16	3,374 2 6	325 4 4
Southland	..	..	..	84	22,334 3 29	3,641 8 2	128 6 9	3,301 0 4	3,429 7 1	11	3,312 1 1	470 3 0
Totals	10	404 0 13	179 19 10	2,465	433,624 0 17	132,302 10 9	15,581 0 5	110,535 8 10	128,116 9 3	137	25,600 2 0	3,805 13 9
Cheviot Estate	..	..	..	119	24,403 1 9	6,501 5 0	..	6,205 3 1	6,205 3 1	3	246 0 27	36 13 6
Ellesmere Endowment	1	62 0 30	7 9 2	68	13,943 3 39	1,401 1 2	..	1,265 16 0	1,265 16 0	..	..	..

Table 10.—Return of Agricultural-lease Lands taken up during the Year ended 31st March, 1904.

District.	Taken up during the Year.				Expires during the Year.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1904.			Amounts received during the Year ended 31st March, 1904.		Made Freehold from Commencement of System to 31st March, 1904.			Selectors in Arrear on 31st March, 1904.		
	Number of Selectors.	Area taken up.	Average to each Selector.	Yearly Rental payable.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Yearly Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Yearly Rental payable.	On the Year's Transactions.	On Past Transactions.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Total Amount realised.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount.
		A. R. P.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	20 2 0	..	..	..	67	2,750 0 0	590 5 0	..	..	..
Westland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	279 0 15	488 12 11	..	..	..
Otago	2	13 1 0	6 2 20	0 7 0	1	6 0 0	0 3 0	17	542 0 37	31 3 3	0 3 6	88 5 7	1,326	131,296 2 3	131,580 12 6	..	..	..
Southland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50	6,570 1 5	6,570 5 0	..	..	..
Totals	2	13 1 0	6 2 20	0 7 0	1	6 0 0	0 3 0	18	562 2 37	31 3 3	0 3 6	88 5 7	1,475	140,895 3 23	139,229 15 5	..	..	..

Table 11.—Occupation Leases under "The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894," taken up during the Year ended 31st March, 1904.

District.	Taken up during the Year.			Forfeitures and Surrenders during the Year.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1904.			Amount received during the Year.		Selectors in Arrear on 31st March, 1904.		
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	On the Year's Transactions.	On Past Transactions.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount.
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland	30	1,892 2 18	97 15 0	1	32 2 0	1 10 0	183	9,074 1 19	676 5 10	48 17 6	322 14 10	6	197 2 0	25 0 0
Nelson	7	242 1 37	9 16 8	..	..	..	15	584 2 8	22 16 10	20 2 6	19 13 7	..	..	..
Marlborough	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	1,161 0 0	31 4 4	..	27 7 1	1	61 0 0	0 15 3
Westland	2	27 3 2	1 5 0	..	..	..	2	27 3 2	1 5 0	0 12 6	..	..	..	..
Otago	54	2,729 0 6	104 8 6	7	326 3 4	10 6 4	205	7,874 1 31	314 11 6	101 0 2	161 4 3	..	..	..
Southland	4	80 0 9	5 18 0	1	105 1 9	5 5 0	47	1,590 3 32	134 17 0	5 18 0	237 0 1	1	44 1 16	5 13 0
Totals	97	4,971 3 32	219 3 2	9	464 2 13	17 1 4	471	20,313 0 12	1,181 0 6	176 10 8	767 19 10	8	302 3 16	31 8 3
Nelson Endowments	7	91 3 33	8 3 6	4	18 0 23	2 17 0	61	1,245 1 24	78 9 0	9 10 6	58 12 9	5	29 3 12	2 5 0

Table 12.—Return of Village Settlements during the Year ended 31st March, 1904.

District.	Tenure.	Taken up during the Year.			Exchanges to other Tenures during the Year.			Made Freehold during Year.			Made Freehold from Commencement.		
		Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Selectors.	Area.	Amount realised.	Selectors.	Area.	Total Cash received.
			A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland .. .	Village-homestead special settlement ..	..	..	..	2	43 0 27	3 0 2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hawke's Bay	Cash	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	259	643 1 5	4,194 1 10
"	Deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	110	1,192 2 2	2,706 18 1
"	Perpetual lease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	146 3 1	293 18 1
"	Lease in perpetuity	1	50 0 0	2 5 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Taranaki	Cash	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	309	853 3 9	6,945 10 9
"	Deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	120	2,289 2 36	10,907 12 11
Wellington	Cash	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	332	486 3 9	3,791 8 5
"	Deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	109	970 2 36	3,789 5 4
"	Perpetual lease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	311 3 22	998 3 11
"	Village-homestead special settlement ..	18	262 0 18	46 18 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough	Cash	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	22 1 11	75 16 10
"	Deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	22 3 0	18 15 0
Westland	Cash	10	8 0 6	..	..	..	..	10	8 0 6	66 10 0	10	8 0 6	66 10 0
"	Lease in perpetuity	4	196 2 22	7 17 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury	Cash	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	166	1,208 0 1	5,481 17 4
"	Deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	22 1 36	256 16 2	520	2,549 3 1	21,539 18 1
"	Perpetual lease	..	..	..	5	158 0 32	43 17 0	1	1 0 0	25 0 0	23	537 1 33	1,105 14 5
"	Occupation with right of purchase ..	1	0 1 0	0 8 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Village-homestead special settlement ..	5	10 1 7	23 8 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago	Cash	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	103	889 2 19	1,756 3 5
"	Deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	30 0 4	112 10 0	103	1,130 0 38	2,908 10 7
"	Perpetual lease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	563 3 9	1,185 0 0
"	Lease in perpetuity	4	49 1 34	2 14 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Village-homestead special settlement ..	..	..	..	1	40 2 33	3 1 4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Southland	Cash	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	579	2,946 1 28	9,230 10 3
"	Deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	12 0 8	23 3 0	267	3,977 2 12	9,542 5 9
"	Perpetual lease	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	102 1 31	268 8 6	31	496 2 14	1,187 14 5
"	Lease in perpetuity	12	217 1 29	14 8 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Village-homestead special settlement ..	..	..	..	2	15 0 0	3 10 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Totals	55	794 0 36	98 1 4	10	257 0 12	53 8 6	21	176 0 5	752 7 8	3,113	21,248 0 12	87,725 15 5

Table 12.—Return of Village Settlements during the Year ended 31st March, 1904—*continued.*

District.	Tenure.	Amount received during the Year.	Forfeitures during the Year.			Surrenders during the Year.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1904.			Arrears on 31st March, 1904.		
			Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Selectors.	Area.	Total Annual Rental.	No.	Area.	Amount
		£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland ..	Village-homestead special settlement	199 5 6	4	182 2 13	15 1 6	..	..	..	45	1,681 1 24	136 17 0	5	205 0 0	14 19 3
Hawke's Bay ..	Occupation with right of purchase ..	1 5 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	6 2 8	2 0 0	..	..	..
" ..	Lease in perpetuity	52 16 9	3	26 3 2	2 8 10	..	..	..	41	516 3 9	55 9 8	2	9 3 13	0 12 0
" ..	Village-homestead special settlement	67 19 8	1	1 0 5	0 5 0	..	..	..	29	187 0 32	64 15 10	..	..	..
Taranaki ..	Occupation with right of purchase ..	3 17 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	13 0 0	3 18 0	3	2 3 0	0 10 6
" ..	Lease in perpetuity	9 4 8	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	97 0 19	12 14 4	2	28 0 11	1 4 4
Wellington ..	Cash	387 4 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" ..	Perpetual lease	5 9 8	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	12 1 11	1 17 0	..	..	..
" ..	Village-homestead special settlement	1,895 5 11	6	111 2 23	28 2 2	..	..	..	584	10,670 2 22	1,795 14 7	29	423 2 6	140 5 5
Marlborough ..	Deferred payment	2 11 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	20 2 20	2 11 6	..	..	..
" ..	Perpetual lease	0 11 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	10 0 0	1 5 0	..	..	..
" ..	Lease in perpetuity	19 16 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	152 2 35	21 19 4	..	..	..
" ..	Village-homestead special settlement	21 3 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	184 0 24	20 3 6	..	..	..
Westland ..	Cash	66 10 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" ..	Lease in perpetuity	3 18 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	196 2 22	7 17 10	..	..	..
Canterbury ..	Perpetual lease made freehold ..	25 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" ..	Deferred payment	102 7 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	64 3 3	16 5 4	..	..	..
" ..	Perpetual lease	147 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	506 3 15	117 18 8	2	25 1 28	14 10 1
" ..	Occupation with right of purchase ..	2 14 8	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	2 2 0	4 0 0	..	..	..
" ..	Lease in perpetuity	8 4 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	8 2 0	8 13 0	..	..	..
" ..	Village-homestead special settlement	803 15 1	2	0 2 0	0 12 0	..	..	..	229	8,547 3 21	997 15 0	12	312 2 20	29 12 5
Otago ..	Deferred payment	7 16 11	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	100 0 0	3 6 0	..	..	..
" ..	Perpetual lease	33 8 6	1	6 3 27	0 10 6	..	..	..	16	357 1 36	32 3 8	..	..	..
" ..	Occupation with right of purchase ..	1 1 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	4 1 12	0 18 0	..	..	..
" ..	Lease in perpetuity	157 18 6	9	112 2 18	5 1 6	..	..	..	114	1,669 3 31	146 18 8	1	42 1 25	1 13 7
" ..	Village-homestead special settlement	173 14 11	..	..	..	..	..	..	76	1,174 0 22	149 9 2	4	96 2 22	10 5 5
Southland ..	Perpetual lease made freehold ..	268 8 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" ..	Deferred payment	22 4 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	193 2 5	9 17 10	..	..	..
" ..	Perpetual lease	188 16 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	94	1,292 1 5	167 14 10	..	..	..
" ..	Occupation with right of purchase ..	2 13 6	1	1 0 0	1 0 0	..	..	..	3	3 0 24	1 13 2	..	..	..
" ..	Lease in perpetuity	355 18 10	14	207 1 12	19 4 0	..	..	..	263	4,077 0 29	369 19 6	1	6 2 20	0 16 7
" ..	Village-homestead special settlement	146 4 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	51	553 1 24	132 8 0	1	10 0 15	0 10 0
	Totals	5,184 5 8	41	650 1 20	72 5 6	..	..	..	1,685	32,305 0 13	4,286 4 5	62	1,163 0 0	214 19 7
Cheviot Estate— Canterbury ..	Village-homestead special settlement	773 11 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	70	2,480 1 0	870 0 4	3	95 0 5	12 15 1
Land for Settlements— Hawke's Bay ..	Lease in perpetuity	38 0 11	1	0 2 16	0 10 0	..	..	..	15	34 3 16	23 8 0	..	..	..
Otago ..	"	343 5 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	31	413 0 4	317 3 10	2	15 0 2	6 14 2
	Totals ..	1,154 17 1	1	0 2 16	0 10 0	..	..	..	116	2,928 0 20	1,210 12 2	5	110 0 7	19 9 3
	Grand totals	6,339 2 9	42	650 3 36	72 15 6	..	..	..	1,801	35,233 0 33	5,496 16 7	67	1,273 0 7	234 8 10

Table 13.—Summary of Position of Village Settlements at 31st March, 1904.

District.	Number of Settlers in Occupation.		Area occupied.	Area laid down in Pasture or cultivated.	Annual Rental or Instalments, including Interest on Advances.	Amounts advanced to Settlers up to 31st March, 1904.			Amount of Advances which have been repaid to 31st March, 1904.	Total Amount of Interest paid to 31st March, 1904.	Value of Improvements now on the Land.	Arrears of Interest on 31st March, 1904.
	Resident.	Non-resident.				For Houses.	For Bushfelling, Grassing, &c.	Total.				
			A. R. P.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland ..	37	8	1,681 1 14	1,014 0 20	136 17 0	958 0 0	1,253 17 6	2,211 17 6	518 10 0	2,688 9 7	5,958 11 0	10 15 10
Hawke's Bay	67	26	745 1 25	402 0 0	145 13 6	580 0 0	296 15 9	876 15 9	354 9 0	652 6 4	7,146 0 0	..
Taranaki ..	9	17	110 0 19	110 0 19	16 12 4	..	..	..	..	..	863 0 0	..
Wellington ..	399	69*	10,682 3 33	8,105 1 1	2,018 7 7	2,944 0 0	3,670 19 11	6,614 19 11	2,199 1 5	3,769 9 8	75,670 19 0	72 16 1
Nelson† ..	16	4	100 3 7	75 0 0	17 15 0	70 0 0	..	70 0 0	30 0 0	23 0 0	1,154 10 0	2 15 0
Marlborough	16	8	367 1 39	274 0 0	45 19 4	85 0 0	18 15 0	103 15 0	15 0 0	72 13 4	2,510 0 0	..
Westland ..	3	1	196 2 22	196 2 22	7 17 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury‡..	310	23	10,549 3 2	8,363 2 13	1,426 18 6	2,470 0 0	..	2,470 0 0	697 10 0	1,701 10 6	34,564 5 3	3 10 0
Otago ..	163	81	3,718 3 25	2,049 2 0	649 19 4	1,101 5 0	440 0 0	1,541 5 0	135 2 6	942 11 5	15,923 0 0	4 14 5
Southland ..	177	243	6,119 2 7	3,279 0 0	681 13 4	756 0 0	350 2 2	1,106 2 2	174 1 3	759 17 0	25,533 0 0	..
Totals ..	1,197	480	34,272 3 33	23,869 0 35	5,147 13 9	8,964 5 0	6,030 10 4	14,994 15 4	4,123 14 2	10,609 17 10	169,323 5 3	94 11 4
Cheviot Estate, Canterbury.	53	17	2,480 1 0	2,289 3 19	870 0 4	120 0 0	..	120 0 0	110 0 0	25 5 0	11,940 10 0	..

* Exclusive of 117 not reported on. † Endowment lands. ‡ Inclusive of endowment lands.

Note.—The figures for the Auckland District are exclusive of 150 tenants, in occupation of 6,392 acres, who changed their holdings to lease-in-perpetuity tenure, and are included in Table 9.

Table 14.—Return of Special Settlement Associations, under Section 163 of "The Land Act, 1885," and Part IV. of "The Land Act, 1892," to 31st March, 1904, not included in the Special Returns.

District.	Taken up during the Year.			Amount received during the Year.	Total Amount received on Current and Previous Transactions to 31st March, 1904.	Made Freehold.				No. of Selectors required to reside, and actually residing, and Area.		
						During the Year.		From Commencement of System to 31st March, 1904.			Actually residing.	
	Number.	Area.	Capital Value per Acre.			No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No. required to reside.	No.	Area.
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.		A. R. P.			A. R. P.
Auckland	3	610 0 0	1 0 0	255 6 4	7,752 12 6	..	..	52	5,217 0 25	83	40	6,786 1 22
Hawke's Bay	..	..	..	37 14 0	504 3 5	..	..	54	4,809 3 12	11	2	400 0 0
Taranaki	..	..	..	953 4 4	7,947 1 6	..	..	..	..	57	70	15,863 0 11
Wellington	1	119 0 0	1 9 6	4,766 15 0	134,557 14 8	7	726 1 20	815	81,320 0 37	413	380	71,425 1 14
Canterbury	..	..	..	155 13 6	1,707 8 8	..	..	..	..	4	5	660 3 11
Otago	..	..	..	117 6 0	1,136 7 4	..	..	..	..	14	8	1,443 0 0
Totals	4	729 0 0	2 9 6	6,285 19 2	153,605 8 1	7	726 1 20	921	91,347 0 34	582	505	96,578 2 18
Land for Settlements—												
Canterbury	..	..	..	163 11 8	1,379 11 10	..	..	..	..	..	1	232 0 0

District.	Forfeitures during the Year.			Surrenders during the Year.			Net Area held, 31st March, 1904.			Selectors in Arrear, 31st March, 1904.		
	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Amount.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Amount.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Amount.
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland	3	440 3 0	15 19 8	4	723 0 0	24 18 8	86	14,852 2 38	362 7 0	2	300 0 0	9 18 0
Hawke's Bay	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	3,111 0 19	101 16 0	..	..	..
Taranaki	..	..	..	..	..	..	72	16,419 3 27	865 11 2	3	595 2 0	20 9 0
Wellington	5	1,218 3 23	63 1 2	5	794 3 37	36 12 2	430	78,158 3 5	4,468 2 11	16	3,137 0 0	213 15 6
Canterbury	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	2,536 2 17	147 11 4	..	..	..
Otago	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	2,765 1 12	121 2 4	..	..	..
Totals	8	1,659 2 23	79 0 10	9	1,517 3 37	61 10 10	646	117,844 1 38	6,066 10 9	21	4,032 2 0	244 2 6
Land for Settlements—												
Canterbury	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	2,114 1 9	162 7 8	..	..	..

Table 15.—Return of Homestead Lands: Transactions during the Year ended 31st March, 1904.

District.	Net Area held on 31st March, 1904.		Made Freehold during the Year.		Made Freehold since Commencement of System to 31st March, 1904.	
	No. of Selectors.	Area.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	No. of Selectors.	Area.
		A. R. P.		A. R. P.		A. R. P.
Auckland	..	..	1	30 0 0	464	76,096 3 10
Westland	..	..	..	..	39	1,480 0 0
Otago	2	158 0 37	..	..	19	2,697 3 18
Totals	2	158 0 37	1	30 0 0	522	80,274 2 28

Table 16.—Return of Small Grazing-runs taken up during the Year ended 31st March, 1904.

District.	Taken up during the Year.				Forfeitures during the Year.			Surrenders during the Year.		
	Number of Holders.	Area.	Average Area.	Annual Rent payable.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.
		A. R. P.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hawke's Bay	11	30,286 1 28	2,753 0 34	439 2 1	..	..	..	4	10,201 0 0	134 17 3
Taranaki ..	..	..	..	..	2	4,163 3 20	52 1 0	3	3,375 3 36	42 4 0
Wellington ..	4	2,810 0 0	702 2 0	115 8 2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson ..	5	7,468 0 0	1,493 2 16	47 7 4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough	3	22,858 0 0	7,619 0 0	185 12 0	..	..	..	1	6,838 0 0	85 9 6
Westland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago ..	15	38,484 1 34	2,565 2 11	791 19 8	1	910 1 15	15 3 4	1	4,519 0 0	131 16 2
Southland ..	1	3,143 0 0	3,143 0 0	19 13 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	39	105,049 3 22	3,046 0 23	1,599 2 3	3	5,074 0 35	67 4 4	9	24,933 3 36	394 6 11
Land for Settlements—										
Hawke's Bay	5	6,382 2 0	1,276 2 0	1,377 0 0	1	1,177 0 0	176 11 0	..	..	..
Marlborough	1	3,385 0 0	3,385 0 0	56 8 4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury ..	12	28,310 0 0	2,359 0 27	3,688 8 4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Southland ..	1	1,658 1 0	1,658 1 0	124 7 4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	19	39,735 3 0	2,169 2 37	5,246 4 0	1	1,177 0 0	176 11 0	..	..	..

District.	Exchanges during the Year.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1904.			Amount received during the Year.		Arrears on 31st March, 1904.		
	No. of Holders.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	On the Year's Transactions.	On Past Transactions.	Number.	Area.	Amount.
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland	..	..	..	9	57,711 2 0	458 3 5	..	416 12 0	4	15,579 0 0	60 15 1
Hawke's Bay ..	..	..	..	78	231,401 3 2	2,473 11 2	219 11 0	2,290 17 9	1	3,155 0 0	19 14 6
Taranaki	..	..	..	18	17,770 0 24	293 19 7	..	268 14 5	4	4,016 0 0	32 13 11
Wellington ..	1	282 3 0	7 1 6	78	71,248 2 4	2,141 3 2	115 8 2	1,951 0 3	6	5,439 0 0	76 15 3
Nelson	..	..	..	6	8,556 0 0	57 7 4	37 2 8	5 0 0	..	..	..
Marlborough	1	417 0 0	5 4 3	112	210,709 0 16	2,648 1 0	126 11 11	2,477 16 9	5	29,080 0 0	199 10 11
Westland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury ..	..	..	..	50	119,585 1 25	5,331 2 0	..	5,286 8 0	..	..	..
Otago	..	..	..	272	557,071 0 26	12,782 2 0	255 12 4	13,126 5 5	16	17,677 3 38	200 2 1
Southland ..	..	..	..	19	64,436 0 13	735 17 10	9 16 6	750 1 4	2	2,685 0 0	47 1 2
Totals ..	2	699 3 0	12 5 9	642	1,338,489 2 30	26,921 7 6	764 2 7	26,572 15 11	38	77,631 3 38	636 12 11
Land for Settlements—											
Hawke's Bay ..	..	..	..	14	16,854 0 0	3,971 10 0	688 10 0	3,541 8 0	1	1,134 0 0	130 15 0
Wellington ..	..	..	..	1	1,030 0 0	171 13 4	..	85 16 8	..	..	..
Marlborough ..	..	..	..	8	23,127 2 0	1,769 1 10	28 4 2	1,734 18 0	..	..	..
Canterbury ..	..	..	..	44	81,161 0 26	10,882 6 6	1,834 4 10	7,237 5 3	1	719 1 35	67 9 0
Otago	..	..	..	3	3,667 1 30	401 18 10	..	439 1 9	1	1,214 2 23	64 10 6
Southland ..	..	..	..	2	2,808 1 0	201 7 4	62 3 8	28 15 0	..	..	..
Totals ..	..	..	..	72	128,648 1 16	17,397 17 10	2,613 2 8	13,067 4 8	3	3,068 0 18	262 14 6
Cheviot Estate: Grazing-farms ..	..	..	..	48	45,977 2 9	6,624 7 2	..	6,292 3 9	5	5,074 2 28	390 10 3

Table 17.—Number and Area of Pastoral Licenses for the Year ended 31st March, 1904.

District.	Taken up during the Year.			Exchanges to other Tenures during the Year.		Forfeitures during the Year.		Expiries during the Year.		Surrenders during the Year.	
	No. of Holders.	Area.	Annual Rental.	No. of Holders.	Area.	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	No. of Holders.	Area.
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.		A. R. P.		A. R. P.		A. R. P.
Auckland	46	126,283 2 0	317 1 8	..	..	2	52,520 0 0	..	..	..	..
Hawke's Bay	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	28,752 0 0
Taranaki	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington	2	68,460 0 0	1,420 10 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson	1	900 0 0	786 1 6	..	..	..	..	8	7,440 0 0	..	..
Marlborough	2	114,424 0 0	110 0 0	8	6,813 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland	43	84,705 2 23	121 10 0	..	..	4	20,240 0 0	6	32,200 0 0	3	11,000 0 0
Canterbury	10	119,295 0 0	1,786 15 6	..	..	..	..	28	450,935 0 0	1	975 0 0
Otago	20	318,188 1 9	2,526 15 10	..	..	4	111,240 0 0	27	340,705 2 16	..	..
Southland	5	124,325 0 0	345 0 0	..	..	1	8,154 0 0	5	94,361 0 0	1	58,950 0 0
Totals	129	956,581 1 32	7,413 14 6	8	6,813 0 0	11	192,154 0 0	74	925,641 2 16	7	99,677 0 0

District.	Net Area held on 31st March, 1904.				Rent paid during the Year.	Holders in Arrear on 31st March, 1904.		
	Number of Holders.	Area, approximately.	Average Holdings.	Annual Rental.		Number.	Area.	Amount.
		A. R. P.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland	70	212,009 2 27	6,222 0 0	317 1 8	425 0 0	5	2,730 0 0	53 2 6
Hawke's Bay	15	106,239 2 0	7,082 2 16	662 6 8	727 14 10	..	..	..
Taranaki	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington	24	95,371 0 0	3,973 3 6	1,614 0 2	892 9 0	..	..	..
Nelson	70	310,520 0 0	4,436 0 0	772 6 6	549 8 10	..	..	..
Marlborough	71	933,096 0 0	13,142 0 0	4,181 14 0	4,097 5 2	1	712 0 0	2 10 0
Westland	156	634,101 0 23	4,064 0 0	757 2 6	708 7 9	9	28,177 0 0	31 10 0
Canterbury	150	3,527,250 3 34	23,515 0 1	33,885 10 10	31,055 3 9	..	..	..
Otago	226	4,385,344 0 9	19,233 3 37	27,876 15 10	28,538 0 7	..	..	..
Southland	90	1,379,392 1 0	15,326 2 12	3,559 13 0	3,394 12 4	..	..	..
Totals	872	11,583,324 2 13	10,777 1 12	73,626 11 2	70,388 2 3	15	31,619 0 0	87 2 6
Cheviot Estate—								
Canterbury	1	1,642 0 0	1,642 0 0	193 3 8	193 3 8	..	..	..
Land for Settlements—								
Otago (Earnscleugh)	2	953 2 38	476 3 19	121 13 0	124 5 2	..	..	..

Table 18.—Return of Miscellaneous Leases and Licenses, not otherwise enumerated, during the Year ended 31st March, 1904.

District.	Objects for which leased.												Total Area leased during the Year.	Total Annual Rental of the Lands leased during the Year.	Total Amount received during the Year.	Total Area in Occupation on 31st March, 1904.			Lessees in Arrear on 31st March, 1904.		
	Coal and Mineral.			Timber-cutting, &c.			Flax-cutting.			Miscellaneous.											
	No.	Area.	Annual Rental.	No.	Area.	Amount received.	No.	Area.	Amount received.	No.	Area.	Annual Rental.				No.	Area.	Annual Rental.	No.	Area.	Amount.
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		Acres.	£ s. d.		Acres.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland ..	..	..	339 3 2*	..	..	7,816 8 14	..	..	197 17 0†	22	1,494 0 18	90 6 0	1,494 0 18	429 9 2	23,833 2 9	206	43,063 3 31	1,193 16 6	23	6,903 3 38	284 10 0
Hawke's Bay ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	152 0 26	25 9 9	152 0 26	25 9 9	1,506 0 0	76	49,174 1 22	928 19 6	2	107 0 0	18 6 2
Taranaki	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	187 0 1	65 11 10	187 0 1	65 11 10	388 5 9	87	1,147 2 16	334 19 2	3	46 1 12	11 2 6
Wellington	..	..	..	1	62	298 10 0	..	..	..	26	6,970 0 18	128 6 4	7,032 2 18	134 18 6	2,705 15 8	221	86,774 1 0	1,486 14 0	7	33,822 2 13	79 19 10
Nelson	..	..	..	150	5,812	359 13 8	7	350	31 6 6	23	3,347 0 0	25 0 0	9,509 0 0	384 13 8	820 0 8	365	26,513 3 12	757 0 8	..	..	..
Marlborough ..	..	..	..	6	2,014	..	..	..	..	11	1,133 1 12	63 16 4	3,147 1 12	63 16 4	150 18 8	105	35,352 3 2	888 10 6	1	15 0 0	10 2 6
Westland	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	46,644	136 16 0	29	5,689 2 24	31 1 0	52,333 2 24	58 1 0	309 7 8	192	69,187 2 28	257 6 2	24	110 0 36	20 6 6
Canterbury ..	3	304 0 0	30 8 0	7	510	65 0 0	..	..	..	83	9,286 3 26	372 0 5	10,100 3 26	467 8 5	4,364 19 7	554	91,335 0 19	3,358 0 5	13	517 1 14	26 12 8
Otago	..	..	..	17	85	26 1 6	6	4,763	48 0 0	102	19,589 0 14	159 13 1	24,437 2 32	176 6 5	1,707 13 8	621	104,715 0 1	1,218 16 3	..	..	..
Southland ..	1	29 3 38	1 10 0	..	..	..	11	803	77 0 0	37	2,395 1 8	93 3 0	3,228 1 11	171 13 0	1,037 13 10	338	44,761 1 33	929 18 7	..	..	..
Totals ..	4	333 3 38	371 1 2	181	8,483	8,565 13 3	51	52,560	490 19 6	357	50,244 2 27	1,054 7 9	111,622 3 8	1,977 8 1	36,823 18 3	2,765	552,026 0 4	11,354 1 9	73	41,522 1 33	451 0 2
Land for Settlements—																					
Auckland ..	..	..	..	..	..	162 8 9§	..	..	..	1	6 0 0	1 0 0	6 0 0	1 0 0	908 17 1	16	628 1 18	124 0 6	3	27 3 16	9 0 0
Hawke's Bay ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4 0 0	6 7 8	4 0 0	6 7 8	185 10 0	7	362 2 27	112 6 0	..	..	..
Taranaki ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	19 2 35	2 15 4	19 2 35	2 15 4	5 8 2	3	22 1 27	6 2 10	..	..	..
Wellington ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1,393 2 3	211 7 10	1,393 2 3	204 15 8	20 14 2	8	1,418 2 3	217 1 10	..	..	..
Marlborough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	1 2 9	3 10 0	1 2 9	9 6 0	280 10 2	18	3,042 3 9	104 12 4	1	100 0 0	7 10 0
Canterbury ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	19,158 0 0	2,644 3 1	19,158 0 0	2,644 3 1	827 10 5	31	956 2 15	210 14 8	3	13 1 4	4 17 6
Otago	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	313 3 37	163 13 6	313 3 37	163 13 6	246 18 11	50	802 3 24	219 15 10	..	..	..
Southland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	1,148 2 24	34 7 2	1,148 2 24	34 7 2	393 2 1	12	3,651 1 1	138 11 3	..	..	..
Totals ..	..	..	..	..	..	162 8 9	..	..	..	34	22,045 1 28	3,067 4 7	22,045 1 28	3,066 8 5	2,868 11 0	145	10,885 2 4	1,133 5 3	7	141 0 20	21 7 6
Cheviot Estate ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	6 1 0	1 0 0	6 1 0	1 0 0	311 16 0	73	1,450 2 11	289 15 7	6	74 2 17	13 13 6

* Royalty on 15,850 tons. † Royalty on 22,175,080 ft. of timber and 11,232 posts and stakes. ‡ Royalty on 1,303 tons. § Royalty on 216,583 ft. of timber on Bickerstaffe Settlement.

Table 19.—Return of Gross Revenue received during the Year ended 31st March, 1904.

System.	Auckland.	Hawke's Bay	Taranaki.	Wellington.	Nelson.	Marlborough.	Westland.	Canterbury.	Otago.	Southland.	Totals.
Ordinary Crown Lands.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cash lands	7,624 8 6	3,220 19 2	1,073 2 3	5,920 3 1	2,134 16 9	56 19 1	7 10 0	3,470 7 3	1,665 18 0	623 11 3	25,797 15 4
Perpetual lease made freehold	6,210 4 4	2,039 13 1	1,309 8 0	5,340 9 5	581 5 0	101 5 0	..	148 0 0	825 2 6	524 0 9	17,129 8 1
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	4,713 14 9	2,423 12 8	310 0 0	6,325 13 0	..	25 0 0	..	..	33 0 0	736 7 3	14,567 7 8
Village-settlement perpetual lease made freehold	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25 0 0	..	268 8 6	293 8 6
Deferred payment, rural	597 7 6	17 15 6	556 5 8	386 13 0	1,605 18 0	26 9 1	97 15 7	89 6 3	756 3 1	254 8 2	4,388 1 10
Deferred payment, pastoral	..	42 10 0	..	..	..	..	..	741 0 0	76 7 8	133 4 8	993 2 4
Perpetual lease and small areas	1,359 9 8	397 19 4	319 10 2	609 3 7	63 15 8	43 17 1	26 1 4	234 5 0	1,695 4 3	532 3 2	5,281 9
Occupation with right of purchase	11,748 6 8	4,679 18 1	6,003 18 2	10,395 1 11	621 9 10	481 7 1	620 8 1	249 15 4	1,033 2 5	1,302 0 5	37,135 8 0
Lease in perpetuity	6,863 4 8	3,489 17 11	5,052 1 7	6,100 18 8	701 7 0	2,387 17 7	408 5 11	3,811 13 6	4,577 12 7	1,903 6 6	35,296 5 11
Agricultural lease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	88 9 1	..	88 9 1
Occupation lease under "The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894"	371 12 4	..	..	..	39 16 1	27 7 1	0 12 6	..	262 4 5	242 18 1	944 10 6
Village settlement, cash	..	..	..	387 4 0	..	..	66 10 0	..	..	..	453 14 0
Village settlement, deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	2 11 6	..	102 7 6	7 16 11	22 4 6	135 0 5
Village settlement, perpetual lease	..	..	..	5 9 8	..	0 11 3	..	147 0 0	33 8 6	188 16 6	375 5 11
Village settlement, occupation with right of purchase	..	1 5 0	3 17 0	..	..	..	..	2 14 8	1 1 0	2 13 6	11 11 2
Village settlement, lease in perpetuity	..	52 16 9	9 4 8	..	..	19 16 2	3 18 6	8 4 2	157 18 6	355 18 10	607 17 7
Village-homestead special settlement	199 5 6	67 19 8	..	1,895 5 11	..	21 3 0	..	803 15 1	173 14 11	146 4 0	3,307 8 1
Special-settlement association, deferred payment	..	..	..	161 4 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	161 4 5
Special-settlement association, perpetual lease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	116 4 7	..	..	116 4 7
Special-settlement association, lease in perpetuity	255 6 4	37 14 0	953 4 4	4,605 10 7	..	..	..	39 8 11	117 6 0	..	6,008 10 2
Improved-farm special settlement	482 9 9	249 7 4	976 2 3	2,299 7 10	..	..	..	..	..	394 12 6	4,401 19 8
Small grazing-runs	416 12 0	2,510 8 9	268 14 5	2,066 8 5	42 2 8	2,604 8 8	..	5,286 8 0	13,381 17 9	759 17 10	27,336 18 6
Pastoral runs	425 0 0	727 14 10	..	892 9 0	549 8 10	4,097 5 2	708 7 9	31,055 3 9	28,538 0 7	3,394 12 4	70,388 2 3
Coal and mineral leases	339 3 2	..	..	..	15 6 0	..	..	84 15 10	378 19 5	49 7 10	867 12 3
Prospectors' mining leases	..	11 0 0	..	..	35 0 0	..	..	5 6 0	..	..	51 6 0
Timber licenses and other leases, and sale of timber	7,131 17 8	236 9 10	1 6 6	1,104 13 10	341 12 2	371 1 8	3,579 6 0	546 11 3	166 3 5	260 0 7	13,739 2 11
Flax-cutting	197 17 0	..	..	1 17 6	31 6 6	5 13 2	136 16 0	..	88 4 0	107 19 6	569 13 8
Miscellaneous leases	988 16 1	1,506 0 0	139 11 5	402 17 1	182 19 0	150 18 8	172 11 8	..	818 14 11	..	4,362 8 10
Transfer, lease, and license fees, &c.	812 1 0	213 13 0	179 16 0	362 15 0	219 16 0	95 4 0	238 16 0	416 1 0	352 15 6	173 5 0	3,064 2 6
Rents of reserves	73 19 0	10 10 0	248 14 4	711 7 3	213 17 0	730 14 10	30 6 6	2,885 11 11	77 17 1	880 6 6	5,863 4 5
Miscellaneous	699 10 3	332 15 2	79 16 9	39 14 9	292 4 0	177 6 2	304 10 1	999 13 9	2,366 6 2	402 7 7	5,694 4 8
Crown-grant fees	298 16 4	30 5 7	34 17 1	120 17 7	116 3 4	15 1 1	12 0 10	56 3 1	105 17 5	40 17 2	830 19 6
State forests	13,507 4 7	..	..	485 0 0	..	821 14 2	..	842 14 7	177 14 10	1,374 6 9	17,208 14 11
Survey liens on Native lands	..	238 4 10	1 0 0	328 19 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	568 4 0
Survey fees which do not form part payment of land	..	1,047 18 4	48 1 5	42 13 4	5 12 0	..	..	101 7 7	33 0 3	11 16 8	1,290 9 7
Survey fees which do form part payment of land	2 4 0	212 10 4	..	..	..	..	..	..	54 5 1	..	268 19 5
Carried forward	65,318 11 1	23,848 19 2	17,568 12 0	50,991 18 0	7,793 15 10	12,263 11 6	6,413 16 9	52,268 19 0	58,044 6 3	15,085 16 4	309,598 5 11

Table 19.—Return of Gross Revenue received during the Year ended 31st March, 1904—*continued.*

System.	Auckland.	Hawke's Bay.	Taranaki.	Wellington.	Nelson.	Marlborough.	Westland.	Canterbury.	Otago.	Southland.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward	65,318 11 1	23,848 19 2	17,568 12 0	50,991 18 0	7,793 15 10	12,263 11 6	6,413 16 9	52,268 19 0	58,044 6 3	15,085 16 4	309,598 5 11
LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS.											
Cash lands	..	13 15 0	..	50 0 0	..	..	..	8 8 3	11 10 0	..	83 13 3
Lease in perpetuity	5,824 13 0	27,923 1 4	2,005 8 1	9,046 16 11	..	10,491 8 11	510 0 1	45,557 13 10	23,328 0 0	3,429 7 1	128,116 9 3
Lease in perpetuity, village	..	38 0 11	..	..	..	..	..	..	343 5 1	..	381 6 0
Special-settlement associations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	163 11 8	..	..	163 11 8
Small grazing-runs	..	4,229 18 0	..	85 16 8	..	1,763 2 2	..	9,071 10 1	439 1 9	90 18 8	15,680 7 4
Pastoral runs..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	124 5 2	..	124 5 2
Miscellaneous	908 17 1	1,109 16 11	177 10 2	30 6 8	..	280 10 2	..	934 17 5	246 18 11	525 4 7	4,214 1 11
Total	6,733 10 1	33,314 12 2	2,182 18 3	9,213 0 3	..	12,535 1 3	510 0 1	55,736 1 3	24,493 0 11	4,045 10 4	148,763 14 7
CHEVIOT ESTATE.											
Lease in perpetuity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,205 3 1	..	..	6,205 3 1
Village homesteads	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	773 11 1	..	..	773 11 1
Grazing-farms	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,292 3 9	..	..	6,292 3 9
Pastoral runs..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	193 3 8	..	..	193 3 8
Miscellaneous leases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	311 16 0	..	..	311 16 0
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 7 6	..	..	1 7 6
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13,777 5 1	..	..	13,777 5 1
Endowment lands	976 16 1	418 17 3	588 14 10	66 8 0	15,573 3 4	..	5 0 0	1,635 3 1	1,232 12 7	1,844 12 2	22,341 7 4
Thermal-springs Districts Act: Rents	24 2 9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24 2 9
"Native Townships Act, 1895"	112 4 6	316 3 0	..	505 6 9	..	..	..	..	..	..	933 14 3
Rotorua Town Councils Act	1,772 14 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,772 14 0
Grand total	74,937 18 6	57,898 11 7	20,340 5 1	60,776 13 0	23,366 19 2	24,798 12 9	6,928 16 10	123,417 8 5	83,769 19 9	20,975 18 10	497,211 3 11

Table 20.—Return of Lands reserved and alienated under Acts, or for Scrip.

District.	During the Year ended 31st March, 1904.				Total Area reserved, granted under Acts, &c., from the Foundation of the Colony to the 31st March, 1904.
	Area reserved for various Purposes.	Area granted under Acts.	Area granted in Satisfaction of Scrip.	Total Area alienated during the Year.	
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Auckland	8,438 0 23	..	214 0 0	8,652 0 23	3,428,129 2 3
Hawke's Bay ..	99 1 8	..	..	99 1 8	377,085 1 21
Taranaki	12,146 2 8	40 3 22	..	12,187 1 30	676,777 3 22
Wellington	9,075 1 8	1 2 8	..	9,076 3 16	1,308,533 3 9
Nelson	10,177 0 7	..	..	10,177 0 7	845,389 1 38
Marlborough ..	213 0 0	..	..	213 0 0	214,483 2 17
Westland	..	..	..	..	131,493 0 3
Canterbury	62 3 16	..	..	62 3 16	1,542,796 2 37
Otago	38 1 29	..	..	38 1 29	697,623 0 39
Southland	2,883 3 28	..	..	2,883 3 28	594,369 0 38
Totals	43,134 2 7	42 1 30	214 0 0	43,390 3 37	9,816,681 3 27

Table 21.—Forfeitures and Surrenders during the Year ending 31st March, 1904, showing under each Tenure the Number of Selectors who have forfeited and surrendered their Holdings, and the Area and Rental of such Holdings.

Tenure.	Forfeitures.			Surrenders.		
	No.	Area.	Annual Rental.	No.	Area.	Annual Rental.
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Ordinary Crown Lands.						
Perpetual lease	5	1,437 1 35	44 7 6	2	219 2 32	7 19 2
Occupation with right of purchase	94	30,794 0 34	1,009 6 8	17	6,778 3 23	217 7 2
Lease in perpetuity	64	15,892 1 9	399 12 6	21	8,252 0 36	254 7 10
Mining Districts Occupation Act ..	3	162 2 0	6 2 6	6	302 0 13	10 18 10
Village Settlement,—						
Perpetual lease	5	189 2 0	15 12 0	..	..	..
Occupation with right of purchase	1	1 0 0	1 0 0	..	..	..
Lease in perpetuity	26	346 2 32	26 14 4	..	..	..
Homestead special settlement ..	9	113 0 28	28 19 2	..	..	..
Special-settlement associations ..	8	1,659 2 23	79 0 10	9	1,517 3 37	61 10 10
Improved-farm special settlements	19	1,878 2 8	127 10 10	1	99 2 0	10 6 4
Small grazing-runs	3	5,074 0 35	67 4 4	9	24,943 3 36	394 6 11
Pastoral runs	11	192,154 0 0	429 15 0	7	99,677 0 0	178 17 4
Miscellaneous	61	15,195 2 26	155 11 5	26	2,661 2 28	72 15 0
Totals	309	264,898 3 30	2,390 17 1	98	144,443 0 5	1,208 9 5
Cheviot Estate.						
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	1	6 0 0	0 6 8
Land for Settlements.						
Lease in perpetuity	40	4,389 2 33	1,150 5 7	10	404 0 13	179 19 10
Village lease in perpetuity ..	1	0 2 16	0 10 0	..	..	..
Small grazing-runs	1	1,177 0 0	176 11 0	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	2	54 0 0	13 6 0	..	..	..
Totals	44	5,621 1 9	1,340 12 7	11	410 0 13	180 6 6
Thermal springs	4	328 2 0	18 16 0	..	..	..
Grand Totals	357	270,848 2 39	3,750 5 8	109	144,853 0 18	1,388 15 11
Native townships	9	21 2 30	24 15 0	..	..	..
Endowments	..	..	..	1	62 0 30	7 9 2

Table 22.—Return of Land taken up during the Year ended 31st March, 1904, within the Thermal-springs District of Auckland.

Locality.	Taken up during the Year.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1904.			Amount received during the Year.	Selectors in Arrear on 31st March, 1904.		
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Yearly Rent payable.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Yearly Rent payable.		Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount.
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Rotorua	2	11 1 36	40 10 0	284	6,071 1 24	1,979 16 4	1,796 16 9*	8	658 2 24	33 9 1

* Inclusive of £1,772 14s. received on account of Rotorua Town Council.

Table 23.—Return of Lands disposed of under "The Native Townships Act, 1895," and its amendments, for the Year ended 31st March, 1904.

Land District.	Name of Township.	Date of Proclamation.	Area of Township.		Date when opened for Sale.	Taken up during the Year.		
			Proclaimed.	Offered.		No.	Area.	Rent payable.
			A. R. P.	A. R. P.			A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland ..	Kaimakau	14 July, 1897	190 0 0	17 0 9	14 Oct., 1898	..	..	..
" ..	Rotoiti ..	8 June, 1900	78 3 0	14 3 0	16 May, 1902	..	..	..
" ..	Parawai ..	29 June, 1900	485 0 0	45 0 0	18 Dec., 1903	11	6 2 4	48 12 6
" ..	Te Puru ..	26 Sept., 1901	23 3 37	12 0 25	13 Aug., 1903	30	10 0 8	107 12 6
" ..	Karewa ..	16 Oct., 1902	55 0 19	27 2 15	18 Dec., 1903	8	2 0 33	34 12 6
Hawke's Bay ..	Te Puia ..	13 July, 1898	497 0 0	166 1 32	15 Feb., 1900	..	..	..
" ..	Te Araroa	4 Oct., 1899	383 0 0	206 0 1	14 Dec., 1900	3	1 3 5	7 10 0
" ..	Tuatini ..	14 Sept., 1899	90 0 0	39 0 29	16 Jan., 1901	1	1 0 7	2 5 0
" ..	Waipiro ..	25 Oct., 1900	497 1 0	338 1 27	10 Feb., 1904	27	303 0 2	182 11 0
Wellington ..	Pipiriki ..	5 Aug., 1896	366 0 0	254 3 30	27 July, 1897	2	79 2 0	18 13 8
" ..	Tokaanu ..	11 Mar., 1897	490 0 0	198 0 0	17 June, 1898	4	6 3 28	8 10 0
" ..	Potaka ..	26 July, 1899	138 0 0	80 2 6	9 May, 1900	4	8 1 21	18 2 6
" ..	Parata	14 Aug., 1899 / 29 Aug., 1899	49 0 18	33 0 4	11 Sept., 1900	2	2 2 11	6 16 0
" ..	Hokio ..	1 Aug., 1902	39 3 30	19 2 25	11 Mar., 1903	9	4 0 3	5 0 0
Totals ..	..	..	..	..	..	101	426 0 2	439 15 8

Land District.	Name of Township.	Net Area held on 31st March, 1904.			Forfeitures during the Year.			Rent paid during Year.
		No.	Area.	Rent payable.	No.	Area.	Annual Rent.	
			A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland ..	Kaimakau	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" ..	Rotoiti ..	18	5 2 0	50 5 0	..	..	..	16 15 9
" ..	Parawai ..	11	6 2 4	48 12 6	..	..	..	24 6 3
" ..	Te Puru ..	28	9 2 8	101 12 6	2	0 2 0	6 0 0	53 16 3
" ..	Karewa ..	8	2 0 33	34 12 6	..	..	..	17 6 3
Hawke's Bay ..	Te Puia ..	14	88 3 29	46 15 0	..	..	..	34 7 6
" ..	Te Araroa	27	108 1 24	77 5 6	..	..	..	85 17 6
" ..	Tuatini ..	13	26 2 29	81 12 6	..	..	..	104 12 6
" ..	Waipiro ..	27	303 0 2	180 3 6	..	..	..	91 5 6
Wellington ..	Pipiriki ..	45	231 2 25	169 14 10	2	11 0 11	5 5 0	174 19 4
" ..	Tokaanu ..	29	106 1 21	214 8 8	3	9 1 7	10 10 0	172 9 9
" ..	Potaka ..	28	63 0 39	99 3 0	1	0 1 0	1 5 0	88 19 6
" ..	Parata ..	17	29 0 12	86 5 0	1	0 2 12	1 15 0	64 1 8
" ..	Hokio ..	16	6 3 33	8 16 0	..	..	..	4 16 6
Totals ..	..	281	988 0 19	1,199 6 6	9	21 2 30	24 15 0	933 14 3

Table 24.—Return showing the Area of Bush felled on Lands sold or leased by the Crown from 1st April, 1895, to 31st March, 1904.

District.	Felled during the Year on Lands taken up during the Year 1902–1903.	Felled during the Year on Lands taken up in Previous Years.	Total felled at 31st March, 1903.	Total felled at 31st March, 1904.
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Auckland	1,860 0 0	4,560 0 0	74,860 0 0	81,280 0 0
Hawke's Bay	1,555 0 0	1,200 0 0	97,148 0 0	99,903 0 0
Taranaki	2,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	27,975 0 0	31,375 0 0
Wellington	2,122 0 0	13,050 0 0	613,224 0 0	628,396 0 0
Marlborough	120 0 0	2,595 0 0	81,867 0 0	84,582 0 0
Westland	700 0 0	1,200 0 0	47,520 0 0	49,420 0 0
Otago	69 0 0	209 0 0	22,518 0 0	22,796 0 0
Southland	823 0 0	467 0 0	5,793 0 0	7,083 0 0
Totals	9,249 0 0	24,281 0 0	970,905 0 0	1,004,835 0 0

Table 25.—Statement of the Number of Selectors on the Books of the Lands and Survey Department on 31st March, 1904.

District.	Deferred Payment.		Perpetual Lease.		Occupation with Right of Purchase.		Lease in Perpetuity.				Agricultural Lease.	Occupation Lease under "The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894."		Village Settlement, Deferred Payment.	Village Settlement, Perpetual Lease.	Village Settlement, Occupation with Right of Purchase.	Village Settlement, Lease in Perpetuity.		
	Crown Lands.	Endowment Lands.	Crown Lands.	Endowment Lands.	Crown Lands.	Endowment Lands.	Crown Lands.	Cheviot Estate.	Land for Settlements Acts.	Endowment Lands.		Crown Lands.	Endowment Lands.				Crown Lands.	Land for Settlements Acts.	Endowment Lands.
Auckland ..	54	..	260	1	1,977	5	1,174	..	212	23	1	183	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hawke's Bay ..	3	..	10	20	225	..	186	..	328	1	..	..	..	..	..	8	41	15	..
Taranaki ..	7	..	21	..	334	..	377	..	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	12	..	..
Wellington ..	2	..	34	..	614	..	459	..	216	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Nelson ..	223	2	17	..	198	..	200	..	..	..	..	15	61	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough ..	3	..	8	..	38	..	220	..	164	..	..	19	..	2	1	..	8	..	..
Westland ..	..	..	7	..	103	..	221	..	26	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	4	..	..
Canterbury ..	12	..	37	..	29	..	235	119	1021	68	..	..	..	7	30	6	16	..	..
Otago ..	39	1	232	16	223	..	681	..	384	9	17	205	..	2	16	5	114	31	4
Southland ..	57	5	78	28	248	1	251	..	84	28	..	47	..	9	94	3	263	..	..
Totals ..	400	8	704	65	3,989	6	4,004	119	2,465	129	18	471	61	20	142	38	458	46	4

District.	Village-homestead Special Settlement.			Special-settlement Associations.		Improved-farm Special Settlements.		Small Grazing-runs.			Grazing-farms: Cheviot Estate.	Pastoral.					Miscellaneous.						Total.
	Crown Lands.	Cheviot Estate.	Endowment Lands.	Crown Lands.	Land for Settlements Acts.	Complete.	Not registered.	Crown Lands.	Land for Settlements Acts	Endowment Lands.		Crown Lands.	Cheviot Estate.	Land for Settlements Acts.	Endowment Lands.	Homestead.	Crown Lands.	Cheviot Estate.	Land for Settlements Acts.	Endowment Lands.	Thermal Springs, Rotorua.	Native Towns.	
Auckland ..	44	..	..	86	..	37	..	9	..	12	..	70	..	..	..	..	206	..	16	4	284	65	4,723
Hawke's Bay	29	..	..	14	..	15	2	78	14	3	..	15	..	..	..	..	76	..	7	2	..	81	1,173
Taranaki ..	..	..	..	72	..	124	122	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	87	..	3	15	..	..	1,238
Wellington	584	..	..	430	..	167	48	78	1	1	..	24	..	..	..	..	221	..	8	7	..	135	3,030
Nelson ..	..	..	20	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	70	..	..	..	..	365	..	..	294	..	..	1,471
Marlborough	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	112	8	..	..	71	..	..	..	..	105	..	18	..	..	..	790
Westland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	156	..	..	..	..	192	..	..	3	..	..	714
Canterbury	229	70	45	30	11	..	..	50	44	..	48	150	1	..	..	..	554	73	31	26	..	..	2,942
Otago ..	76	..	..	14	..	..	..	272	3	11	..	226	..	2	2	2	621	..	50	2	..	..	3,260
Southland	51	..	..	..	..	43	..	19	2	3	..	90	..	..	5	..	338	..	12	1	..	..	1,760
Totals ..	1026	70	65	646	11	386	172	642	72	30	48	872	1	2	7	2	2,765	73	145	354	284	281	21,101

Table 26.—Statement showing the Total Number of Crown Tenants, with Area selected or held, the Yearly Rent payable and Rent in Arrear on 31st March, 1904.

Tenure.	Total Number of Tenants.	Total Area held by such Tenants.	Total Yearly Rental or Instalment payable.	Total Amount of such Rents or Payments in Arrear.
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ordinary Crown Lands.				
Deferred payment	400	70,667 3 39	3,341 0 2	49 10 9
Perpetual lease	704	130,028 2 33	5,120 18 2	73 2 0
Occupation with right of purchase	3,989	1,107,128 1 2	39,510 8 1	1,054 11 8
Lease in perpetuity	4,004	1,038,867 2 16	36,972 4 4	660 16 9
Agricultural lease	18	562 2 37	31 3 3	..
Homestead	2	158 0 37	..	..
Mining Districts Land Occupation Act	471	20,313 0 12	1,181 0 6	31 8 3
Village settlements—				
Deferred payment	20	378 3 28	32 0 8	..
Perpetual lease	142	2,178 3 27	320 19 2	14 10 1
Occupation with right of purchase	38	29 2 4	12 9 2	0 10 6
Lease in perpetuity	458	6,718 3 25	623 12 4	4 6 6
Village-homestead special settlements—				
Perpetual lease	356	6,497 3 25	870 2 9	120 1 0
Lease in perpetuity	670	16,453 2 10	2,426 2 4	75 11 6
Special-settlement associations—				
Deferred payment	..	..	..	..
Perpetual lease	15	964 2 11	69 16 8	..
Lease in perpetuity	631	116,879 3 27	5,996 14 1	244 2 6
Improved-farm special settlements	558	69,328 3 16	3,101 7 4	524 12 2
Small grazing-runs	642	1,338,489 2 30	26,921 7 6	636 12 11
Pastoral runs	872	11,583,324 2 13	73,937 5 0	87 2 6
Miscellaneous leases	2,765	552,026 0 4	11,354 1 9	451 0 2
Totals	16,755	16,060,997 3 36	211,822 13 3	4,027 19 3
Cheviot Estate.				
Lease in perpetuity	119	24,403 1 9	6,501 5 0	36 13 6
Village-homestead special settlement	70	2,480 1 0	870 0 4	12 15 1
Grazing-farms	48	45,977 2 9	6,624 7 2	390 10 3
Pastoral runs	1	1,642 0 0	193 3 8	..
Miscellaneous	73	1,450 2 11	289 15 7	13 13 6
Totals	311	75,953 2 29	14,478 11 9	453 12 4
Land for Settlements Acts.				
Lease in perpetuity	2,465	433,624 0 17	132,302 10 9	3,805 13 9
Lease in perpetuity, village	46	447 3 20	340 11 10	6 14 2
Special-settlement associations	11	2,114 1 9	162 7 8	..
Small grazing-runs	72	128,648 1 16	17,397 17 10	262 14 6
Pastoral runs	2	953 2 38	121 13 0	..
Miscellaneous	145	10,885 2 4	1,133 5 3	21 7 6
Totals	2,741	576,673 3 24	151,458 6 4	4,096 9 11
Thermal Springs (Rotorua)	284	6,071 1 24	1,979 16 4	33 9 1
Grand totals	20,091	16,719,696 3 33	379,739 7 8	8,611 10 7
Endowments	729	165,182 3 5	8,389 19 0	150 7 1
Native townships	281	988 0 19	1,199 6 6	106 13 9

Table 27.—Endowments: Lands taken up during the Year ended 31st March, 1904.

District.	Nature of Endowments.	Cash Lands.			Lease in Perpetuity.			Small Grazing-runs.			Occupation Leases under Mining Districts Land Occupation Act.			Miscellaneous Leases.		
		Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Amount realised.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.
			A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland	Museum	6	4 2 0	72 15 9	1	249 1 0	4 19 8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Taranaki	University*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington ..	Wanganui Harbour Board ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1,073 3 32	212 4 4
Nelson	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2 1 38	5 7 6
Canterbury ..	Ellesmere	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	91 3 33	8 3 6	84	22 3 38	112 2 0
Otago	Clutha Trust	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	644 2 7	13 8 10	..	..	..	2	57 0 0	3 10 0
Southland ..	Educational†	..	..	..	2	554 0 8	29 14 8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	..	6	4 2 0	72 15 9	3	803 1 8	34 14 4	1	644 2 7	13 8 10	7	91 3 33	8 3 6	91	1,156 1 28	333 3 10

* Expired leases relet. † Exchanged from perpetual lease.

Table 28.—Endowments: Return of Revenue received during the Year ended 31st March, 1904.

Tenure.	Auckland.	Hawke's Bay.	Taranaki.	Wellington.	Nelson.	Marlborough.	Westland.	Canterbury.	Otago.	Southland.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cash lands	72 15 9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	72 15 9
Perpetual lease made freehold ..	171 12 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	171 12 0
Deferred payments	..	..	..	16 1 0	14 14 0	..	..	..	8 3 8	495 7 10	534 6 6
Perpetual lease and small areas ..	13 19 6	233 11 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	252 16 2	566 1 0	1,066 8 1
Occupation with right of purchase ..	10 18 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12 0 0	22 18 2
Lease in perpetuity	48 9 7	28 7 8	..	..	15 11 6	..	..	1,265 16 0	81 9 4	285 2 6	1,709 5 1
Village-homestead special settlement	..	..	..	..	68 3 3	..	..	257 10 9	..	..	273 2 3
Mining Districts Land Occupation Act	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	16 17 6	..	16 17 6
Village lease in perpetuity	..	..	..	34 15 3	..	..	..	..	393 18 5	177 14 6	919 17 8
Small grazing-runs	185 1 4	128 8 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	460 10 0	301 11 4	762 1 4
Pastoral runs	..	..	..	..	14,129 17 0	..	..	..	..	..	14,129 17 0
Coal and mineral leases	..	..	..	..	390 6 8	..	..	..	..	..	838 6 5
Timber licenses and royalties ..	447 19 9	..	..	..	2 0 0	..	..	111 16 4	18 17 6	6 15 0	798 5 5
Miscellaneous leases	26 0 0	28 10 0	588 14 10	15 11 9	952 10 11	..	5 0 0	..	..	..	957 10 11
Rents of reserves	..	..	..	..							
Totals	976 16 1	418 17 3	588 14 10	66 8 0	15,573 3 4	..	5 0 0	1,635 3 1	1,232 12 7	1,844 12 2	22,341 7 4

Table 29.—Summary of Cheviot Estate Receipts for the Financial Year ending 31st March, 1904.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Rents, lease in perpetuity	6,115 3 1	
" " V.H.S.S.	773 11 1	
" grazing-farms	6,292 3 9	
" miscellaneous and pastoral leases	504 11 8	
		13,685 9 7
Timber-cutting royalties	..	1 7 6
Interest on advance to Cheviot Dairy Factory Company ..	..	90 0 0
Sale of firebricks	..	..
Law costs repaid	..	2 15 0
		£13,779 12 1

Table 30.—Cheviot Estate: Return of Outlay and Income at 31st March, 1904.

Dr. Outlay.	£ s. d.
Purchase-money	260,220 0 0
Roads-construction	45,158 10 0
Surveys	6,411 9 11
Landing-service, administration, and contingencies to 31st March, 1903 ..	12,218 19 8
" administration, and contingencies 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904	..
Interest to 31st March, 1903	87,258 4 5
Interest, 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904	8,866 2 6
Cheese-factory	900 0 0
Total	£421,033 6 6

Cr. Income.	£ s. d.
Cash—	
Freehold disposed of	38,755 6 4
Rents and royalties to 31st March, 1903	133,339 12 7
" 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904	13,689 12 1
Interest to 31st March, 1903	1,466 10 11
Interest, 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904	90 0 0
Shipping and port charges	3,828 3 11
Rents and interest unpaid at 31st March, 1904	3,378 17 3
Balance	226,485 3 5
Total	£421,033 6 6

Table 31.—Summary of Arrears due to the Crown on 31st March, 1904.

Tenure.	Number of Selectors.	Exclusive of current Half-year's Rent. Area.	Exclusive of current Half-year's Rent. Amount in Arrear.	Number of Selectors.	Inclusive of current Half-year's Rent. Area.	Inclusive of current Half-year's Rent. Amount in Arrear.
Ordinary Crown Lands.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Deferred payment ..	11	1,786 3 10	49 10 9	135	24,416 1 0	739 7 8
Perpetual lease	23	3,832 1 6	73 2 0	106	17,840 2 34	368 7 10
Occupation with right of purchase	166	42,490 0 31	1,054 11 8	663	144,745 2 5	3,504 18 11
Lease in perpetuity ..	122	28,000 0 12	660 16 9	600	127,380 2 18	2,756 7 7
Agricultural lease ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mining Districts Land Occupation Act	8	302 3 16	31 8 3	64	2,183 1 31	90 7 5
Village settlements on deferred payment	..	..	..	2	9 2 10	0 5 4
Village settlements on perpetual lease	2	25 1 28	14 10 1	23	324 0 35	55 18 7
Village settlements on occupation with right of purchase	3	2 3 0	0 10 6	8	5 0 0	2 6 9
Village settlements on lease in perpetuity	6	86 3 29	4 6 6	57	901 0 9	41 17 2
Village-homestead special settlements	51	1,047 3 23	195 12 6	186	3,641 0 17	458 4 1
Special-settlement associations	21	4,032 2 0	244 2 6	100	18,207 3 13	685 10 10
Improved farms	55	6,869 0 8	524 12 2	133	14,652 1 8	1,141 12 6
Small grazing-runs ..	38	77,631 3 38	636 12 11	305	616,603 3 23	6,830 19 8
Pastoral runs	15	31,619 0 0	87 2 6	76	212,143 2 0	484 19 8
Miscellaneous (not otherwise specified)	73	41,522 1 33	451 0 2	377	50,213 1 14	1,195 4 6
Total	594	239,250 0 34	4,027 19 3	2,835	1,233,268 1 17	18,356 8 6

Tenure.	Number of Selectors.	Exclusive of current Half-year's Rent. Area.	Exclusive of current Half-year's Rent. Amount in arrear.	Number of Selectors.	Inclusive of current Half year's Rent. Area.	Inclusive of current Half year's Rent. Amount in Arrear.
Cheviot Estate.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Lease in perpetuity ..	3	246 0 27	36 13 6	9	1,440 3 13	258 16 11
Village - settlement special homestead	3	95 0 5	12 15 1	16	589 2 32	89 18 5
Grazing-farms ..	5	5,074 2 28	390 10 3	37	36,135 3 18	2,987 7 6
Miscellaneous ..	6	74 2 17	13 13 6	19	277 1 30	55 3 1
Total	17	5,490 1 37	453 12 4	81	38,443 3 13	3,391 5 11
Land for Settlements.						
Lease in perpetuity ..	135	25,600 2 0	3,805 13 9	447	71,754 2 13	14,579 11 2
Village lease in perpetuity	2	15 0 2	6 14 2	12	132 2 9	71 5 6
Small grazing-runs ..	3	3,068 0 18	262 14 6	11	15,971 0 8	1,205 14 6
Special-settlement associations	..	..	..	1	215 0 0	9 8 2
Miscellaneous ..	7	141 0 20	21 7 6	18	716 0 21	136 9 3
Total	147	28,824 3 0	4,096 9 11	489	88,789 1 11	16,002 8 7
Thermal Springs, Rotorua	8	658 2 24	33 9 1	58	1,434 0 24	205 11 4
Grand total ..	766	274,224 0 15	8,611 10 7	3,463	1,361,935 2 25	37,955 14 4
Native Townships ..	21	119 0 28	106 13 9	46	170 3 36	162 11 7

IMPROVED-FARM SETTLEMENTS.

Table 32.—Return showing Position and Transactions in Improved-farm Settlements from their Commencement to 31st March, 1904.

Name of Settlement.	Areas.	Dates of *Gazette* Proclamation.	Number of Sections in each Settlement.	Number of Settlers remaining in Occupation on 31 Mar., '04.	Number of Persons resident.	Area occupied.	Area felled.	Area grassed.	Number of Cattle or other Stock on Allotments.	Roads felled and formed or partially formed during the Year.	Amount paid to Selectors for Improvements: Past and Present Transactions.			Rent and Interest paid by Selectors.		Value of Improvements now on the Land, including that paid for by Government.
											For Houses.	For Bush-felling and other Works.	Total Payments.	During the Year ending 31 Mar., '04.	From Commencement of System.	
Auckland—	Acres.					A. R. P.	Acres.	Acres.		Mls. ch.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Rau-a-moa	1,410	1896, p. 655	10	10	36	1,424 2 32	881	871	271	..	237 16 2	1,737 16 1	1,975 12 3	172 18 10	574 12 9	4,945 15 0
Paemako	1,412	1897, p. 5	13	11	44	1,343 2 38	68	525	226	..	337 8 0	372 6 8	709 14 8	181 2 5	432 4 0	1,751 3 0
Mangatu	1,100	1895, p. 863	10	3	26	298 0 0	705	534	55	..	184 8 3	1,466 17 8	1,651 5 11	19 16 9	285 11 1	874 17 0
Awatuna	1,000	1895, p. 863	10	1	4	100 0 0	408	100	14	..	122 2 11	989 12 11	1,111 15 10	12 13 6	104 9 9	102 10 0
Katui	1,000	1895, p. 863	10	3	12	292 0 0	380	201	44	..	165 11 4	901 0 0	1,066 11 4	58 6 0	204 14 10	607 0 0
Rangatira	1,000	1895, p. 863	10	2	7	200 0 0	123	52	25	..	45 18 4	146 8 0	192 6 4	16 17 0	56 10 2	361 11 0
Tawai	411	1896, p. 1541	19	7	8	91 3 27	148	72	50	..	102 10 0	487 0 8	589 10 8	20 15 3	69 4 2	516 7 0
Totals ..	7,333	..	82	37	137	3,750 1 17	2,713	2,355	685	..	1,195 15 0	6,101 2 0	7,296 17 0	482 9 9	1,727 6 9	9,159 3 0
Hawke's Bay—																
Waikopiro	1,880	1895, p. 79	15	15	90	1,771 0 0	1,412	1,457	1,275	..	139 14 4	1,708 5 0	1,847 19 4	231 18 9	1,672 7 5	6,951 0 0
Akitio	145	1896, p. 655	2	2	..	145 0 0	145	145	..	..	20 0 0	152 4 5	172 4 5	17 8 7	95 18 9	..
Totals ..	2,025	..	17	17	90	1,916 0 0	1,557	1,602	1,275	..	159 14 4	1,860 9 5	2,020 3 9	249 7 4	1,768 6 2	6,951 0 0
Taranaki—																
Ngaire	170	7 Feb., 1895	16	15	40	159 2 30	166	166	124	..	262 10 0	311 7 9	573 17 9	46 16 2	314 1 7	1,413 17 9
Tongaporutu ..	2,500	4 Oct., 1894	16	4	29	452 2 0	529	529	96	..	200 0 0	922 13 11	1,122 13 11	26 1 2	310 13 2	1,589 13 11
Mangaere	482	10 Jan., 1895	13	10	45	444 0 2	460	460	187	..	132 10 0	574 2 0	706 12 0	51 7 9	370 10 9	2,092 12 0
Uruti	697	10 Jan., 1895	7	3	21	497 0 0	494	494	130	..	79 0 0	817 7 0	896 7 0	71 4 6	356 15 6	1,566 7 0
Taumatatahi ..	430	22 Oct., 1894	4	4	23	428 2 0	290	290	45	..	70 0 0	281 14 2	351 14 2	38 3 0	197 11 9	1,263 14 2
Whangamomona ..	10,543	30 Jan., 1896	111	56	186	7,462 3 11	5,205	5,205	2,024	..	797 10 0	6,835 7 5	7,686 13 5	515 15 4	2,748 6 11	17,276 13 5
Poti	108	4 July, 1895	8	8	36	108 0 0	106	106	107	..	120 0 0	173 15 3	293 15 3	36 16 2	236 13 11	1,229 15 3
Maata	30	4 July, 1895	3	2	4	30 0 0	30	30	22	..	50 0 0	58 1 8	108 1 8	7 11 0	48 8 5	200 1 8
Huiroa	668	29 Nov., 1894	9	7	30	571 3 16	522	522	258	..	93 10 0	587 3 0	680 13 0	57 1 10	316 14 8	1,754 13 0
Okau	1,889	5 Mar., 1896	19	2	18	183 2 14	506	506	75	..	137 10 0	1,010 1 6	1,147 11 6	16 19 6	132 17 2	1,377 11 6
Derwent	1,369	5 Mar., 1896	13	6	25	698 0 0	596	596	176	..	192 10 0	1,123 11 5	1,316 1 5	63 13 4	388 10 2	2,076 1 5
Nihoniho	3,190	15 Aug., 1895 27 Nov., 1902	23	23	25	3,190 3 0	406	312	158	..	..	203 1 11	203 1 11	12 15 11	84 11 1	771 1 11
Greenlands	603	17 Sept., 1896	6	2	7	198 2 30	236	236	50	..	50 0 0	629 0 3	679 0 3	20 7 6	127 4 6	756 5 3
Mangapoua	702	27 Oct., 1897	7	2	7	200 0 0	108	108	80	..	30 0 0	286 5 6	316 5 6	11 9 1	65 16 7	486 5 6
Totoro	6,508	18 Feb., 1904	36	33	..	6,087 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mangapapa	5,322	18 Feb., 1904	29	29	..	5,322 0 0	13	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21 5 0
Paorae	7,605	19 Mar., 1904	40	40	..	7,605 0 0	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10 0 0
Totals ..	42,816	..	360	246	496	33,639 1 23	9,675	9,570	3,532	..	2,215 0 0	13,813 12 9	16,082 8 9	976 2 3	5,698 15 5	33,885 18 9
Wellington—																
Pemberton	1,390	20 Dec., 1894 10 Sep., 1897 2 Feb., 1903	13	12	77	1,209 3 13	1,166	1,166	1,003	..	227 0 0	1,828 10 1	2,055 10 1	311 17 9	1,819 4 3	5,402 0 0
Kawatau	1,000	31 Oct., 1894	12	11	60	916 2 23	754	754	1,244	..	230 0 0	959 14 6	1,189 14 6	156 16 0	750 0 1	3,641 4 0
Hautapu	1,204	31 Oct., 1894	12	12	54	1,074 0 0	617	682	592	..	265 0 0	859 2 10	1,124 2 10	154 2 9	674 15 8	3,411 18 8
Masterton-Tenui ..	1,168	18 Sep., 1895 24 Sep., 1896	12	12	47	1,163 0 0	742	742	702	..	220 0 0	627 0 1	847 0 1	111 18 10	726 5 2	3,891 15 0

Akitio	4,880	20 Apr., 1896; 21 Dec., 1896; 20 Apr., 1898; 23 Aug., 1898; 24 May, 1899	44	36	112	3,810 2 0	2,928	2,814	3,755	..	569 0 0	3,065 5 11	3,634 5 11	518 5 4	1,714 18 6	7,846 2 10
Horopito	2,000	2 Oct., 1894	12	3	4	300 0 0	124	124	90	..	60 0 0	333 1 4	393 1 4	32 7 4	127 2 9	367 3 0
Otaihape	200	19 Dec., 1894	10	10	51	204 1 10	200	200	142	..	259 0 0	405 12 0	664 12 0	57 7 5	351 8 2	1,574 15 2
Ohutu	2,881	7 Apr., 1896; 27 Dec., 1899	34	29	131	2,319 3 26	1,879	1,879	1,209	..	307 0 0	1,634 0 11	1,941 0 11	243 15 7	1,059 6 5	8,852 15 5
Otuarei	1,500	7 Apr., 1896; 16 Nov., 1897; 7 Apr., 1898; 2 Dec., 1898; 27 Mar., 1900	11	6	31	1,170 0 0	200	300	2,122	..	120 0 0	286 4 5	406 4 5	125 19 7	351 3 9	1,250 0 0
Rongoiti	1,087	1 Sept., 1896; 10 Nov., 1897; 13 Dec., 1897; 19 Mar., 1902	8	5	25	492 2 0	370	341	1,240	..	87 10 0	376 13 1	464 3 1	71 13 6	291 15 3	1,661 1 3
Mangatiti	5,356	21 Dec., 1896; 14 Oct., 1897; 15 Aug., 1898; 19 Apr., 1899; 17 Sept., 1901; 28 Oct., 1901; 10 Dec., 1903	36	22	86	2,984 3 38	2,106	2,030	921	..	216 15 0	2,883 9 6	3,100 4 6	349 17 9	1,338 18 10	5,748 4 5
Oraukura	1,819	24 May, 1899	10	8	60	1,412 1 0	497	497	288	..	141 0 0	365 17 2	506 17 2	110 13 4	248 10 0	2,309 6 1
Sommerville ..	1,600	24 May, 1899	8	1	28	200 0 0	231	326	388	..	101 0 0	181 14 9	282 14 9	54 12 8	101 12 8	1,388 0 3
Lands allotted but not registered on books. — Taihape Extension	567	19 Sep., 1901	6	6	26	567 1 16	209	209	100	..	..	60 0 0	60 0 0	..	..	693 4 6
Kauaekeke ..	200	17 Sept., 1901	1	1	..	200 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tapui	2,038	12 Nov., 1903	10	3	..	600 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Raketapauma ..	3,141	12 Nov., 1903	17	17	..	2,956 2 9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pemberton ..	..	..	..	1	..	100 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ohutu	..	..	..	5	..	575 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mangatiti ..	..	..	..	6	..	859 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oraukura ..	..	..	..	2	..	406 3 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sommerville ..	..	..	..	7	..	1,400 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	32,031	..	256	215	792	24,922 2 15	12,023	12,064	13,796	..	2,803 5 0	13,866 6 7	16,669 11 7	2,299 7 10	9,555 1 6	48,037 10 7
Southland—																
Haldane	2,200	1895, p. 176	24	16	69	2,087 0 18	1,339	1,320	360	0 45	394 10 0	4,613 4 1	5,007 14 1	188 14 9	449 1 2	3,784 13 8
Waikawa	1,768	1891, p. 585; 1895, p. 1222; 1895, p. 1445	16	4	30	776 1 5	725	714	66	0 60	229 12 0	3,581 4 2	3,810 16 2	43 17 10	86 7 7	1,482 2 3
Papatotara	1,480	1894, p. 1618	15	15	57	1,627 3 23	753	797	132	0 45	67 19 0	2,565 14 1	2,633 13 1	104 12 6	260 10 10	2,107 8 8
Moturimu	670	1895, p. 1526	14	8	51	609 0 35	173	176	39	..	210 0 0	395 11 10	605 11 10	57 7 5	144 14 3	1,008 0 0
Totals	6,118	..	69	43	207	5,100 2 1	2,990	3,007	597	1 70	902 1 0	11,155 14 2	12,057 15 2	394 12 6	940 13 10	8,382 4 7
Grand totals ..	90,323	..	784	558	1,722	69,328 3 16	28,958	28,598	19,885	1 70	7,215 15 4	46,797 4 11	54,126 16 3	4,401 19 8	19,690 3 8	106,415 16 11

Table 33 (Part I.).—Return of Lands acquired and leased under the Land for Settlements Acts up to the Year which ended 31st March, 1904.

Name of Settlement.	Date when Land opened for Selection.	Area acquired, including ascertained Surplus or Deficiency.	Area occupied by Roads and Reserves unlet.	Area of Land unlet, including Land forfeited, surrendered, or resumed and not relet, and also Land not yet offered for Selection.	New Selections and Addition to Holdings during the Year.			Total Lands leased at Date.		
					No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rent payable.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rent now payable.
		A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland—										
Opouriao	Feb. 12, 1896..	7,604 0 0	264 0 29	17 2 0	9	10 2 0	9 10 0	86	7,322 1 11	1,454 3 4
Okauia	Feb. 21, 1898..	5,920 0 0	1,598 0 10	325 0 0	..	..	..	8	3,996 3 30	221 7 10
Rangiatea	June 22, 1898..	4,004 0 0	89 3 0	231 2 0	..	..	..	18	3,682 3 0	677 13 8
Karapiro	Oct. 21, 1898..	2,335 0 24	48 2 31	64 1 15	..	..	..	17	2,222 0 18	428 10 8
Fencourt	Mar. 12, 1900..	7,105 3 5	50 3 33	..	..	..	..	34	7,054 3 12	1,770 14 4
Whitehall	April 9, 1900..	8,959 0 0	1 0 0	..	..	..	..	10	8,958 0 0	384 17 0
Cradock Hamlet	April 22, 1902..	33 0 9	3 3 14	15 2 10	4	6 2 15	17 13 0	7	13 2 25	35 7 0
Hetana Hamlet	April 22, 1902..	451 1 34	42 3 9	29 0 12	2	6 2 19	4 13 2	10	379 2 13	70 18 6
Kitchener Hamlet ..	April 22, 1902..	26 3 35	4 0 21	..	7	12 1 17	32 18 4	8	22 3 14	44 0 4
Methuen Hamlet ..	April 22, 1902..	77 3 14	6 2 22	..	5	9 2 28	28 7 8	11	71 0 32	61 7 5
Plumer Hamlet	April 22, 1902..	74 0 0	6 2 1	..	4	12 1 37	11 16 8	4	67 1 39	14 8 6
Waari Hamlet	April 20, 1903..	427 2 32	28 0 26	378 0 14	5	21 1 32	8 1 2	5	21 1 32	8 1 2
Bickerstaffe	Dec. 7, 1903..	12,480 0 19	543 2 19	9,484 0 20	10	2,452 1 20	486 6 0	10	2,452 1 20	486 6 0
Totals	..	49,499 0 12	2,688 1 15	10,545 0 31	46	2,532 0 8	599 6 0	228	36,265 2 6	5,653 15 9
Hawke's Bay—										
Raureka	May 6, 1896..	427 2 0	11 1 2	..	..	..	..	19	416 0 38	543 2 0
Elsthorpe	June 24, 1896..	9,740 0 0	145 0 27	1 3 16	..	..	..	45	9,592 3 37	2,313 9 0
Waimarie	Sept. 9, 1896..	430 2 10	4 2 16	..	..	..	..	18	425 3 34	463 0 0
Pouparae	April 21, 1897..	337 3 4	1 1 32	..	..	..	..	9	336 1 12	405 8 0
Tomoana	Mar. 3, 1898..	111 3 38	1 3 35	..	..	..	..	13	110 0 3	135 2 0
Mahora	Mar. 22, 1899..	1,133 3 0	17 1 5	17 2 18	2	22 0 12	34 0 2	33	1,098 3 17	1,612 18 10
Willows.. ..	Mar. 22, 1899..	775 1 36	..	..	..	..	..	22	775 1 36	758 10 2
Hatuma	April 25, 1901..	26,522 3 20	649 1 2	..	1	432 2 0	129 15 0	62	25,873 2 18	7,841 10 10
Manga-a-toro	Jan. 21, 1902..	19,581 3 12	159 3 12	1,177 0 0	1	775 0 0	164 13 10	25	18,245 0 0	4,551 5 4
Kumeroa	May 12, 1902..	3,774 2 38	29 2 38	726 0 0	..	..	..	14	3,019 0 0	1,425 9 10
Forest Gate	May 19, 1902..	8,822 0 13	65 0 15	624 0 0	1	42 2 0	14 13 2	28	8,132 3 38	2,437 19 2
Argyll	June 23, 1903..	33,705 1 30	102 2 37	1,650 0 0	60	31,952 2 33	8,171 2 10	60	31,952 2 33	8,171 2 10
Wigan	Dec. 15, 1903..	10,072 1 37	27 2 1	462 2 0	16	9,582 1 36	2,652 4 6	16	9,582 1 36	2,652 4 6
Totals	..	115,436 1 38	1,215 3 22	4,658 3 34	81	42,807 1 1	11,166 9 6	364	109,561 2 22	33,311 2 6
Taranaki—										
Tokaora	Nov. 20, 1901..	1,505 2 8	6 3 31	..	1	67 1 0	78 7 0	14	1,498 2 17	1,590 8 10
Spotswood	May 5, 1903..	310 3 23	9 1 35	187 1 31	15	133 1 37	286 19 8	14	113 3 37	243 2 2
Clandon	Nov. 16, 1903..	881 0 13	..	40 3 29	5	840 0 24	542 6 0	5	840 0 24	542 6 0
Totals	..	2,697 2 4	16 1 26	228 1 20	21	1,040 3 21	907 12 8	33	2,452 2 38	2,375 17 0

Wellington—											
Paparangi	Feb. 28, 1898..	322 3 32	24 2 31	..	1	2 1 23	7 3 8	37	298 1 1	308 10 2	
Ohakea	Dec. 27, 1899..	1,745 1 30	8 1 24	..	1	129 0 16	83 18 4	15	1,737 0 6	1,129 3 10	
Te Matua	Dec. 27, 1899..	702 0 19	..	..	..	..	..	13	702 0 19	527 7 4	
Aorangi	April 5, 1900..	1,785 0 0	31 3 29	..	..	..	..	37	1,753 0 11	1,342 16 10	
Langdale	Mar. 19, 1901..	9,405 0 0	150 0 37	95 1 0	7	423 3 3	70 0 0	28	9,159 2 3	1,526 17 0	
Mangawhata	May 14, 1901..	1,240 2 36	14 1 36	..	..	..	..	7	1,226 1 0	826 10 0	
Epuni Hamlet	June 25, 1901..	100 3 14	7 0 10	6 1 1	3	7 2 14	62 7 6	39	87 2 3	479 1 0	
Maungaraki	Dec. 29, 1901..	472 1 20	97 1 16	167 2 39	2	23 0 30	19 8 10	15	207 1 5	158 15 8	
Linton	Sept. 17, 1902..	551 1 36	2 0 0	..	..	..	..	5	549 1 36	309 13 6	
Longbush	June 16, 1903..	3,021 3 26	19 0 22	318 2 18	6	2,684 0 26	727 1 6	6	2,684 0 26	727 1 6	
Tablelands	June 16, 1903..	5,496 3 30	30 1 30	1,338 2 0	8	4,128 0 0	998 4 4	8	4,128 0 0	998 4 4	
Normandale	Dec. 15, 1903..	1,623 0 9	15 2 32	1,495 0 0	15	112 1 17	155 7 10	15	112 1 17	155 7 10	
Totals	..	26,467 3 12	401 1 27	3,421 1 18	43	7,510 2 9	2,123 12 0	225	22,645 0 7	8,489 9 0	
Marlborough—											
Blind River	Jan. 16, 1895..	5,507 0 0	272 0 15	5 2 25	..	..	..	19	5,229 1 0	882 8 4	
Omaka	June 24, 1896..	3,898 0 0	69 1 0	..	..	..	..	13	3,828 3 0	586 19 4	
Puhipuhi	Feb. 25, 1897..	320 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	2	320 0 0	24 10 0	
Starborough	Mar. 13, 1899..	35,906 0 0	793 0 37	84 2 10	14	4 2 39	10 13 0	125	35,028 0 33	5,801 18 8	
Richmond Brook ..	Aug. 18, 1899..	5,854 0 0	185 0 0	..	..	..	..	11	5,669 0 0	1,305 0 6	
Waipapa	Mar. 19, 1901..	3,755 2 0	100 0 0	..	..	..	..	4	3,655 2 0	408 10 8	
North Bank	April 1, 1901..	12,895 0 0	57 0 0	..	1	3,385 0 0	56 8 4	9	12,838 0 0	383 18 4	
Rainford	Aug. 31, 1903 ..	246 0 21	..	..	11	246 0 21	315 15 4	11	246 0 21	315 15 4	
Totals	..	68,381 2 21	1,476 2 12	90 0 35	26	3,635 3 20	382 16 8	194	66,814 3 14	9,709 1 2	
Westland—											
Poerua	June 26, 1896..	3,230 1 6	101 3 6	..	1	87 0 0	7 1 4	19	3,128 2 0	270 15 2	
Kokatahi	Nov. 4, 1902..	1,894 2 20	32 3 16	..	4	1,246 1 30	166 18 8	7	1,861 3 4	267 16 6	
Totals	..	5,124 3 26	134 2 22	..	5	1,333 1 30	174 0 0	26	4,990 1 4	538 11 8	
Canterbury—											
Pareora	Jan. 18, 1894..	620 2 13	8 2 38	..	1	15 0 0	9 13 6	28	611 3 15	396 18 6	
Studholme Junction ..	Jan. 18, 1894..	109 0 7	4 1 39	..	..	..	..	4	104 2 8	73 4 6	
Kapua	Mar. 24, 1894..	574 1 22	2 0 0	44 0 0	..	..	..	11	528 1 22	245 19 4	
Rosebrook	June 26, 1895..	600 1 8	..	..	..	..	..	14	600 1 8	307 13 6	
Otaio	June 26, 1895..	373 3 14	6 2 21	..	..	..	..	9	367 0 33	216 14 8	
Patoa	Nov. 27, 1895..	4,535 3 14	17 3 26	..	..	..	..	4	4,517 3 28	170 16 6	
The Peaks	Aug. 1, 1895..	2,811 0 9	12 0 0	..	..	..	..	12	2,799 0 9	196 12 6	
Roimata	Aug. 14, 1895..	48 3 27	4 1 4	..	..	..	..	26	44 2 23	138 10 0	
Kereta	Dec. 14, 1895..	105 2 29	..	..	..	..	..	4	105 2 29	82 18 0	
Braco	Nov. 27, 1895..	27 2 4	..	..	..	..	..	14	27 2 4	72 8 4	
Epworth	Nov. 27, 1895..	21 0 3	..	..	..	..	..	2	21 0 3	13 11 2	
Ashley Gorge	Dec. 4, 1895..	1,165 3 6	4 2 4	..	..	..	..	10	1,161 1 2	258 1 0	
Omihi Valley	June 28, 1899..	20 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	1	20 0 0	13 5 0	
Orakipaoa	June 22, 1896..	384 0 31	..	..	..	..	..	27	384 0 31	397 10 8	
Highbank	June 24, 1896..	9,121 3 8	87 3 30	172 0 10	1	2 0 0	1 0 0	76	8,861 3 8	2,984 5 8	
Otarakaro	Mar. 24, 1897..	39 3 9	..	..	..	..	..	7	39 3 9	111 18 0	
Wharenui	Mar. 24, 1897..	73 1 10	..	..	..	..	..	26	73 1 10	281 6 4	
Carried forward ..	..	20,633 0 14	148 2 2	216 0 10	2	17 0 0	10 13 6	275	20,268 2 2	5,961 13 8	

Table 33 (Part I.).—Return of Lands acquired and leased under the Land for Settlements Acts, &c.—*continued.*

Name of Settlement.	Date when Land opened for Selection.	Area acquired, including ascertained Surplus or Deficiency.	Area occupied by Roads and Reserves unlet.	Area of Land unlet, including Land forfeited, surrendered, or resumed and not relet, and also Land not yet offered for Selection.	New Selections and Addition to Holdings during the Year			Total Lands leased at Date.		
					No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rent payable.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rent now payable.
		A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Brought forward ..	..	20,633 0 14	148 2 2	216 0 10	2	17 0 0	10 13 6	275	20,268 2 2	5,961 13 8
Canterbury—*continued.*										
Rakitairi	Mar. 22, 1897..	3,526 1 26	5 0 38	..	1	148 2 0	48 5 4	22	3,521 0 28	1,069 18 0
Waiapi	Mar. 22, 1897..	1,124 2 36	..	..	..	..	..	15	1,124 2 36	518 19 10
Horsley Down	May 31, 1897..	3,982 3 35	33 2 16	..	1	5 0 0	0 10 0	27	3,949 1 19	1,072 6 8
Albury	April 12, 1897..	19,539 1 24	139 2 33	..	..	..	..	79	19,398 0 39	3,435 4 8
R.S. 1862	Oct. 21, 1897..	20 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	1	20 0 0	3 7 4
R.S. 2682	June 29, 1899..	6 2 4	..	..	..	..	..	1	6 2 4	11 11 10
R.S. 36469	June 29, 1899..	154 3 2	..	..	..	..	..	1	154 3 2	25 14 0
R.S. 36231	Dec. 14, 1899..	98 3 30	..	..	..	..	..	1	98 3 30	17 15 6
R.S. 36056 and 36057 ..	Dec. 30, 1899..	58 0 16	..	..	..	..	..	1	58 0 16	14 18 10
R.S. 36228	May 17, 1900..	100 3 23	..	..	..	..	..	1	100 3 23	12 11 4
R.S. 36278	Nov. 14, 1901..	618 2 0	..	..	..	..	..	1	618 2 0	25 1 8
R.S. 30791 part	April 23, 1902..	100 0 0	0 3 21	..	..	..	..	1	99 0 19	17 0 0
R.S. 36226 part	Oct. 16, 1902..	46 1 26	..	..	..	..	..	1	46 1 26	5 3 0
Marawiti	May 7, 1897..	2,028 2 33	2 0 0	..	1	50 0 0	21 5 0	13	2,026 2 33	748 15 10
Hekeao	Mar. 9, 1898..	2,254 2 11	53 1 26	..	..	..	..	16	2,201 0 25	630 10 2
Pawaho	April 5, 1898..	52 0 18	1 3 14	..	2	3 3 5	3 9 0	26	50 1 4	160 7 4
Waikakahi	Mar. 20, 1899..	48,262 2 34	157 3 18	..	2	0 2 0	2 15 0	186	48,102 0 16	16,763 7 8
Tamai	June 26, 1899..	41 0 28	3 2 32	..	7	4 0 0	22 18 0	41	37 1 36	242 2 0
Takitu	Mar. 1, 1900..	9,713 0 37	39 0 1	..	..	..	..	5	9,674 0 36	1,250 16 2
Pareora No. 2	Mar. 22, 1900..	8,132 0 31	54 0 14	..	..	..	..	33	8,078 0 17	3,700 0 8
Rautawiri	April 19, 1900..	113 0 7	..	..	..	..	..	6	113 0 7	132 17 8
Papaka	April 19, 1900..	1,561 2 25	7 2 0	..	..	..	..	9	1,554 0 25	947 6 0
Punaroa	April 19, 1900..	7,029 3 5	8 2 18	..	..	..	..	17	7,021 0 27	1,681 16 6
Lyndon	Mar. 5, 1901..	4,243 3 28	37 0 0	..	1	324 0 0	85 1 0	9	4,206 3 28	849 19 2
Kohika	May 13, 1901..	3,864 1 10	35 1 25	..	..	..	..	17	3,828 3 25	1,450 4 2
Tarawahi	June 25, 1901..	31 3 0	4 1 16	..	8	7 1 37	50 6 2	23	27 1 24	241 19 0
Raincliff	June 25, 1901..	745 2 0	206 3 0	..	..	..	..	1	538 3 0	85 3 10
Puhuka	July 29, 1901..	39 2 7	2 3 3	4 0 0	6	32 0 0	31 6 4	9	32 3 4	74 10 10
Kaimahi	Oct. 15, 1901..	100 2 1	..	10 0 27	..	..	..	12	90 1 14	231 17 8
Kapuatohe	Oct. 15, 1901..	49 3 37	2 0 0	..	1	0 2 0	2 0 0	10	47 3 37	133 16 2
Rapuwai	Dec. 9, 1901..	2,247 2 11	2 0 0	..	..	..	..	5	2,245 2 11	480 16 8
Lyndon No. 2	April 21, 1902..	15,887 0 0	42 0 0	..	..	..	..	10	15,845 0 0	2,281 10 2
Maytown	April 28, 1902..	391 3 32	4 1 19	..	..	..	..	12	387 2 13	286 16 2
Eccleston	May 12, 1902..	1,246 1 5	0 3 19	..	..	..	..	4	1,245 1 26	569 11 2
Mead	Jan. 21, 1903..	5,914 3 17	8 1 1	..	..	..	..	21	5,906 2 16	975 18 0
Chamberlain	Mar. 9, 1903..	10,500 1 9	12 1 8	..	1	19,112 0 0*	2,085 16 10	21	10,488 0 1	2,169 19 10
Annan	June 15, 1903..	32,858 2 33	431 3 14	..	49	32,426 3 19	5,661 12 7	37	32,426 3 19	5,129 10 2
Rosewill	Mar. 7, 1904..	38,683 2 15	393 3 19	1,344 2 31	137	36,945 0 5	13,284 7 4	137	36,945 0 5	13,284 7 4
Totals	..	246,005 2 30	1,839 2 37	1,574 3 28	219	89,076 2 26	21,310 6 1	1,107	242,586 3 13	66,695 6 8

Otago—																						
Pomahaka Downs	..	..	Feb. 20, 1894..	7,478	2	2	212	3	39	2,289	2	27	4	1,070	0	4	177	7	0	21	4,975	3	16	843	5	2
Teanaraki	..	..	Feb. 7, 1894..	351	0	39	6	3	9	..			..	..			..			23	344	1	30	281	9	6
Tahawai	..	..	Aug. 31, 1895..	70	1	35	1	3	21	..			..	..			..			8	68	2	14	35	14	4
Maerewhenua	..	..	Sept. 10, 1895..	11,163	3	31	227	2	7	6	3	12	..	..			..			72	10,929	2	12	3,553	2	0
Puketapu	..	..	Nov. 18, 1896..	509	0	6	12	3	10	..			..	..			..			11	496	0	36	189	0	10
Ardgowan	..	..	May 12, 1896..	4,267	3	28	105	2	34	..			..	..			..			65	4,162	0	34	1,892	10	6
Makareao	..	..	June 26, 1896..	2,383	0	4	91	1	4	..			1	147	3	28	150	0	0	31	2,291	3	0	522	7	8
Makareao Extension		..	April 14, 1897..	2,589	2	12	19	0	3	..			..	..			..			3	2,570	2	9	296	15	4
Momona	..	..	May 10, 1897..	224	1	16	5	0	0	..			..	..			..			14	219	1	16	210	6	2
Tokarahi	..	..	May 11, 1897..	11,259	2	36	280	1	9	2	0	27	4	10	3	17	2	17	6	80	10,977	1	0	4,117	17	0
Janefield	..	..	Sept. 13, 1899..	147	0	2	13	1	5	..			..	..			..			20	133	2	37	222	13	0
Elderslie	..	..	Mar. 20, 1900..	11,618	2	4	111	2	26	..			1	44	0	0	3	6	0	33	11,506	3	18	4,126	19	4
Barnego	..	..	May 15, 1900..	7,078	2	1	24	1	31	1,556	2	19	..	..			..			20	5,497	1	31	1,264	13	2
Earnscleugh	..	..	Dec. 18, 1901..	1,269	3	5	43	0	28	..			2	28	1	14	4	18	6	12	1,226	2	17	171	1	0
Windsor Park	..	..	May 28, 1902..	3,821	2	16	17	2	31	..			..	..			..			37	3,803	3	25	1,647	16	10
Windsor Park No. 2		..	Oct. 28, 1902..	2,179	2	17	2	0	6	..			..	..			..			10	2,177	2	11	875	16	8
Duncan..	..	..	Dec. 29, 1902..	633	2	3	0	2	39	..			2	209	1	23	45	19	8	7	632	3	4	227	16	4
St. Helens	..	..	June 29, 1903..	547	3	20	..			..			3	547	3	20	224	11	0	3	547	3	20	224	11	0
Totals	..	..	..	67,594	0	37	1,176	1	22	3,855	1	5	17	2,058	1	26	608	19	8	470	62,562	2	10	20,703	15	10
Southland—																										
Merrivale	..	..	Dec. 18, 1895..	9,998	0	0	517	0	0	..			2	179	1	20	39	16	0	48	9,481	0	0	1,417	2	10
Otahu	..	..	Nov. 4, 1897..	6,153	0	36	128	2	25	..			..	..			..			7	6,024	2	11	338	0	0
Beaumont	..	..	Jan. 26, 1898..	4,484	0	4	16	0	36	1,828	2	19	2	656	1	28	9	17	2	8	2,639	0	29	329	1	7
Ringway	..	..	Dec. 20, 1901..	2,253	2	8	22	1	30	372	0	0	..	..			..			6	1,859	0	18	386	10	4
Glenham	..	..	Mar. 24, 1902..	11,484	2	10	154	1	38	2,539	2	0	8	3,099	2	34	365	14	10	29	8,790	2	12	1,510	12	0
Totals	..	..	..	34,373	1	18	838	3	9	4,740	0	19	12	3,935	2	2	415	8	0	98	28,794	1	30	3,981	6	9
Grand Totals	.		..	615,580	2	38	9,788	1	2	29,114	1	30	470	153,930	2	23	37,688	10	7	2,745	576,673	3	24	151,458	6	4

*Inclusive of 8,612 acres of ordinary Crown land.

Table 33 (Part II.).—Return of Lands acquired and leased under the Land for Settlements Acts up to the Year which ended 31st March, 1904.

Name of Settlement.	Yearly Value of Unlet Land at 31st March, 1904.	Occupied Land.			Amount advanced to Selectors for Buildings, &c.			Arrears on 31st March, 1904.			Rent and other Payments received during the Year.	Total Receipts from Inception to 31st March, 1904.
		No. of Houses on Holdings.	No. of Souls resident on Holdings.	Value of Improvements.	During previous Years.	During Year.	Total.	No.	Area	Rent in Arrear.		
Auckland—	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Opouriao	22 0 0	70	316	24,810 4 3	..	..	..	4	296 1 12	11 19 3	1,500 7 8	10,870 14 5
Okauia	65 0 0	7	14	3,366 7 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	440 15 4	1,206 12 3
Rangiatea	34 14 6	17	107	7,458 0 0	..	..	..	1	101 0 0	0 9 11	821 8 4	4,139 6 2
Karapiro	4 3 5	10	55	4,246 12 0	..	..	..	1	45 0 8	0 15 9	528 19 11	2,276 18 0
Fencourt	..	33	156	12,049 12 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,846 4 7	6,018 4 9
Whitehall	..	10	31	3,688 15 0	..	..	..	1	1,262 0 0	19 16 8	512 15 9	1,319 13 3
Cradock Hamlet.. ..	32 12 10	6	8	474 11 0	..	35 0 0	35 0 0	..	..	..	22 16 3	32 5 11
Hetana Hamlet	26 15 7	6	11	496 11 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	38 13 10	87 0 4
Kitchener Hamlet ..	..	6	27	547 18 0	..	140 0 0	140 0 0	1	20 3 14	5 0 0	31 0 5	38 16 5
Methuen Hamlet ..	..	8	32	1,209 0 0	50 0 0	..	50 0 0	..	..	..	137 7 4	236 13 3
Plumer Hamlet	..	1	..	18 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	19 15 1	36 13 6
Waari	140 17 2	3	3	292 12 0	..	42 10 0	42 10 0	..	..	..	11 6 9	11 6 9
Bickerstaffe	1,966 17 2	No	report	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	820 1 0	820 1 0
Totals	2,293 0 8	177	760	58,658 2 3	50 0 0	217 10 0	267 10 0	8	1,725 0 34	38 1 7	6,731 12 3	27,094 6 0
Hawke's Bay—												
Raureka	..	18	95	3,021 15 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	539 5 1	4,164 9 6
Elsthorpe	2 10 0	27	110	11,540 10 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,660 2 4	18,099 7 7
Waimarie	..	16	75	2,328 10 0	..	..	..	1	21 0 31	12 11 0	454 5 10	3,191 5 1
Pouparae	..	9	47	2,564 11 0	..	..	..	2	58 3 13	36 8 0	395 6 11	2,500 17 2
Tomoana	..	12	58	2,520 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	142 8 10	799 19 1
Mahora	25 3 4	28	109	5,918 0 0	..	..	..	1	44 1 1	32 9 0	1,922 3 7	7,676 7 11
Willows..	..	18	74	3,995 9 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	707 18 3	3,501 6 1
Hatuma	..	57	209	23,612 18 0	..	..	..	31	11,542 3 0	1,794 19 0	10,150 12 0	19,036 17 11
Manga-a-toro	176 11 0	22	78	10,616 7 9	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,254 7 7	7,662 10 3
Kumeroa	263 3 7	13	52	2,752 14 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,593 16 7	2,618 17 5
Forest Gate	164 11 6	23	84	6,905 14 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,205 4 6	4,781 11 7
Argyll	292 17 6	38	133	14,124 18 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,236 3 8	7,236 3 8
Wigan	147 8 4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,349 13 3	1,349 13 3
Totals	1,072 5 3	281	1,124	89,901 7 4	..	..	..	35	11,667 0 5	1,876 7 0	33,611 8 5	82,619 6 6
Taranaki—												
Tokaora	..	13	71	3,156 9 0	..	..	..	2	203 2 20	187 18 5	1,695 15 11	3,310 15 6
Spotswood	626 7 0	9	34	1,664 0 0	..	287 10 0	287 10 0	3	11 2 10	3 10 7	242 4 0	242 4 0
Clandon	..	5	14	250 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	393 15 3	393 15 3
Totals	626 7 0	27	119	5,070 9 0	..	287 10 0	287 10 0	5	215 0 30	191 9 0	2,331 15 2	3,946 14 9

Wellington—																
Paparangi	..	..	..	35	150	6,455 16 0	514 0 0	..	514 0 0	..	..	..	461 8 9	2,381 15 5		
Ohakea	..	..	..	15	66	5,981 6 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,259 9 8	4,785 10 9		
Te Matua	..	..	..	12	49	3,040 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	541 11 0	2,408 15 1		
Aorangi	..	..	..	37	162	10,180 0 0	230 0 0	20 0 0	250 0 0	..	..	..	1,496 6 5	5,553 0 4		
Langdale	..	..	29 15 4	20	61	5,428 15 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,735 3 10	4,880 14 11		
Mangawhata	..	..	..	8	36	3,165 9 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	871 16 1	2,434 15 10		
Epuni Hamlet	..	..	50 17 7	39	140	7,309 4 0	1,071 0 0	..	1,071 0 0	..	..	..	766 0 9	1,814 18 11		
Maungaraki	..	..	89 19 6	15	41	1,774 19 8	..	..	..	..	..	..	151 0 5	325 0 5		
Linton	..	..	..	4	19	1,214 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	344 14 9	558 14 7		
Longbush	..	..	132 4 6	1	No	report	..	..	..	..	..	..	711 15 7	711 15 7		
Tablelands	..	..	388 18 10	2	No	report	..	..	..	..	..	..	884 4 11	884 4 11		
Normandale	..	..	785 11 4	2	No	report	..	..	..	..	..	..	85 15 7	85 15 7		
Totals	..	..	1,477 7 1	190	724	44,549 10 3	1,815 0 0	20 0 0	1,835 0 0	..	..	..	9,309 7 9	26,825 2 4		
Marlborough—																
Blind River	..	..	0 12 2	16	52	5,884 15 5	..	..	..	4	442 0 7	61 14 10	1,388 17 9	7,060 6 7		
Omaka	..	..	..	12	44	5,227 5 0	..	..	..	1	340 0 32	22 1 1	613 9 9	4,488 0 8		
Puhipuhi	..	..	..	1	1	210 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	31 2 0	143 2 0		
Starborough	..	..	31 0 0	66	279	32,057 17 0	..	..	..	7	640 2 28	122 13 5	8,065 9 0	27,240 9 4		
Richmond Brook	..	..	..	10	38	5,173 18 6	..	..	..	2	1,176 0 0	192 3 0	1,488 7 8	5,416 8 1		
Waipapa	..	..	..	4	15	1,687 8 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	624 1 4	1,442 16 7		
North Bank	..	..	..	4	19	802 5 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	264 18 9	1,289 5 4		
Rainford	..	..	New settlement.	No inspection by Ranger.			..	..	..	..	..	..	174 16 11	174 16 11		
Totals	..	..	31 12 2	113	448	51,043 9 5	..	..	..	14	2,598 3 27	398 12 4	12,651 3 2	47,255 5 6		
Westland—																
Poerua	..	..	..	14	48	4,312 3 6	..	..	..	7	1,128 2 0	84 19 9	304 14 5	1,673 12 6		
Kokotahi	..	..	..	6	23	2,046 10 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	205 5 8	339 3 11		
Totals	..	..	..	20	71	6,358 13 6	..	..	..	7	1,128 2 0	84 19 9	510 0 1	2,012 16 5		
Canterbury—																
Pareora	..	..	..	26	91	2,411 14 6	..	..	..	1	27 3 38	8 15 0	476 14 3	3,802 3 1		
Studholme Junction	..	..	..	3	13	444 8 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	65 18 4	706 13 5		
Kapua	..	..	24 4 0	12	38	1,778 5 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	283 6 2	2,605 10 2		
Rosebrook	..	..	..	13	67	2,172 13 6	..	..	..	3	157 2 1	41 9 7	322 17 4	2,604 15 3		
Otaio	..	..	..	9	40	1,610 5 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	229 5 6	1,909 0 3		
Patoa	..	..	..	2	9	1,184 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	161 9 11	1,336 14 3		
The Peaks	..	..	..	1	2	1,680 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	211 10 5	1,564 3 10		
Roimata	..	..	..	26	113	5,217 0 0	..	..	..	1	1 0 0	1 10 9	127 13 11	1,150 11 5		
Kereta	..	..	..	4	17	789 17 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	120 3 5	688 12 8		
Braco	..	..	..	14	57	2,124 0 0	10 0 0	..	10 0 0	..	..	..	69 11 3	580 7 4		
Epworth	..	..	..	1	7	158 16 0	..	..	..	2	21 0 3	6 15 7	13 11 2	95 18 2		
Ashley Gorge	..	..	..	12	50	4,400 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	199 4 4	2,087 8 5		
Omihi Valley	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13 5 0	59 12 6		
Orakipaoa	..	..	..	19	98	2,085 19 0	..	..	..	1	7 0 0	3 16 0	424 15 8	3,021 13 3		
Highbank	..	..	58 2 8	56	234	19,086 6 6	..	..	..	2	251 0 1	33 14 8	2,987 8 2	24,125 8 7		
Otarakaro	..	..	..	7	30	1,615 0 0	..	..	..	2	12 2 31	40 0 9	112 11 3	683 1 1		
Carried forward	..		82 6 8	205	866	46,758 5 6	10 0 0	..	10 0 0	12	478 0 34	136 2 4	5,819 6 1	47,021 13 8		

Table 33 (Part II.).—Return of Lands acquired and leased under the Land for Settlements Acts, &c.—*continued.*

Name of Settlement.	Yearly Value of Unlet Land at 31st March, 1904.	Occupied Land.			Amount advanced to Selectors for Buildings, &c.			Arrears on 31st March, 1904.			Rent and other Payments received during the Year.	Total Receipts from Inception to 31st March, 1904.
		No. of Houses on Holdings.	No. of Souls resident on Holdings.	Value of Improvements.	During previous Years.	During Year.	Total.	No.	Area.	Rent in Arrear.		
	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward ..	82 6 8	205	866	46,758 5 6	10 0 0	..	10 0 0	12	478 0 34	136 2 4	5,819 6 1	47,021 13 8
Canterbury—*continued.*												
Wharenui	..	26	107	5,132 0 0	230 0 0	..	230 0 0	3	7 2 4	11 2 11	261 13 7	1,894 9 2
Rakitairi	..	19	84	5,396 3 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,057 6 8	7,129 18 1
Waiapi	..	14	73	3,678 13 1	..	..	..	2	101 2 35	21 12 8	493 16 9	3,446 13 4
Horsley Down	..	24	100	12,033 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	966 2 5	7,532 15 3
Albury	..	62	318	22,860 8 6	..	..	..	10	1,161 1 33	110 8 0	3,281 9 9	22,668 16 0
R.S. 1862	..	1	1	175 10 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	3 0 8	20 14 4
R.S. 2682	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11 7 10	57 11 2
R.S. 36469	..	..	..	81 4 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	23 2 8	119 10 4
R.S. 36231	..	1	3	337 11 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	26 13 3	71 2 0
R.S. 36056 and 36057 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13 9 0	62 0 4
R.S. 36228	..	1	2	458 19 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	11 6 4	47 15 4
R.S. 36278	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22 11 6	57 13 10
Pt. R.S. 30791	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15 5 6	31 8 6
Pt. R.S. 36226	..	1	3	466 6 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	3 19 4	7 4 4
Marawiti	..	13	71	4,360 6 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	852 3 7	5,042 15 0
Hekeao	..	13	49	4,429 16 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	600 6 4	3,639 12 7
Pawaho	..	24	88	3,261 0 0	289 0 0	20 0 0	309 0 0	3	4 3 8	6 2 10	164 11 8	736 1 8
Waikakahi	..	149	626	64,267 15 2	..	..	..	9	1,709 2 6	270 0 9	16,897 17 9	78,725 19 2
Tamai	..	37	152	4,434 0 0	413 10 0	63 0 0	476 10 0	2	2 0 0	3 11 1	251 17 8	919 4 4
Takitu	..	5	18	4,684 0 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,129 11 6	4,763 9 3
Pareora No. 2	..	32	170	12,320 16 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,536 10 11	13,636 8 0
Rautawiri	..	6	25	729 10 0	..	..	..	1	20 3 15	14 14 8	181 0 2	472 2 2
Papaka	..	9	36	3,188 18 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	897 0 4	3,566 9 3
Punaroa	..	17	59	6,138 18 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,664 13 9	6,226 9 11
Lyndon	..	7	44	5,489 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	841 10 2	2,376 15 9
Kohika	..	15	57	4,656 3 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,637 6 8	4,151 12 8
Tarawahi	..	21	70	3,819 0 0	150 0 0	260 0 0	410 0 0	..	..	..	210 3 2	470 17 0
Raincliff	..	1	4	440 11 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	76 13 6	1,071 0 10
Puhuka	6 6 8	8	22	1,260 3 11	45 0 0	80 0 0	125 0 0	1	10 0 0	4 7 6	53 9 9	107 3 9
Kaimahi	19 9 10	11	26	2,175 0 0	..	..	..	4	40 0 0	48 10 0	130 12 0	440 3 4
Kapuatohe	..	8	14	899 0 0	80 0 0	..	80 0 0	..	..	..	127 3 2	263 8 8
Rapuwai	..	5	8	1,384 11 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	444 10 7	1,135 7 9
Lyndon No. 2	..	7	18	5,441 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,385 19 8	4,084 13 6
Maytown	..	10	41	1,256 9 11	..	..	..	1	37 1 17	13 15 6	226 1 3	491 5 0
Eccleston	..	4	7	2,037 10 8	..	..	..	..	..	..	519 19 0	1,064 14 1
Mead	..	16	25	4,255 13 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	410 7 4	898 6 4
Chamberlain	..	19	69	7,793 3 4	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,154 19 5	3,029 15 2
Annan	..	..	34	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,095 4 2	3,095 4 2
Rosewill	437 18 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,675 5 4	6,675 5 4
Totals	546 1 8	791	3,290	246,100 8 4	1,217 10 0	423 0 0	1,640 10 0	48	3,573 1 32	640 8 3	56,175 10 2	237,253 10 4

	£ s. d.													
Otago—														
Pomahaka Downs ..	351 13 2	24	45	4,691 0 0	..	..	..	9	2,502 1 3	255 1 9	940 2 0	7,528 10 8		
Teanaraki	..	18	77	1,920 0 0	..	..	..	2	15 0 2	6 14 2	309 3 11	2,548 9 5		
Tahawai	..	8	43	1,102 5 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	34 1 2	297 3 1		
Maerewhenua	0 19 8	61	244	19,941 5 3	..	..	..	1	2 2 33	0 4 1	4,659 3 11	29,625 19 2		
Puketapu	..	9	26	1,251 8 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	180 5 8	1,444 19 5		
Ardgowan	..	54	220	12,774 9 1	..	..	..	2	119 3 16	3 2 6	2,079 5 6	14,897 14 7		
Makareao	..	18	75	3,343 11 9	..	..	..	1	1,214 2 23	64 10 6	1,887 3 1	7,241 17 10		
Makareao Extension ..	..	3	10	1,583 10 0	..	..	..	..	..	..				
Momona	..	28	59	2,136 2 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	267 11 10	1,443 2 10		
Tokarahi	1 16 10	45	187	18,260 14 6	..	..	..	1	139 2 7	33 2 0	5,508 2 1	27,936 4 11		
Janefield	..	27	91	3,274 10 0	..	..	..	1	26 1 35	4 15 4	214 9 0	980 2 11		
Elderslie	..	24	80	9,678 0 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,015 15 5	15,633 7 0		
Barnego	176 19 4	31	64	5,480 0 0	..	..	..	1	533 2 32	26 13 8	1,271 17 2	4,793 12 4		
Earnscleugh	..	16	49	1,435 2 9	..	..	..	..	..	..	169 11 10	455 3 7		
Windsor Park	..	21	68	3,142 7 2	..	..	..	1	50 0 0	2 5 0	1,847 19 1	2,966 7 11		
Windsor Park No. 2 ..	..	8	28	1,105 2 9	..	..	..	..	..	..	785 6 4	1,223 2 7		
Duncan..	..	4	10	786 3 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	122 8 1	208 6 5		
St. Helens	..	3	6	226 14 9	..	..	..	..	..	..	224 11 0	224 11 0		
Totals	531 9 0	402	1,382	92,132 8 5	..	..	..	19	4,604 0 31	396 9 0	25,516 17 1	119,448 15 8		
Southland—														
Merrivale	..	39	177	8,777 0 0	..	..	..	5	844 0 0	172 11 0	1,719 4 9	11,409 7 10		
Otahu	..	4	7	894 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	381 3 1	1,609 5 1		
Beaumont	181 3 2	4	24	1,571 0 0	..	..	..	4	1,532 1 1	245 8 8	321 8 3	1,533 16 1		
Ringway	73 18 8	8	16	1,200 0 0	..	..	..	2	936 0 0	52 3 4	248 19 7	954 8 8		
Glenham	431 17 2	20	113	2,355 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,374 14 8	2,658 13 10		
Totals	686 19 0	75	337	14,797 0 0	..	..	..	11	3,312 1 1	470 3 0	4,045 10 4	18,165 11 6		
Grand totals ..	7,265 1 10	2,076	8,255	608,611 8 6	3,082 10 0	948 0 0	4,030 10 0	147	28,824 3 0	4,096 9 11	150,883 4 5	564,621 9 0		

Table 34.—STATEMENT showing OUTLAY and INCOME of ESTATES PURCHASED under the Land for Settlements Acts.

Name of Estate.	Date of Purchase.	Outlay. Particulars.	Outlay. Amount.	Income. Particulars.	Income. Amount.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Studholme Junction	27 July, 1893	Purchase-money ..	1,291 5 6	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	640 15 1
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	160 15 8	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	65 18 4
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..
		Interest to March 31, 1903	507 16 11	Balance	1,311 16 10
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	58 12 2		
		Total	2,018 10 3	Total	2,018 10 3
Pareora ..	16 Aug., 1893	Purchase-money ..	7,198 14 10	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	3,325 8 10
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	113 5 11	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	476 14 3
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	4 15 0	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	48 16 2
		Interest to March 31, 1903	2,606 5 11	Balance	6,366 6 6
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	294 4 1		
		Total	10,217 5 9	Total	10,217 5 9
Pomahaka ..	10 Oct., 1893	Purchase-money ..	18,656 17 10	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	6,588 8 8
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	4,349 15 3	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	940 2 0
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	0 16 5	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	485 13 9
		Interest to March 31, 1903	8,230 12 3	Balance	24,149 0 3
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	925 2 11		
		Total	32,163 4 8	Total	32,163 4 8
Kapua ..	11 Nov., 1893	Purchase-money ..	4,594 5 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	2,322 4 0
		Incidental expenses to March, 31, 1903 ..	286 5 7	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	283 6 2
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	34 8 8
		Interest to March 31, 1903	1,673 13 6	Balance	4,110 15 7
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	196 10 4		
		Total	6,750 14 5	Total	6,750 14 5
Te Anaraki ..	31 Jan., 1894	Purchase-money ..	5,044 0 6	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	2,239 5 6
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	547 11 11	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	309 3 11
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	68 7 8
		Interest to March 31, 1903	1,896 2 3	Balance	5,096 2 7
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	225 5 0		
		Total	7,712 19 8	Total	7,712 19 8
Blind River	20 Aug., 1894	Purchase-money ..	14,806 5 3	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	5,671 8 10
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	1,891 18 1	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,388 17 9
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	5 7 3	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	108 6 3
		Interest to March 31, 1903	5,387 19 10	Balance	15,615 0 9
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	692 3 2		
		Total	22,783 13 7	Total	22,783 13 7
Rosebrook ..	15 Feb., 1895	Purchase-money ..	5,984 4 8	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	2,281 17 11
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	74 5 1	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	322 17 4
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	111 5 10
		Interest to March 31, 1903	1,812 14 2	Balance	5,398 15 7
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	243 12 9		
		Total	8,114 16 8	Total	8,114 16 8

Table 34.—STATEMENT showing OUTLAY and INCOME of ESTATES PURCHASED, &c.—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	Date of Purchase.	Outlay. Particulars.	Outlay. Amount.	Income. Particulars.	Income. Amount.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Otaio ..	25 Feb., 1895	Purchase-money ..	4,143 11 3	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	1,679 14 9
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	134 15 2	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	229 5 6
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	13 19 2
		Interest to March 31, 1903	1,261 5 11	Balance	3,788 19 8
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	172 6 9		
		Total	5,711 19 1	Total	5,711 19 1
Merrivale ..	17 Apr., 1895	Purchase-money ..	24,995 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	9,690 3 1
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	3,025 3 11	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,719 4 9
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	142 3 0	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	545 0 0
		Interest to March 31, 1903	8,089 1 0	Balance	25,424 8 4
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	1,127 8 3		
		Total	37,378 16 2	Total	37,378 16 2
Tahawai ..	25 Apr., 1895	Purchase-money ..	622 1 4	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	263 1 11
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	10 19 4	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	34 1 2
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..
		Interest to March 31, 1903	183 17 7	Balance	546 0 10
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	26 5 8		
		Total	843 3 11	Total	843 3 11
Patoa, and Peak's Farm	3 May, 1895	Purchase-money ..	6,612 10 3	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	2,527 17 9
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	343 9 6	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	373 0 4
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904		Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	9 8 8
		Interest to March 31, 1903	2,012 0 6	Balance	6,336 18 10
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	279 5 4		
		Total	9,247 5 7	Total	9,247 5 7
Roimata ..	29 June, 1895	Purchase-money ..	2,200 6 7	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	1,022 17 6
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	624 9 4	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	127 13 11
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	4 12 3
		Interest to March 31, 1903	781 19 3	Balance	2,565 7 5
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	113 15 6		
		Total	3,720 11 1	Total	3,720 11 1
Kereta ..	29 June, 1895	Purchase-money ..	1,584 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	568 9 3
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	32 9 6	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	120 3 5
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904		Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	
		Interest to March 31, 1903	453 10 3	Balance	1,446 17 2
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	65 10 1		
		Total	2,135 9 10	Total	2,135 9 10
Maerewhenua	27 July, 1895	Purchase-money ..	66,905 17 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	24,966 15 3
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	2,638 15 5	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	4,659 3 11
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	39 4 0
		Interest to March 31, 1903	19,491 7 3	Balance	62,168 1 11
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	2,797 5 5		
		Total	91,833 5 1	Total	91,833 5 1

Table 34.—STATEMENT showing OUTLAY and INCOME of ESTATES PURCHASED, &c.—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	Date of Purchase.	Outlay. Particulars.	Outlay. Amount.	Income. Particulars.	Income. Amount.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Braco ..	5 Aug., 1895	Purchase-money ..	1,375 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	510 16 1
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903	44 10 3	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	69 11 3
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	Cr. 0 10 0	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	0 0 5
		Interest to March 31, 1903	397 4 6	Balance	1,293 6 3
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	57 9 3		
		Total	1,873 14 0	Total	1,873 14 0
Ashley Gorge	9 Aug., 1895	Purchase-money ..	4,855 19 6	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	1,888 4 1
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	265 8 9	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	199 4 3
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	47 5 7
		Interest to March 31, 1903	1,425 3 8	Balance	4,617 12 3
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	205 14 3		
		Total	6,752 6 2	Total	6,752 6 2
Epworth ..	14 Aug., 1895	Purchase-money ..	252 4 6	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	82 7 0
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	10 4 1	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	13 11 2
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	13 11 2
		Interest to March 31, 1903	73 11 1	Balance	236 18 11
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	10 8 7		
		Total	346 8 3	Total	346 8 3
Puketapu ..	18 Nov., 1895	Purchase-money ..	3,308 14 10	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	1,264 13 9
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	240 8 10	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	180 5 8
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	0 1 2
		Interest to March 31, 1903	963 7 0	Balance	3,211 0 2
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	143 10 1		
		Total	4,656 0 9	Total	4,656 0 9
Omihi S.R.	16 Jan., 1896	Purchase-money ..	240 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	46 7 6
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	25 6 9	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	13 5 0
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	6 12 6
		Interest to March 31, 1903	75 17 5	Balance	285 9 11
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	10 10 9		
		Total	351 14 11	Total	351 14 11
Poerua ..	3 Feb., 1896	Purchase-money ..	3,634 1 6	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	1,368 18 1
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	1,350 3 3	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	304 14 5
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	13 0 6	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	187 13 0
		Interest to March 31, 1903	1,270 9 1	Balance	4,606 8 2
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	199 19 4		
		Total	6,467 13 8	Total	6,467 13 8
Raureka ..	9 Mar., 1896	Purchase-money ..	10,260 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	3,625 4 5
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	245 4 0	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	539 5 1
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	169 3 6
		Interest to March 31, 1903	2,691 1 10	Balance	9,285 11 3
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	422 18 5		
		Total	13,619 4 3	Total	13,619 4 3

Table 34.—STATEMENT showing OUTLAY and INCOME of ESTATES PURCHASED, &c.—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	Date of Purchase.	Outlay. Particulars.	Outlay. Amount.	Income. Particulars.	Income. Amount.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Opouriao ..	20 Mar., 1896	Purchase-money ..	24,261 3 3	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	9,370 6 9
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	1,692 9 1	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,500 7 8
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904		Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	92 14 3
		Interest to March 31, 1903	6,523 9 0	Balance	22,557 3 0
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	1,043 10 4		
		Total	33,520 11 8	Total	33,520 11 8
Orakipaoa ..	20 Mar., 1896	Purchase-money ..	7,683 17 6	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	2,596 17 7
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	116 19 10	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	424 15 8
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	*Cr.* 2 1 3	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	55 0 10
		Interest to March 31, 1903	1,997 16 11	Balance	7,033 13 9
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	313 14 10		
		Total	10,110 7 10	Total	10,110 7 10
Omaka ..	20 Apr., 1896	Purchase-money ..	10,865 13 6	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	3,874 10 11
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	683 7 10	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	613 9 9
		Incidental expenses April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	136 14 1
		Interest to March 31, 1903	2,849 8 4	Balance	10,238 0 10
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	464 5 11		
		Total	14,862 15 7	Total	14,862 15 7
Elsthorpe ..	21 Apr., 1896 27 Nov., 1896	Purchase-money ..	43,420 10 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	15,439 5 3
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	1,926 19 4	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	2,660 2 4
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	4 5 2	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	480 7 10
		Interest to March 31, 1903	11,310 2 8	Balance	39,905 18 11
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	1,823 17 2		
		Total	58,485 14 4	Total	58,485 14 4
Makareao ..	12 May, 1896 14 Dec., 1896	Purchase-money ..	12,239 13 8	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	5,354 14 9
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	21,993 18 6	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,887 3 1
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,657 19 10	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	129 4 4
		Interest to March 31, 1903	6,138 3 9	Balance	36,052 9 7
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	1,393 16 0		
		Total	43,423 11 9	Total	43,423 11 9
Highbank ..	18 May, 1896	Purchase-money ..	59,209 12 7	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	21,138 0 5
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	1,274 2 0	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	2,987 8 2
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	*Cr.* 2 3 10	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	158 11 2
		Interest to March 31, 1903	14,907 6 4	Balance	53,557 16 6
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	2,452 19 2		
		Total	77,841 16 3	Total	77,841 16 3
Ardgowan ..	23 May, 1896	Purchase-money ..	34,600 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	12,818 9 1
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	4,252 19 10	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	2,079 5 6
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	70 19 5
		Interest to March 31, 1903	9,627 2 8	Balance	35,074 8 1
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	1,562 19 7		
		Total	50,043 2 1	Total	50,043 2 1

Table 34.—STATEMENT showing OUTLAY and INCOME of ESTATES PURCHASED, &c.—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	Date of Purchase.	Outlay. Particulars.	Outlay. Amount.	Income. Particulars.	Income. Amount.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Waimarie ..	21 July, 1896	Purchase-money ..	8,608 15 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	2,736 19 3
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	268 7 11	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	454 5 10
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	82 13 0
		Interest to March 31, 1903	2,168 1 7	Balance	8,128 14 8
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	357 8 3		
		Total	11,402 12 9	Total	11,402 12 9
Otarakaro ..	4 Sept., 1896	Purchase-money ..	1,990 6 3	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	570 9 10
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	83 18 11	Rents, &c , paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	112 11 3
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	65 19 10
		Interest to March 31, 1903	506 4 4	Balance	1,915 6 5
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	83 17 10		
		Total	2,664 7 4	Total	2,664 7 4
Wharenui ..	28 Oct., 1896	Purchase-money ..	4,765 6 3	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	1,632 15 7
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	304 17 10	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	261 13 7
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	36 17 5
		Interest to March 31, 1903	1,183 10 7	Balance	4,525 16 5
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	203 8 4		
		Total	6,457 3 0	Total	6,457 3 0
Tomoana ..	31 Dec., 1896	Purchase-money ..	2,458 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	657 10 3
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	20 13 2	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	142 8 10
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	15 10 0
		Interest to March 31, 1903	584 17 11	Balance	2,348 1 8
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	99 19 8		
		Total	3,163 10 9	Total	3,163 10 9
Horsley Down	1 Jan., 1897 ..	Purchase-money ..	20,022 5 8	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	6,556 12 10
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	512 15 4	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	966 2 5
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	0 0 6
		Interest to March 31, 1903	4,656 12 1	Balance	18,495 3 6
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	826 6 2		
		Total	26,017 19 3	Total	26,017 19 3
Pouparae ..	31 Jan., 1897	Purchase-money ..	7,768 16 6	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	2,105 10 3
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	40 4 7	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	395 6 11
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c , unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	182 14 6
		Interest to March 31, 1903	1,796 18 5	Balance	7,236 2 8
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	313 14 10		
		Total	9,919 14 4	Total	9,919 14 4
Rakitairi ..	31 Mar., 1897	Purchase-money ..	19,362 7 6	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	6,072 11 5
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	342 10 7	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,057 6 8
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	9 0 0	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	65 13 3
		Interest to March 31, 1903	3,909 12 3	Balance	17,220 18 7
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	792 19 7		
		Total	24,416 9 11	Total	24,416 9 11

Table 34.—STATEMENT showing OUTLAY and INCOME of ESTATES PURCHASED, &c.—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	Date of Purchase.	Outlay. Particulars.	Outlay. Amount.	Income. Particulars.	Income. Amount.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Waiapi ..	31 Mar., 1897	Purchase-money ..	9,553 2 3	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903 ..	2,952 16 7
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	106 6 1	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	493 16 9
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	.. ..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	47 0 9
		Interest to March 31, 1903	2,113 15 2	Balance	8,667 18 4
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	388 8 11		
		Total	12,161 12 5	Total	12,161 12 5
Albury ..	31 Mar., 1897	Purchase-money ..	65,294 11 8	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	19,387 6 3
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	2,036 14 3	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	3,281 9 9
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	Cr. 0 11 0	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	355 17 0
		Interest to March 31, 1903	14,923 7 2	Balance	61,958 4 8
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	2,728 15 7		
		Total	84,982 17 8	Total	84,982 17 8
Puhipuhi ..	14 Apr., 1897	Purchase-money ..	320 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	112 0 0
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	3 16 0	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	31 2 0
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	4 0 0
		Interest to March 31, 1903	69 10 6	Balance	258 17 3
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	12 12 9		
		Total	405 19 3	Total	405 19 3
Momona ..	26 Apr., 1897	Purchase-money ..	3,608 19 3	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	1,175 11 0
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	78 3 5	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	267 11 10
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	14 13 10
		Interest to March 31, 1903	793 3 6	Balance	3,170 14 6
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	148 5 0		
		Total	4,628 11 2	Total	4,628 11 2
Tokarahi ..	26 Apr., 1897	Purchase-money ..	77,360 17 10	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	22,428 2 10
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	1,894 17 8	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	5,508 2 1
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	0 6 8	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	332 14 6
		Interest to March 31, 1903	17,254 14 9	Balance	71,450 2 0
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	3,208 4 6		
		Total	99,719 1 5	Total	99,719 1 5
Marawhiti..	26 Apr., 1897	Purchase-money ..	14,200 18 10	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	4,190 11 5
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	272 16 1	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	852 3 7
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	8 10 5	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	60 7 11
		Interest to March 31, 1903	3,149 17 11	Balance	13,111 13 8
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	582 13 4		
		Total	18,214 16 7	Total	18,214 16 7
Cannington (R.S., 1862)	5 June, 1897	Purchase-money ..	60 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	17 13 8
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	4 3 0	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	3 0 8
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..
		Interest to March 31, 1903	13 9 8	Balance	59 4 3
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	2 5 11		
		Total	79 18 7	Total	79 18 7

Table 34.—STATEMENT showing OUTLAY and INCOME of ESTATES PURCHASED, &c.—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	Date of Purchase.	Outlay. Particulars.	Outlay. Amount.	Income. Particulars.	Income. Amount.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Papamangi ..	23 July, 1897	Purchase-money ..	3,875 8 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	1,920 6 8
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	2,958 13 11	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	461 8 9
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1 15 6	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	10 7 2
		Interest to March 31, 1903	1,375 12 9	Balance	6,094 0 11
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	274 13 4		
		Total	8,486 3 6	Total	8,486 3 6
Otahu ..	4 Aug., 1897	Purchase-money ..	7,555 4 6	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	1,228 2 0
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	777 9 7	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	381 3 1
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	145 18 7
		Interest to March 31, 1903	1,809 19 11	Balance	8,743 1 11
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	355 11 7		
		Total	10,498 5 7	Total	10,498 5 7
Beaumont ..	9 Dec., 1897	Purchase-money ..	10,482 11 3	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	1,212 7 10
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	87 8 9	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	321 8 3
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	7 6 4	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	372 15 4
		Interest to March 31, 1903	2,179 0 1	Balance	11,294 19 5
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	445 4 5		
		Total	13,201 10 10	Total	13,201 10 10
Pawaho ..	8 Mar., 1898	Purchase-money ..	1,823 12 6	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	571 10 0
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	387 14 11	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	164 11 8
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	52 1 6	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	23 0 11
		Interest to March 31, 1903	394 6 11	Balance	1,987 3 1
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	88 9 10		
		Total	2,746 5 8	Total	2,746 5 8
Hekeao ..	8 Mar., 1898	Purchase-money ..	10,545 5 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	3,039 6 3
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	1,081 19 4	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	600 6 4
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	6 15 0
		Interest to March 31, 1903	2,182 8 3	Balance	10,630 19 10
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	467 14 10		
		Total	14,277 7 5	Total	14,277 7 5
Okauia ..	23 Mar., 1898	Purchase-money ..	4,143 12 1	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	765 16 11
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	685 5 0	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	440 15 4
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	204 3 10
		Interest to March 31, 1903	922 17 9	Balance	4,535 3 2
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	194 4 5		
		Total	5,945 19 3	Total	5,945 19 3
Rangiatea ..	24 Mar., 1898	Purchase-money ..	14,014 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	3,317 17 10
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	253 7 10	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	321 8 4
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	110 16 4
		Interest to March 31, 1903	2,716 3 4	Balance	13,306 18 2
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	573 9 6		
		Total	17,557 0 8	Total	17,557 0 8

Table 34.—STATEMENT showing OUTLAY and INCOME of ESTATES PURCHASED, *&c.—continued.*

Name of Estate.	Date of Purchase.	Outlay. Particulars.	Outlay. Amount.	Income. Particulars.	Income. Amount.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Karapiro ..	27 Oct., 1898	Purchase-money ..	8,617 4 6	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	1,747 18 1
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	133 15 5	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	523 19 11
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	2 2 0	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	34 3 1
		Interest to March 31, 1903	1,419 1 3	Balance	8,213 15 5
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	352 13 4		
		Total	10,524 16 6	Total	10,524 16 6
R.S. 2682 ..	18 Nov., 1898	Purchase-money ..	105 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	46 3 4
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	4 13 0	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	11 7 10
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..
		Interest to March 31, 1903	17 9 5	Balance	74 3 2
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	4 11 11		
		Total	131 14 4	Total	131 14 4
Starborough	27 Mar., 1899	Purchase-money ..	100,562 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	19,175 0 4
	4 Oct., „	Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	8,186 16 6	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	8,065 9 0
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	6 5 6	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	559 10 11
		Interest to March 31, 1903	16,386 13 4	Balance	101,715 16 2
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	4,374 0 10		
		Total	129,515 16 2	Total	129,515 16 2
Waikakahi	27 Mar., 1899	Purchase-money ..	323,314 2 7	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	61,828 1 5
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	3,281 19 0	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	16,897 17 9
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1 12 9	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	1,238 12 10
		Interest to March 31, 1903	49,800 19 2	Balance	309,571 3 0
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	13,137 1 6		
		Total	389,535 15 0	Total	389,535 15 0
Mahora ..	27 Mar., 1899	Purchase-money ..	31,178 2 6	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	5,754 4 4
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	762 19 0	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,922 3 7
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	306 5 6
		Interest to March 31, 1903	4,829 7 4	Balance	30,072 12 7
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	1,284 17 2		
		Total	38,055 6 0	Total	38,055 6 0
Willows ..	27 Mar., 1899	Purchase-money ..	14,734 10 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	2,793 7 10
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	98 3 7	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	707 18 3
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	108 18 0
		Interest to March 31, 1903	2,261 0 2	Balance	14,079 18 10
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	596 9 2		
		Total	17,690 2 11	Total	17,690 2 11
Tamai ..	27 Mar., 1899	Purchase-money ..	2,662 11 3	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	667 6 8
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	815 4 9	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	251 17 8
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	65 1 6	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	36 2 9
		Interest to March 31, 1903	503 17 10	Balance	3,231 12 5
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	140 4 2		
		Total	4,186 19 6	Total	4,186 19 6

Table 34.—STATEMENT showing OUTLAY and INCOME of ESTATES PURCHASED, &c.—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	Date of Purchase.	Outlay. Particulars.	Outlay. Amount.	Income. Particulars.	Income. Amount.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Richmond Brook	27 Mar., 1899	Purchase-money ..	23,890 7 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903 ..	3,928 0 5
	14 June, „	Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	1,422 9 8	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,488 7 8
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	23 10 0	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	343 9 6
		Interest to March 31, 1903	3,869 18 0	Balance	24,484 11 9
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	1,038 4 8		
		Total	30,244 9 4	Total	30,244 9 4
R.S. 36469..	26 Apr., 1899	Purchase-money ..	502 19 7	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	96 7 8
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	4 4 0	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	23 2 8
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..
		Interest to March 31, 1903	76 12 0	Balance	484 18 11
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	20 13 8		
		Total	604 9 3	Total	604 9 3
R.S. 36228 (Homestead)	24 July, 1899	Purchase-money ..	227 0 3	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	26 9 0
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	13 0 8	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	11 6 4
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..
		Interest to March 31, 1903	34 6 7	Balance	245 16 0
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	9 3 10		
		Total	283 11 4	Total	283 11 4
Janefield ..	27 July, 1899	Purchase-money ..	4,888 3 4	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	765 13 11
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	168 9 3	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	214 9 0
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	10 2 9	Rents, &c., unpaid to March 31, 1904 ..	37 16 2
		Interest to March 31, 1903	719 14 6	Balance	4,971 19 1
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	203 8 4		
		Total	5,989 18 2	Total	5,989 18 2
R.S. 36231..	29 Sept., 1899	Purchase-money ..	346 5 7	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	44 8 9
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	3 3 0	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	26 13 3
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	8 17 9
		Interest to March 31, 1903	48 16 9	Balance	332 1 4
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	13 15 9		
		Total	412 1 1	Total	412 1 1
R.S. 36056/7	29 Sept., 1899	Purchase-money ..	290 10 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	48 11 4
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	3 3 0	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	13 9 0
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..
		Interest to March 31, 1903	39 10 9	Balance	282 13 3
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	11 9 10		
		Total	344 13 7	Total	344 13 7
Te Matua ..	27 Dec., 1899	Purchase-money ..	10,531 15 8	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	1,867 4 1
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	278 6 6	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	541 11 0
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	0 1 9
		Interest to March 31, 1903	1,365 1 4	Balance	10,200 14 11
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	434 8 3		
		Total	12,609 11 9	Total	12,609 11 9

Table 34.—STATEMENT showing OUTLAY and INCOME of ESTATES PURCHASED, &c.—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	Date of Purchase.	Outlay. Particulars.	Outlay. Amount.	Income. Particulars.	Income. Amount.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Rautawiri ..	27 Dec., 1899	Purchase-money ..	2,560 7 2	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	291 2 0
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	63 18 2	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	181 0 2
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	49 9 7
		Interest to March 31, 1903	356 3 4	Balance	2,584 11 6
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	125 14 7		
		Total	3,106 3 3	Total	3,106 3 3
Ohakea ..	13 Jan., 1900	Purchase-money ..	22,638 12 2	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	3,526 1 1
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	218 5 11	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,259 9 8
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	3 7 6	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	35 8 11
		Interest to March 31, 1903	2,819 18 8	Balance	21,778 12 7
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	919 8 0		
		Total	26,599 12 3	Total	26,599 12 3
Aorangi ..	26 Mar., 1900	Purchase-money ..	25,355 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	4,056 13 11
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	1,609 16 7	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,496 6 5
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	34 18 8
		Interest to March 31, 1903	3,175 14 9	Balance	25,637 10 2
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	1,084 17 10		
		Total	31,225 9 2	Total	31,225 9 2
Fencourt ..	26 Mar., 1900	Purchase-money ..	31,976 0 4	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	4,172 0 2
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	809 3 8	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,846 4 7
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	36 4 7	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	367 2 6
		Interest to March 31, 1903	3,875 4 11	Balance	31,629 18 7
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	1,318 12 4		
		Total	38,015 5 10	Total	38,015 5 10
Whitehall ..	26 Mar., 1900	Purchase-money ..	6,734 16 3	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	806 17 6
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	295 10 0	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	512 15 9
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	97 19 6	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	111 0 6
		Interest to March 31, 1903	836 7 1	Balance	6,816 13 4
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	282 14 3		
		Total	8,247 7 1	Total	8,247 7 1
Takitu ..	26 Mar., 1900	Purchase-money ..	23,032 14 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	3,633 17 9
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	594 5 11	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,129 11 6
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	139 10 6	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..
		Interest to March 31, 1903	2,800 12 6	Balance	22,774 2 3
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	970 8 7		
		Total	27,537 11 6	Total	27,537 11 6
Pareora No. 2	6 Mar., 1900	Purchase-money ..	70,953 3 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	10,099 17 1
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	897 12 7	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	3,536 10 11
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	88 4 7	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	112 3 8
		Interest to March 31, 1903	8,866 10 11	Balance	70,349 11 5
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	3,292 12 0		
		Total	84,098 3 1	Total	84,098 3 1

Table 34.—STATEMENT showing OUTLAY and INCOME of ESTATES PURCHASED, &c.—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	Date of Purchase.	Outlay. Particulars.	Outlay. Amount.	Income. Particulars.	Income. Amount.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Elderslie ..	26 Mar., 1900	Purchase-money ..	79,758 18 4	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	10,617 11 7
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	1,779 0 7	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	5,015 15 7
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	186 1 4
		Interest to March 31, 1903	9,652 7 7	Balance	78,670 17 2
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	3,299 19 2		
		Total	94,490 5 8	Total	94,490 5 8
Punaroa ..	26 Mar., 1900	Purchase-money ..	31,613 15 4	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	4,561 16 2
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	548 12 2	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,664 13 9
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	10 14 3
		Interest to March 31, 1903	3,813 16 8	Balance	31,031 18 1
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	1,292 18 1		
		Total	37,269 2 3	Total	37,269 2 3
Papaka ..	26 Mar., 1900	Purchase-money ..	17,962 11 4	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	2,669 8 11
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	190 18 10	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	897 0 4
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..
		Interest to March 31, 1903	2,154 7 0	Balance	17,471 3 4
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	729 15 5		
		Total	21,037 12 7	Total	21,037 12 7
Barnego ..	26 Mar., 1900	Purchase-money ..	26,323 2 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	3,521 15 2
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	946 1 10	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,271 17 2
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	114 5 9	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	181 0 11
		Interest to March 31, 1903	3,233 19 10	Balance	26,739 3 10
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	1,096 7 8		
		Total	31,713 17 1	Total	31,713 17 1
Earnscleugh	6 Nov., 1900	Purchase-money ..	3,100 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	285 11 9
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	78 7 5	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	169 11 10
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1 10 8	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..
		Interest to March 31, 1903	306 12 7	Balance	3,159 18 4
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	128 11 3		
		Total	3,615 1 11	Total	3,615 1 11
Maungaraki	6 Nov., 1900 23 Dec., 1901	Purchase-money ..	3,000 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	174 0 0
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	1,397 4 4	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	151 0 5
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	496 3 8	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	3 15 10
		Interest to March 31, 1903	368 6 11	Balance	5,131 3 8
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	198 5 0		
		Total	5,459 19 11	Total	5,459 19 11
Waipapa ..	6 Mar., 1901	Purchase-money ..	8,250 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	818 15 3
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	281 0 6	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	624 1 4
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..
		Interest to March 31, 1903	731 18 10	Balance	8,181 4 4
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	361 1 7		
		Total	9,624 0 11	Total	9,624 0 11

Table 34.—STATEMENT showing OUTLAY and INCOME of ESTATES PURCHASED, &c.—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	Date of Purchase.	Outlay. Particulars.	Outlay. Amount.	Income. Particulars.	Income. Amount.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Tarawahi ..	26 Mar., 1901	Purchase-money ..	2,857 10 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	260 13 10
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	836 13 2	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	210 3 2
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	174 15 6	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	14 3 11
		Interest to March 31, 1903	264 19 4	Balance	3,814 12 1
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	165 15 0		
		Total	4,299 13 0	Total	4,299 13 0
Northbank	26 Mar., 1901	Purchase-money ..	6,750 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	1,024 6 7
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	414 17 10	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	264 18 9
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	103 15 6	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	100 9 5
		Interest to March 31, 1903	578 4 11	Balance	6,750 2 8
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	292 19 2		
		Total	8,139 17 5	Total	8,139 17 5
Lyndon ..	26 Mar., 1901	Purchase-money ..	15,750 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	1,535 5 7
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	1,180 17 0	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	841 10 2
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	125 6 0	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	
		Interest to March 31, 1903	1,331 12 0	Balance	16,697 19 3
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	687 0 0		
		Total	19,074 15 0	Total	19,074 15 0
Hatuma ..	26 Mar., 1901	Purchase-money ..	141,393 5 3	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	8,886 5 11
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	6,265 13 0	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	10,150 12 2
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,102 15 1	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	4,136 9 2
		Interest to March 31, 1903	11,929 9 3	Balance	143,503 16 9
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	5,986 1 5		
		Total	166,677 4 0	Total	166,677 4 0
Langdale ..	1 Apr., 1901	Purchase-money ..	30,669 10 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	3,145 11 1
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	886 19 3	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,735 3 10
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	*Cr.* 2 12 8	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	85 16 8
		Interest to March 31, 1903	2,545 9 8	Balance	30,401 10 1
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	1,268 15 5		
		Total	35,368 1 8	Total	35,368 1 8
Mangawhata	24 Apr., 1901	Purchase-money ..	16,129 8 6	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	1,562 19 9
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	719 8 9	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	871 16 1
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	62 17 6	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	0 0 6
		Interest to March 31, 1903	1,310 4 6	Balance	16,468 3 11
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	681 1 0		
		Total	18,903 0 3	Total	18,903 0 3
Kohika ..	29 Apr., 1901	Purchase-money ..	28,093 4 3	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	2,514 6 0
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	713 6 10	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,637 6 8
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904		Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	228 5 7
		Interest to March 31, 1903	2,235 13 1	Balance	27,820 14 9
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	1,158 8 10		
		Total	32,200 13 0	Total	32,200 13 0

Table 34.—STATEMENT showing OUTLAY and INCOME of ESTATES PURCHASED, &c.—*continued*

Name of Estate.	Date of Purchase.	Outlay.		Income.	
		Particulars.	Amount.	Particulars.	Amount.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Manga-a-tcro	27 Mar., 1902	Purchase-money ..	88,118 4 3	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	3,408 2 8
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	1,561 16 1	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	4,254 7 7
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,401 9 2	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	1,231 4 11
		Interest to March 31, 1903	3,637 5 0	Balance	89,491 19 1
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	3,666 19 9		
		Total	98,385 14 3	Total	98,385 14 3
Kaimahi ..	23 July, 1901	Purchase-money ..	4,700 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	309 11 4
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	60 12 3	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	130 12 0
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	149 17 7
		Interest to March 31, 1903	325 6 11	Balance	4,687 16 7
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	191 18 4		
		Total	5,277 17 6	Total	5,277 17 6
Kapuatone..	26 Sept., 1901	Purchase-money ..	2,249 3 1	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	136 5 6
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	124 15 7	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	127 3 2
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	8 13 4
		Interest to March 31, 1903	143 2 2	Balance	2,340 6 5
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	95 7 7		
		Total	2,612 8 5	Total	2,612 8 5
Puhuka ..	28 June, 1901	Purchase-money ..	989 4 4	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	53 14 0
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	145 18 6	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	53 9 9
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	81 19 0	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	16 5 11
		Interest to March 31, 1903	79 11 9	Balance	1,222 13 3
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	49 9 4		
		Total	1,346 2 11	Total	1,346 2 11
Raincliff ..	21 May, 1901	Purchase-money ..	2,424 5 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	994 9 4
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	64 18 0	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	76 13 6
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..
		Interest to March 31, 1903	187 8 1	Balance	1,672 17 10
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	67 9 7		
		Total	2,744 0 8	Total	2,744 0 8
Epuni ..	21 May, 1901	Purchase-money ..	9,146 12 6	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	1,048 18 2
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	1,785 9 6	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	766 0 9
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	87 17 9	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	16 3 4
		Interest to March 31, 1903	792 11 2	Balance	10,425 1 10
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	443 13 2		
		Total	12,256 4 1	Total	12,256 4 1
Ringway ..	2 Aug., 1901	Purchase-money ..	8,000 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	705 9 1
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	333 7 10	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	248 19 7
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to 31 March, 1904	59 1 5	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	282 5 2
		Interest to March 31, 1903	554 11 4	Balance	8,048 8 4
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	338 1 7		
		Total	9,285 2 2	Total	9,285 2 2
Toka-ora ..	26 Sept., 1901	Purchase-money ..	31,616 11 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	1,614 19 7
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	486 3 6	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,695 15 11
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	47 15 10	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	391 7 9
		Interest to March 31, 1903	1,356 12 2	Balance	31,099 4 3
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	1,294 5 0		
		Total	34,801 7 6	Total	34,801 7 6

Table 34.—STATEMENT showing OUTLAY and INCOME of ESTATES PURCHASED, &c.—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	Date of Purchase.	Outlay. Particulars.	Outlay. Amount. £ s. d.	Income. Particulars.	Income. Amount. £ s. d.
Glenham ..	27 Feb., 1902	Purchase-money ..	37,100 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	1,283 19 2
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	718 3 11	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,374 14 8
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	766 8 4	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	30 6 1
		Interest to March 31, 1903	1,655 17 8	Balance	39,104 2 0
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	1,552 12 0		
		Total	41,793 1 11	Total	41,793 1 11
Rapuwai ..	29 Oct., 1901	Purchase-money ..	8,990 5 6	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	690 17 2
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	378 8 8	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	444 10 7
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	533 13 11	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	28 19 8
		Interest to March 31, 1903	376 19 0	Balance	9,114 19 8
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	10,279 7 1		
		Total		Total	10,279 7 1
Forest Gate	27 Feb., 1902	Purchase-money ..	48,521 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	2,576 7 1
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	775 16 7	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	2,205 4 7
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	362 10 10	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	176 0 10
		Interest to March 31, 1903	2,158 11 4	Balance	48,857 15 3
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	1,997 9 0		
		Total	53,815 7 9	Total	53,815 7 9
Lyndon No. 2	27 Mar., 1902	Purchase-money ..	43,326 5 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	1,698 13 10
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	758 3 0	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	2,385 19 8
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	53 17 6	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	235 11 11
		Interest to March 31, 1903	1,788 0 3	Balance	43,381 6 1
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	1,775 5 9		
		Total	47,701 11 6	Total	47,701 11 6
Waari ..	14 Sept., 1901	Purchase-money ..	855 8 0	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	11 6 9
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	6 10 9	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	3 13 6
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	460 13 11	Balance	1,414 12 7
		Interest to March 31, 1903	53 10 10		
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	53 9 4		
		Total	1,429 12 10	Total	1,429 12 10
Hetana ..	14 Sept., 1901	Purchase-money ..	4,898 14 3	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	48 6 6
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	56 5 6	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	38 13 10
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,082 15 8	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	1 4 0
		Interest to March 31, 1903	307 18 0	Balance	6,500 5 5
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	242 16 4		
		Total	6,588 9 9	Total	6,588 9 9
Kumeroa ..	26 Mar., 1902	Purchase-money ..	29,092 3 9	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	1,025 0 10
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	1,563 1 5	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,593 16 7
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,203 1 0	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	342 4 4
		Interest to March 31, 1903	1,246 7 7	Balance	31,424 14 9
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	1,281 2 9		
		Total	34,385 16 6	Total	34,385 16 6
Cradock ..	4 Feb., 1902	Purchase-money ..	1,000 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	9 9 8
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	17 19 6	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	22 16 3
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	186 15 2	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	5 7 6
		Interest to March 31, 1903	47 10 4	Balance	1,262 18 11
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	48 7 4		
		Total	1,300 12 4	Total	1,300 12 4

Table 34.—STATEMENT showing OUTLAY and INCOME of ESTATES PURCHASED, &c.—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	Date of Purchase.	Outlay. Particulars.	Outlay. Amount.	Income. Particulars.	Income. Amount.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Kitchener ..	4 Feb., 1902	Purchase-money ..	876 9 8	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	7 16 0
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	14 9 0	Rents, &c., paid April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	31 0 5
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	195 7 9	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..
		Interest to March 31, 1903	41 0 1	Balance	1,132 2 5
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	43 12 4		
		Total	1,170 18 10	Total	1,170 18 10
Plumer ..	5 Feb., 1902	Purchase-money ..	888 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	16 18 5
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	12 1 6	Rents, &c., paid April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	19 15 1
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	34 15 0	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	4 16 11
		Interest to March 31, 1903	40 19 7	Balance	970 18 0
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	36 12 4		
		Total	1,012 8 5	Total	1,012 8 5
Methuen ..	5 Feb., 1902	Purchase-money ..	3,528 16 10	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	99 5 11
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	162 1 0	Rents, &c., paid April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	137 7 4
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	300 15 0	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	13 0 6
		Interest to March 31, 1903	169 11 4	Balance	4,072 5 5
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	160 15 0		
		Total	4,321 19 2	Total	4,321 19 2
R.S. 36278 ..	11 July, 1901	Purchase-money ..	483 17 9	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	35 2 4
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	3 3 0	Rents, &c., paid April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	22 11 6
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..
		Interest to March 31, 1903	33 17 1	Balance	482 14 7
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	19 10 7		
		Total	540 8 5	Total	540 8 5
Maytown ..	26 Mar., 1902	Purchase-money ..	5,286 12 0	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	265 3 9
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	119 14 0	Rents, &c., paid April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	226 1 3
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	23 5 9	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	42 14 1
		Interest to March 31, 1903	219 11 4	Balance	5,332 8 0
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	217 4 0		
		Total	5,866 7 1	Total	5,866 7 1
Eccleston ..	16 Apr., 1902	Purchase-money ..	10,593 2 6	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	544 15 1
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	134 7 8	Rents, &c., paid April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	519 19 0
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	..	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..
		Interest to March 31, 1903	412 17 7	Balance	10,488 11 3
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	412 17 7		
		Total	11,553 5 4	Total	11,553 5 4
Argyll ..	25 Apr., 1902 31 Mar., 1903	Purchase-money ..	158,030 16 9	Rents, &c., paid April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	7,236 3 8
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	769 9 1	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	912 7 9
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	4,557 10 10	Balance	162,758 15 5
		Interest to March 31, 1903	606 16 0		
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	6,942 14 2		
		Total	170,907 6 10	Total	170,907 6 10
Windsor Park	21 May, 1902 19 Sept., 1902	Purchase-money ..	31,528 4 1	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	1,118 8 10
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	844 9 7	Rents, &c., paid April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,847 19 1
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	28 19 1	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	340 12 9
		Interest to March 31, 1903	1,089 9 7	Balance	31,561 3 0
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	1,377 1 4		
		Total	34,868 3 8	Total	34,868 3 8

Table 34.—STATEMENT showing OUTLAY and INCOME of ESTATES PURCHASED, &c.—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	Date of Purchase.	Outlay. Particulars.	Outlay. Amount.	Income. Particulars.	Income. Amount.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Linton ..	3 May, 1902	Purchase-money ..	6,884 10 7	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	213 19 10
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	39 18 0	Rents, &c., paid April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	344 14 9
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	143 2 4	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	100 14 6
		Interest to March 31, 1903	251 13 7	Balance	6,959 10 5
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	299 15 0		
		Total	7,618 19 6	Total	7,618 19 6
Mead ..	15 Jan., 1903	Purchase-money ..	18,319 2 5	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	487 19 0
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	320 2 10	Rents, &c., paid April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	410 7 4
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	26 13 6	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	35 3 1
		Interest to March 31, 1903	153 19 9	Balance	18,679 15 1
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904. ..	793 6 0		
		Total	19,613 4 6	Total	19,613 4 6
Windsor Park (No. 2) ..	26 Aug., 1902	Purchase-money ..	16,445 15 9	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	437 16 3
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	548 2 0	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	785 6 4
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	136 17 3	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	63 8 1
		Interest to March 31, 1903	406 16 7	Balance	16,979 2 0
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	728 1 1		
		Total	18,265 12 8	Total	18,265 12 8
Duncan ..	29 Oct., 1902	Purchase-money ..	4,091 11 9	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	85 18 4
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	97 4 6	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	122 8 1
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	108 12 9	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	56 10 4
		Interest to March 31, 1903	70 0 2	Balance	4,285 5 2
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	182 12 9		
		Total	4,550 1 11	Total	4,550 1 11
Kokatahi ..	8 Aug., 1902	Purchase-money ..	4,709 0 8	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	133 18 0
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	72 2 6	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	205 5 8
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	25 18 3	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	19 15 1
		Interest to March 31, 1903	124 2 2	Balance	4,776 10 9
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	204 5 11		
		Total	5,135 9 6	Total	5,135 9 6
Normandale	25 Mar., 1903	Purchase-money ..	15,518 9 0	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	85 15 7
	30 June, 1903	Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,041 10 10	Rents, &c., unpaid, at March 31, 1904 ..	..
		Interest to March 31, 1903	2 5 9	Balance	16,936 0 0
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	459 10 0		
		Total	17,021 15 7	Total	17,021 15 7
Chamberlain	21 Jan., 1903	Purchase-money ..	41,863 15 6	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	1,874 15 9
	25 Feb., 1903	Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	482 19 0	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,154 19 5
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	162 9 6	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	0 2 0
		Interest to March 31, 1903	157 8 9	Balance	41,443 8 4
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	1,806 12 9		
		Total	44,473 5 6	Total	44,473 5 6
Tablelands	7 July, 1902	Purchase-money ..	25,349 0 0	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	884 4 11
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	32 9 0	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	1,190 8 0	Balance	27,563 18 3
		Interest to March 31, 1903	747 0 2		
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	1,129 6 0		
		Total	28,448 3 2	Total	28,448 3 2

Table 34.—STATEMENT showing OUTLAY and INCOME of ESTATES PURCHASED, &c.—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	Date of Purchase.	Outlay.				Income.			
		Particulars.	Amount.			Particulars.	Amount.		
			£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Longbush ..	7 July, 1902	Purchase-money ..	16,388	0	0	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	711	15	7
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	727	3	3	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..		
		Interest to March 31, 1903	482	17	7	Balance	17,626	5	5
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	740	0	2				
		Total	18,338	1	0	Total	18,338	1	0
Spotswood ..	8 Jan., 1903 25 Mar., 1903	Purchase-money ..	15,201	6	2	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	242	4	0
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1903 ..	77	17	10	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	39	8	11
		Incidental expenses, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	858	15	6	Balance	16,652	10	2
		Interest to March 31, 1903	110	6	4				
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	685	17	3				
		Total	16,934	3	1	Total	16,934	3	1
Squire's Homestead	11 Aug., 1902	Purchase-money ..	92	16	6	Rents, &c., paid, to March 31, 1903	3	5	0
		Interest to March 31, 1903	2	5	9	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	3	19	4
		Interest, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904 ..	3	18	11	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..		
						Balance	91	16	10
		Total	99	1	2	Total	99	1	2
Wigan ..	30 June, 1903	Purchase-money ..	53,946	12	8	Rents, &c., paid to March 31, 1904	1,349	13	3
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1904 ..	409	8	4	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..		
		Interest to March, 31, 1904	1,732	11	6	Balance	54,738	19	3
		Total	56,088	12	6	Total	56,088	12	6
Bickerstaffe	30 June, 1903	Purchase money ..	40,560	0	0	Rents, &c., paid to March 31, 1904	820	1	0
		Incidental expenses to March. 31, 1904 ..	4,201	6	0	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..		
		Interest to March 31, 1904	1,426	14	6	Balance	45,367	19	6
		Total	46,188	0	6	Total	46,188	0	6
St. Helens..	30 June, 1903	Purchase-money ..	4,338	13	0	Rents, &c., paid to March 31, 1904	224	11	0
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1904 ..	113	14	9	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..		
		Interest to March, 31, 1904	154	11	1	Balance	4,382	7	10
		Total	4,606	18	10	Total	4,606	18	10
Rainford ..	30 June, 1903	Purchase-money ..	6,022	11	2	Rents, &c., paid to March 31, 1904	174	16	11
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1904 ..	133	2	3	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..		
		Interest to March 31, 1904	196	4	1	Balance	6,177	0	7
		Total	6,351	17	6	Total	6,351	17	6
Station Peak	30 June, 1903	Purchase-money ..	300	0	0	Rents, &c., paid to March 31, 1903	16	3	0
		Interest to March 31, 1904	9	11	3	Rents, &c., paid, April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904	15	5	6
						Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	0	0	6
						Balance	278	2	3
		Total	309	11	3	Total	309	11	3
Annan ..	15 June, 1903	Purchase-money ..	94,444	1	10	Rents, &c., paid to March 31, 1904	3,095	4	2
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1904 ..	2,478	12	8	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	1	14	5
		Interest to March 31, 1904	3,291	0	9	Balance	97,116	16	8
		Total	100,213	15	3	Total	100,213	15	3

Table 34.—STATEMENT showing OUTLAY and INCOME of ESTATES PURCHASED, &c.—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	Date of Purchase.	Outlay. Particulars.	Outlay. Amount.	Income. Particulars.	Income. Amount.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Clandon ..	30 June, 1903	Purchase-money ..	11,518 9 0	Rents, &c., paid to March 31, 1904	393 15 3
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1904 ..	122 9 2	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..
		Interest to March 31, 1904	206 2 6	Balance	11,453 5 5
		Total	11,847 0 8	Total	11,847 0 8
Rosewill ..	31 Mar., 1904	Purchase-money ..	246,022 7 0	Rents, &c., paid to March 31, 1904	6,675 5 4
		Incidental expenses to March 31, 1904 ..	2,421 16 6	Rents, &c., unpaid at March 31, 1904 ..	..
		Interest to March 31, 1904	203 0 10	Balance	241,971 19 0
		Total	248,647 4 4	Total	248,647 4 4

LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACCOUNT.

SUMMARY.

Outlay. Particulars.	Outlay. Amount.	Income. Particulars.	Income. Amoun .
DR.	£ s. d.	CR.	£ s. d.
Purchase-moneys of estates acquired, to 31st March, 1904	2,939,581 12 3	Rents, &c., paid, to 31st March, 1904 ..	564,621 9 0
		Interest from investment account ..	23,943 13 0
Roads, and incidental expenses of estates paid for, to 31st March, 1904.. ..	141,343 16 3	Rents, &c., unpaid at 31st March, 1904	18,035 15 9
Roads and incidental expenses of estates acquired but not paid for at March 31, 1904	4,967 12 6		
Lands exchanged	22 4 6		
Incidental expenses of estates declined or not yet completed at 31st March, 1904. &c.	24,624 17 5		
Interest to 31st March, 1904 (including accrued interest)	119,916 7 7		
Expenses on issue of debentures ..	1,237 2 0	Balance	2,625,092 14 9
Total	3,231,693 12 6	Total	3,231,693 12 6

SELECTORS AND LAND SELECTED.

Table 35.—COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of SELECTORS and LANDS selected under SETTLEMENT CONDITIONS for the Ten Years ended 31st March, 1904.

Year ending 31st March,	Cash.		Deferred Payment.		Perpetual Lease.		Lease in Perpetuity.		Occupation with Right of Purchase.		Agricultural Lease.		Occupation Leases.*	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.
1895†	392	38,694	47	5,453	3	1,263	372	91,799	398	75,477	2	44	..	..
1896†	476	26,574	6	456	7	1,427	696	122,350	431	84,968	3	36	69	2,931
1897†	388	28,485	..	..	19	9,106	659	104,927	277	59,648	2	13	48	2,817
1898†	272	22,525	..	..	2	651	599	117,938	380	81,414	5	258	23	1,285
1899†	534	37,400	1	13	1	640	675	159,415	458	109,950	2	114	31	1,449
1900†	491	23,936	..	..	2	624	656	153,531	395	117,771	3	70	64	2,295
1901†	362	58,703	..	..	3	2,499	489	144,205	673	262,729	1	23	53	2,128
1902†	489	27,290	1	52	1	10	501	116,125	447	128,893	1	28	71	2,507
1903†	374	17,194	..	..	..	..	573	161,745	403	118,557	3	36	52	2,434
1904†	435	22,481	..	..	..	..	894	194,515	402	146,953	2	13	97	4,972

Year ending 31st March,	Village Settlement: Cash.		Village Settlement: Occupation with Right of Purchase.		Village Settlement: Lease in Perpetuity.		Village-homestead Special Settlement.		Special-settlement Associations.		Improved Farms.		Small Grazing-runs and Grazing-farms.		Totals.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.
1895†	23	23	30	23	232	4,050	60	2,742	262	51,345	107	9,731	60	117,845	1,988	398,489
1896†	16	9	3	2	193	3,364	19	794	238	44,237	315	28,348	32	46,407	2,504	361,903
1897†	4	4	4	4	102	1,317	18	360	142	28,084	45	4,882	27	68,934	1,735	308,581
1898†	2	1	2	2	92	1,426	9	42	5	442	77	9,007	71	149,458	1,539	384,449
1899†	21	30	3	2	106	2,115	12	134	5	607	64	4,823	40	77,632	1,953	394,324
1900†	6	4	3	2	80	1,762	6	31	1	2	41	7,393	64	155,109	1,812	462,530
1901†	35	22	..	..	96	1,082	7	376	..	..	13	1,936	35	86,076	1,767	559,774
1902†	21	10	1	1	33	456	30	469	..	..	..	1,618	36	112,947	1,632	390,406
1903†	19	9	..	..	40	619	34	1,512	29	5,761	30	4,032	45	113,925	1,602	425,824
1904†	10	8	1	0¼	21	514	23	272	4	729	106	19,436	58	144,786	2,053	534,679

"Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894." † Inclusive of Cheviot Estate, and lands disposed of under the Land for Settlements Acts.

Table 36.—RETURN of Field-work executed by the Staff and Contract Surveyors, from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904.

Surveyor and District.	Minor Triangulation and Topographical Survey.		Rural and Suburban.			Town Section Survey.			Native Land Court Survey.			Gold-mining Surveys.			Roads, Railways, and Water-races.		Other Work.	Total Cost of Surveyor and Party from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904.	Remarks
	Acres.	* Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No. of Sections.	* Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No. of Allotments.	* Cost per Allotment.	Acres.	No. of Secs. or Divs.	* Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No. of Sections.	* Cost per Acre.	Miles.	Cost per Mile.	Cost.		
		d.			s.			s.			d.			s.		£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
LAND DISTRICT OF AUCKLAND.																			
Staff Surveyors.																			
L. Cussen. Hamilton, &c. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	310 13 0	437 19 10	Inspections and supervision, King-country surveys. Died 10th November, 1903.
J. Baber. Tauranga, &c. ..	2,450	1·46	6,293	31	2·68	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	71 18 0	1,030 15 0	Chiefly forest.
G. A. Martin. Whangarei, Tutamoe	..	..	4,148	13	2·50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2·25	16·00	..	1,174 13 8	Broken forest country. About 20,000 acres complete in field, but not mapped.
W. J. Wheeler. Opoutihi ..	..	..	5,556	56	0·67	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10·50	12·14	127 10 9	442 18 0	Broken forest country. Cadet assisting two months. "Other work" is inspection, &c. Transferred to Auckland, October, 1903.
H. D. M. Haszard. Waitoa, Hapuakohe. &c.	12,500	1·40	15,796	53	0·76	..	..	..	64,028	3	0·66	..	..	..	34·70	9·90	49 9 0	1,005 5 1	Mostly open and swamp. Native Land Court Survey is Niue Island for Minister of Marine.
T. K. Thompson. Omapere ..	..	..	6,737	24	2·35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10·50	10·00	23 0 0	1,048 6 10	Open. "Other work" is inspection and reports. Cadet assisting.
D. I. Barron. Rotoma, Tarawera, &c.	52,000	1·06	568	3	1·93	117	91	21·56	3,978	22	6·00	..	..	..	..	..	139 6 0	1,574 3 3	Mostly forest. Town sections are Waiotapu Native Township and Native Land Court work for Waiariki Maori Council. "Other work" is reports, &c.
R. S. Galbraith. Orahiri, &c. ..	13,070	3·90	9,880	54	1·45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28·81	14·35	67 9 4	1,215 11 3	Rough forest country.
H. F. Edgecumbe. Pirongia, Kawhia South, &c.	..	..	29,037	33	1·05	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	143 3 4	938 12 11	Rough forest country. Cadet assisting. "Other work" is principally Matamata Estate (land for settlement).
A. G. Allom. Waioeka	34,350	3·80	1,492	4	0·81	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38·00	13·00	428 16 3	1,193 14 9	Heavy forest; broken country. "Other work" is principally track construction, Oamaru Block.
H. T. Mitchell. Horohoro ..	..	..	1,626	2	0·75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10·00	20·00	50 8 6	990 0 0	Heavy forest. About 23,000 acres complete in field, but not mapped.
Temporary Staff.																			
W. C. Spencer. Tokatoka, &c. ..	..	..	3,155	33	1·71	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1·00	18·20	177 12 8	528 4 10	Open and swamp. "Other work" is assisting Land Transfer Draughtsman, &c.
J. B. Thompson. Alexandra, &c...	1,675	3·50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	307 14 2	1,004 13 2	Forest and open. "Other work" is reports, &c.; Bickerstaffe Estate; reports, revision, survey, &c.; Matamata Estate (land for settlement).
A. Wilson. Orahiri	..	..	..	..	..	244	292	20·44	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36 0 11	1,167 6 2	Open. Otorohanga Native Township for Maniapoto Tuwharetoa Maori Council. "Other work" is reports, &c.
A. A. Seaton. Maungamangero, &c.	..	..	18,865	38	1·70	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31 12 3	717 9 6	Heavy forest; difficult of access.
A. J. Mountfort. Kawhia South..	..	..	5,598	30	1·50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5·00	16·00	36 0 0	960 11 8	Heavy forest.

Table 36.—RETURN of FIELD-WORK executed by the STAFF and CONTRACT SURVEYORS, from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904—*continued.*

Surveyor and District.	Minor Triangulation and Topographical Survey.		Rural and Suburban.			Town Section Survey.			Native Land Court Survey.			Gold-mining Surveys.			Roads, Railways, and Water-races.		Other Work.	Total Cost of Surveyor and Party from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904.	Remarks.
	Acres.	Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No. of Sections.	Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No. of Allotments.	Cost per Allotment.	Acres.	No. of Secs. or Divs.	Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No. of Section.	Cost per Acre.	Miles.	Cost per Mile.	Cost.		
		d.			s.			s.			d.			s.		£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
W. C. O'Neill, Takuhue, &c. ..	..	..	217	14	5·43	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13·00	20·00	27 0 0	709 3 0	Forest and open. "Other work" is Taipa Road deviations and surveys of Native school sites.
H. M. Kensington. Punakitere, &c.	4,162	1·15	2,013	7	1·50	..	..	..	78,200	5	0·57	..	..	..	..	..	..	922 19 0	Mostly forest, broken country. Native Land Court survey is sketch plan Motatau Block for Tokerau Maori Council.
V. I. Blake, Rangaunu, &c. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	195 15 7	861 15 3	Broken forest country. 3,000 acres complete in field and mapped. "Other work" is Klotze Observatory at Cable Station, &c.
L. Jackson. Tutamoe	10,908	7·26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19·20	21·71	..	749 12 11	Dense forest. 10,900 acres in progress.
J. L. D'Arcy Irvine. Rotorua, &c.	18,300	3·43	2,769	16	1·88	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22·00	12·00	5 0 0	1,056 8 2	Heavy forest, broken country.
J. Simms. Puniu, Tuhua, &c. ..	..	..	3,339	15	1·03	650	713	17·34	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11 18 0	801 2 1	Open and swamp. Town sections are Te Kuiti and Taumarunui Native Townships for Maniapoto Tuwharetoa Maori Council.
F. E. Byrne. Whareorino, &c. ..	24,000	1.46	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,105 16 4	Heavy forest; very broken country.
G. B. Beere. Hapuakohe ..	..	..	1,736	4	0·54	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13·75	36·35	..	374 13 2	Mostly open. Engagement terminated 30th September.
E. J. Fairburn. Rotoma, &c. ..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	477 19 0	Heavy forest. Engagement terminated 30th September. Mr. D. I. Barron to inspect and furnish plans.
F. J. Hosking. Whangape ..	..	..	2,218	10	2·17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	240 13 0	Mostly forest. Engagement terminated 31st July. Work completed.
R. C. Jordan. Opoutihi.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	675 6 6	Broken forest. Engagement terminated 30th September. 5,556 acres. Inspected and completed by Mr. Wheeler.
J. O. McCabe. Waioeka ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	459 6 0	Broken forest. Engagement terminated 30th September, Mr. Allom completing plan.
A. D. Newton. Waoku	20,000	..	302	3	2·83	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9·50	..	..	350 17 0	Broken forest. Engagement terminated 30th September.
Means and totals	193,415	2·45	121,345	443	1·43	1,011	1096	18·51	146206	30	0·76	..	..	..	218·21	15·80	2,240 7 9	24,220 17 4	
Contract Surveyors.																			
E. F. Adams. Thames, Ohinemuri	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	496	5	5·64	..	..	..	..	Forest and open. Fees deposited by applicants.
W. M. Atkinson. Purua, &c. ..	..	..	60	2	..	..	..	..	22	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Open. Fees deposited by applicants.
P. Bedlington. Waipu, Purua, &c.	..	..	808	5	1·76	..	..	..	289	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Forest and open. Fees deposited by applicants.
E. W. Buckeridge. Alexandra, &c.	..	..	3,877	6	0·76	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Heavy forest. Fees deposited by applicants.

R. Campbell. Maungataniwha ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	535	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Open. Fees deposited by applicants.
P. E. Cheal. Taupiri, &c. ..	..	..	1,275	6	1·42	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5·50	15·25	..	..	Mostly forest. Fees deposited by applicants.
C. Clayton. Waioeka, &c. ..	..	..	3,075	10	1·96	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Forest. Fees deposited by applicants.
C. E. Cooke. Kumeu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	65	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Open. Fees deposited by applicants.
O. M. Creagh. Whareorino, &c. ..	..	..	4,627	6	1·27	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,000	1	2·38	..	..	..	..	Heavy forest, and open. Fees deposited by applicants.
M. R. Creagh. Orahiri, &c. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,578	21	7·18	..	..	..	..	..	..	42 11 7	Mostly open.
E. de C. Drury. Karioi, &c. ..	..	..	1,823	4	1·06	..	..	..	2,286	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Forest and open. Fees deposited by applicants.
A. L. Foster. Matakohe, Tuhua, &c.	..	..	7,958	42	1·44	..	..	..	10,444	1	..	100	1	3·32	..	..	..	591 3 3	Forest and open. 6,979 acres. Bickerstaffe Estate (land for settlement); cost, £495 13s. 8d.
J. W. Harrison. Hukatere, &c. ..	..	..	6,576	25	1·37	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	494 5 3	Forest and open. 5,382 acres. Bickerstaffe Estate (land for settlement); cost, £403 13s.
M. F. Hazard. Ohinemuri ..	..	..	498	11	2·68	..	..	..	21	1	..	28	1	4·09	..	..	..	..	Mostly open. Fees deposited by applicants.
W. H. Johnston. Ohinemuri ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	51	1	..	..	..	..	..	Open. Fees deposited by applicants.
R. C. Jordan. Maketu, &c. ..	..	..	2,030	4	1·34	..	..	..	354	7	..	168	2	1·70	..	..	7 0 0	30 0 0	Forest. Other work is 70 chains boundary-line.
T W Kenny. Waihou, &c. ..	..	..	261	2	2·36	..	..	..	667	8	..	118	4	7·03	..	..	..	29 11 0	Forest and open.
F. V. and A. M. Kelly. Onewhero	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
D. W. McArthur. Ohinemuri ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	1	..	..	..	..	..	Open. Fees deposited by applicants.
H. W. Mitchell. Rotorua ..	..	..	581	1	1·54	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Forest. "
T. J. Mountain. Waihou, &c. ..	..	..	118	1	2·54	..	..	..	1,317	12	14·27	41	1	5·22	..	..	..	15 0 0	Open. "
R. Neumann. Mangamuka, &c. ..	..	..	241	2	2·58	..	..	..	90	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15 0 0	Forest and open. "
A. D. Newton. Pirongia ..	..	..	505	2	1·98	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Open. "
C. C. Otway. Horohoro, &c. ..	..	..	1,312	4	1·72	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Forest. "
A. O'N. O'Donahoo. Piopiotea ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,014	8	6·42	..	..	..	..	..	..	134 13 11	Open and forest. "
J. Reilly. Otama, &c. ..	..	..	620	5	2·53	..	..	..	..	..	..	95	2	6·54	..	..	..	30 0 0	Open. "
F. B. Sewell. Waimana, &c. ..	..	..	1,123	5	2·12	..	..	..	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Forest and open. "
A. B. Stubbing. Horohoro, &c. ..	..	..	751	4	2·46	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Forest. "
D. Stubbing. Thames ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	105	3	26·61	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Open. "
L. Simpson. Maketu, &c. ..	..	..	2,599	2	1·07	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Open and forest. "
I. Stephens. Takahue ..	..	..	100	1	3·00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Forest. "
P. Ward. Takahue, Horohoro, &c.	..	..	12,387	22	1·35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	117 9 6	Chiefly forest. "
Wilson and Jackson. Waipu, Kumeu, &c.	..	..	1,159	3	1·84	..	..	..	2,125	15	13·42	..	..	..	..	..	..	25 0 0	Forest and open. "
Means and totals	..	..	54,304	173	1·43	..	..	..	12,139	60	18·90	2,046	17	3·70	5·50	15·25	5 7 0 0	1,524 14 6	
Grand means and totals ..	193,415	2·45	175,649	616	1·43	1,011	1096	18·51	158345	89	1·38	2,046	17	3·70	223·71	15·7	82247 0 0	25,745 1 10	
	..	..	60	2	..	..	..	..	14,776	35	..	75	3	..	..	..	..	..	No cost; paid for privately.

LAND DISTRICT OF HAWKE'S BAY.

Staff Surveyors.																			
F. S. Smith. Poverty Bay ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0·82	32·10	685 1 11	711 8 4	District Surveyor and Land Officer, Gisborne. "Other work" includes field inspection and general Departmental work.
James Hay. Hawke's Bay ..	..	..	10,389	29	0·87	..	..	..	3,672	3	1·65	..	..	..	..	..	48 19 0	905 11 6	Brought forward, £339 7s. 7d. Carried forward, £438 6s. 2d.

Table 36.—RETURN of FIELD-WORK executed by the STAFF and CONTRACT SURVEYORS, from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904—*continued*.

Surveyor and District.	Minor Triangulation and Topographical Survey.		Rural and Suburban.			Town Section Survey.			Native Land Court Survey.			Gold-mining Surveys.			Roads, Railways, and Water-races.		Other Work.	Total Cost of Surveyor and Party from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904.	Remarks.
	Acres.	Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No. of Sections.	Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No. of Allotments.	Cost per Allotment.	Acres.	No. of Secs. or Divs.	Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No. of Section.	Cost per Acre.	Miles.	Cost per Mile.	Cost.		
		d.			s.			s.			d.			s.		£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
LAND DISTRICT OF HAWKE'S BAY—*continued*.																			
P. A. Dalziell. Poverty Bay ..	42,033	6·01	3,043	3	1·00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15 12 0	986 5 3	Brought forward, £233 17s. 4d. Broken forest country. Topographical includes portions of roads and periphery (over surveyed lands block).
T. Brook. Hawke's Bay ..	..	..	34,586	11	0·36	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0·43	18·00	..	629 2 0	Brought forward, £108 5s. 6d. Carried forward, £106 4s. 7d.
Temporary Staff.																			
J. Roddick. Poverty Bay ..	..	..	9,910	17	1·52	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1·20	24·48	14 12 6	901 5 2	Brought forward, £224 12s. 3d. Carried forward, £330 7s. 6d. Broken forest country.
E. H. Farnie. Poverty Bay ..	..	..	8,784	8	1·25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5·00	18·22	2 0 0	914 15 1	Brought forward, £193 3s. 10d. Carried forward £465 16s. 10d. Broken forest country.
R. C. L. Reay. Poverty Bay ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	423 13 3	Brought forward £138 12s. 6d. Carried forward £562 5s. 9d. (against 48,000 acres in band). Settlement surveys in broken forest country.
J. G. Wilson. Hawke's Bay ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10 0 0	271 19 5	Carried forward, £261 19s. 5d. Native and Land for Settlement surveys.
Contract Surveyors.																			
Kennedy brothers and Morgan. Hawke's Bay	..	..	13,141	35	0·52	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	339 0 0	
J. A. Robertson. Hawke's Bay ..	..	..	12,450	12	0·43	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	270 2 6	
G. Grant. Poverty Bay ..	..	..	10,073	18	1·00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	503 13 0	
Means and totals	42,033	6·01	102,376	133	0·71	..	..	..	3,672	3	1·65	..	..	..	7·45	20·73	776 5 5	6,856 15 6	
LAND DISTRICT OF TARANAKI.																			
Staff Surveyors.																			
H. M. Skeet (District Surveyor), Aria, Ohura	*30,291	3·48	..	..	..	19	60	25·05	..	..	..	..	..	..	1·75	28·85	296 18 10	1,398 9 3	£1,156 10s. 2d. brought from last year. £1,691 18s. 8d. carried forward against unfinished surveys. "Total cost" includes £1 10s. for completion of plans, and 9s. 9d. office assistance. The year's work comprised heavy forest country, more or less broken, and difficult of access. "Other work" includes Land Transfer survey, inspections, assistance given to other surveyors, and cutting pack-tracks to enable surveys to proceed, and settlers to get on to their lands.

* Provisional settlement surveys.

G. H. Bullard (District Surveyor). Opaku, Mahoe	5,700	1	881	7	2·231	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9·037	25·0	202 10 9	1,078 16 10	£368 18s. 1d. brought from last year. £863 1s. 1d. carried forward against unfinished surveys. Hilly forest country, difficult of access. Has an area of 24,000 acres of provisional surveys well advanced. "Other work" includes cutting out of pack-tracks, completing plans of work returned last year, &c.
J. F. Frith (Assistant Surveyor). Opaku, Kapara, Mahoe	..	..	8,255	10	·659	9	36	17·481	..	..	..	..	..	..	7·0	22·00	260 4 5	678 3 3	"Total cost" of work includes £45 for completing plans of work returned, and £12 16s. 2d. for official assistance. The bulk of Mr. Frith's work comprises division and subdivision surveys, a considerable amount of old work being adopted, although he had much shifting of camp. Hilly country, partly open. "Other work" includes cutting tracks, completing plans of work returned last year.
W. T. Morpeth (District Surveyor). Ohura, Heao	*20,373	3·89	16,000	74	1·583	6	18	34·06	..	..	..	..	..	..	5·75	21·39	106 12 2	1,226 16 1	£759 9s. 6d. brought from last year. £138 10s. 10d. carried forward against unfinished settlement surveys. "Total cost" includes £9 4s. for completion of plans of work returned, and £2 4s. office assistance. Sectional work returned represents about two years' surveys. Open and forest land, comprising undulating and fairly good country to work in. "Other work" includes cutting pack-tracks, and exploration surveys.
Additional Surveyors.																			
W. H. Murcott (temporary Surveyor). Ohura, Aria	*12,742	4·13	8,977	25	1·5	9·25	41	22·244	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	111 16 0	918 13 4	£260 13s. 5d. brought from last year. £129 19s. 10d. carried forward against unfinished work. "Total cost" includes £40 19s. 6d. for office assistance. Open and forest country, varying from undulating and fairly good to work in, to very hilly and broken. "Other work" includes cutting tracks, assistance given to other surveyors, &c.
Wm. Laing (temporary Surveyor). Waro	16,000 *4,578	1·5 6·97	610	1	2·0	0·25	1	105·0	..	..	..	..	..	..	·288	22·05	12 0 0	959 16 7	£98 18s. 6d. brought from last year. £741 4s. 3d. carried forward against 16,000 acres of unfinished provisional survey, which is well in hand. "Total cost" includes £1 7s. for office assistance. Hilly forest country, generally broken, and difficult of access.
B. C. Basstian (temporary Surveyor). Upper Waitara and Pouatu	*12,444	7·0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	·375	26·666	32 11 0	660 17 5	£366 18s. 1d. brought from last year. £637 18s. 9d. carried forward against unfinished work. Hilly and broken forest country, difficult of access. Represents twelve months' work. Left the service November, 1903.

* Provisional settlement surveys.

Table 36.—RETURN of FIELD-WORK executed by the STAFF and CONTRACT SURVEYORS, from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904—*continued*.

Surveyor and District.	Minor Triangulation and Topographical Survey.		Rural and Suburban.			Town Section Survey.			Native Land Court Survey.			Gold-mining Surveys.			Roads, Railways, and Water-races.		Other Work	Total Cost of Surveyor and Party from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904.	Remarks.
	Acres.	Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No. of Sections.	Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No. of Allotments.	Cost per Allotment.	Acres.	No. of Secs. or Divs.	Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No. of Sections.	Cost per Acre.	Miles.	Cost per Mile.	Cost.		
LAND DISTRICT OF TARANAKI—*continued*.																			
Temporary Staff.		d.			s.			s.			d.			s.		£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Leslie Hunt (temporary Surveyor). Totoro, Aria	*9,139	8·1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	600 10 8	£251 11s. 4d. brought from last year. £543 13s. 4d. carried forward against unfinished settlement surveys. "Total cost" includes £38 7s. 6d. for office assistance. Undulating, open, and forest country. Cost of getting in and out of block was heavy in proportion to the length of time employed—viz., seven months. Left the service August, 1903.
E. O. Weir (temporary Surveyor). Totoro, Aria	*13,803	4·64	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6·76	24·467	266 5 9	930 9 6	£262 16s. 7d. brought from last year. £524 15s. 4d. carried forward against unfinished settlement surveys. "Total cost" includes £30 for completion of plans, and office assistance, £2. Hilly and undulating open and forest country. Has been largely employed in completion of his own and Messrs. Hunt and Paterson's surveys, involving a large amount of shifting camp.
A. J. Paterson (temporary Surveyor). Totoro, Aria, Huiroa	*10,826	7·42	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	96 8 0	950 15 11	£315 2s. brought from last year. £834 17s. 8d. carried forward against unfinished work. "Total cost" includes £43 19s. 3d. for office assistance. Undulating forest and open country, difficult of access. Heavy cost partly accounted for by cost of getting in and out of the block for only eight months' work. "Other work" includes measurement of timber, Clandon Settlement. Left the service September, 1903.
W. H. Skinner. Paritutu, Cape, Ngaire	..	..	345	5	3·11	10·62	6	49·916	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24 5 7	92 18 1	Survey of part of Egmont National Park for leasing purposes. "Other work" comprises approximate survey of sand-dunes, lowering New Plymouth standards, &c.
Contract Surveyors.																			
A. H. Palmer, Paritutu, Mimi ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	116	3	60·0	..	..	..	..	..	..	29 1 0	Open undulating country, bounded by old work.
T. G. Sole. Paritutu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	143	3	51·9	..	..	..	..	..	..	30 18 0	Open and scrub country, bounded by old work.
L. C. Sladden	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6 0 0	6 0 0	..
Means and totals	135,896	4·417	35,068	122	1·382	54·12	162	25·07	259	6	55·56	..	..	..	30·960	23·745	1,415 12 6	9,562 5 11	

* Provisional settlement surveys.

LAND DISTRICT OF WELLINGTON.

Staff Surveyors.																							
Climie, J. D.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	691	8	8	691	8	8	£106 8s. 3d. is carried forward to next year, including £22 14s. 3d. brought forward against the Masterton and Pahiatua standard survey. Twenty-seven field-inspections, and miscellaneous duties.
Carkeek, M. Ngamatea, Tauakira	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,370	2	9·26	..	..	..	..	..	..			1,361	10	2	The sum of £1,587 1s. 6d. is carried forward to next year against the Ohotu Block subdivision under the Maori Councils Act. Of this £643 14s. 10d. was incurred for preliminary compass surveys to enable selection-plan to issue.
Thompson, F. A. Ngamatea, Ruahine, &c.	..	..	2585·37	2	2·5	..	..	..	11,453	10	3·6	..	..	..	16·75	16·975	71	0	4	954	8	4	The sum of £347 14s. 7d. is carried forward to next year against the subdivision survey of the Awarua 1B Block, and £21 5s. against scenery reserve and road connection. Surveys generally through average rough bush country. Cadet assisting.
Lowe, H. J. Manganui, Kaitieke, Hunua	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	75	12	1	957	14	8	The sum of £805 12s. 1d. is carried forward against settlement surveys in the North Waimarino Block. Rough bush country. Cadet assisting.
Wheeler, W. J. Nukumaru, Ikitara, Waipakura	..	..	1603·5	3	1·94	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8·5	22·0	184	10	2	526	17	3	Principally small surveys. Transferred to Auckland 22nd October, 1903. Cadet assisting.
McKay, J. Makotuku, Belmont, Karioi, Rarete	..	..	1,609	53	4·28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	·25	20	47	10	0	808	6	11	The sum of £473 19s. 5d. is carried forward to next year against Tupapanui, Rangiwaea 4F16, and Mairekura Blocks, and a few selections. These being widely scattered surveys, greatly increased cost. Cadet assisting.
Strachan, J. R. Retaruke, Kaitieke	..	..	27,887	33	1·45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	8	0	1,096	0	6	The sum of £518 1s. 4d. is carried forward to next year against the Retaruke and Kirikau Blocks, Waimarino, North Waimarino Block, Scenic and Waimarino Native Reserves. Cadet assisting.
Girdlestone, H. E. Ruahine, Maungakaretu, Pukeokahu	..	..	3230·5	17	1·90	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1·05	39·04	123	17	8	618	3	7	The sum of £339 7s. 8d. is carried forward to next year against the Awarua 1B1D Blocks. Rough, broken country. £37 10s. 11d. was incurred for Public Works Department.
Marchant, E. A. Mangawhero, Hunua	..	..	3,511	19	1·54	..	..	..	1,365	2	1·583	..	..	..	11·75	13·15	102	13	8	771	19	3	£315 17s. 7d. is carried forward to next year against the Kaitieke Block.
Means and totals	..	..	40426·4	127	1·666	..	..	..	16,188	14	6·121	..	..	..	38·30	17·529	1,307	0	7	7,786	9	4	
Temporary Surveyors.																							
Mountfort, C. A. Makuri, Mount Cerberus, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	259	8	10	808	16	8	The sum of £1,255 1s. 10d. is carried forward to next year. Of this, £583 8s. 6d. is against the Masterton standard survey, and £564 6s. 8d. against the Ahu-ahu, Puketotara, and Te Tuhi Blocks. The balance has been general miscellaneous work.
Lewis, H. J. Hunua	..	..	7,183	35	2·33	35	101	13·33	..	..	..	..	..	..	6·75	13·0	56	17	6	428	2	4	The sum of £939 is chargeable against the North Waimarino Block surveys, exclusive of cost of Piriaka Township. Transferred to Auckland 31st October, 1903.

Table 36.—RETURN of FIELD-WORK executed by the STAFF and CONTRACT SURVEYORS, from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904—*continued*.

Surveyor and District.	Minor Triangulation and Topographical Survey.		Rural and Suburban.			Town Section Survey.			Native Land Court Survey.			Gold-mining Surveys.			Roads, Railways, and Water-races.		Other Work.	Total Cost of Surveyor and Party from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904.	Remarks.
	Acres.	Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No. of Sections.	Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No. of Allotments.	Cost per Allotment.	Acres.	No. of Secs. or Divs.	Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No. of Sections.	Cost per Acre.	Miles.	Cost per Mile.	Cost.		
		d.			s.			s.			d.			s.		£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
WELLINGTON LAND DISTRICT—*continued*.																			
Greville, R. P. Ruahine ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	169 5 3	631 3 3	£713 12s. 2d. is carried forward against Awarua 1B and 1D Blocks (now Messrs. Thompson and Girdlestone), £169 5s. 3d. is charged against the Land-purchase Department. Mr. Greville was transferred to the Flaxbourne Estate, Marlborough, on the 18th September, 1903.
Stevenson, J. Whirinaki, Tauakira, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36 1 6	919 0 8	The sum of £467 10s. 9d. was expended on the Ohotu Block survey, and exploring and preparing block for survey in the South Waimarino cost £415 8s. 5d. Rough bush country.
Roberts, A. M. Tauakira, Waipakura	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28 0 0	863 9 2	£960 18s. 9d is carried forward to next year against the Te Tuhi, Puketotara, and Ahu-ahu Blocks and road survey. Broken and hilly country.
Drew, F. W. Ngamatea, Tauakira	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	270 7 11	£85 8s. 7d. is carried forward from last year—total, £355 16s. 6d.—against the preliminary exploration and traverses of the Ohotu Block. Left Department 22nd July, 1903.
Hovell, H. K. Ngamatea, Tauakira	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	253 12 4	£52 11s. 3d. is carried forward from last year—total, £306 3s. 7d.—against the preliminary exploration and traverses of the Ohotu Block. Transferred to Westland 31st August, 1903.
Frasi, P. C. Kaitieke and Manganui	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	310 14 11	£138 3s. 8d. is carried forward from last year—total, £448 18s. 7d.—against the preliminary exploration and traverses of the South Kaitieke Block. Left Department 31st July, 1903.
Scott, G. L. R. Kaitieke and Manganui	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	363 12 0	£165 5s. 4d. is carried forward from last year—total, £528 17s. 4d.—against the preliminary exploration and traverses of the South Kaitieke Block. Left Department 31st August, 1903.
Licensed Surveyors.																			
Reardon, C. W. Makotuku ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1316·8	2	14·62	..	..	..	7	10	..	69 0 0	Otiranui Block, Makotuku District. Retraverse of main road, Motukawa Block. £1 carried forward.

Earle, P. R. Tiriraukawa, Hautapu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10 0 0	Location of section pegs, section 4, Block XII. Tiriraukawa District.
O'Donahoo, A. O'N. Tauakira, Ngamatea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		17910·05	37	11·17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Tauakira No. 2 Block, Tauakira and Ngamatea Districts.
Means and totals	..	4	47609·37	162	1·791	35	101	13·33	85414·875	53	9·407	..	..	..	52·05	15·933	1,856 13 8	12,714 8 7	

LAND DISTRICT OF MARLBOROUGH.

Staff Surveyors.																			
D. W. Gillies. Arapawa and Heringa	..	..	5,475	31	2·92	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7·75	21	25 5 0	769 11 6	Settlement surveys in the Sounds, in heavy bush — much cut up by many miles of roads. "Other work" consists of miscellaneous small services.
H. Maitland. Hodder, Blue Mountain, and Orieri	..	..	13,581	9	·58	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21.25	15	142 1 10	199 11 0	Large areas of open pastoral country in the Awatere Valley, in connection with the Awatere exchanges. "Other work" consists of traversing ten miles of fencing boundaries over rough, mountainous country, and six miles of river traverse, to fix boundaries between Assets Board and The Crown. Road survey is in Pelorous Sound District. Transferred to Canterbury in August.
Temporary Surveyors.																			
C. W. McFarland. Cloudy Bay, Onamalutu, Cape Campbell, and Whernside	35,000	1·22	6,008	45	1· 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	747 16 4	Settlement surveys in Onamalutu, Kaituna, Okuramio Valleys. Partly open country, partly heavy bush, adjoining old surveys; also settlement surveys on East Coast Road, all open country. Topographical survey embraces part of Flaxbourne Estate for the Arbitration Court.
A. Simpson. Taylor Pass, and Cape Campbell	..	..	937	4	2·25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3·5	9	85 1 4	221 19 7	Survey of Forest Plantation Reserve at Dumgree. All open country, much cut up by roads. "Other work" was traversing fences, streams, &c., on Flaxbourne Estate, for Arbitration Court. Absent on leave without pay for more than half the year.
Means and totals	35,000	1·22	26,001	89	1·444	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32·5	15·78	252 8 2	1,938 18 5	
Contract.																			
A. P. Seymour. Linkwater, Arapawa, and Cape Campbell	..	..	979	2	1·5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	92 3 4	92 3 4	Settlement Surveys in the Sounds. All heavy bush; paid for out of deposits. "Other work" was traversing fences, streams, &c., on Flaxbourne Estate, for Arbitration Court.
Means and totals	35,000	1·22	26,980	91	1·446	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32·5	15·78	344 11 6	2,031 1 9	

Table 36.—RETURN of FIELD-WORK executed by the STAFF and CONTRACT SURVEYORS, from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904—*continued*.

Surveyor and District.	Minor Triangulation and Topographical Survey.		Rural and Suburban.			Town Section Survey.			Native Land Court Survey.			Gold-mining Surveys.			Roads, Railways, and Water-races.		Other Work.	Total Cost of Surveyor and Party from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904.	Remarks.
	Acres.	Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No. of Sections.	Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No. of Allotments.	Cost per Allotment.	Acres.	No. of Secs. or Divs.	Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No of Sections	Cost per Acre.	Miles.	Cost per Mile.	Cost.		
		d.			s.			s.						s.		£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
LAND DISTRICT OF NELSON.																			
Staff Surveyors.																			
J. A. Montgomerie. Inangahua, &c.	8,000	1·14	4,943	26	4·45	..	..	..	..	..	..	177	2	2·44	..	..	296 16 3	1,231 14 1	In rough, timbered country. District Office expenses included £74 8s. carried forward.
R. T. Sadd. Tadmor, Rintoul, &c.	26,835	1·18	2,050	10	1·95	5	2	80·9	..	..	..	..	..	..	4·25	17	744 4 5	1,003 4 6	In rough, timbered country. Many extra works of a varied nature—inspections, reports, &c.
J. Snodgrass. Kawatiri, &c. ..	..	..	4,067	66	3·22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	214 14 2	844 6 4	Mostly scattered surveys. District Office maintenance, &c.
J. D. Thomson. Totaranui, &c. ..	12,000	3·10	8,779	16	1·08	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17·5	9·5	197 2 8	994 13 0	Mostly rough, bush country. Surveys very scattered.
W. McAlister. Inangahua, &c. ..	27,500	3·67	2,483	11	3·95	..	..	..	..	..	..	115	2	3·70	..	..	224 17 4	925 14 0	In rough, mountainous country; heavily timbered. £991 19s. 5d. carried forward for works incomplete.
	74,335	2·40	22,322	129	2·61	5	2	80·9	..	..	..	292	4	2·93	21·75	10·9	1,677 14 10	4,999 11 11	
Temporary Surveyors.																			
D. M. Wilson. Matiri, Tutaki, &c.	11,000	2·24	8,345	34	1·43	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	10·5	203 10 0	927 10 4	Including £190 5s. 8d. from previous year. Rough bush country.
D. M. Wilson. Matiri, Tutaki, &c.	20,000	2·21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
T. W. Hughes. Brighton ..	40,000	3·88	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	654 16 2	1,081 6 0	£220 3s. 6d. brought forward from previous year. Rough bush country.
J. Spence. Mokihinui, &c. ..	17,500	6·70	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	489 7 0	In rough, timbered country.
D. Macpherson. Otumahana ..	36,000	4·02	500	1	3·03	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	257 6 9	1,123 15 11	£220 2s. 6d. carried forward to next year. Rough bush country.
T. H. Galbraith. Oparara ..	29,600	5·44	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	671 18 5	In rough, timbered country.
E. H. Beere. Matiri	16,200	6·50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	287 19 11	726 14 11	In rough, timbered country.
J. Cumine. Hope, &c.	2,200	4·50	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,093 11 1	1,134 16 1	In rough, timbered country. Works nearing completion. Thirty-one trig. sites cleared, suitable for the extension of minor triangulation on completion of subdivision of block.
Means and totals	226,835	3·95	31,167	164	2·30	5	2	80·9	..	..	..	292	4	2·93	33·75	10·8	4,174 18 9	11,155 0 7	

LAND DISTRICT OF WESTLAND.

Staff Surveyor.																				
W. Wilson. Westland Provincial District	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	346 0 0	346 0 0	"Other work" comprising surveys, reports, &c., for Roads and Mines Departments, on which Mr. Wilson has been wholly engaged.
Temporary Surveyors.																				
N. L. Falkiner. Cobden and Waitaha	..	..	1,050	4	2·3	847	419	26·7	..	..	..	..	..	..	11·5	13·4	..	835 7 8	All heavily timbered, country townships survey much protracted owing to roading difficulties. One cadet assisting.
A. N. Harrop. Cobden, Waimea, and Kanieri	6,000	1	5,277	34	2·0	49	101	29·7	..	..	..	..	..	..	6·0	9·3	91 17 6	847 7 4	Principally small isolated blocks; dense bush lands. "Other work" represents repairs to trigs., exploration of settlement-lands, and report on reserves.
C. H. Morrison. Waitaha, Mount Bonar, and Poerua	..	..	9,350	34	1·9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	915 12 2	All settlement surveys in Poerua and Wanganui Valleys. Country covered with thick forest and scrub.
J. Cunningham. Kanieri, Toaroha, and Totara	..	..	7,396	47	2·3	19	30	33·3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	917 10 0	River-bottom lands, closely timbered. Chiefly in Hokitika and Kokatahi Valleys. Also village township and suburban allotments.
H. K. Hovell. Mahinapua and Wataroa	..	..	5,757	23	1·6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8 3 0	465 1 6	Mainly flat country, along north bank of Wataroa River. A mixture of heavy bush, thick scrub, and open swamp. Equals seven months' work.
F. W. Drew. Okuru, Hapuka, and Arawata	41,600	1·5	1,550	9	3·4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8·8	10·2	..	611 6 3	Comprises eight months' survey of spotting selections, scattered and difficult of access; all dense forest; also reconnaissance of lands with regard to settlement and milling-timber.
C. E. Douglas. Wataroa, Okarito, and Waiho	32,000	2·1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	279 10 8	Exploration and definition of unmapped timbered country along coast and inland of Okarito.
Authorised Surveyors.																				
H. W. Young	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	1	4·7					
J. C. Macfarlane	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	183	2	3·6	..	..	..	..	Surveys paid for by fees deposited by applicants. Last was a coal lease on Paparoa Ranges.
J. W. Spence	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,083	5	2·9					
F. A. Cutten	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,000	1	2·5					
Means and totals	79,600	1·7	30,380	151	2·1	915	550	27·6	..	..	..	..	2,366	9	2·8	26·3	11·5	446 0 6	5,217 15 7	

LAND DISTRICT OF CANTERBURY.

Staff Surveyors.																				
T. N. Broadrick. Pareora and Waiau	..	..	19,092	41	·54	7	10	15·0	..	..	..	..	..	..	1·125	8·27	28 10 3	857 1 10	Parts of the Annan and Rosewill Settlements. Hilly and agricultural downs. Cost includes supervision of other survey parties. "Other work" includes transfer, survey inspections, and office-work, &c. Cadet assisting.
G. H. M. McClure. Tengawai, Opawa, Oxford, Waiau, Pareora, and Arowhenua	..	..	32,132	95	·53	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 10 7	947 6 10	Parts of the Chamberlain, Annan, and Rosewill Settlements, and Crown lands near Oxford. Varies from flat to agricultural downs. Broken country; part of latter covered with burnt bush and manuka scrub. "Other work" general office-work.

Table 36.—RETURN of FIELD-WORK executed by the STAFF and CONTRACT SURVEYORS, from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904—*continued.*

Surveyor and District.	Minor Triangulation and Topographical Survey.		Rural and Suburban.			Town Section Survey.			Native Land Court Survey.			Gold-mining Surveys.			Roads, Railways, and Water-races.		Other Work.	Total Cost of Surveyor and Party from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904.	Remarks.
	Acres.	Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No. of Sections.	Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No. of Allotments.	Cost per Allotment.	Acres.	No of Secs. or Divs.	Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No. of Sections.	Cost per Acre.	Miles.	Cost per Mile.	Cost.		
		d.			s.			s.			d.			s.		£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
LAND DISTRICT OF CANTERBURY—*continued.*																			
W. T. Neill. Opawa	..	..	7,566	39	0·98	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22 8 0	393 7 3	Part of the Rosewill Settlement. Rolling agricultural downs. "Other work" comprises the survey of a rifle range and school reserve at the Rosewill and Chamberlain Settlements. Engaged temporarily in this district four months and a half.
H. Maitland. Pareora, Opawa ..	..	..	8,551	40	1·025	3	7	12·5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	395 13 7	Part of the Rosewill Settlement. Rolling agricultural downs. Town lands. Village sections at the Cave. Engaged temporarily in this district four months and a half.
Temporary Staff.																			
J. Spence. Opawa	..	..	4,142	18	1·63	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	317 0 2	Part of the Rosewill Settlement. Rolling agricultural downs. Engaged on temporary staff four months and a half.
Contract.																			
F. H. Davie. Christchurch ..	..	..	10	5	1·29	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7 15 0	Sockburn Village Homestead sections. Level agricultural land.
Means and totals	..	..	71,493	238	0·707	10	17	14·0	..	..	..	..	..	..	1·125	8·27	53 8 10	2,918 4 8	
LAND DISTRICT OF OTAGO.																			
E. H. Wilmot. Benger, Beaumont, Cardrona, Cromwell, Glenkenich, Rankleburn, Cairnhill, Lauder, Leaning Rock, Kawarau, Nevis, Shotover, Wakefield, Tuapeka East, and Oamaru	..	..	5,188	78	1·57	101	4	127·5	..	..	..	557	18	3·96	..	..	236 15 6	780 1 2	Work scattered over a wide area. Principal item in "other work" is £192 17s. 6d. for unfinished work; balance for inspections, reports, office-work, &c.
D. M. Calder. St. Bathans, Naseby, Blackstone, Serpentine, Loganburn, and Upper Taieri	..	..	31,639	45	0·58	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	51 11 4	820 18 6	£143 14s. was brought forward from last year. Rural surveys include subdivision of Keenan's Run and part of Patearoa Run. "Other work" principally in connection with Naseby District Office.

W. T. Neill. Upper Taieri, Loganburn, Otakia, and Otago Heads	..	..	34,781	14	0·41	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	194	14	3	471	8	9	Includes £444 5s. brought forward from last year. Rural surveys include subdivision of part of original Patearoa Run. "Other work" principally incomplete surveys. Employed part of the year on subdivision of Rosewill Settlement in the Canterbury Land District.
G. Mackenzie	1,250	2.2	6	1	21·83	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	2	6	25	1	6	"Other work" cutting boundary of Bush Reserve.
Means and totals	1,250	2·2	71,614	138	0·57	101	4	127·5	..	..	..	557	18	3·96	..	..	490	3	7	2,097	9	11	
Surveys made by Private Surveyors for Fees deposited by the Applicants.																							
Kirkcaldy and Macgeorge ..	..	..	36	2	4·44	..	..	..	..	..	..	999	33	3·99	..	..	..			8	0	0	
John Edie	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	185	6	5·96	..	..	..			..			
L. O. Beal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	140	4	4·51	..	..	..			..			
John Cumine	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	1	3·27	..	..	..			..			
R. G. Baxter	..	..	1	1	80·0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			..			
Means and totals	..	..	37	3	6·5	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,424	44	4·24	..	..	..			2,105	9	11	
LAND DISTRICT OF SOUTHLAND.																							
Staff.																							
L. O. Mathias (District Surveyor). Waiau, Lothian, Mataura, Lindhurst	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	889	12	8	889	12	8	Block XIII., Waiau Survey District, provisional survey. Forest country. Edendale Settlement. Field-work completed.
H. Maitland (District Surveyor). Lindhurst.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	241	11	0	241	11	0	Edendale Settlement. Field-work completed. Transferred from Canterbury in January.
A. Hodgkinson (Assistant Surveyor). Waiau	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	260	13	3	260	13	3	Sick leave. Retired 30th September.
C. Otway (temporary Surveyor). Waiau.	..	..	5	1	21·0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			..			Dairy-factory site.
C. Otway (temporary Surveyor). Waiau.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3·5	11·62	..			..			Deviatian of road through sections 7 and 82, &c.
Waitutu, Oteramika, Lothian, Mataura	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	860	3	3	906	2	1	Office-work, land for landless Natives survey. Provisional survey of Block XIV., Waiau Survey District. Edendale Settlement field-work completed. Cost to date, £407 14s.
Authorised Surveyors.																							
J. Blaikie. Wendon, Wakaia, Nokomai	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	347	4	3·3	..	..	..			..			Special dredging claims. Paid by fees.
L. O. Beal. Wendon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	1	3·9	..	..	..			..			"
P. B. Macdonald. Chatton ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	55	2	5·6	..	..	..			..			"
J. W. Johnson. Wendon ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	1	4·0	..	..	..			..			"
H. R. Dundas. Longwood ..	..	..	962	9	2·5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			72	14	0	Fee system. Sawmill areas and applications under the Mining Districts Land Occupation Act.
B. C. Bastian. Oteramika ..	..	..	76	1	2·96	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			..			Fee system. Sawmill areas.
T. S. Miller. Otara, Waikawa ..	..	..	1,156	10	2·3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			24	6	0	Fee system. 978 acres sawmill areas.
Oteramika, Longwood, Aparima, Campbelltown, Jacob's River, and Oteramika ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	1	4·0	..	..	..			..			Coal lease area.
Means and totals ..	..	..	2,199	21	2·41	..	..	..	..	..	..	562	9	3·7	3·5	11·62	2,252	0	2	2,394	19	0	

Table 36.—SUMMARY OF RETURNS of FIELD-WORK executed by the STAFF and CONTRACT SURVEYORS, from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904.

District.	Topographical Survey.		Minor Triangulation and Topographical Survey.		Rural and Suburban.			Town Section Survey.			Native Land Court Survey.			Gold-mining Survey.			Roads, Railways, and Water-races.		Other Work.	Total Cost of Surveyors and Parties from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904.
	Acres.	Cost per Acre.	Acres.	Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No. of Sections.	Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No. of Allotments.	Cost per Allotment.	Acres.	No. of Secs. or Divs.	Cost per Acre.	Acres.	No. of Sections.	Cost per Acre.	Miles.	Cost per Mile.	Cost.	
		d.		d.			s.			s.			d.			s.		£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland	..	..	193,415	2·45	175,649	616	1·43	1,011	1,096	18·51	158,345	89	1·38	2,046	17	3·70	223·71	15·78	2,247 0 0	25,745 1 10
Hawke's Bay	42,033	6·01	..	..	102,376	133	0·71	..	..	..	3,672	3	1·65	..	..	..	7·45	20·73	776 5 5	6,856 15 6
Taranaki	114,196	5·00	21,700	1·37	35,068	122	1·382	54	162	25·07	259	6	4·63	..	..	..	30·96	23·745	1,415 12 6	9,562 5 11
Wellington	..	..	..	..	47,609	162	1·791	35	101	13·33	35,415	53	9·407	..	..	..	52·05	15·933	1,856 13 8	12,714 8 7
Marlborough	35,000	1·22	..	..	26,980	91	1·446	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32·50	15·78	344 11 6	2,031 1 9
Nelson	226,835	3·95	20,000	2·21	31,167	164	2·30		2	80·90	..	..	..	292	4	2·93	33·75	10·80	4,174 18 9	11,155 0 7
Westland	76,600	1·70	..	..	30,380	151	2·10	915	550	27·60	..	..	..	2,366	9	2·80	26·30	11·50	446 0 6	5,217 15 7
Canterbury	..	..	..	..	71,493	238	·707	10	17	14·00	..	..	..	..	..	..	1·125	8·27	53 8 10	2,918 4 8
Otago	..	..	1,250	2·20	71,614	138	·57	101	4	127·50	..	..	..	557	18	3·96	..	..	490 3 7	2,105 9 11
Southland	..	..	..	..	2,199	21	2·41	..	..	..	..	..	..	562	9	3·70	3·50	11·62	2,252 0 2	2,394 19 0
Means and totals	494,664	3·85	236,365	2·32	594,535	1,836	1·262	2,131	1,932	21·65	197,691	151	3·234	5,823	57	3·35	411·345	15·754	14,056 14 11	80,701 3 4

Table 37.—CROWN GRANTS, CERTIFICATES of TITLE, LEASES, and other INSTRUMENTS of TITLE from the CROWN prepared, from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904.

District.	Number.					Cost.		
	Singly.	In Duplicate.	In Triplicate.	In Quadruplicate	Total Copies.	£	s.	d.
Auckland	4	132	412	235	2,444	122	4	0
Hawke's Bay ..	..	1	63	79	507	82	7	0
Taranaki	10	13	26	18	186	2	9	3
Wellington	600	34	289	93	1,907	190	14	0
Nelson	3	304	37	37	870	80	7	6
Marlborough ..	8	28	13	55	323	23	0	0
Westland	..	189	60	27	666	489	6	0
Canterbury	..	161	33	95	801	61	2	9
Otago	..	89	567	..	1,879	93	19	0
Southland	..	36	28	45	336	30	0	0
Totals	625	987	1,528	684	9,919	1,175	9	6

Table 38.—PLANS placed on CROWN GRANTS and other INSTRUMENTS of TITLE from the CROWN, from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904.

District.	Number.					Cost.		
	Singly.	In Duplicate.	In Triplicate.	In Quadruplicate	Total Copies.	£	s.	d.
Auckland*	..	80	703	200	3,069	153	9	0
Hawke's Bay ..	..	31	102	79	684	62	4	6
Taranaki	..	..	41	29	239	18	5	8
Wellington	470	49	291	93	1,813	135	18	0
Nelson	..	310	208	111	1,688	125	2	6
Marlborough ..	8	28	21	55	347	67	3	0
Westland	1	75	40	38	423	175	0	0
Canterbury	62	151	32	89	816	58	1	7
Otago	..	89	585	..	1,933	188	0	0
Southland	3	36	190	70	925	86	0	0
Totals	544	849	2,213	764	11,937	1,069	4	3

* Also 598 plans placed on Native Land Court Titles at a cost of £59 16s.

Table 39.—WORK DONE under the LAND TRANSFER ACT, &c., from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904.

District.	No. of Plans passed.	Deeds and other Instruments passed.	Number of Plans placed on Certificates of Title.				Miscellaneous Plans, &c.	Cost.		
			Singly.	In Duplicate.	In Triplicate.	In Quadruplicate		£	s.	d.
Auckland	..	..	..	..	16	..	..	2	8	0
Hawke's Bay	151	234	..	630	30	5	..	413	3	3
Taranaki	148	1,284	2	480	58	..	..	372	8	0
Wellington	325	2,536	30	2,431	..	..	15	1,088	4	0
Nelson	51	122	..	162	..	..	122	157	14	6
Marlborough	11	..	..	39	..	..	..	12	18	3
Westland	31	..	1	75	9	..	..	132	1	9
Canterbury	339	1,945	8	1,895	85	..	30*	983	2	11
Otago	72	4,803	35	779	314	..	13	294	5	3
Southland	62	30	1	437	6	..	1	260	0	0
Totals	1,190	10,954	77	6,928	518	5	181	3,716	5	11

* Also 613 tracings made for Land-tax Department.

Table 40.—LITHOGRAPHS and PHOTOGRAPHS printed and sold, from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904.

District.	Number of Lithographs printed.	Number of Photographs printed.	Amount of Fees received from Sale of Maps and Lithographs.
			£ s. d.
Auckland	3,100	..	120 10 1
Hawke's Bay	..	..	10 8 6
Taranaki	..	..	48 1 5
Wellington	..	..	51 16 9
Nelson	..	..	10 8 6
Marlborough	..	..	11 19 0
Westland	..	..	13 9 0
Canterbury	..	..	26 17 0
Otago	950	..	20 17 6
Southland	..	..	35 2 2
Totals	4,050	..	349 9 11

Table 41.—SUMMARY showing PAYMENTS to LOCAL BODIES during the Twelve Months ended 31st March, 1904, from "Thirds" of Deferred-payment, Perpetual-lease, Occupation-with-right-of-purchase, and Lease-in-perpetuity Lands, and "Fourths" of Small Grazing-runs.

District.	For Details see Statements Nos.	"Thirds," Deferred-payment, Perpetual-lease, Occupation-with-right-of-purchase, and Lease-in-perpetuity Lands.	"Fourths," Small Grazing-runs.	Total Payments.	Length, Locality, Description, and Particulars of Work authorised by Land Board.					
					Bush-clearing.	Scrub-clearing.	Formation.	Bridges.	Culverts.	Maintenance.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Ch.	Ch.	Ch.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland ..	1	7,073 12 8	34 7 0	7,107 19 8	1143	1,707	2,113	234 8 0	284 2 7	1,818 4 8
Hawke's Bay ..	2	2,551 1 2	411 4 10	2,962 6 0	500	38	3,303½	70 7 1	3 14 8	328 9 0
Taranaki	3	2,013 11 4	66 14 10	2,080 6 2	10	..	422	51 7 7	140 10 5	652 1 2
Wellington ..	4	9,224 3 7	258 16 3	9,482 19 10	240	320	1,617	167 17 8	49 8 11	3,755 9 4
Nelson	5	898 18 3	1 15 0	900 13 3	132	..	324	7 5 5	7 10 0	731 2 8
Marlborough ..	6	218 14 3	179 0 3	397 14 6	..	40	27	..	12 0 0	306 19 6
Westland ..	7	402 5 6	..	402 5 6	..	..	..	..	..	402 5 6
Canterbury ..	8	1,677 15 2	1,066 6 2	2,744 1 4	..	..	1,498	630 15 5	56 17 0	756 17 4
Otago	9	2,436 8 2	2,325 0 8	4,761 8 10	35½	33	4,003¾	40 19 5	259 9 5	3,077 19 6
Southland ..	10	1,477 19 0	100 4 5	1,578 3 5	46	2	506	55 0 0	52 2 0	270 17 6
Totals ..	..	27,974 9 1	4,443 9 5	32,417 18 6	2106½	2,140	13,814¼	1258 0 7	865 15 0	12,100 6 2

Table 41. — STATEMENT showing PAYMENTS to LOCAL BODIES during the Twelve Months ended 31st March, 1904, from "Thirds" of Deferred-payment, Perpetual-lease, Occupation-with-right-of-purchase, and Lease-in-perpetuity Lands, and "Fourths" of Small Grazing-runs.

Local Bodies.	"Thirds," Deferred-payment, Perpetual-lease, Occupation-with-right-of purchase, and Lease-in-per-petuity Lands.	"Fourths," Small Grazing-runs.	Total Payments.	Length, Locality, Description, and Particulars of Work authorised by Land Board.					
				Bush-clearing.	Scrub-clearing.	For-mation.	Bridges.	Culverts.	Main-tenance.
STATEMENT No. 1.—AUCKLAND.									
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Ch.	Ch.	Ch.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ahuroa R.B. ..	26 11 6	..	26 11 6	6	..	8	..	..	16 12 7
Albertland N'th R.B.	4 1 8	..	4 1 8	..	..	..	..	..	4 1 8
Albertland S. R.B.	11 10 0	..	11 10 0	..	..	4	..	..	3 11 8
Awitu R.B. ..	28 3 0	..	28 3 0	..	26	3	..	..	22 3 6
Bay of Islands C.C.	101 16 10	9 7 5	111 4 3	..	44	2	10 4 6	..	91 15 9
Coromandel C.C. ..	81 1 8	..	81 1 8	..	51	18	..	5 10 0	51 10 9
Drury R.B. ..	1 3 9	..	1 3 9	..	..	..	..	..	1 3 9
East Taupo County	6 16 2	3 19 8	10 15 10*	..	..	..	..	..	..
Great Barrier Island	1 16 4	..	1 16 4	..	..	3	..	..	..
Hikurangi R.B. ..	8 11 0	..	8 11 0	..	10	..	..	1 10 0	5 17 0
Hobson C.C. ..	308 7 11	..	308 7 11	..	..	168	17 1 11	27 3 2	90 3 0
Hokianga C.C. ..	839 15 0	..	839 15 0	439	859	293	72 2 3	41 2 11	87 13 9
Huntly R.B. ..	62 11 10	..	62 11 10	..	..	21	16 18 11	2 11 6	4 14 9
Hunua R.B. ..	27 12 4	..	27 12 4	..	..	12	5 2 7	5 4 9	1 7 8
Kawhia County ..	1,446 17 8	20 19 11	1,467 17 7†	..	..	..	..	..	..
Katikati R.B. ..	13 1 4	..	13 1 4	..	..	4	1 3 6	1 8 0	3 2 0
Komokoriki R.B. ..	5 17 9	..	5 17 9	1	16	1	..	..	..
Mainene R.B. ..	13 11 3	..	13 11 3	..	..	6	..	..	10 4 11
Manukau County ..	51 14 2	..	51 14 2	..	..	27	..	..	..
Mangawai R.B. ..	8 7 9	..	8 7 9	..	..	11	..	2 4 0	0 17 6
Mangonui C.C. ..	177 5 4	..	177 5 4	..	64	82	0 13 2	22 8 2	22 10 8
Maraetai R.B. ..	1 13 4	..	1 13 4	..	..	..	..	..	1 13 4
Marua R.B. ..	113 1 5	..	113 1 5	..	4	26	..	22 7 3	59 17 8
Maunu R.B. ..	258 1 10	..	258 1 10	235	..	6	15 13 7	3 10 0	64 0 5
Mareretu R.B. ..	79 15 2	..	79 15 2	17	22	43	18 3 1	..	2 17 9
Mauku R.B. ..	32 1 4	..	32 1 4	..	..	..	..	5 0 0	27 1 4
Matakohe R.B. ..	46 19 11	..	46 19 11	..	10	17	12 10 0	1 10 0	23 6 0
Matakana West R.B.	10 7 7	..	10 7 7	..	..	..	..	..	10 7 7
Maungakaramea R.B.	4 18 6	..	4 18 6	..	14	..	..	..	4 0 4
Omaha R.B. ..	14 10 10	..	14 10 10	..	..	2	1 13 11	2 4 0	9 2 11
Opaheke R.B. ..	0 13 4	..	0 13 4	..	..	..	..	..	0 13 4
Opotiki C.C. ..	41 16 3	..	41 16 3	..	..	2	6 2 5	..	33 10 10
Otamatea C.C. ..	330 10 1	..	330 10 1	..	274	50	..	15 5 8	209 18 3
Otonga R.B. ..	13 1 4	..	13 1 4	..	46	3	..	1 0 0	5 8 1
Paparata R.B. ..	13 2 1	..	13 2 1	..	..	6	..	..	..
Parua R.B. ..	16 9 7	..	16 9 7	..	11	8	..	8 0 0	..
Piako C.C. ..	41 5 9	..	41 5 9	5	..	2	..	4 8 4	30 13 3
Pukeatua R.B. ..	4 7 6	..	4 7 6	..	6	6	..	..	2 7 1
Puhoi R.B. ..	35 16 8	..	35 16 8	..	..	8	..	..	..
Pokeno R.B. ..	15 3 6	..	15 3 6	..	13	10	..	..	10 3 6
Raglan C.C. ..	903 8 11	..	903 8 11	371	129	493	20 16 2	42 8 1	369 18 6
Rodney C.C. ..	99 17 2	..	99 17 2	11	34	53	0 16 5	4 7 7	30 7 1
Rotorua C.C. ..	189 3 1	..	189 3 1*	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ruarangi R.B. ..	7 2 6	..	7 2 6	..	12	..	..	2 10 0	3 11 6
Tamaki East R.B...	2 7 6	..	2 7 6	..	..	..	..	..	2 7 6
Tauhoa R.B. ..	8 9 7	..	8 9 7	7	8	17	..	..	0 7 7
Te Puke R.B. ..	32 0 11	..	32 0 11	..	..	..	..	..	32 0 11
Upper Mahurangi R.B.	135 3 4	..	135 3 4	18	..	51	..	..	19 9 2
Warkworth R.B. ..	6 4 3	..	6 4 3	..	..	..	..	..	6 4 3
Waipipi R.B. ..	73 3 10	..	73 3 10	..	..	16	..	4 9 2	50 7 5
Waipu North R.B.	30 9 7	..	30 9 7	2	..	19	..	10 18 9	3 13 3
Waikiekie R.B. ..	48 11 5	..	48 11 5	5	..	18	..	0 6 8	20 1 9
Waitoa R.B. ..	33 7 0	..	33 7 0	..	..	..	..	..	33 7 0
Waiuku R.B. ..	32 9 1	..	32 9 1	..	..	2	..	1 0 0	28 0 4
Waitemata C.C. ..	59 8 8	..	59 8 8	..	16	31	2 13 8	1 5 4	50 1 4
Whangaroa C.C. ..	23 8 10	..	23 8 10	..	..	13	..	..	8 17 0
Wharehine R.B. ..	0 3 2	..	0 3 2	..	..	..	..	..	0 3 2
Whareora R.B. ..	19 7 9	..	19 7 9	..	2	5	..	..	11 9 0
West Taupo County	30 2 8	..	30 2 8†	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whangamarino R.B.	117 16 1	..	117 16 1	..	16	26	..	10 4 3	69 8 6
Whangarei C.C. ..	907 2 1	..	907 2 1	26	20	509	32 11 11	34 5 0	158 5 0
Wairoa R.B. ..	13 15 0	..	13 15 0	..	..	8	..	..	7 11 10
Totals ..	7,073 12 8	34 7 0	7,107 19 8	1143	1707	2113	234 8 0	284 2 7	1,818 4 8

* Expended by Captain Turner; no particulars furnished. † Expended by Mr. Burd; no particulars furnished.

Table 41.—Showing Payments to Local Bodies, &c.—*continued.*

Local Bodies.	"Thirds," Deferred-payment, Perpetual-lease, Occupation-with-right-of purchase, and Lease-in-perpetuity Lands.	"Fourths," Small Grazing-runs.	Total Payments.	Length, Locality, Description, and Particulars of Work authorised by Land Board.						
				Bush-clearing.	Scrub-clearing.	Formation.	Bridges.	Culverts.	Main-tenance.	
STATEMENT No. 2.—HAWKE'S BAY.										
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Ch.	Ch.	Ch.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Cook C.C.	194 2 1	108 4 4	302 6 5	240	8	1860	12 4 7	..	86 5 11	
Hawke's Bay C.C. ..	174 8 9	12 17 0	187 5 9	25	..	119	..	3 14 8	..	
Waiapu C.C. ..	247 12 1	66 11 4	314 3 5	..	30	371	..	..	..	
Waipawa C.C. ..	1,129 13 1	2 7 9	1,132 0 10	..	..	353½	19 3 9	..	..	
Wairoa C.C. ..	414 7 11	180 4 1	594 12 0	..	..	227½	38 18 9	..	74 6 3	
Woodville C.C. ..	10 6 5	..	10 6 5	..	..	..	..	..	5 0 9	
Weber C.C. ..	262 5 5	7 11 5	269 16 10	188	..	253	..	..	146 10 6	
Norsewood R.B. ..	38 15 6	..	38 15 6	47	..	..	..	..	11 3 3	
Patutahi R.B. ..	5 2 4	..	5 2 4	..	..	..	..	..	5 2 4	
Te Arai R.B. ..	34 7 7	..	34 7 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Ngatapa R.B. ..	40 0 0	..	40 0 0	..	..	120	..	..	..	
Waimata R.B. ..	..	33 8 11	33 8 11	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Totals ..	2,551 1 2	411 4 10	2,962 6 0	500	38	3303½	70 7 1	3 14 8	328 9 0	
STATEMENT No. 3.—TARANAKI.										
Clifton C.C. ..	410 2 7	6 0 9	416 3 4	..	..	24	..	14 18 5	161 15 6	
Hawera C.C. ..	327 13 3	1 18 0	329 11 3	4	..	66½	..	5 11 3	72 9 7	
Manganui R.B. ..	130 8 2	..	130 8 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Moa R.B. ..	250 0 11	..	250 0 11	..	..	55	..	8 17 2	167 18 1	
Motoroa R.B. ..	7 3 2	..	7 3 2	..	..	..	..	..	7 3 2	
Oakura R.B. ..	72 3 6	..	72 3 6	..	..	120	..	..	..	
Okato R.B. ..	91 15 0	..	91 15 0	..	..	46½	..	..	..	
Parihaka R.B. ..	106 6 0	..	106 6 0	..	..	..	..	72 8 1	33 17 11	
Patea C.C. ..	103 17 1	..	103 17 1	..	..	..	51 7 7	..	52 9 6	
Patea East R.B. ..	12 17 0	21 0 10	33 17 10	..	..	..	..	..	33 17 10	
Patea West R.B. ..	..	37 15 3	37 15 3	..	..	50	..	..	19 12 8	
Stratford C.C. ..	234 10 4	..	234 10 4	..	..	30	..	12 6 0	24 8 9	
Waimate R.B. ..	133 8 1	..	133 8 1	4	..	8½	..	..	..	
Wairoa R.B. ..	73 7 0	..	73 7 0	..	..	..	..	..	73 7 0	
Waiwakaiho R.B. ..	59 19 3	..	59 19 3	2	..	21½	..	26 9 6	5 1 2	
Totals ..	2,013 11 4	66 14 10	2,080 6 2	10	..	422	51 7 7	140 10 5	652 1 2	

Also, interest on loans, £568 10s. 7d.

STATEMENT No. 4.—WELLINGTON.										
Akitio C.C. ..	1,721 17 6	..	1,721 17 6	..	..	51	..	..	1,643 11 5	
Eketahuna C.C. ..	315 14 4	..	315 14 4	..	..	47	8 14 7	..	19 17 2	
Horowhenua C.C. ..	181 4 4	..	181 4 4	166	..	4	..	..	19 17 10	
Hutt C.C. ..	83 13 6	..	83 13 6	..	..	35	..	..	69 7 2	
Kiwitea C.C. ..	954 0 3	6 3 3	960 3 6	..	..	117	48 14 4	15 0 0	425 7 9	
Masterton C.C. ..	1,090 12 9	49 16 9	1,140 9 6	36	200	145	49 3 7	..	541 7 0	
Mauriceville C.C. ..	96 6 2	25 15 1	122 1 3	..	..	16	..	3 2 0	5 0 0	
Pahiatua C.C. ..	1,000 10 10	..	1,000 10 10	..	..	78	..	..	437 5 2	
Petone B.C. ..	10 17 11	..	10 17 11	..	..	..	..	..	10 17 11	
Pohangina C.C. ..	593 19 8	5 14 8	599 14 4	..	..	62	..	..	25 16 0	
Rangitikei C.C. ..	2,012 18 0	64 15 0	2,077 13 0	..	..	415	39 4 11	2 13 10	145 15 7	
Te Horo R.B. ..	90 4 9	..	90 4 9	..	..	20	..	..	67 2 9	
Upper Wangaehu R.B.	365 18 2	17 8 5	383 6 7	..	..	68	20 15 6	..	..	
Waimarino C.C. ..	334 4 8	48 17 9	383 2 5	..	..	440	..	..	121 13 1	
Wairarapa C.C. ..	265 11 0	40 5 4	305 16 4	38	120	119	1 4 9	28 13 1	146 13 7	
Waitotara C.C. ..	65 16 2	..	65 16 2	..	..	..	..	..	65 16 2	
Waitot'ra-Momohaki R.B.	40 13 7	..	40 13 7	..	..	..	..	..	10 0 9	
Totals ..	9,224 3 7	258 16 3	9,482 19 10	240	320	1617	167 17 8	49 8 11	3,755 9 4	

Note.—The total payments include the amounts paid under hypothecation in aid of the rates for special loans.

STATEMENT No. 5.—NELSON.										
Waimea West R.B.	5 3 0	..	5 3 0	..	..	..	..	..	5 3 0	
Upper Moutere R.B.	31 8 5	..	31 8 5	..	..	32	..	..	21 3 8	
Buller C.C. ..	44 9 0	..	44 9 0	..	..	..	..	..	44 9 0	
Waimea C.C. ..	446 18 10	..	446 18 10	22	..	10	..	..	432 0 7	
Inangahua C.C. ..	48 16 3	..	48 16 3	..	..	..	7 5 5	..	41 10 10	
Collingwood R.B. ..	112 16 7	..	112 16 7	80	..	66	..	7 10 0	68 7 7	
Dovedale R.B. ..	11 10 6	..	11 10 6	..	..	..	..	..	11 10 6	
Stoke R.B. ..	29 12 7	..	29 12 7	..	..	34	..	..	..	
Collingwood C.C. ..	161 2 9	..	161 2 9	30	..	182	..	..	98 2 2	
Suburban North R.B.	7 0 4	1 15 0	8 15 4	..	..	..	..	..	8 15 4	
Totals ..	898 18 3	1 15 0	900 13 3	132	..	324	7 5 5	7 10 0	731 2 8	

Table 41.—Showing Payments to Local Bodies, &c.—*continued.*

Local Bodies.	"Thirds," Deferred-payment, Perpetual-lease, Occupation-with-right-of-purchase, and Lease-in-perpetuity Lands.	"Fourths," Small Grazing-runs.	Total Payments.	Length, Locality, Description, and Particulars of Work authorised by Land Board.					
				Bush-clearing.	Scrub-clearing.	Formation.	Bridges.	Culverts.	Maintenance.
STATEMENT No. 6.—MARLBOROUGH.									
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Ch.	Ch.	Ch.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wairau R.B. ..	73 8 7	104 16 10	178 5 5	..	..	8	..	12 0 0	104 15 5
Pelorus R.B. ..	94 5 11	10 5 11	104 11 10	..	..	9	..	..	94 11 10
Picton R.B. ..	50 19 9	4 19 6	55 19 3	..	40	10	..	..	48 14 3
Awatere R.B. ..	..	58 18 0	58 18 0	..	..	..	..	..	58 18 0
Kaikoura C.C. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	218 14 3	179 0 3	397 14 6	..	40	27	..	12 0 0	306 19 6
STATEMENT No. 7.—WESTLAND.									
Westland C.C. ..	320 5 10	..	320 5 10	..	..	..	..	..	320 5 10
Grey C.C. ..	81 19 8	..	81 19 8	..	..	..	..	..	81 19 8
Totals ..	402 5 6	..	402 5 6	..	..	..	..	..	402 5 6
STATEMENT No. 8.—CANTERBURY.									
Anama R.B. ..	36 16 4	24 4 8	61 1 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Coldstream R.B. ..	41 14 6	..	41 14 6	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ellesmere R.B. ..	3 8 11	..	3 8 11	..	..	..	..	..	0 12 0
Geraldine R.B. ..	190 3 5	..	190 3 5	..	..	8	..	..	104 7 6
Hampstead T.B. ..	4 3 2	..	4 3 2	..	..	..	..	..	1 7 0
Levels C.C. ..	42 17 8	..	42 17 8	..	..	..	..	..	15 17 0
Mackenzie C.C. ..	304 15 0	139 17 1	444 12 1	..	..	35	4 0 0	5 5 0	8 14 0
Mount Hutt R.B. ..	15 5 8	..	15 5 8	..	..	5	..	..	42 15 0
Mount Peel R.B. ..	145 7 2	..	145 7 2	..	..	..	237 18 0	..	35 3 6
Mount Somers R.B.	7 10 3	20 3 6	27 13 9	..	..	..	..	..	10 6 6
Oxford R.B. ..	51 14 0	41 13 2	93 7 2	..	..	..	..	..	57 17 7
Rakaia R.B. ..	21 9 8	..	21 9 8	..	..	..	..	..	8 5 11
Rangitata R.B. ..	215 16 3	..	215 16 3	..	..	880½	..	7 6 0	35 17 10
South Rakaia R.B.	7 0 0	..	7 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	3 15 0
Springs R.B. ..	2 18 2	..	2 18 2	..	..	..	..	..	2 14 6
Temuka R.B. ..	58 14 1	..	58 14 1	..	..	99	..	..	..
Temuka B.C. ..	13 6 2	..	13 6 2	..	..	..	..	..	13 6 2
Upper Ashburton R.B.	89 11 6	..	89 11 6	..	..	144½	..	..	31 3 6
Waimate C.C. ..	311 4 3	539 3 4	850 7 7	..	..	226	..	37 3 0	224 2 8
Waipara R.B. ..	60 1 0	301 4 5	361 5 5	..	..	100	388 17 5	7 3 0	160 11 8
Wakanui R.B. ..	53 18 0	..	53 18 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	1,677 15 2	1,066 6 2	2,744 1 4	..	..	1498	630 15 5	56 17 0	756 17 4
STATEMENT No. 9.—OTAGO.									
Taieri C.C. ..	188 13 7	414 19 10	603 13 5	..	..	159	..	..	542 17 11
Maniototo C.C. ..	1,179 4 6	503 16 0	1,683 0 6	..	..	3082	37 15 8	238 16 11	122 10 7
Vincent C.C. ..	308 17 7	214 9 11	523 7 6	..	..	321¾	..	..	523 7 6
Waitaki C.C. ..	62 7 8	208 12 5	271 0 1	..	..	87	..	..	270 19 1
Waihemo C.C. ..	110 3 3	386 1 11	496 5 2	..	..	..	..	..	390 12 0
Waikouaiti C.C. ..	4 18 1	303 9 2	308 7 3	..	..	..	3 3 9	15 0 5	405 12 5
Clutha C.C. ..	339 17 3	9 19 5	349 16 8	11	..	208	..	0 8 5	330 5 7
Bruce C.C. ..	25 4 6	9 10 10	34 15 4	..	..	7	..	..	27 6 9
Tuapeka C.C. ..	125 5 4	274 1 2	399 6 6	24½	10	122	..	1 10 0	390 9 5
Lake C.C. ..	86 9 9	..	86 9 9	..	23	17	..	3 13 8	68 12 7
Southland C.C. ..	3 8 0	..	3 8 0	..	..	..	..	..	3 7 0
Mount Stuart R.B.	1 18 8	..	1 18 8	..	..	..	..	..	1 18 8
Totals ..	2,436 8 2	2,325 0 8	4,761 8 10	35½	33	4003¾	40 19 5	259 9 5	3,077 19 6
STATEMENT No. 10.—SOUTHLAND.									
Southland C.C. ..	709 8 4	2 9 1	711 17 5	..	..	200	30 0 0	12 10 0	150 0 0
Wallace C.C. ..	590 1 8	97 15 4	687 17 0	36	2	258	..	39 12 0	70 5 5
Stewart Island C.C.	25 12 1	..	25 12 1	..	..	..	..	..	25 12 1
Invercargill R.B. ..	78 12 0	..	78 12 0	..	..	20	25 0 0	..	15 0 0
Oteramika R.B. ..	57 12 0	..	57 12 0	10	..	20	..	..	10 0 0
Knapdale R.B. ..	16 12 11	..	16 12 11	..	..	8	..	..	..
Totals ..	1,477 19 0	100 4 5	1,578 3 5	46	2	506	55 0 0	52 2 0	270 17 6

Table 42.—Summary showing Amounts to the Credit of Local Bodies in the Deposit Account on 31st March, 1904, in respect to "Thirds" of Deferred-payment, Perpetual-lease, Occupation-with-right-of-purchase, and Lease-in-perpetuity Lands, and "Fourths" of Small Grazing-runs.

Land District.	Amount.
	£ s. d.
Auckland	8,439 2 4
Hawke's Bay	2,681 4 5
Taranaki	7,592 12 4
Wellington	18,040 15 5
Marlborough	1,701 6 7
Nelson	722 19 8
Westland	155 15 3
Canterbury	790 12 11
Otago	1,574 18 11
Southland	1,226 17 0
Total	42,926 4 10

Table 43.—Showing Surveyors employed and the Work on Hand on 31st March, 1904.

Chief Surveyors.	Surveyors employed.		Work on Hand.						
	Staff.	Temporary.	District.	Trig.	Settlement.	Native Blocks, &c.	Roads, &c.	Town.	Mining and Mineral Leases.
				Sq. Ml.	Acres.	Acres.	Miles.	Acres.	Acres.
J. G. Mueller	9	13	Auckland	..	362,673	2,559	152	418	..
E. C. Gold Smith	4	4	Hawke's Bay	30	93,541	18,235	6·5	..	..
Jas. Mackenzie	4	3	Taranaki	558·5	207,836	3,281	30	112·5	..
John Strauchon	8	3	Wellington	..	177,712	16,421	87	..	..
W. G. Murray	5	4	Nelson	..	70,700	..	..	..	..
C. W. Adams	1	3	Marlborough	217	63,820	..	19	..	..
G. J. Roberts	1	6	Westland	..	39,000	..	111	195	..
Thos. Humphries	2	..	Canterbury	..	17,653	..	..	5	..
D. Barron	3	..	Otago	110	17,639	..	..	26·5	14
J. Hay	2	1	Southland	..	26,053	30,000	..	..	..
Totals	39	37	..	915·5	1,076,627	70,496	405·5	757	14

Table 44.—Summary of Work done for other Departments and for Local Bodies during the Year ended 31st March, 1904.

District in which Work was executed.	Cost.	District in which Work was executed.	Cost.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Auckland	3,719 5 2	Brought forward	14,157 10 3
Hawke's Bay	603 12 2	Marlborough	12 18 3
Taranaki	3,964 8 7	Westland	1,813 15 9
Wellington	5,356 12 3	Canterbury	2,826 11 9
Nelson	513 12 1	Otago	410 8 7
		Southland	395 0 8
Carried forward	14,157 10 3	Total	19,616 5 3

Table 45.—STATEMENT showing the BLOCKS of LAND which have been proclaimed under "The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act Amendment Act, 1891," and "The Local Bodies' Loans Act, 1901," and the Report of the Surveyor-General on the Value of such Blocks, and on the Necessary Works, and the Estimated Cost of the Works, and on the Moneys expended in respect of such Blocks out of Moneys borrowed under the said Acts.

Name of Block.	Area of Block.	Gazetted.			Surveyor-General's Report.			Expenditure.			
		No.	Page.	Date.	Valuation of Block.	Works required to open up such Block.	Estimated Cost proposed to be borrowed.	To Mar. 31, 1903.	From April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904.	Total to March 31, 1904.	
1891–92.	Acres.				£		£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Ahuroa	4,000	23	479	18 Mar., 1892	2,500	Road-works	500	497	..	497 2 5	
East Puketoi	83,500	"	"	" "	83,500	"	19,375	19,375	..	19,375 0 0	
Mangamingi	6,000	15	336	18 Feb. "	9,040	"	4,286	4,286	..	4,286 0 0	
Manganuiowae	4,599	23 77	479 2,113	18 Mar., " 1 Oct., 1903	1,745	"	500	500	..	500 0 0	
Mareretu	5,000	23	479	18 Mar., 1892	2,500	"	395	395	..	395 0 0	
Maruwhenua	36,090	"	"	" "	49,200	"	2,000	2,000	..	2,000 0 0	
Maruwhenua (part)	13,000	15	336	18 Feb., "	10,000	"	5,000	5,000	..	5,000 0 0	
Maungataniwha	4,000	23	479	18 Mar., "	1,500	"	500	488	10 15 0	499 1 6	
Motatau	5,803	23 24	479 885	18 Mar., " 2 April, 1903	2,349		600	599	..	598 10 7	
Motu	33,000	23	479	18 Mar., 1892	14,025	"	2,475	2,475	..	2,475 0 0	
Mount Baker	9,200	15	336	18 Feb., "	9,600	"	2,487	2,487	..	2,487 0 0	
North-east Puketoi	13,300	"	"	" "	16,455	"	3,990	3,990	..	3,990 0 0	
Oroua-Coal Creek	6,000	"	"	" "	6,440	"	1,050	1,050	..	1,050 0 0	
Takahue	1,900	23	479	18 Mar., "	712	"	300	300	..	300 0 0	
Tauhoa, Sections 184 to 201	4,069	15	336	18 Feb., "	1,675	"	449	380	54 19 0	434 19 0	
Waimarino	20,900	"	"	" "	16,880	"	7,837	7,835	..	7,835 10 6	
Waoku	22,804	74 17	1298 301	22 Sept., " 9 Mar., 1893	10,000	"	2,000	2,000	..	2,000 0 0	
Woodlands, Blocks II., V., VI., VIII.	13,400	15	336	18 Feb., 1892	11,225	"	4,950	4,950	..	4,950 0 0	
1892–93.											
Akaaka Swamp	2,935	72	1273	15 Sept., 1892	2,093	Drainage	920	917	..	916 12 1	
Glenomaru, Blocks III., IV., V., VII., IX., X.	1,495	95 13	1606 246	8 Dec., " 23 Feb., 1893	946	Road-works	237	237	..	237 0 0	
Hautapu-Ruahine	19,804	74	1297	22 Sept., 1892	22,154	"	6,931	6,932	..	6,931 12 3	
Huiroa	6,433	72	1273	15 Sept., "	5,318	"	2,093	2,093	..	2,093 0 0	
Kaimanuka	9,987	"	"	" "	5,350	"	2,665	2,665	..	2,665 0 0	
Kakariki	5,000	23	413	30 Mar., 1893	5,786	"	1,562	1,562	..	1,562 0 0	
Liberal	2,800	83	1388	20 Oct., 1892	2,900	"	400	400	..	400 0 0	
Lillburn, Monowai, and Alton	30,745	"	1389	" "	23,059	"	8,000	8,000	..	8,000 0 0	
Longwood, Blocks XVI. and I.	5,659	90	1529	11 Nov., "	2,829	"	1,400	1,400	..	1,400 0 0	
Maioro Swamp	722	80	1365	13 Oct., "	451	Drainage	225	225	..	225 0 0	
Mangaehu	492	72	1273	15 Sept., "	604	Road-works	301	301	..	301 0 0	
Milsom	6,686	21	374	23 Mar., 1893	6,237	"	1,750	1,750	..	1,750 0 0	
Mokoreta	7,400	23	411	30 Mar., "	3,700	"	1,850	493	..	492 13 2	
Momohaki	526	72	1274	15 Sept., 1892	440	"	156	156	..	156 0 0	
Ngatimaru, Blocks V., IX.	4,910	23	412	30 Mar., 1893	4,745	"	1,940	1,940	..	1,940 0 0	
Nuhaka North	9,549	80	1365	13 Oct., 1892	4,632	"	568	568	..	568 0 0	
Opuawhanga No. 1	4,815	23 77	412 2114	30 Mar., 1893 1 Oct., 1903	1,917	"	500	496	4 6 2	500 0 0	
Otau	18,510	71	1255	8 Sept., 1892	6,941	"	2,350	2,350	..	2,350 0 0	
Oxford	4,000	4	23	12 Jan., 1893	3,550	"	1,200	1,200	..	1,200 0 0	
Paterson, Block I.	633	23	411	30 Mar., "	316	"	158	158	..	158 0 0	
Rankleburn, Block VI.	544	13 102	246 1744	23 Feb., " 29 Dec., 1892	409	"	136	136	..	136 0 0	
Ruapekapeka	11,900	77	1345	6 Oct., "	4,462	"	500	495	..	494 13 4	
Tanner	5,200	78	1361	10 Oct., "	5,950	"	1,780	1,780	..	1,780 0 0	
Tautuku, Block I.	3,850	77	1346	6 Oct., "	2,800	"	555	555	..	555 0 0	
Tuapeka West, Blocks I., II., III., IV., VII., VIII.	2,545	13 102 "	246 1742 1745	23 Feb., 1893 29 Dec., 1892 " "	1,681	"	367	367	..	367 0 0	
Upper Waitara	840	13	240	23 Feb., 1893	1,914	"	126	126	..	126 0 0	
Waiau	8,831	23	412	30 Mar., "	5,621	"	1,405	837	221 14 8	1,058 19 2	
Waikawa	6,000	"	"	" "	3,000	"	1,500	1,500	..	1,500 0 0	
Waikawa-Otara	31,000	"	411	" "	15,500	"	7,750	7,750	..	7,749 12 5	
Waimate Reserve No. 1126	634	72	1273	15 Sept., 1892	6,269	"	300	300	..	300 0 0	
Waimate Reserve No. 1128	516	"	"	" "	7,268	"	25	25	..	25 0 0	
Waimate Reserve No. 1178	157	"	"	" "	2,193	"	25	25	..	25 0 0	
Waiwera	3,900	23	413	30 Mar., 1893	4,101	"	1,460	1,460	..	1,460 0 0	
Woodlands, Blocks VII., X., XI.	1,693	74	1297	22 Sept., 1892	1,384	"	307	307	..	307 0 0	
1893–94.											
Autawa	4,725	21	393	23 Mar., 1893	4,276	Road-works	1,153	1,052	100 16 0	1,153 0 0	
Catlin's, Block II.	196	13	246	23 Feb., "	196	"	50	50	..	50 0 0	
Glenomaru, Block VI.	25	62	1211	10 Aug., "	80	"	25	25	..	25 0 0	
Hautapu, Blocks XI., XIV., XV.	6,188	92	1567	24 Nov., 1892	5,469	"	1,573	1,567	..	1,567 0 0	
Kaimarama	3,182	71	1372	21 Sept., 1893	1,580	"	318	318	..	318 0 0	
Lepperton	2,775	83	1383	20 Oct., 1892	2,998	"	966	966	..	966 0 0	
Mangaere	7,432	30	526	27 April, 1893	12,845	"	4,144	4,144	..	4,144 0 0	
Mangaokahu	2,325	54	1047	6 July, "	1,163	"	233	232	..	232 0 0	
Carried forward	534,124	..	..	..	444,473	..	118,598	116,467	392 10 10	116,858 6 5	

* The figures give the totals to the nearest pound for the year ending 31st March, 1901.

STATEMENT showing the BLOCKS of LAND which have been proclaimed under "The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act Amendment Act, 1891," and "The Local Bodies' Loans Act, 1901," &c.—*continued.*

Name of Block.	Area of Block.	Gazetted. No.	Page.	Date.	Surveyor-General's Report. Valuation of Block.	Works required to open up such Block.	Estimated Cost proposed to be borrowed.	Expenditure. To Mar. 31, 1903.	From April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904.	Total to March 31, 1904.
	Acres.				£		£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward ..	534,124	..	..	..	444,473	..	118,598	116,467	392 10 10	116,858 6 5
1893-94—*continued.*										
Mangoira-Coal Creek ..	6,500	74	1297	22 Sept., 1892	8,204	Road-works	2,031	2,030	..	2,030 0 0
Nuhaka No. 2	777	68	1324	7 Sept., 1893	485	"	58	58	..	58 0 0
Omahine, Block I.	455	8	152	2 Feb., "	341	"	114	114	..	114 0 0
Opaku-Kapara	18,620	4	26	12 Jan., "	10,455	"	2,793	2,793	..	2,793 0 0
Opuawhanga-Whangarei No. 1	4,600	34	571	1 May, "	2,300	"	500	492	7 17 0	499 10 6
Oteramika	6,253	71	1377	21 Sept., "	2,631	"	625	120	..	120 1 0
Pohui	4,306	90	1521	11 Nov., 1892	3,655	"	538	538	..	538 0 0
Stirling	4,770	28	539	31 Mar., "	6,678	"	1,193	1,192	..	1,192 0 0
Swinburn	1,790	40	656	18 May, 1893	1,610	"	288	253	35 0 6	288 0 0
Tahaukupu	2,817	13	245	23 Feb., "	2,256	"	675	675	..	675 0 0
Tararua	3,993	19	340	16 Mar., "	4,592	"	998	998	..	998 0 0
Tauhoa-Komokoriki	2,650	35	573	4 May, "	1,000	"	325	325	..	325 0 0
Taupiri	9,200	45	860	8 June, "	3,910	"	920	562	..	562 8 1
Tauwharetoi	9,404	68	1324	7 Sept., "	4,975	"	1,175	1,169	..	1,169 0 0
Umutaoroa	1,461	49	939	22 June, "	956	"	100	28	71 12 11	100 0 0
Waipoua	58,200	74	1419	5 Oct., "	29,100	"	5,800	5,799	..	5,799 5 5
Wellington Fruit-growers' Association	2,608	72	1274	15 Sept., 1892	8,543	"	1,313	1,313	..	1,313 0 0
Woodville	254	49	939	22 June, 1893	286	"	25	25	..	25 0 0
1894-95.										
Egmont, Block VI.	1,683	57	1163	26 July, 1894	1,721	Road-works	421	421	..	421 0 0
Gimmerburn	8,682	24	481	29 Mar., "	6,152	"	1,032	1,013	18 9 7	1,032 0 0
Hall	3,175	19	340	16 Mar., 1893	4,871	"	794	794	..	794 0 0
Hautapu No. 2	6,856	65	1272	24 Aug., 1894	8,860	"	1,714	1,714	..	1,713 15 10
Horopito	2,000	72	1505	2 Oct., "	1,972	"	500	531	..	..
Invercargill Hundred ..	1,403	"	1273	15 Sept., 1892	1,840	"	400	322	..	321 16 9
Kaitangiwhenua Special Settlement	7,747	1	4	7 Jan., 1904	4,214	"	1,491	1,375	..	1,375 0 0
Lauder-Blackstone	3,809	24	481	29 Mar., 1894	3,608	"	476	476	..	476 0 0
Lauder-Tiger Hill	28,723	"	"	" "	22,112	"	1,000	1,000	..	1,000 0 0
Lower Wanaka	3,368	34	714	10 May, "	1,250	"	101	101	..	101 0 0
Maniototo	277	24	481	29 Mar., "	245	"	104	100	..	100 0 0
Mecalickstone	6,010	19	339	16 Mar., 1893	4,954	"	1,503	1,503	..	1,503 0 0
Momahaki Village Settlement	824	7	131	25 Jan., 1894	6,311	"	1,360	1,360	..	1,360 0 0
Okoke	13,893	51	1049	5 July, "	9,577	"	2,369	2,367	..	2,366 11 1
Pakiri	4,214	85	2335	5 Nov., 1903	1,607	"	369	369	..	369 0 0
Palmerston North Knights of Labour	10,995	28	539	31 Mar., 1892	12,222	"	2,749	2,749	..	2,749 0 0
Pohonuiatane	27,754	19	340	16 Mar., 1893	26,476	"	6,959	6,690	267 16 10	6,958 6 0
Ruahine	4,800	61	1291	16 Aug., 1894	2,225	"	840	824	..	824 1 9
Salisbury and Delaware ..	13,399	28	539	31 Mar., 1892	14,272	"	3,348	3,348	..	3,348 0 0
Sommerville	8,566	"	"	" "	9,085	"	2,142	2,142	..	2,142 0 0
Waiotahi	6,050	57	1162	26 July, 1894	2,269	"	756	751	..	750 13 9
Wanganui	6,222	19	340	16 Mar., 1893	6,046	"	1,556	1,556	..	1,556 0 0
1895-96.										
Ackers	351	68	1327	7 Sept., 1893	702	Road-works	220	217	..	216 16 3
Avoca	3,668	24	482	29 Mar., 1894	1,834	"	458	458	..	458 0 0
Blackstone	22,535	10	233	7 Feb., 1895	24,748	"	500	500	..	500 0 0
Clifton No. 1	4,650	28	539	31 Mar., 1892	4,081	"	1,163	1,163	..	1,163 0 0
Dannevirke Centennial ..	11,041	19	340	16 Mar., 1893	5,233	"	2,494	1,967	232 14 0	2,199 19 10
Eltham	3,200	"	"	" "	3,150	"	800	800	..	800 0 0
Gatton	3,800	"	"	" "	3,860	"	950	950	..	950 0 0
Hikurangi No. 2	4,148	82	1663	16 Nov., 1894	3,240	"	520	497	..	497 5 5
Hokonui	3,223	18 / 7	459 / 149	7 Mar., 1895 / 30 Jan., 1896	1,607	"	603	85	..	85 7 10
Kaiparoro	9,409	60	1245	15 Aug., 1895	6,414	"	1,174	1,174	..	1,174 0 0
Kaitangata	7,105	89	1863	5 Dec., "	4,215	"	884	656	..	656 0 0
Kaitangiwhenua No. 2	46,045 / 16.948 of 46,045	27 / "	510 / "	5 April, 1894 / " "	27,627 / 8,749	"	6,393	5,756	..	5,756 0 0
Kaitieke	45,500	12	283	14 Feb., 1895	41,700	"	11,375	5,693	61 14 6	5,754 8 5
Karioi-Alexandra	13,300	10	269 / 270	13 Feb., 1896	4,987	"	1,662	1,662	..	1,661 14 6
Kaupokonui	230	62	1215	10 Aug., 1893	230	"	58	58	..	58 0 0
Kawhatau	5,700	94	1951	21 Dec., 1894	6,588	"	1,425	1,425	..	1,425 0 0
Llewellyn	4,594	15	397	9 Mar., 1896	3,445	"	862	531	331 8 7	862 0 0
Malton Farm Homestead ..	1,200	80	1637	8 Oct., 1894	944	"	302	302	..	302 0 0
Manganui and Ruapehu ..	7,350	46	958	21 June, "	6,337	"	1,838	1,838	..	1,838 0 0
Manganui-Egmont	2,833	72	1510	4 Oct., "	3,597	"	894	894	..	894 0 0
Maniototo No. 2	6,916	10	233	7 Feb., 1895	5,911	"	907	500	..	500 0 0
Maniototo No. 3	6,295	12	284	14 Feb., "	6,001	"	300	133	..	132 12 6
Naseby, No. 2	2,444	10	234	7 Feb., "	2,038	"	313	291	21 10 2	313 0 0
Carried forward ..	1,058,769	..	..	..	865,577	..	206,148	194,007	1,440 14 11	194,916 1 4

STATEMENT showing the BLOCKS of LAND which have been proclaimed under "The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act Amendment Act, 1891," and "The Local Bodies' Loans Act, 1901," &c.—*continued.*

Name of Block.	Area of Block.	Gazetted. No.	Gazetted. Page.	Gazetted. Date.	Surveyor-General's Report. Valuation of Block.	Surveyor-General's Report. Works required to open up such Block.	Surveyor-General's Report. Estimated Cost proposed to be borrowed.	Expenditure. To Mar. 31, 1903.	Expenditure. From April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904.	Expenditure. Total to March 31, 1904.
	Acres.				£		£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward ..	1,058,769	..	..	..	865,577	..	206,148	194,007	1,440 14 11	194,916 1 4
1895-96—*continued.*										
Ngunguru	6,125	46	973	20 June, 1895	3,210	Road-works	772	751	..	750 12 1
Pohangina	4,722	28	539	31 Mar., 1892	4,250	"	1,181	1,181	..	1,181 0 0
Puketoi-Aohanga	1,277	92	1933	19 Dec., 1895	1,027	"	319	319	..	319 0 0
Puniwhakau	10,695	19	340	16 Mar., 1893	7,604	"	1,926	1,926	..	1,926 0 0
Rangiwhakaoma	13,650	72	1501	4 Oct., 1894	5,487	"	1,421	1,421	..	1,421 0 0
Ross	1,912	34	760	9 May, 1895	2,564	"	478	476	..	476 2 6
Ruakituri	4,855	46	939 955	21 June, 1894	4,624	"	364	354	10 4 10	364 0 0
Marlborough	4,670	"	939	" "	2,043	"	467	..	447 9 3	447 9 3
Ruapuna	847	80	1640	8 Nov., "	1,270	"	106	75	..	75 0 0
Takahue and Whangape ..	12,200	89	1864	5 Dec., 1895	4,270	"	1,800	1,800	..	1,800 0 0
Terrace End	11,118	60	1245	15 Aug., "	8,950		2,173	2,173	..	2,173 0 0
Umutoi	2,200	28	539	31 Mar., 1892	1,675	"	550	550	..	550 0 0
Waiawa	20,000	5	94	27 Jan., 1896	8,000	"	2,500	2,292	207 9 0	2,499 19 9
Waimana	15,986	46	973	20 June, 1895	5,994	"	2,000	2,000	..	2,000 0 0
Whakarara, Section 14, Block XII.	508	16	342	1 Mar., 1894	406	"	38	..	24 10 0	24 10 0
1896-97.										
Auckland Special Settlement	8,995	78	1665	24 Oct., 1895	3,698	Road-works	899	898	..	898 0 1
Catlin's, Blocks IV., V., VI., VII.	8,580	68	1426	12 Sept., "	4,228	"	1,057	998	58 15 11	1,056 17 9
Gladstone	7,597	24	482	28 Mar., 1894	5,822	"	1,899	1,840	31 11 10	1,871 4 1
Karioi Parish	550	33	665	3 May, "	206	"	55	55	..	55 0 0
Mangataniwha No. 2 ..	1,220	47	955	18 June, 1896	487	"	120	103	16 13 0	119 19 9
Maropiu	5,350	24	667	11 Mar., 1897	2,675	"	590	398	56 2 9	454 0 11
Ohinewairua	7,462	11	242	28 Jan., "	7,491	"	1,865	1,864	..	1,864 1 3
Patua	9,692	24	667	11 Mar., "	6,542	"	1,636	1,627	5 19 10	1,632 19 10
Rawhitiroa	32,746	1	5	7 Jan., "	8,186	"	46	27	19 7 1	46 0 0
Te Mara	3,549 of 18,700	56	1092	13 July, 1893	2,384	"	436	428	..	427 16 3
Te Ngaue	1,470	54	1106	16 July, 1896	1,286	"	367	345	..	344 13 6
Whanuakura	10,927	19 4	340 57	16 Mar., 1893 10 Jan., 1901	5,652	"	1,690	917	282 6 1	1,199 9 9
1897-98.										
Hundalee	38,329	30 97	773 2081	1 April, 1897 18 Nov., "	25,704	Road-works	12,852	7,500	..	7,500 0 0
Huiarua	7,750	90	1901 1902	21 Oct., "	2,695	"	1,000	..	234 17 0	234 17 0
Kaiparoro No. 2	400	30	773	1 April, "	150	"	50	50	..	50 0 0
Makahu	6,551	66	1361	27 Aug., 1896	6,180	"	1,468	1,240	227 8 6	1,468 0 0
Maungaru	4,368	20	494	24 Mar., 1898	2,184	"	460	389	7 17 0	396 19 11
Paekotare	890	"	"	" "	356	"	80	76	..	75 14 6
Taumata	3,423	"	495	" "	2,188	"	428	428	..	428 0 0
Waikawa, Block II. ..	307	90	1901	21 Oct., 1897	746	"	186	..	..	..
Waikiekie	600	78	1698	15 Oct., 1896	788	"	150	150	..	150 0 0
1898-99.										
Awaroa No. 2	4,050	20	495	24 Mar., 1898	2,775	Road-works	400	228	171 13 4	400 0 0
Hautapu-Ruahine No. 2 ..	17,170	87	1841	28 Nov., 1895	11,382	"	4,192	2,031	449 8 4	2,480 7 1
Hauturu	72,331	1 31	1 750	5 Jan., 1899 28 Mar., 1901	37,540	"	10,000	10,000	..	9,999 12 7
Hurimoana	3,190	79	1774	3 Nov., 1898	2,981	"	797	797	..	797 0 0
Kaipikari	4,273	"	1775	" "	2,136	"	582	582	..	582 0 0
Kauaeranga	3,556	91	2021	20 Dec., "	1,770	"	445	..	54 18 6	54 18 6
Kawhia	4,927	70	1498	22 Sept., "	2,819	"	616	433	8 4 5	441 1 5
Kaikokopu	7,397	16	435	23 Feb., 1899	2,774	"	739	376	116 15 5	493 0 8
Kohuratahi	3,548	79	1774	3 Nov., 1898	3,019	"	738	738	..	738 0 0
Kohumaru	4,880	83	1846	17 Nov., "	1,700	"	600	146	30 6 6	176 15 7
Mamaku	7,684	24	564	7 April, "	3,842	"	700	700	..	700 0 0
Mangakahia	10,223	20	495	24 Mar., "	4,548	"	2,000	*782	41 14 9	823 7 4
Mareikura No. 1	950	77	1716	27 Oct., "	493	"	120	120	..	120 0 0
Mareikura No. 2	584	79	1773	3 Nov., "	292	"	70	70	..	70 0 0
Makotuku, Block III. ..	1,608	1	4	7 Jan., 1904	1,860	"	402	367	..	366 15 9
Marco	6,467	13	382	16 Feb., 1899	4,040	"	1,027	1,027	..	1,027 0 0
Marton No. 3	9,257	79	2162	8 Oct., 1903	9,257	"	2,270	2,204	..	2,204 0 0
Naseby, Maniototo, and Gimmerburn	5,277	"	1774	3 Nov., 1898	3,677	"	910	393	206 13 4	600 1 6
Carried forward ..	1,497,662	..	..	..	1,113,504	..	276,185	249,652	4,151 1 7	253,271 9 11

* The difference between the expenditure, £1,935 17s. 5d., at the 31st March, 1902, and these figures is accounted for thus: Actual expenditure, 1903, £12 6s. 1d.; actual credit, £1,116 10s. 11d.; leaving a credit expenditure of £1,154 4s. 10d., which, being deducted from 1903 expenditure, viz., £1,935 17s. 5d, = £781 12s. 7d, (or £782 the nearest pound)

STATEMENT showing the BLOCKS of LAND which have been proclaimed under "The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act Amendment Act, 1891," and "The Local Bodies' Loans Act, 1901," &c.—*continued.*

Name of Block.	Area of Block.	Gazetted. No.	Page.	Date.	Surveyor-General's Report. Valuation of Block.	Works required to open up such Block.	Estimated Cost proposed to be borrowed.	Expenditure. To Mar. 31, 1903.	From April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904.	Total to March 31, 1904.
	Acres.				£		£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward ..	1,497,662	..	..	..	1,113,504	..	276,185	249,652	4,151 1 7	253,271 9 11
1898–99—*continued.*										
Ngapaeruru	37,599	86	1914	1 Dec., 1898	18,799	Road-works	8,000	10954	45 10 6	11,000 0 0
Ngapaeruru No. 2	10,440	20	548	15 Mar., 1900	18,000	"	3,000			
Okohiriki	15,500	91	2021	20 Dec., 1898	6,200	"	1,550	749	640 19 2	1,389 19 8
Onslow	2,405	34	640	28 April, 1892	1,327	"	601	600	..	600 0 0
Otukai	10,000	83	1845	17 Nov., 1898	3,360	"	1,000	196	20 4 3	216 8 2
		70	1856	4 Sept., 1902						
Opanake	2,508	24	563	7 April, 1898	1,254	"	100	99	..	99 1 0
Opuatea No. 1	5,720	9	254	2 Feb., 1899	2,288	"	858	858	..	858 0 0
Opuatea No. 2	8,030	83	1847	17 Nov., 1898	2,735	"	1,000	592	8 6 2	600 0 0
Opuatea No. 3	4,337	"	1846	" "	1,976	"	600	559	33 6 0	592 3 5
Puhipuhi	24,800	91	2022	20 Dec., "	16,675	"	4,169	4,169	..	4,169 0 0
Puriri	1,856	"	"	" "	791	"	186	..	157 3 6	157 3 6
Pukeokahu	11,379	87	1841	28 Nov., 1895	11,957	"	2,844	1,941	525 12 6	2,467 2 8
		10	283	13 Feb., 1896						
Rimuputa	5,609	77	1715	27 Oct., 1898	3,228	"	799	799	..	799 0 0
Te Puroa	8,600	83	1846	17 Nov., "	3,440	"	1,000	650	343 4 0	993 0 5
Tokatoka	12,096	38	911	26 May, "	20,826	Drains and roads	7,189	7,181		
"	4,090 of 12,096	"	"	" "	10,226	Tramway and road-works	1,200	..	1,201 10 2	8,382 16 1
Upper Makohine	14,201	24	564	7 April, "	15,851	Road-works	3,230	3,087	..	3,087 0 0
Umurua	4,866	"	"	" "	2,433	"	480	479	..	478 14 11
Waimatanui	20,000	20	496	24 Mar., "	8,000	"	3,000	2,400	295 2 9	2,695 2 6
Waipu	6,350	65	1398	1 Sept., "	2,540	"	790	710	..	709 16 5
1899–1900.										
Kaitao	9,436	30	729	6 April, 1899	8,175	Road-works	2,500	2,000	..	2,000 0 0
Kinohaku West	73,795	100	2198	1 Dec., "	55,346	"	19,224	10,000	..	9,999 15 4
Kuraiti	4,465	14	360	15 Feb., 1900	1,855	"	617	249	367 13 7	617 0 0
Mataro	1,486	42	953	18 May, 1899	668	"	330	..	38 17 5	38 17 5
Mauku	1,893	91	2031	2 Nov., "	1,135	"	284	267	17 7 5	284 0 0
Mangakahia No. 2 ..	1,108	"	2032	" "	670	"	111	30	63 19 0	94 2 0
Mangorewa-Kaharoa ..	24,100	"	"	" "	6,200	"	2,800	1,541	388 17 1	1,929 11 7
Orauküra	4,456	78	1803	21 Sept., "	6,691	"	1,114	972	141 17 2	1,114 0 0
Pakeho	9,969	91	2032	2 Nov., "	3,988	"	1,800	1,752	41 10 4	1,793 10 9
Piko	10,276	43	1009	25 May, "	6,928	"	1,784	1,782	..	1,782 7 9
Pine Valley	19,744	68	1477	10 Aug., "	7,452	"	1,863	769	166 0 1	935 0 6
Pirongia West	17,625	14	361	15 Feb., 1900	11,308	"	2,203	1,881	6 1 0	1,887 3 8
Poarangi	3,835	"	"	" "	2,419	"	550	484	65 11 3	550 0 0
Putikituna	4,229	"	360	" "	2,663	"	789	789	..	789 0 0
Puketarata	5,347	1	1	4 Jan., "	2,177	"	535	533	..	532 11 7
Puketarata No. 2 ..	3,026	104	2261	14 Dec., 1899	1,486	"	378	320	57 13 5	377 19 4
Putiki	6,595	64	1358	27 July, "	3,620	"	1,144	1,143	..	1,143 7 2
Tangihua	4,650	104	2261	14 Dec., "	2,106	"	466	397	69 7 4	466 0 0
1900–1.										
Kaiwaka, Blocks IV., VIII., XI.	4,789	4	56	10 Jan., 1901	1,768	Road-works	598	228	369 14 10	598 0 0
Makino	8,608	24	521	28 Feb., "	3,787	"	1,860	..	..	..
Mangapoike	14,672	"	"	" "	8,293	"	1,834	3	253 17 6	257 9 6
Mangatoro, Block I. ..	1,700	38	857	3 May, 1900	1,329	"	425	113	13 11 5	127 1 5
Moki	8,734	99	2178	6 Dec., "	4,708	"	1,822	1,719	103 3 7	1,822 0 0
Ngamatea-Maungakaretu ..	8,315	4	55	10 Jan., 1901	6,491	"	2,078	1,893	184 10 8	2,078 0 0
Ngaurukehu	1,092	"	55	" "	1,092	"	409	402	6 8 0	408 19 2
Nuhaka No. 3	4,138	24	522	28 Feb., "	5,351	"	1,034	224	26 3 2	250 0 0
Ohinewairua, Block XIII ..	876	4	55-6	10 Jan., "	2,734	"	481	481	..	481 0 0
Ohinewairua-Pukeokahu ..	9,785	"	56	" "	9,330	"	2,935	586	188 13 10	774 6 10
Tauakira	20,736	72	1522	16 Aug., 1900	16,551	"	2,592	1,923	657 0 6	2,580 1 5
Te Ruanui	1,545	4	55	10 Jan., 1901	4,256	"	386	367	18 19 0	386 0 0
Tiriraukawa-Hautapu ..	5,622	"	56	" "	5,250	"	1,686	1,161	524 16 3	1,686 0 0
Waikekeho	590	72	1522	16 Aug., 1900	1,178	"	419	200	185 16 0	385 14 4
Waingarara	1,634	78	1666	6 Sept., "	1,111	"	373	100	104 10 6	204 10 6
Wharepuhunga	31,700	18	335	7 Feb., 1901	8,907	"	2,828	..	..	..
Whatitiri No. 1	5,628	51	1113	14 June, 1900	4,830	"	844	843	..	843 6 2
1901–2.										
Kinohaku West No. 2 ..	24,367	72	1572	1 Aug., 1901	19,494	Road-works	6,187	4,030	132 9 4	4,163 0 7
Mangatawa	6,804	2	3	9 Jan., 1902	3,796	"	1,270	233	858 18 9	1,091 11 9
Mahoenui	6,624	73	1602	8 Aug., 1901	3,960	"	990	593	66 17 8	660 3 10
Owai	3,400	"	1602	" "	1,020	"	340	161	179 0 10	339 19 10
Pakanae	992	"	1601	" "	291	"	124	25	18 12 0	43 17 0
Parahaki	1,935	"	"	" "	569	"	193	11	..	10 15 0
Stag and Spey	12,246	34	821	4 April, "	11,148	"	2,787	2,787	..	2,787 0 0
Tahora	2,311	90	1977	17 Oct., "	1,422	"	471	318	123 12 5	441 9 0
Tahora No. 2 South	43,037	24	522	28 Feb, "	16,139	"	4,304	..	..	..
Tahora No. 2 North	62,699	"	"	" "	23,512	"	6,270	..	..	..
Carried forward ..	2,208,662	..	..	..	1,558,614	..	401,813	328,985	12,863 11 11	341,320 12 1

STATEMENT showing the BLOCKS of LAND which have been proclaimed under "The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act Amendment Act, 1891," and "The Local Bodies' Loans Act, 1901," &c.—*continued.*

Name of Block.	Area of Block.	Gazetted. No.	Page.	Date.	Surveyor-General's Report. Valuation of Block.	Works required to open up such Block.	Estimated Cost proposed to be borrowed.	Expenditure. To Mar. 31, 1903.	From April 1, 1903, to March 31, 1904.	Total to March 31, 1904.
	Acres.				£		£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward ..	2,208,662	..	..	..	1,558,614	..	401,813	328,985	12,863 11 11	341,320 12 1
1901-2—*continued.*										
Tangitu	11,805	90	1977	17 Oct., 1901	7,463	Road-works	2,140	59	1,165 4 4	1,224 6 7
Te Kuiti	3,566	70	1498	25 July, "	3,107	"	777	713	63 12 0	776 7 0
Tokatoka No. 2	1,966	73	1601	8 Aug., "	3,441	"	1,474	..	888 4 9	888 4 9
Waipapa	49,410	2	4	9 Jan., 1902	17,662	"	1,766	279	1,484 13 11	1,764 0 0
Waitaha	4,270	52	1160	23 May, 1901	5,362	"	1,341	1,341	..	1,341 10 6
Whangaingatakupu	975	73	1602	8 Aug., "	342	"	170	117	53 0 0	169 18 4
Wharekopae-Tahora No. 2 ..	14,401	24	522	28 Feb., "	11,869	"	1,440	1,025	406 12 2	1,431 18 0
Whareorino	20,583	73	1602	8 Aug., "	12,349	"	5,776	293	688 17 0	982 8 3
1902-3.										
Eao	18,000	77	2191	2 Oct., 1902	13,500	Road-works	4,500	..	40 3 0	40 3 0
Kiokio	4,356	66	1726	21 Aug., "	3,812	"	545	..	..	..
Mangaowata	10,700	77	2191	2 Oct., "	5,885	"	2,140	30	456 2 6	486 11 0
Mangaroa	4,969	"	2192	" "	4,560	Roads and bridges	1,225	34	860 8 2	894 3 2
Mimi-iti	597	"	2189	" "	969	Road-works	150	..	..	..
Mowhanau Village Settlement	380	7	255	29 Jan., 1903	5,320	"	380	..	216 16 3	216 16 3
Okohiriki No. 1E	2,626	70	1858	4 Sept., 1902	1,050	"	260	..	28 12 6	28 12 6
Pareokawa	7,645	96	2148	7 Nov., 1901	3,557	"	950	101	252 9 6	353 9 8
Patupuremu	17,966	77	2190-1	2 Oct., 1902	8,160	"	3,580	24	435 8 6	459 3 2
Puketarata No. 3	2,370	65	1702	14 Aug., "	2,371	"	296	..	295 19 4	295 19 4
Rerekapa-Moanatairi ..	21,375	77	2189	2 Oct., "	12,182	Roads and bridges	5,835	185	1,501 3 7	1,685 15 7
Taurangi	21,700	"	2191	" "	11,935	Ditto ..	4,340	..	70 7 0	70 7 0
Tinline	1,650	18	527	6 Mar., "	805	Road-works	201	57	143 7 9	200 18 6
Tirangi	8,098	77	2192	2 Oct., "	3,563	"	1,620	..	647 19 1	647 19 1
Tumu-Kaituna	3,187	12	495	19 Feb., 1903	2,550	Drainage-works and bridges over drains	1,275	..	584 18 10	584 18 10
Vera	2,575	77	2189	2 Oct., 1902	1,573	Road-works	320	80	240 4 0	320 0 0
Waikaka	4,016	"	2190	" "	3,254	Roads and bridges	960	14	845 1 5	859 6 5
Waitangata	10,628	"	"	" "	8,683	Road-works	2,575	14	713 17 1	728 2 1
1903-4										
Bartlett's Creek	4,481	46	1357	11 June, 1903	1,617	Road-works	404	..	..	..
Huehue	4,134	59	1620	23 July, "	2,911	"	827	..	185 12 6	185 12 6
Maukoro	9,978	54	1517	2 July, "	5,729	"	1,496	..	..	..
Moanui	24,865	59	1620	23 July, "	14,000	"	3,108	..	..	..
Ngutunui	1,657	54	1518	2 July, "	1,053	"	210	..	..	..
Otanake Special Settlement ..	7,253	62	1727	6 Aug., "	5,440	"	1,813	..	..	..
Oumauku	9,770	77	2114	1 Oct., "	2,931	"	1,465	..	..	..
Ouruwhero	2,614	49	1433	25 June, "	2,347	"	680	..	217 15 4	217 15 4
Pukenui	1,600	77	2113	1 Oct., "	1,200	"	240	..	..	..
Raetea	686	5	152	21 Jan., 1904	349	"	137	..	..	..
Raupiu	3,080	49	1433	25 June, 1903	2,457	"	385	..	..	..
Taihape Village Settlement Extension	117	1	3, 4	7 Jan., 1904	278	"	117	..	..	..
Taumata-Whakauma ..	3,269	62	1727	6 Aug., 1903	2,100	"	817	..	44 0 0	44 0 0
Te Kauri	3,664	14	544	18 Feb., 1904	2,540	Roads and bridges	916	..	..	..
Tokatoka No. 3	448	"	"	" "	1,120	Roads and drains	448	..	..	..
Tuahu	18,817	67	1859	27 Aug., 1903	7,405	Road-works	2,352	..	..	..
Waitahaia	14,380	52	1619	23 July, "	8,462	"	2,990	..	..	..
Waro	11,244	"	1620	" "	6,678	"	3,210	..	88 6 6	88 6 6
Whakapaupakihi	15,000	"	1619	" "	13,240	"	1,875	..	270 9 11	270 9 11
Totals	2,595,533	..	..	..	1,795,795	..	471,339	333,351	25,752 18 10	358,577 15 4

By Authority: JOHN MACKAY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1904.

Price 5s.]

J. W. A. MARCHANT,
Surveyor-General.

NORTH ISLAND
(TE IKA-A-MAUI)

NEW ZEALAND

Showing Principal Waterfalls for Electric Power, and Catchment Areas of the Principal New Zealand Rivers.

Scale of English Miles

10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90

Reference

Cities	thus
Boroughs	
Towns	
Railways	
Roads	
Waterfalls	20
Catchment Areas	10

NOTE.—THE FIGURES IN RED & GREEN CORRESPOND WITH THE NUMBERS IN THE SCHEDULES.

WATERFALLS.

North Island, New Zealand.

No.	Name of Fall.
1	Waipapa (Waiapa River).
2	Kerikeri (Kerikeri River).
3	Waitangi (Waitangi River).
4	Kamore (Kamore Stream).
5	Putahi (near Lake Omapere).
	Whirinaki (Whirinaki River).
7	Wairua Upper (Wairua River).
8	Wairua (Wairua River).
9	Whangarei (Whangarei River).
10	Waitakerei (Three), (Waitakerei Stream).
11	Nihotupu (Nihotupu Stream).
12	Mauku (Mauku Stream).
13	Bentley's (Hays Stream).
14	Hunua (Wairo River).
15	Maungatawhiri (Maungatawhiri River).
16	Table Mount (three), (Waiwhakaurunga River).
17	Wairere (two), (Branch of Thames River).
18	Ariki (Fairy Falls), (two), (branch of Thames River).
19	Aniwhaniwha (lower (Waikato River)
20	Bridal Veil (Waipa Stream).
21	Okere (Pokopoko Stream); in use for Rotorua electric power supply).
22	Aniwhaniwha (upper (Waikato River).
23	Huka (Waikato River).
24	Motu (Motu River).
25	Wharekopae (Wharekopae River).
26	Waihirere (Waihirere River).
27	Mokau (near Waikaremoana Lake).
28	Aniwaniwa (Aniwaniwa Stream).
29	Waikaretaheki (outflow of Waikaremoana Lake).
30	Te Roinga (Rukituri River).
31	Mohakatino (Several), (Mohakatino River).
32	Double Waterfall (Waipunga River).
33	Waitara River Falls (Waitara River).
34	Kiri River Falls (Kiri River).
35	Bell's (Hangaiahua River, Mt. Egmont).
36	Dawson's (Kaupi Stream, Mt. Egmont).
37	Mohaka (Mohaka River).
38	Tongoio (Upper and Lower), (Te Ngaru Stream).

No.	Name of Fall.
	Parapara (Mangawhero River).
	Wanganui River Rapids (Wanganui River).
	Mangapukka (Mangapora Stream).
	Waihi (Waihi Stream).
	Otaki River Rapids (Otaki River).
	Dam on Hutt River.
	Waitangi Falls (Waitangi R., near Waiori).
	Turangarere (Hautapu River).
	Papakori or Tikerere (Moawhango River).
	Te Faunga or Te Pongo Falls (Moawhango R.).
	Otaemata Falls (Turakina River).
	Rerepapa Falls (Turakina River).
	Retaruke River Falls (Retaruke River).
	Manganui-a-te-Ao River.
	Makatote River.
	Mangaturuturu River.
	Wanganui River.
	Waihohone Stream.
	Makoluku Stream.
	Mangawhero River.
	Rangitikei River.
	Hautapu River.
	Wangaehu River.
	Pohangina River.
	Mangahuwhi Creek Falls (Mangahuwhi Creek).
	Makakerepulu Fall (Piopiotea Stream).
	Whakapapa River.
	Tunanui Stream.
	Tauranga-Taupo River Falls.
	Waihi Falls (near Tokaanu, Lake Taupo).
	Poutu River (outlet of Lake Roto-Aira).
	Ohura Falls (Ohura River).
	Otu-iti Falls (Otu-iti Stream).
	Falls of over 20 ft. in small stream (about seven miles from Hunterville).
	Mangaleetoenui Stream.
	Waimarino River.
	Drowa River.
	Ahuahu Stream.
	Kawarapoa Stream.
	Kai Iwi Stream.

CATCHMENT AREAS (APPROXIMATE) OF THE PRINCIPAL NEW ZEALAND RIVERS.

NORTH ISLAND.

No.	River.	Area in Square Miles.	No.	River.	Area in Square Miles.
1	Hokianga	665	20	Mohaka	947
2	Waitangi	123	21	Tutaekuri	350
3	Wairoa North	1,395	22	Ngaruroro	803
4	Piako	596	23	Patea	400
5	Thames	747	24	Whenuakura	189
6	Waikato	5,500	25	Waitotara	481
7	Marakopa	164	26	Wangaehu	806
8	Awakino	138	27	Rangitikei	1,577
9	Mokau	545	28	Turakina	373
10	Waiapu	700	29	Tukituki	990
11	Motu	468	30	Porongahau	312
12	Uawa	212	31	Manawatu	2,296
13	Rangitaiki	1,266	32	Akitio	232
14	Whakatane	698	33	Aohanga	166
15	Waioeka	380	34	Whareama	217
16	Waipaoa	930	35	Otaki	146
17	Wairoa	1,462	36	Ruamahanga	1,351
18	Waitara	453	37	Hutt	256
19	Wanganui	2,850	38	Pahaoa	256

By Authority: John Mackay, Government Printer.

Compiled at the Head Office, Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, N.Z., March 1904.
P.W. Thompson, Chief Draughtsman. [illegible]

J. W. A. MARCHANT,
Surveyor-General.

MIDDLE ISLAND

(TE WAI-POUNAMU)

NEW ZEALAND

Showing Principal Waterfalls for Electric Power, and Catchment Areas of the Principal New Zealand Rivers.

Scale of English Miles

10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90

Reference

Cities ..... thus
Boroughs .....
Towns and villages .....
Railways and stations .....
Roads .....
Waterfalls ..... — 20
Catchment Areas 10

NOTE.—THE FIGURES IN RED & GREEN CORRESPOND WITH THE NUMBERS IN THE SCHEDULES.

Golden Bay
Tasman Bay
Karamea Bight
Cloudy Bay
Pegasus Bay
Banks Peninsula
Canterbury Bight
Otago Peninsula
Stewart Island
TASMAN SEA
SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN
FOVEAUX STRAIT
South Latitude
East Longitude

WATERFALLS.

Middle Island, New Zealand.

No.	Name of Fall.	No.	Name of Fall.
1	Aorere River.	81	Upper Mikonui Falls (three), (Mikonui River).
2	Anatoki River.	82	Kakapotahi River (two falls).
3	Waingaro River.	83	Totara River.
4	Wainui River Falls (Wainui River).	84	Mikonui River.
6	Takaka River.	85	Waitaha River.
6	Maitai River.	86	Duffer's Creek Falls (Duffer's Creek).
7	Roding River.	87	Wanganui River.
8	Wairoa River.	88	Poerua River.
9	Lee River.	89	Wataroa River.
10	Millerton Fall (Granity Creek, in Millerton Township).	90	Perth River.
11	Wareatea River Falls (Wareatea River).	91	Waitangi-ta-ona River.
12	Rough Creek.	92	Okarito River.
13	Brown Creek.	93	Totara River Falls (Totara River).
14	Coal Creek.	94	Upper Callary Falls (Callary River).
15	Landing Creek.	95	Kaiser Fritz Falls (Francis Joseph Glacier).
16	Larry's Creek.	96	Balfour Valley Falls (Balfour River).
17	Raglan's, Bourke's, Boatman's, and Little Boatman's Creeks.	97	Karangarua River.
		98	Makawiho River and Falls.
		99	Karangarua Valley Falls (three).
18	Waitahu River.	100	Paringa River.
19	Inangahua River.	101	Hall River.
20	Murray, Lankey's, Auld's, Garvey's, Rainy, and Deep Creeks.	102	Upper Paringa Valley Falls.
		103	Haast River.
21	Fletcher's Creek.	104	Clark River and Falls.
22	Stoney Creek.	105	Upper Macfarlane Falls.
23	Maimai Creek.	106	Roaring Billy Creek and Falls.
24	Stony Creek.	107	Burke River.
25	Burton's Creek.	108	Haast Valley Falls (two).
26	Casoli's Creek.	109	Staircase Valley Falls (two).
27	Slab Hut, Antonio's, and Adamstown Creeks.	110	Okuru River.
		111	Turnbull River and Falls.
28	Big River.	112	Waiatoto River.
28a	Blackwater Creek.	113	Lower Arawata Valley Falls.
29	Snowy River.	114	Waipara Valley Falls (three).
30	Alexander Creek.	115	Upper Arawata Valley Falls.
31	Clark River.	116	Cascade River.
32	Allen River.	117	Stirling Falls (Milford Sound).
33	Otututu River.	118	Bowen Falls (Milford Sound).
34	Goulter River.	119	Mackay's Falls (valley of the Arthur River).
35	Wairau River.	120	Sutherland Falls (valley of the Arthur River).
36	Branch River.	121	Frankton Falls (outlet of Lake Wakatipu on Kawarau River).
37	Waihopai River.		
38	Awatere River.		
39	Acheron River.	122	Clifton Falls (Kakanui River).
40	Clarence River.	123	Deep Stream.
41	Waiau-ua River.	124	Lee Stream Rapids.
42	Hurunui River.	125	Waipori Falls (Waipori River).
43	Waimakariri River.	126	Taieri River.
44	Rakaia River.	127	Clutha River.
45	Rangitata River.	128	Mataura Falls (Mataura Township).
46	Waitaki River.	129	Mataura River.
47	Grey River.	130	Robert Creek.
48	Ahaura River.	131	Eyre River.
49	Big River, or Slaty Creek.	132	Nokomai River.
50	Moonlight Creek.	133	Whakaea River.
51	Blackball Creek.	134	Otamita Stream.
52	Mawhera-iti, or Little Grey River.	135	Mokoreta River.
53	Nelson Creek.	136	Oreti River.
54	Coal Creek Falls (Coal Creek).	137	Windley River.
55	Arnold River.	138	Weydon Burn.
56	Crooked River.	139	Acton Stream.
57	Upper Ahaura Valley Falls.	140	Cromel Stream.
58	Falls in valley of Lake Brunner.	141	Irthing Stream.
59	Mitchell's (Lake Brunner).	142	Otapiri Stream.
60	Poerua Falls.	143	Lora Stream.
61	Upper Taramakau Falls.	144	Dumsdale Stream.
62	Jackson's Falls.	145	Makarewa River.
63	Inchbonnie Falls.	146	Hamilton Burn.
64	Taipo Falls.	147	Jacob's River, or Aparima River.
65	Taramakau River.	148	Etal Creek.
66	Otira River Falls (Barrack Creek).	149	Purakino River.
67	Otira River Falls (Wesley's Creek).	150	Waimeamea River.
68	Otira River.	151	Mararoa River.
69	Taipo River.	152	Excelsior Creek.
70	Kapitea Creek.	153	Whare Creek.
71	Waimea Creek.	154	Redcliff Creek.
72	Arahura River.	155	Ligar Creek.
73	Kawahaka Creek.	156	Taylor's Creek.
74	Hokitika River.	157	Monowai River.
75	Kaniare River.	158	Dean Burn.
76	Dorothy Falls (Lake Kaniare).	159	Wairaki River.
77	Kokatahi River.	160	Lillburn.
78	Doctor's Creek Falls (two), (Hokitika River).	161	Orawia Stream.
79	Falls (Upper Hokitika River).	162	Waiau River.
80	Whitcombe River.	163	Alton Burn.

CATCHMENT AREAS (APPROXIMATE) OF THE PRINCIPAL NEW ZEALAND RIVERS.

MIDDLE ISLAND.

No.	River.	Area in Square Miles.	No.	River.	Area in Square Miles.
1	Aorere	268	22	Selwyn	358
2	Takaka	346	23	Ashburton	642
3	Karamea	460	24	Rangitata	737
4	Motueka	788	25	Orari	320
5	Mokihinui	302	26	Opihi	913
6	Buller	2,470	27	Waihao	220
7	Waimea	307	28	Waitaki	4,597
8	Pelorus	332	29	Haast	478
9	Wairau	1,612	30	Arawhata	332
10	Awatere	640	31	Hollyford	450
11	Clarence	1,236	32	Clutha	8,166
12	Conway	192	33	Kakanui	361
13	Grey	1,513	34	Shag	217
14	Waiau-uha	1,278	35	Waikouaiti	166
15	Taramakau	356	36	Taieri	2,178
16	Hurunui	1,047	37	Waiau	3,184
17	Waipara	302	38	Waitutu	184
18	Hokitika	445	39	Wairaurahiri	251
19	Waimakariri	1,067	40	Aparima	594
20	Ashley	450	41	Oreti	1,390
21	Rakaia	1,146	42	Mataura	2,145

G.P.Wilson, del.

By Authority: John Mackay, Government Printer.

Compiled at the Head Office, Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, N.Z. March 1904.
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J. W. A. MARCHANT,
Surveyor-General.

NORTH ISLAND
(TE IKA-A-MAUI)

NEW ZEALAND

SHOWING THE LAND-TENURE, 1903-04.

Scale of English Miles

10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90

Reference.

Land sold or otherwise disposed of by Grant, or as Reserves, Endowments, or in any other manner, shown thus

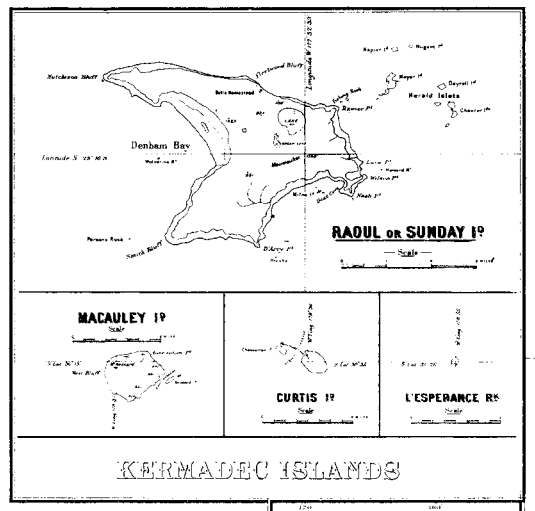
Pastoral or Small Grazing Runs and other Pastoral Licenses shown thus

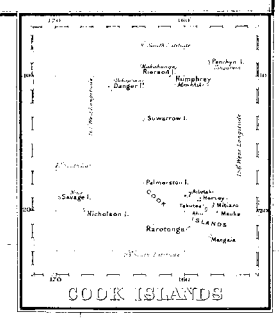
State Forests shown thus

Crown Lands undisposed-of shown thus

Native Lands passed the Court and still in the hands of the Natives shown thus

Native Lands not passed the Court shown thus





2200. 10/4. 496

By Authority: John Mackay, Government Printer.

J. W. A. MARCHANT,
Surveyor-General.

MIDDLE ISLAND
(TE WAI-POUNAMU)

NEW ZEALAND

SHOWING THE LAND-TENURE, 1903-04.

Scale of English Miles
10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90

Reference.

Land sold or otherwise disposed of by Grant, or as Reserves, Endowments, or in any other manner, shown thus - - -

Pastoral or Small Grazing Runs and other Pastoral Licenses shown thus - - -

State Forests shown thus - - -

Crown Lands undisposed-of shown thus - - -

Native Lands passed the Court and still in the hands of the Natives shown thus - - -

Golden Bay
Tasman Bay
Karamea Bight
Cloudy Bay
Pegasus Bay
Banks Peninsula
Canterbury Bight
Otago Peninsula
Foveaux Strait
Stewart Island
T A S M A N S E A
S O U T H P A C I F I C
(TE MOANA-NUI-A-KIWA)
O C E A N
South Latitude
NELSON
WELLINGTON
BLENHEIM
HOKITIKA
CHRISTCHURCH
INVERCARGILL
DUNEDIN
LAKE ELLESMERE
LAKE FORSYTH
LAKE WAKATIPU
LAKE WANAKA
LAKE HAWEA
LAKE TAUPO
LAKE ROTORUA
LAKE TARAWERA
LAKE WAIKAREMOANA
LAKE TAUPO
LAKE ROTOITI
LAKE ROTOMAHANA
LAKE TE ANAU
LAKE MANAPOURI
LAKE MONOWAI
LAKE GUNN
LAKE GEORGE
LAKE MARION
LAKE ALEXANDRINA
LAKE HAUROKO
LAKE POUKAWA
LAKE OMAPERE
LAKE TUTIRA
LAKE WAIKAREMOANA
LAKE WAIKAREMOANA
LAKE WAIKAREMOAN