

for Settlements Acts. In respect of ordinary Crown lands, 150,044 acres were opened for the first time, and 65,814 acres had been opened previously. Under the Land for Settlements Act 37,294 acres were opened for the first time, and 60 acres had been previously opened. The area opened for the first time included the Kurow, Airedale, Otekaike, and Taumata Settlements. The large number of applicants at the various ballots shows that there is still a very considerable demand for land of good quality.

The area of land available for selection during the present year is, as far as at present known, much less than last year. It will in all probability include, in addition to the areas mentioned under the heading "Pastoral Runs," about 27,270 acres of Ormaglade Station (Runs 200 and 200A), now in process of subdivision as small grazing-runs, also about 16,000 acres of Clutha Trust Endowment lands under the small-grazing-run system; and under the Land for Settlements Act the Meadowbank Estate of 4,343 acres, the ballot for which was held on the 25th April, 1908, and the Kauroo Hills Estate of some 19,000 acres, just acquired, which will probably be opened for selection towards the end of the present year. These, with the lands at present available for selection, will constitute the principal areas to be dealt with during the present year. In respect of the runs falling in on the 1st March, 1910, referred to under "Pastoral Runs," there will in all probability be something like 335,000 acres retained for sale as small grazing-runs, about 320,000 acres of which come within the area already set apart as National Endowments.

SUMMARY OF TRANSACTIONS.

It will be seen that, as compared with the previous year, the transactions were more numerous both in number and area—in number by ninety-four selectors, and in area by 256,117 acres; while the revenue was greater by £15,856 5s. 5d. There are now 3,836 holdings on the books, representing a total acreage of 5,726,706 acres, at an annual rental of £100,644 19s. 5d., inclusive of land for settlements and endowments—an increase over previous year of 232 holdings, 255,029 acres, and £10,931 17s. 3d. annual rental.

THE VARIOUS TENURES.

Cash Sales were less than during the previous year by seventeen in number, 372 acres in area, and £491 10s. 5d. in cash received; while the conversions from leasehold to freehold were less in number by five, and in area by 446 acres, the consideration, however, being greater by £90 2s. 6d.

Holdings under the Occupation-with-right-of-purchase System have increased by five only in number, 2,798 acres in area, and £51 13s. 4d., annual rent; for, although there were fourteen new selections, there were seven forfeitures, one surrender, and one purchase. There are now 259 selectors, holding 47,878 acres, at an annual rental of £1,305 2s.

Under *Lease in Perpetuity* there are now, in respect of ordinary Crown lands, 815 selectors, with an area of 204,967 acres, at £5,945 4s. 11d. yearly, being an increase of thirty selectors, 12,299 acres, and £290 2s. 3d. annual rental. Under the Land for Settlements Act there are 544 selectors, holding 109,663 acres, at an annual rental of £34,631 19s. 2d., an increase of twenty-nine selectors, 5,441 acres, and £2,031 3s. 4d. annual rental. The increase would, of course, have been greater but for the substitution by the Land Laws Amendment Act of the renewable lease for lease in perpetuity.

The *Agricultural Lease, Occupation Lease under Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, and Village Settlement* tenures call for little or no remark. They remain much the same as last year, with the exception of occupation leases, which have increased by twenty-seven in number, 862 acres in area, and £47 18s. 2d. in annual rental.

Small Grazing-runs have increased by twenty-two in number, 144,567 acres in area, and £2,147 8s. 8d. in annual rent, there now being in respect of ordinary Crown lands 295 selectors, with an aggregate area of 725,053 acres, at an annual rental of £15,478 17s. 4d. Of this area 528,553 acres are included in the National Endowment scheme, held by 210 lessees, at an annual rental of £10,200 16s. 10d. The increase of holdings comprises for the most part the subdivisions of the Blackstone Hill, Lauder, Home Hills, and Lee Stream Runs, referred to in last year's report. There is no alteration in the number of small grazing-runs under the Land for Settlements Act.

Pastoral Runs.—As compared with the previous year, ordinary pastoral runs show an increase of five in number, 40,218 acres in area, and £843 7s. 4d. annual rent, there now being, exclusive of land for settlements and University and Clutha Trust endowments, an aggregate number of 221 holders, with an area of 4,199,496 acres, at an annual rental of £26,447 7s. 2d. Of this area 1,675,429 acres, held by fifty-four lessees at an annual rental of £13,241 19s. 6d., come within the National Endowment scheme. In 1910 some thirty-nine pastoral licenses will expire, comprising an aggregate area of 1,228,703 acres, a considerable proportion of which will be dealt with at the end of the present year, either for reletting as pastoral runs or retaining for closer settlement. The present annual rental of this area is £9,052 7s. 10d., the proportion for ordinary Crown lands being 556,695 acres at £2,649 6s. 2d. per annum, for National Endowments 659,968 acres at £6,252 11s. 8d. per annum, and for Clutha Trust Endowment 12,040 acres at £150 10s. per annum.

Renewable Leases.—The transactions under this system, which was inaugurated by the Land Laws Amendment Act of last session, have been limited, in so far as ordinary Crown lands are concerned, to one lease over 118 acres 3 roods, at £3 11s. 4d. per annum, and four village-homestead allotments, comprising 29 acres 3 roods 24 perches, at £1 14s. per annum. Under the Land for Settlements Act, however, there have already been sixty-three selections, with a total area of 46,269 acres, at an annual rental of £5,368 3s. 6d., embracing the allotments in the Otekaike and Taumata Settlements. The Meadowbank Settlement will furnish eight additional selectors over an area of 4,343 acres, at an annual rental of £890 5s. 10d.