

## ANNUAL REPORT.

The UNDER-SECRETARY FOR LANDS to the Hon. the MINISTER OF LANDS.

SIR,—

Department of Lands, Wellington, 1st June, 1907.

I have the honour to submit herewith the annual report upon the operations of the Lands Department for the past year, embracing not only the areas opened for selection and the areas taken up by new selectors, but also touching briefly upon the various branch or cognate matters which have come under its supervision, or which have been intrusted to it to carry out.

I have, &amp;c.,

WILLIAM C. KENSINGTON,

The Hon. Robert McNab, Minister of Lands.

Under-Secretary for Lands.

## LAND OPENED FOR SELECTION, 1906-7.

The total area under all classes of land-tenure opened during the past year amounted to 640,262 acres, or 871 acres less than last year, and the subjoined table shows the districts in which the land was opened and the several tenures dealt with :—

TABLE A.—LANDS OPENED FOR SALE and SELECTION during the Year ended 31st March, 1907.

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 ..	87,888	754	243	..	..	2,582	38,122	5,696	30,609	..	165,894
Hawke's Bay ..	3,788	21	55	785	25,326	..	..	..	12,569	42	42,581
Taranaki ..	42,440	74	78	..	..	..	..	4,979	1,918	..	49,489
Wellington ..	2,014	63	400	73	2,884	..	8,097	..	16,406	2	29,889
Nelson ..	18,359	190	..	48	..	..	..	29,441	..	..	48,038
Marlborough ..	2,646	..	458	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,104
Westland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,259	..	..	8,259
Canterbury ..	..	29	2,307	3	11,000	12,268	..	..	631	..	26,238
Otago ..	2,168	175	..	..	60,485	20,009	5,871	419	25,356	..	114,483
Southland ..	2,569	88	4,845	25	136,134	..	..	8,000	626	..	152,287
Totals ..	161,867	1,394	8,386	934	235,779	34,859	52,090	56,794	88,115	44	640,262

The area opened is divided into 287,853 acres in the North Island, and 352,409 acres in the South Island, the area in the South Island (except in the Nelson Land District) being chiefly pastoral runs.

Here it may be interesting to place before you the position of New Zealand this year with regard to Crown lands. In last year's report a total area of 3,489,100 acres was shown as still available for settlement, and the present position is as follows :—

	Acres.
Available for settlement in last year's return .. .. .	3,489,100
Deduct land selected .. .. .	958,652
Leaving a balance of .. .. .	2,530,448
Area being prepared for selection .. .. .	1,141,191
Making a total of .. .. .	3,671,639
Deduct area of pastoral runs open for selection .. .. .	1,382,917
Being a balance of .. .. .	2,288,722

At first sight the position is not reassuring, but if to the above balance of 2,288,722 acres is added the area of Native lands now being purchased under "The Maori Land Settlement Act, 1905," by the four land-purchase officers (under the supervision of the Under-Secretary for Lands, but subject to the approval of the Hon. J. Carroll, Native Minister), which totals for the whole North Island something over 321,744 acres, it will leave an available balance of 2,610,466 acres. Thus :—

	Acres.
Balance as above .. .. .	2,288,722
Add Native lands being purchased or under negotiation .. .. .	321,744
Leaving a balance available of .. .. .	2,610,466