

Miscellaneous leases and licenses compare favourably as to area with the transactions of the previous twelve months.

The receipts under the Cheviot Estate are, as usual, well maintained, and the operations under the Land for Settlements Act, though not so extensive as in the preceding year, are represented by satisfactory figures.

The results for the past two years will be more readily understood by reference to Table C.

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

Tenure.	1903-1904.		1904-1905.	
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Number of Selectors.	Area.
		Acres.		Acres.
Cash sales*	445	22,489	373	18,992
Occupation with right of purchase	403	146,953	331	138,206
Lease in perpetuity†	1,049	215,466	789	175,812
Pastoral and small grazing runs	187	1,101,367	132	494,922
Mining and occupation leases	99	4,985	43	2,132
Miscellaneous leases	630	133,686	596	130,151
New transactions	2,813	1,624,946	2,264	960,215
Forfeitures and surrenders	466	415,701	256	250,644
Net increase	2,347	1,209,245	2,008	709,571

* Inclusive of subdivisions of town and suburban lands.

† " subdivision of land for settlements.

An important feature in this comparison is the great discrepancy in the pastoral and small-grazing-run systems, counterbalanced to a certain extent by the reduced number of forfeitures and surrenders. It will, however, I think, be admitted that under the altered circumstances and conditions transactions which comprise 2,008 selectors and cover an area of 709,571 acres may fairly be accepted as highly satisfactory.

Following a long standing practice, to facilitate the comparison of the land business effected over a series of years, reference is requested to Table D.

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
1900-1	2,312	1,667,744	270,203	431,338	18,050
1901-2	2,159	1,094,086	249,619	427,138	18,521
1902-3	2,247	1,589,667	252,278	448,380	19,594
1903-4	2,813	1,624,946	247,842	497,211	21,101
1904-5	2,264	960,215	260,021	509,975	22,186

This shows that the total number of selectors is only 235 lower than the average for the previous thirteen years; that the gross area is very much less for reasons already stated; that the total revenue collected is a record; and that, notwithstanding the continuous reduction in the ranks of the Crown tenants, due to the acquisition of the freehold under various systems, the number of lessees now on the books of the Department exceed those of any previous year.