

1908.
NEW ZEALAND.

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS

(ANNUAL REPORT ON).

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

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ANNUAL REPORT.

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

SIR,—

Department of Lands, Wellington, 1st June, 1908.

I have the honour to submit herewith the thirty-first annual report of the Department of Lands, and shortly to touch upon its cognate branches, the full reports on which you will lay before Parliament in their ordinary sequence.

I have, &c.,

WM. C. KENSINGTON,

The Hon. Robert McNab, Minister of Lands.

Under-Secretary for Lands.

RESULT OF "THE LAND LAWS AMENDMENT ACT, 1907."

As a preliminary to the recording of statistics showing the progress of settlement during the year, it may not be considered out of place to briefly state what was the result of the passing of the above Act. I mean by this, what additional labour did it entail upon the Department—(a) In the withdrawal of lands already open for selection, and enumerated in the several Land Guides; (b) in the reopening of the same under the altered conditions imposed not only by the Act of 1907, but also by those enacted by the National Endowment Act of last session; (c) in the framing and gazetting of fresh regulations to suit the altered circumstances.

The lands necessarily withdrawn from selection soon after the 1st December, 1907 (the Land Laws Amendment Act only becoming law on the 20th November), amounted to 2,118,188 acres, as more particularly enumerated in the attached.

Table A.—Area of land in each Land District advertised in Land Guides at time of passing of "The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907," and which had to be withdrawn and reopened.

	A.	R.	P.
Auckland	633,791	0	0
Hawke's Bay	19,797	0	0
Taranaki	35,974	0	0
Wellington	5,982	0	0
Nelson	254,576	0	0
Marlborough	138,132	0	0
Westland	881,199	0	13
Canterbury	45,673	0	32
Otago	49,024	0	0
Southland	54,040	0	0
Total area	2,118,188	1	5

The lands readvertised for opening for sale or selection (including national endowment lands) in the short time left before the close of the financial year on the 31st March, 1908, amounted to 1,277,072 acres, specified in Table B. This, I venture to submit, was a most creditable performance, more especially as the new regulations (set forth in Table C) all had to be carefully thought out, submitted to yourself for approval, then sent to the Crown Law Officers for perusal and revision, forwarded to His Excellency the Governor and (in most cases) the Executive Council for execution, and finally published in the *Gazette*. These regulations embraced eight different subjects, contained in 163 different clauses and eighteen schedules, and dealt with various matters enacted by the new Land Act, but not set forth in detail in that statute.

Table B.—Area of land in each Land District advertised for sale or selection from passing of "The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907," to 31st March, 1908.

	Area.			Remarks.
	A.	R.	P.	
Auckland	94,732	1	11	Includes 2,583 acres, national endowment.
Hawke's Bay	21,754	0	12	
Taranaki	23,516	2	15	Includes 9,537 acres 3 roods 24 perches, national endowment.
Wellington	28,272	1	21	Includes 370 acres 1 rood, national endowment.
Nelson	70,801	0	33	Includes 42,530 acres, national endowment.
Marlborough	295	0	00	
Westland	859,102	0	00	Includes 17,701 acres, national endowment.
Canterbury	47,038	3	29	
Otago	105,884	2	30	
Southland	25,674	3	21	
Total area	1,277,072	0	12	Includes 72,722 acres and 24 perches, national endowment.

Table C.—Regulations issued under “The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907,” &c.

Section of Act.	Subject.	Clauses.	Schedules.
12	Arbitration of improvements	20	3
27	Land Board election	25	3
28	Declarations on applying for land	1	5
20	Purchase of fee-simple	3	2
58	Flax-cutting and flax-leases	23	0
66	Ballot for land, and preference	16	0
72	Wood-pulp industry	27	1
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		<hr/>	<hr/>
		163	18

ALTERATIONS IN EXISTING ACTS BY “THE LAND LAWS AMENDMENT ACT, 1907.”

In natural sequence will now come the effect of the Act of 1907, and the following is a short statement giving a synopsis of its principal provisions which may be found useful at this juncture. No less than seventy sections and five schedules of “The Land Act, 1892,” and its amendments, were affected by the new Act, whilst twenty sections of the Land for Settlements Act, and fourteen sections of other Acts were amended.

Acquisition of Freehold.

Lessees in perpetuity of ordinary Crown land may acquire the freehold (under section 20) on payment of the capital value at time of purchase. Regulations prescribing the conditions under which this may be done were gazetted on the 9th January, 1908.

Settlement lands are specially exempted from the concession.

Change of Tenure.

Holders of Crown leases may in several cases exchange them for renewable leases, as under :—

Ordinary Crown lands lessees in perpetuity may change under section 18, paying rent at 4 per cent. on the capital value, which may be either the original or present value, at lessee's option.

Settlement land lessees in perpetuity may change under section 18 also, when rental on new lease is reduced from 5 per cent. to 4½ per cent. on capital value, fixed as above.

“Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894,” leases may be changed under section 19, as well as pastoral leases under special regulations issued under “The Mining Act, 1905,” and “The Land Act, 1892.”

Disposal of Land for Special Purposes.

Areas not exceeding 5 acres may be sold for sites for dairy, cheese, or fruit-preserving factories, churches, &c., at prices not less than £1 per acre. (Section 62.)

Crown land may be exchanged for private freehold land, if the latter is required in the public interest. (Section 73.)

Crown selectors who do not hold sufficient land for the maintenance of themselves and families are allowed to acquire additional Crown land, without competition, up to the prescribed limit. (Section 70.)

Certain areas may be set aside for disposal by sale, lease, &c., among persons whose vocations do not enable them to reside on the land so disposed of when special regulations enabling modifications of the residential, improvement, and other conditions of “The Land Act, 1892,” to be made have been approved of by the General Assembly. (Section 22.)

Flax Leases.

Areas of Crown land not exceeding 2,000 acres each may be leased for the purpose of growing and cutting flax for a period of fourteen years, with a right of renewal for a further term. Regulations giving effect to this provision were gazetted on the 27th February, 1908.

Limitation of Area.

Two alterations have been made with respect to the limitation of area a man may hold :—

First, as regards Crown lands: As a certain proportion of the Crown lands remaining for disposal is only suitable for disposal in large areas, another class of land has been added to the two now existing, and selector may now take up either 640 acres of first-class land, or 2,000 acres of second-class land (as formerly was the case), or else not more than 5,000 acres of inferior land, which has been classified as third-class land.

Secondly, as regards private freehold land (see Part IV of the Act): To prevent the aggregation of large estates it is also enacted that when the freehold of Crown lands is disposed of in the future no subsequent owner of such land shall be capable of holding more than the area allowed to a Crown tenant.

In order to give effect to both the above provisions the Act provides for the classification of land that has not already been classified by the Crown.

Members of Land Boards.

The Crown tenants in each land district are given the privilege of electing one member to the Land Board for their district. Regulations detailing the procedure were published in the *Gazette* of 28th November, 1907.

Pastoral Runs.

The holder of a pastoral run is now encouraged to cultivate portions of his run, and also to clear and burn bush and scrub, and he may grass the whole or any portion of his run. The value of all such improvements is determined by arbitration, and the amount is payable to the outgoing lessee by the incoming tenant, or by the Crown if the lease is not renewed. Such amount is in addition to the value of other improvements as already allowed by "The Land Act, 1892."

Payment for Estates acquired compulsorily.

Power is given to acquire estates compulsorily upon payment of (a) the value for improvements; (b) the unimproved value as given in the district valuation roll plus 10 per cent. if value under £50,000, and 5 per cent. for any sum in excess; together with (c) an additional 2 per cent. on the total amount of compensation payable. The owner of an estate may require the Valuer-General from time to time to raise the unimproved value of his land to what he considers to be a proper value.

Preference at Ballot.

In reference to the above, the Land Board is given very wide powers. In cases where there are more than one applicant for any section, the Land Board may, at the ballot, give preference to any applicant who does not hold an area which, in the opinion of the Board, is sufficient for the maintenance of himself and family, and to such applicants who have families dependent on them, or have competed unsuccessfully within the previous two years at other ballots for Crown lands. To give effect to these provisions the Board may set apart one-third of the allotments to be balloted for, and apportion them amongst such special applicants. New ballot regulations were published in the *Gazette* of 12th December, 1907.

Private Lands remain subject to Limitation of Area.

All lands disposed of for cash, or the freehold of which has been acquired under the occupation-with-right-of-purchase or lease-in-perpetuity tenures, remain subject to the provisions of Part IV of the new Act—that is to say, no future owner can hold such lands in excess of the limits of area prescribed by section 36. (Sections 93 to 100.)

Renewable Leases.

The lease-in-perpetuity system is abolished, and in the case of ordinary Crown lands, a lease for sixty-six years with perpetual right of renewal for further terms of sixty-six years is substituted therefor. The rent for the future terms is computed on the unimproved value of the land at the expiration of the first term, and in both cases is based at 4 per cent. on the unimproved value. The whole of the improvements are conserved to the lessee, and if he declines to accept a renewal of his lease the market value of his improvements is paid to him by the incoming tenant.

In regard to estates acquired under the Land for Settlements Act the same conditions apply, except that the term of the original and subsequent leases is for thirty-three years, and the rental is $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. instead of 4 per cent. This, however, is one-half per cent. less than the rate under lease in perpetuity.

Provision is made for enabling holders of renewable leases, and lessees in perpetuity, to pay off 90 per cent. of the capital value of their holdings; and, after 33 per cent. has been paid off, the lessees are freed from all the restrictive conditions of occupation contained in their leases, except payment of rent and residence.

"National Endowment Act, 1907."

With regard to the National Endowment Act, the following is a synopsis of its provisions:—

This Act provides for the immediate setting-apart of 7,000,000 acres of Crown land as a permanent endowment for education and old-age pensions, and, in addition, land already held under "The Land Act, 1892," on the small-grazing-run tenure, or selected after the passing of the former Act either on that system or by way of renewable lease, is from time to time added to the national endowment until the total amount set apart as aforesaid reaches 9,000,000 acres.

The rights of local bodies with reference to "thirds" and "fourths" remain unaltered, and the cost of administration by the Department of Lands, &c., is a first charge on the funds derived from the endowment.

In addition to the ordinary method of raising money for the construction of roads and bridges under "The Local Bodies' Loans Act, 1901," on areas of Crown lands to be opened for selection, power is given by this Act to raise an additional sum, not exceeding £50,000 in any one year, to supplement such loans on national endowment lands.

No national endowment land shall be disposed of on the occupation-with-right-of-purchase tenure, or for cash, except as sites for educational, religious, and other public purposes, when areas not exceeding 5 acres at any one time may be sold.

Power is given to take out of the national endowment area, as if it were ordinary Crown land, all reserves required for public purposes.

LAND OPENED FOR SELECTION, 1907-8.

The lands enumerated in the following table comprise lands opened under "The Land Act, 1892," prior to the passing of "The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907," and also those reopened subsequent to the passing of that statute:—

TABLE D.—LANDS OPENED for SALE and SELECTION during the Year ended 31st March, 1908.

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.	Renewable Lease only.	Renewable Lease, Land for Settlements.	Native Towns.	Totals.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Auckland ..	51,303	230	2,060	..	..	14,200	..	192	4,914	5,273	2,337	..	80,509
Hawke's Bay	5,358	14	130	1,248	..	2,478	..	..	53	..	21,642	..	30,923
Taranaki ..	10,059	19	36	..	..	..	..	956	19	..	..	..	11,089
Wellington..	56,147	125	45,572	707	23,352	..	..	..	234	..	229	9	126,375
Nelson ..	3,512	83	12,053	..	13,127	..	1,947	36,015	4,204	2,402	..	..	73,843
Marlborough	1,174	..	43	..	74,550	..	..	1,196	8	..	..	..	76,971
Westland ..	..	2	..	33	118,000	..	..	2,483	..	4,072	..	..	124,590
Canterbury..	271	259	185	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	548	..	1,265
Otago ..	1,661	141	..	..	64,109	147,551	..	2,209	3,742	187	33,612	..	253,212
Southland ..	1,776	754	3,304	651	9,854	..	..	550	..	..	..	..	16,889
Totals ..	131,261	1,627	63,383	2,640	302,992	164,229	1,947	43,601	13,175	11,934	58,368	9	795,166

The area opened as above comprised 248,896 acres in the North Island, and 546,270 acres in the South Island. At a glance it will be seen that the Department is not standing still, but that energy has been shown in its operations.

LANDS BEING PREPARED FOR SETTLEMENT ON 31ST MARCH, 1908.

The lands under survey for settlement purposes on the 31st March last consisted of:—

	Acres.
Ordinary Crown lands (for selection under optional system) ..	262,803
National endowments (for selection on renewable lease) ..	74,169
Settlement lands (for selection on renewable lease) ..	61,868

405,340

distributed in the various land districts as follows:

District.	Crown Land.	National Endowment.	Settlement Lands.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Auckland ...	20,750	24,179	12,798	57,727
Hawke's Bay	53,450	6,000	..	59,450
Taranaki ...	50,543	15,190	..	65,733
Wellington ...	81,000	..	5,178	86,178
Marlborough	8,900	18,000	..	26,900
Nelson ...	6,200	6,500	18,063	30,763
Westland ...	4,500	10,800	..	15,300
Canterbury ...	..	..	25,829	25,829
Otago ...	27,460	..	..	27,460
Southland ...	10,000	..	..	10,000
Totals ...	262,803	80,669	61,868	405,340

LANDS SELECTED DURING 1907-8.

The demand for land is still unsatisfied, and this is evidenced not only from the number of applicants during 1907, but the same holds good for those lands opened in 1908, since the passing of "The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907." The table below sets forth the total selections under every form of tenure; but it is only fair to remark that, for the reasons already referred to, there were practically three months—viz., November, December, and January—during which no lands could be offered for selection, hence the total number of selectors and areas selected do not equal those of 1906-7. Lands disposed of for cash have increased in number and area; the larger area is, however, accounted for by the fact that under a special Act the trustees of the Canterbury Agricultural College were allowed to purchase two considerable pastoral areas of 16,400 acres which intruded into their endowments and could be utilised in conjunction therewith, but were practically inaccessible from the Crown's point of view. Selectors of "settlement" lands (as estates acquired under the Land for Settlements Acts are known) and the area taken up by them exceed, however, those of the previous year by eighty-one tenants and 2,450 acres. The average size of holding (excluding pastoral runs and miscellaneous leases) is 388 acres for each of the 1,589 selectors. It will be noticed in the following table that the renewable-lease tenure appears for the first time, selections under it having been made during February and March last both of ordinary and "settlement" lands, thirty-two selectors and 3,535 acres representing the first period and 151 selectors and 49,100 acres the second period.

TABLE E.—NUMBER OF NEW SELECTORS AND AREA TAKEN UP, FROM 1ST APRIL, 1907, TO 31ST MARCH, 1908, AND REVENUE RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR.

Nature and Tenure of Lands selected.	Number of Selectors.	Area selected.	Cash received on Past and Current Transactions.
<i>Ordinary Crown Land—</i>			
Town lands sold for cash	160	A. B. P.	£ s. d.
Suburban lands sold for cash	112	102 0 23	
Rural lands sold for cash	114	368 0 23	19,789 7 10*
Perpetual leases made freehold		28,005 2 18	
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold			9,113 7 11
Lease in perpetuity made freehold			33,037 14 10
Deferred payment instalments			1,032 0 0
Perpetual leases			2,221 11 0
Occupation with right of purchase	854		3,003 5 3
Lease in perpetuity	214	187,799 0 35	42,875 17 9
Renewable lease	17	63,871 2 5	36,737 12 9
Agricultural lease	3	8,427 1 0	56 11 8
Village settlement, cash	3	83 3 32	27 3 6
.. .. . deferred payment	3	3 0 24	25 10 0
.. .. . perpetual lease			41 10 0
.. .. . made freehold			253 3 0
.. .. . occupation with right of purchase	3		248 11 3
.. .. . lease in perpetuity	70	2 3 22	11 2 0
.. .. . renewable lease	15	2,300 3 32	3,977 2 7
Village-homestead special settlements		108 1 37	1 12 7
Special-settlement associations—			2,065 5 1
Perpetual lease			49 0 10
Lease in perpetuity			6,422 2 4
Improved-farm special settlements	3	410 0 30	4,800 11 4
.. .. . made freehold			1,632 12 2
Occupation leases, Mining Districts Land Occupation Act	73	3,046 2 22	988 3 7
Small grazing-runs	61	216,600 1 19	30,299 18 3
Pastoral runs	90	572,076 0 12	74,158 8 6
Thermal springs, Rotorua			2,149 0 7
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	521	134,511 1 24	79,563 16 0†
Miscellaneous			25,473 1 6
<i>Cheviot Estate—</i>			
Lease in perpetuity			5,889 12 0
Village-homestead special settlement			790 10 3
Grazing farms			7,215 9 9
Pastoral runs			193 3 8
Miscellaneous leases	2	130 1 0	204 17 2
<i>Land for Settlements Acts—</i>			
Cash	18	43 0 39	685 17 8
Lease in perpetuity	213	84,495 2 13	179,968 17 11
.. .. . (village)	2	0 3 16	325 18 5
Renewable lease	151	67,107 1 29	12,346 19 7
Special-settlement associations (lease in perpetuity)			147 15 6
Small grazing-runs	3	10,157 0 0	24,192 11 2
Pastoral runs			121 13 0
Miscellaneous leases	23	2,128 1 16	5,645 5 5
Miscellaneous			6,292 14 7
Totals	2,225	1,326,780 2 31	624,076 10 2

* Excludes £358 11s. 9d. paid on uncompleted purchase of cash lands.

† Includes sales of timber.

LANDS SELECTED ON THE OPTIONAL SYSTEM ONLY.

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

	Occupation with Right of Purchase.		Lease in Perpetuity.		Cash.	
	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.
Year, 1907-8	343	Acres. 186,338	41	Acres. 17,305	43	Acres. 10,573

A glance at the above table shows that of the ordinary Crown lands opened under the optional system the occupation-with-right-of-purchase tenure still holds the foremost place.

INSPECTIONS BY RANGERS.

The appended table is the most convenient form in which to present the results of the Rangers' work during the year. The widespread bush-fires of the past season (referred to in the succeeding paragraph) not only rendered their work specially difficult, but greatly delayed them in carrying out the usual routine duties, as they were required to make special and urgent examinations of the burnt areas in many parts of their districts. The brunt of this fell upon the Rangers in the Auckland, Taranaki, and Wellington Land Districts, energetically seconded by members of the survey staff where necessary.

TABLE G.—NUMBER of INSPECTIONS made by the RANGERS for the Year ended 31st March, 1908.

District.	Number of Properties visited.	Area.		Value of Improvements.				Number of Defaulters.			
				Required.		Actually made.		For Improve-ments.	For Non-re-sidence.	For other Reasons.	Total.
		A.	R. P.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.				
Auckland ...	2,507	632,926	0 0	125,435	0 0	257,638	0 0	216	311	...	527
Hawke's Bay	693	347,604	2 23	143,965	5 0	532,619	7 9	53	62	12	127
Taranaki ...	736	261,429	3 32	70,611	0 0	171,734	18 6	61	77	...	138
Wellington	1,527	1,079,357	3 15	41,974	8 3	132,407	19 0	26	33	3	62
Nelson ...	407	90,064	1 20	15,066	4 5	40,143	13 7	111	93	...	204
Marlborough	467	128,599	0 0	61,955	0 0	132,337	0 0	8	99	...	107
Westland ...	632	72,250	0 0	23,318	14 3	63,522	2 0	66	67	...	133
Canterbury	2,146	600,276	0 37	280,253	11 7	531,300	18 0	36	14	...	40
Otago ...	928	252,620	3 5	106,374	13 7	192,561	7 6	69	18	...	87
Southland ...	615	115,514	0 29	45,761	18 8	81,996	16 0	48	18	...	66
Total ...	10,658	3,580,643	0 1	914,715	15 9	2,136,262	2 4	694	792	15	1,501

RESULTS OF SEVERE BUSH FIRES (MORE PARTICULARLY IN THE NORTH ISLAND).

As an addendum to the foregoing paragraph, giving the results of the inspections by the Crown Lands Rangers, there naturally follows a short paragraph dealing with the efforts made by the Government (and intrusted to this Department to carry out) to alleviate in some measure the severe losses experienced by settlers of all descriptions—both freeholders and Crown leaseholders—through the effects of the disastrous bush-fires which swept over large areas of the North Island, and to a lesser extent in the South Island, in the Land Districts of Marlborough, Nelson, and Southland, during the months of January and February, 1908. Very little rain had fallen in New Zealand from October, 1907, until March, 1908, and this, combined with an unusually hot summer, culminated in severe fires, which swept not only forest, but fern and grass country, destroying homesteads, fencing, &c., and causing great (though in many cases only temporary) distress amongst the struggling class of settlers incidental to newly settled districts. To meet the great destruction of grass-producing lands, the Government decided to advance grass-seed to all classes of settlers who were not otherwise in a position to obtain it, and, in order to hasten the distribution of seed, urgent instructions were sent to the several Commissioners of Crown Lands to enlist the services of every Ranger, and (if necessary) of Government surveyors, to ascertain the

areas burnt in this manner, and to arrange for an immediate supply of grass-seed. As a result, every settler who was in need of seed, and unable to buy it immediately, was either given an order upon a seed-merchant nominated by himself, or supplied by the local Commissioner of Crown Lands direct, with seed in such mixture as applied for, the terms of payment being the signing of a promissory note for amount owing, payable in two, three, or four years without any interest thereon being chargeable. These very liberal terms were availed of by 647 settlers in the North Island, who have been supplied with grass-seed to the value of £24,082. In the South Island sixty-seven cases have been dealt with, for a value of £2,756. The several land districts and their disbursements are shown in the accompanying table.

TABLE H.—RETURN showing NUMBER of SETTLERS to whom GRASS-SEED has been SUPPLIED by the GOVERNMENT and the COST of such SEED.

District.	Number of Settlers supplied with Grass-seed.	Amount of Seed so supplied.	Value of Seed.	Amount of Seed sown on Burnt Areas on Crown Land.	Cost.
		lb.	£	lb.	£
Auckland ...	197	217,511	7,913	24,000	784
Hawke's Bay ...	19	39,415	905	39,342	1,345
Taranaki ...	103	58,400	1,686	1,420	50
Wellington ...	328	467,087	13,578	18,360	578
Nelson ...	44	36,577	1,022	18,152	787
Marlborough ...	22	72,523	1,717	34,546	1,550
Southland ...	1	790	17½	16,146	403
Totals ...	714	892,303	26,838½	151,966	5,497

IMPROVED-FARM SETTLEMENTS.

Very satisfactory reports on these settlements have again been received from the Commissioners of Crown Lands. Some indication of their general prosperity is shown by the fact that since the initiation of the system in 1894 to 31st March last improvements to the value of £177,537 have been placed on the land. Full particulars regarding each settlement will be found in Table 32.

It is hoped during the present year to open a number of sections in the Waimarino Block in the vicinity of the Main Trunk railway-line for the benefit of workers thereon, as the line is now approaching completion, when many of the men now employed will be anxious to settle on the land with the money they have saved. Details of the land for occupation in this manner are not yet available. The various blocks of Native lands in the Aotea Rohepotae districts, the purchase of which is now being concluded, are either too far removed from the railway-line, or are not of sufficiently good quality to warrant their subdivision into the small areas required for improved farms. It is very doubtful, therefore, if any considerable area of land can be placed at the disposal of applicants under these conditions.

VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS.

As foreshadowed in last year's report, owing to the absorption of this class of settlement into the general system of the prevalent land-tenures, no special report will be published. The settlements themselves have fulfilled the purpose for which they were originally created, but with the changing conditions of land-settlement, it has not been found necessary to provide for their continuance, more especially so as the Workers' Dwellings Act and the Government Advances to Workers Act have met most of the needs for which the village settlements were originally designed.

REVENUE.

The total receipts amount to the handsome sum of £658,794, being an amount considerably in excess of the estimated revenue. Territorial revenue (which embraces all the ordinary receipts from Crown lands proper) totalled £288,317, or £32,317 beyond what was expected; whilst non-territorial revenue (which includes rents of land-for-settlement estates, endowments of all kinds administered by the Department of Lands, State forest receipts, &c.) realised £370,476, or £60,276 over the estimate. In the following table is shown the amounts received from each land district.

TABLE I.—GROSS REVENUE for Year ended 31st March, 1908.

Land District.	Territorial.			Non-territorial.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Auckland	60,085	6	5	49,801	12	4	109,886	18	9
Hawke's Bay	19,033	0	5	50,801	3	6	69,834	3	11
Taranaki	12,149	4	0	11,236	3	8	23,385	7	8
Wellington	32,248	0	7	65,014	7	5	97,262	8	0
Nelson	10,197	8	9	18,872	14	5	29,070	3	2
Marlborough	12,002	19	4	20,952	6	0	32,955	5	4
Westland	13,326	4	0	4,214	3	3	17,540	7	3
Canterbury... ..	53,708	2	4	87,639	6	2	141,347	8	6
Otago	59,925	8	1	45,563	12	1	105,489	0	2
Southland... ..	15,692	2	10	16,381	5	10	32,073	8	8
Totals	288,317	16	9	370,476	14	8	658,794	11	5
Estimated revenue	£256,000	0	0	£310,200	0	0	£566,200	0	0
Difference ... ..	...			...			£92,594	11	5

REBATES OF RENT.

Remissions to the amount of £7,820 17s. 3d. have been granted to 8,855 tenants during the preceding twelve months, under the provisions of "The Crown Tenants' Rent Rebate Act, 1900," whilst under "The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900," 3,367 tenants have received rebates amounting to no less a sum than £18,575 19s. 8d., and the tenants on the Cheviot Settlement participated to the amount of £712 1s. 3d.; the total remissions so made under all classes of settlement being £27,108 18s. 2d.

PAYMENTS OF "THIRDS" AND "FOURTHS" TO LOCAL BODIES.

In accordance with the provisions of "The Land Act, 1892," and its amendments, the sum of £30,710 has been paid over to the various local bodies towards the formation and maintenance of roads through blocks of land opened for settlement purposes by the Crown, detailed proposals specifying where and in what manner the accrued revenue was intended to be spent having first been approved by the Land Boards of the districts affected. In certain districts where local government is not in full operation, or where the governing bodies neglected to submit proposals, the accrued revenue, which totalled £2,071 6s. 10d., was spent by the Department of Roads under the provisions of section 121 of "The Public Works Act, 1905."

TIMBER AND FLAX ROYALTIES.

In addition to the "thirds" and "fourths" payable under the Land Act, as mentioned above, local bodies also receive half the proceeds derivable from the sale of timber or flax on ordinary Crown lands, the total amount paid over during 1907-8 amounting to £15,434.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO SETTLERS IN SPARSELY POPULATED DISTRICTS.

In addition to the subsidies specified in the two foregoing paragraphs, a third mode of assistance to settlers is rendered by the granting of monetary help towards the location of medical men in districts where the settlers are too scattered to otherwise secure the services of a medical man, but with a subsidy from the Government are enabled to guarantee a sufficient income for the residence among them of a doctor. To this end the formation of medical clubs has been encouraged in outlying districts, and the following subsidies have been granted thereto:—

	£		£
Kaitia Medical Club	50	Raetihi Medical Club	100
Kawakawa "	50	Raglan "	50
Kawhia "	50	Taumarunui "	50
Little River "	50	Te Nui "	50
Morrinsville "	30	Tologa Bay "	75
Ohura "	100	Waiau District Settlers' Association	25
Owaka "	150	Wanaka Medical Club	100
Preservation Inlet "	50	Whangaroa County Council (as Medical Club)	50

LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ESTATES.

The progress, present position, and prospects of each settlement are given in the report of the Commissioners of Crown Lands embodied in the succeeding table. Owing to the unusually dry spring and summer of the past season, circumstances have operated rather adversely in several of the newly selected areas, as it is undoubtedly the fact that the first two years are the most trying from the settlers' point of view. Thirteen additional estates have been acquired and opened for selection, and in nearly all cases the applicants were far in excess of the number of allotments available.

TABLE J. — 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, 1908.

Land District and Name of Settlement.	Selectors.	Residences.	Principal Purpose for which Holdings are utilised.	Progress during Year.	Present Position.	Prospects.
Auckland—						
Opouriao ..	93	77	Dairying ..	Excellent	Very satisfactory	Very best.
Okauia ..	8	7	General farming ..	Nil	Not satisfactory	Gloomy.
Rangiatea ..	20	18	Dairying ..	Moderate	Satisfactory	Fair.
Karapiro ..	18	11	" ..	"	"	"
Fencourt ..	37	33	" ..	Good	Very satisfactory	Very best.
Whitehall ..	11	10	" ..	Moderate	Satisfactory	Fair.
Bickerstaffe ..	33	24	Cattle raising ..	Fair	"	"
Matamata ..	181	138	Dairying ..	Good	Very satisfactory	Bright.
Selwyn ..	82	37	Mixed farming ..	Moderate	Satisfactory	Fair.
Mangapouri ..	10	6	Dairying ..	Good	"	Bright.
Mangawhero ..	17*	15	" ..	"	"	"
Waimanā†	24	..	" ..	"	"	"
Teasdale†	33	..	" ..	"	"	"
Rewi†	..	..	" ..	"	"	"
Hamlets—						
Craddock ..	9	9	Workmen's homes	Moderate to good	Satisfactory	Hopeful.
Hetana ..	30	22				
Kitchener ..	11	10				
Methuen ..	28	22				
Plumer ..	16	16				
Waari ..	8	7				
	669	462				
Hawke's Bay—						
Raureka ..	19	18	Agricultural, dairying, and fruit-culture	Very fair	Prosperous	Good.
Elsthorpe ..	47	27	Pastoral ..	"	"	"
Waimarie ..	18	16	Agricultural ..	"	"	"
Pouparae ..	9	9	" ..	"	"	"
Tomoana ..	13	12	Agricultural, dairying, and fruit-culture	"	"	"
Mahora ..	34	32	Ditto ..	Very good	"	"
Willows ..	22	14	Agricultural ..	Very fair	"	"
Hatuma ..	62	59	Agricultural and pastoral ..	Very good	"	"
Manga-a-toro ..	26	25	Pastoral ..	Very fair	"	"
Kumeroa ..	15	14	Pastoral and dairying ..	"	"	"
Argyle ..	62	60	Agricultural and pastoral ..	Very good	"	"
Wigan ..	17	14	Pastoral ..	"	"	"
Lindsay ..	66	61	Agricultural and pastoral ..	"	"	"
Mangatahi ..	23	20	Pastoral ..	Very fair	"	"
Forest Gate ..	29	25	Agricultural and pastoral ..	"	"	"
Te Mata†	8	..	" ..	"	"	"
Pourerere†	5	..	" ..	"	"	"
Raumatī†	20	..	" ..	"	"	"
Kanakanae†	7	..	" ..	"	"	"
Te Arai†	51	..	" ..	"	"	"
	553	406				
Taranaki—						
Tokaora ..	13	14	Dairying ..	Good	Satisfactory	Good.
Spotswood ..	8	8	Workmen's homes	Not good	Not satisfactory	Not promising.
Clandon ..	6	5	Dairying ..	Good	Satisfactory	Good.
Huinga ..	9	8	" ..	"	"	"
	36	35				
Wellington—						
Paparangi ..	37	36	Residential sites, dairying, &c.	Good	Prosperous	Very good.
Ohakea ..	15	15	Dairying ..	Very good	"	"
Te Matua ..	13	12	" ..	"	"	"
Aorangi ..	37	40	Dairying and residential purposes	"	Very prosperous	Excellent.
Langdale ..	31	23	Grazing and cropping	"	"	"
Mangawhata ..	7	8	Dairying ..	Good	Very satisfactory	Good.

* Includes 5 selectors who also selected land in Selwyn Settlement. of these settlements.

† New settlements not reported on.

‡ No inspections

TABLE J.—Summary of the Settlements established upon Estates—*continued*.

Land District and Name of Settlement.	Selectors.	Residences.	Principal Purpose for which Holdings are utilised.	Progress during Year.	Present Position.	Prospects.
Wellington—<i>contd.</i>						
Epuni Hamlet ..	42	42	Residential sites, market gardening, &c.	Fair ..	Satisfactory ..	Fair.
Maungaraki ..	20	18	Ditto	Good ..	Very satisfactory	Very good.
Linton ..	5	5	Dairying	" ..	Very prosperous	Excellent.
Longbush ..	8	6	Grazing	" ..	" ..	" ..
Tablelands ..	10	9	"	" ..	" ..	" ..
Normandale ..	31	27	Residential, poultry farming, &c.	Fair ..	Satisfactory ..	Fair.
Tawaha ..	24	20	Grazing and cropping ..	Indifferent	Uncertain ..	Uncertain.
Hikawera ..	5	3	Grazing	Good ..	Prosperous ..	Very good.
Mahupuku ..	10	5	"	" ..	" ..	" ..
Dyer ..	35	33	Grazing and cropping ..	" ..	" ..	" ..
	330	302				
Nelson—						
Wangapeka ..	14	10	Agricultural and pastoral ..	Very good	Good ..	Very encouraging.
	14	10				
Marlborough—						
Blind River ..	19	12	Sheep-farming and grain-growing	Good ..	Satisfactory ..	Improved.
Omaka ..	13	10	Ditto	Fair ..	" ..	Fairly good.
Puhipuhi ..	2	..	Grazing	Good ..	Good ..	Good.
Starborough ..	196	100	Sheep-farming and grain-growing	Fair ..	Satisfactory ..	" ..
Richmond Brook	11	10	Ditto	" ..	Very satisfactory	Decidedly good.
Waipapa ..	4	4	Grazing	Good ..	Satisfactory ..	Good.
North Bank ..	8	6	"	Reasonable	Improving ..	Moderate.
Rainford ..	11	9	Dairying	Fair ..	Fairly satisfactory	Decidedly good.
Flaxbourne ..	131	84	Sheep-farming and grain-growing	Good ..	Trying, but hopeful	Moderate.
	395	235				
Westland—						
Poerua ..	20	14	Grazing for dairy cows for butter-factory; fattening sheep and cattle for local market	Good ..	Prosperous ..	Good.
Kokatahi ..	8	7	Ditto	" ..	" ..	" ..
	28	21				
Canterbury—						
Pareora (No. 1) ..	28	24	Small farming and dairying	Well maintained	Satisfactory ..	Good.
Studholme Junct.	4	2	"	Ditto ..	" ..	" ..
Kapua ..	12	12	"	" ..	" ..	" ..
Rosebrook ..	14	13	"	" ..	" ..	" ..
Otaio ..	9	8	"	" ..	" ..	" ..
The Peaks ..	12	1	Mixed farming	" ..	Good ..	Fair.
Roimata ..	27	25	Residential and market gardening	" ..	" ..	Good.
Patoa ..	4	2	Grazing	" ..	" ..	Fair.
Braco ..	14	14	Residential and market gardening	" ..	" ..	Good.
Epworth ..	2	1	Small farm	" ..	" ..	" ..
Ashley Gorge ..	10	12	Partly pastoral; partly dairying	" ..	" ..	" ..
Kereta ..	4	3	Dairying	" ..	" ..	" ..
Orakipaoa ..	27	20	Small farming	" ..	" ..	" ..
Highbank ..	76	59	Mixed farming and dairying	Good ..	Very good ..	Very good.
Rakitairi ..	22	17	"	" ..	" ..	" ..
Waiapi ..	15	14	"	" ..	" ..	" ..
Otarakaro ..	7	7	Residential and market gardening	" ..	Good ..	Good.
Wharenui ..	26	25	Workmen's homes ..	" ..	Very good ..	" ..
Albury ..	75	59	Mixed farming	" ..	" ..	Very good.
Marawiti ..	13	12	"	" ..	" ..	" ..
Horsley Down ..	26	25	"	" ..	" ..	" ..
Hekeso ..	15	13	"	" ..	" ..	" ..
Pawaho ..	25	24	Workmen's homes ..	" ..	Good ..	Good.
Waikakahi ..	184	157	Partly pastoral; partly mixed farming	Very good	Excellent ..	Very good.
Tamai ..	40	40	Workmen's homes ..	Good ..	Good ..	Good.
Takitu ..	5	5	Pastoral	Very good	Very good ..	Very good.
Pareora (No. 2) ..	32	32	Mixed farming and dairying	" ..	Excellent ..	" ..
Rautawiri ..	6	6	Small farming	Good ..	Good ..	Good.
Papaka ..	9	9	Mixed farming	" ..	Very good ..	" ..
Punaroa ..	17	17	Mixed farming and dairying	Very good	" ..	Very good.
Lyndon (No. 1) ..	8	9	Principally pastoral ..	Good ..	Good ..	Good.
Kohika ..	15	15	Mixed farming and dairying	Very good	Very good ..	Very good.
Tarawahi ..	24	24	Workmen's homes ..	Good ..	Good ..	Good.
Raincliff ..	1	1	Principally pastoral ..	" ..	" ..	" ..
Pubuka ..	10	10	Workmen's homes ..	" ..	" ..	" ..
Kaimahi ..	12	11	Market gardening	" ..	Fairly good ..	Improving.
Kapuatohe ..	12	11	Workmen's homes ..	" ..	" ..	" ..
Rapuawai ..	5	5	Principally pastoral ..	" ..	Good ..	Good.

TABLE J.—Summary of the Settlements established upon Estates—*continued*.

Land District and Name of Settlement.	Selectors.	Residences.	Principal Purpose for which Holdings are utilised.	Progress during Year.	Present Position.	Prospects.
<i>Canterbury—contd.</i>						
Lyndon No. 2) ..	9	9	Principally pastoral ..	Good ..	Good ..	Good.
Maytown ..	11	11	Small farming and dairying ..	" ..	" ..	"
Eccleston ..	4	4	Mixed farming ..	" ..	" ..	"
Mead ..	21	19	" ..	" ..	" ..	"
Chamberlain ..	20	23	Partly pastoral, partly mixed farming ..	Very good ..	Very good ..	Very good.
Annan ..	43	40	Ditto ..	" ..	" ..	"
Rosewill ..	154	145	Mixed farming ..	" ..	" ..	"
Morice ..	29	29	Dairying and grass seeding ..	Fair ..	Fairly good ..	Fair.
Kinloch ..	30	24	Grazing ..	" ..	" ..	"
Mills ..	21	21	Dairying and small farming ..	" ..	Good ..	Good.
Homestead-sites, &c. ..	47	4	" ..	" ..	" ..	"
	1,236	1,074				
<i>Otago—</i>						
Pomahaka Downs ..	38	14	Grazing and cropping ..	Very fair ..	Good ..	Good.
Te Aneraki ..	22	15	Dairy-farming ..	Fair ..	Fair ..	Fair.
Tahawai ..	8	8	" ..	Good ..	Good ..	Good.
Maerewhenua ..	74	58	Mixed farming ..	" ..	" ..	"
Puketapu ..	11	10	Dairy-farming ..	" ..	" ..	"
Ardgowan ..	66	50	Mixed and dairy farming ..	" ..	" ..	"
Makareao ..	34	23	" ..	" ..	" ..	"
Momona ..	14	13	Dairying ..	Very good ..	Sound ..	Very good.
Tokarahi ..	79	46	Mixed farming ..	Good ..	Good ..	Good.
Janesfield ..	21	19	Chiefly growing roots and vegetables ..	" ..	Sound ..	"
Elderslie ..	34	24	Mixed farming ..	" ..	Good ..	"
Barnego ..	24	16	" ..	" ..	Sound ..	"
Earnsleugh ..	13	8	Fruit-growing ..	Very fair ..	Doubtful ..	Fair.
Windsor Park No. 1 ..	37	23	Mixed and dairy farming ..	Good ..	Good ..	Good.
Windsor Park No. 2 ..	10	8	Mixed farming ..	" ..	" ..	"
Duncan ..	7	4	Mixed and dairy farming ..	Poor ..	Unsatisfactory ..	Not at all encouraging.
St. Helen's ..	3	3	Mixed farming ..	Fair ..	Fair ..	Fair.
Greenfield ..	41	40	" ..	Good ..	Satisfactory ..	Good.
Steward ..	47	41	Mixed farming and wool-growing ..	" ..	Good ..	"
Plunket ..	18	14	Mixed and dairy farming ..	" ..	" ..	"
Totara ..	27	25	" ..	" ..	" ..	"
Kurov ..	13	12	Dairy-farming ..	" ..	" ..	"
Airedale ..	12	11	Mixed and dairy farming ..	" ..	" ..	"
Otekaiki ..	57	..	Mixed farming ..	" ..	" ..	"
Taumata ..	9	..	Mixed and dairy farming ..	" ..	" ..	"
	709	485				
<i>Southland—</i>						
Merrivale ..	49	40	Dairying and stock-raising ..	Very good ..	Very good ..	Very encouraging.
Otago ..	6	5	Farming and grazing ..	Fair ..	Satisfactory ..	Encouraging.
Beaumont ..	12	7	" ..	" ..	" ..	"
Ringway ..	8	8	Mixed farming and grazing ..	" ..	" ..	"
Glenham ..	33	28	Dairying, farming, and grazing ..	Good ..	Fair ..	Fair.
Edendale ..	139	119	" ..	Very good ..	Very good ..	Excellent.
	247	207				
Grand total ..	4,217	3,237				

CROWN PURCHASES UNDER "THE MAORI LAND SETTLEMENT ACT, 1905," AND AMENDMENTS.

Negotiations for the purchase of numerous blocks of suitable Maori land in the four North Island districts have now culminated in the completion of the following areas:—

	A.	R.	P.
Auckland ..	121,776	1	34
Taranaki ..	127,821	2	35
Hawke's Bay ..	13,294	2	23
Wellington ..	109	0	0
	263,001	3	12

Notwithstanding anything that has been said to the contrary, the Maori owners have been dealt with both fairly and liberally by the several land-purchase officers, whilst the State has no reason to feel dissatisfied with the returns it has received for its monetary expenditure.

COGNATE SUBJECTS.

REPORT ON STATE NURSERIES AND PLANTATIONS.

The usual report upon the operations of the Afforestation Branch by the Chief Forester is printed as a separate paper, and shows that very substantial progress has been made in those nur-

series and plantations where the climatic conditions afford reasonable prospect of success. During a recent inspection in January of the Waiotapu and Whakarewarewa Plantations, in the North Island, I was struck with the luxuriant growth of nearly all classes of trees (the various species of which are set forth in the Chief Forester's report), as the past season has been a particularly favourable one. The same may be equally well said of the plantations of Tapanui, Conical Hills, and Dusky Hill, in Otago, which were very recently visited by yourself, the preceding twelve months having been exceptionally favourable for the growth of all kinds of plants and trees; and the fact that in both the Conical Hills and Dusky Hill Plantations the trees have now grown beyond the stage when their roots are affected by the severe frosts, enables much greater progress to be made in their growth than heretofore. Vigorous operations are also in progress at Hanmer Plains, in the Canterbury District, but it has been found that, as regards the Starborough Nursery and Dumgree Plantation, in Marlborough, and the Kurow Nursery in Otago, climatic conditions will necessitate their early closing. The severe drought at Dumgree points to the absolute futility of even filling in the gaps in this plantation, and it has been reluctantly decided to discontinue further planting in that district. After a fair trial the results point to the necessity of concentrating the operations of this branch of the Department of Lands in those districts where fairly successful results may be anticipated. This brings me to a subject slightly touched upon in last year's report—viz., the fact that whilst the expenditure must necessarily increase to keep pace with the national requirements, the revenue which up to now has been limited by the provisions of "The New Zealand State Forests Act, 1885," and its amendments, must for the future be augmented by considerable additions from the Consolidated Fund. A very careful estimate of the revenue likely to be derived from all State forest sources during the coming year is appended for general information, and a glance will show that a little over £18,000 is all that can reasonably be expected, whilst at the present moderate rate of expenditure at least £24,000 is required for operations within the year, leaving some £6,000 which must be provided for out of the Consolidated Fund. It must be borne in mind that in the past the kauri forests in the Auckland District have furnished the chief source of revenue for State forest purposes, but this is rapidly drawing to a close.

WAIPOUA STATE FOREST.

A valuable report on this forest reserve, situated north of Auckland, has been prepared by Dr. L. Cockayne, and is published as a separate parliamentary paper. It is of interest both to the layman and the scientist, and it is noticeable as being the first detailed account ever published of a kauri forest. The remarkable fact that the kauri, and more than one hundred other plants, do not grow southward of latitude 38° is dealt with, and an ingenious theory propounded in explanation. More important still are the details regarding the life-history of a kauri forest, since they have an important bearing on general plant geography, and are also of economic importance in connection with forestry. The biology of the forest and its plants is also treated of, and will be of great value to students, teachers of botany, and for nature study. Finally, there is a list of the flowering plants and ferns, with their Maori, English, and Latin names, and a brief description of each. The forest contains about 80,000,000 superficial feet of timber, worth about £50,000, but more than half the area contains no kauri whatever. Owing to urgent representations made to the Government as to the necessity of retaining one large area of primeval kauri forest, it is now being considered whether the Waipoua Forest, of 22,000 acres, would not form the most suitable locality for such a reservation, and if it is so decided the forest will no longer be an asset for the purposes of the State Forests Account.

ESTIMATE OF REVENUE PAYABLE INTO STATE FORESTS ACCOUNT, 1908-9.

	£	s.	d.
Auckland District	15,160	9	11
Hawke's Bay District	80	0	0
Taranaki District	3	10	0
Wellington District	200	0	0
Marlborough District	940	0	0
Nelson District	Nil		
Westland District	"		
Canterbury District	370	0	0
Otago District	120	0	0
Southland District	1,250	0	0
Total	£18,123	19	11

SCENERY PRESERVATION.

During 1907-8 meetings of the Auckland, Taranaki, Wellington, Nelson, and Canterbury Scenery Preservation Boards were held, and a number of recommendations submitted to the Governor. An area of 8,130 acres was acquired and proclaimed under "The Scenery Preservation Acts, 1903 and 1906," during the same period, and £5,484 was expended on payment for land and necessary expenses. Owing to the great extent of bush-fires during the summer it was deemed inadvisable to proceed with the purchase of large areas of forest country; but several matters that were thus unavoidably held over are now receiving attention.

Full details regarding this subject are given in a separate report (C.-6).

SURVEY OF TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK.

In January, 1908, Mr. E. Phillips Turner, Inspector of Scenic Reserves, and Dr. Cockayne, of Christchurch, proceeded to the park, with the object of thoroughly inspecting its present features, and reporting as to the advisability of enlarging its boundaries. Mr. Turner made a rough topographical survey of the whole area, and Dr. Cockayne made an exhaustive botanical survey of the ground. As a result of their explorations and inspections recommendations were submitted enlarging the extent of the park from 62,300 acres (as defined by "The Tongariro National Park Act, 1894," to 137,900 acres, including several areas of fine forest, which hitherto had been just outside the boundaries, the present mountain hut near Ruapehu and the road of access thereto, together with several typical "plant associations" or areas of land specially interesting on account of the characteristic examples of mountain vegetation they possess.

The original boundaries of the park were arbitrary lines and circles that embraced areas of steep slopes, mountains, and waste stretches covered with volcanic cinders and ash. The proposed new boundaries contain various fine species of beech forest, unique collections of the alpine flora, mineral hot springs, ice glaciers, mountain lakes, and streams, and are designed so as to afford much easier fencing boundaries and divisions, while all land estimated to be suitable for settlement has been carefully excluded.

The Tongariro National Park Board, constituted under the Act of 1894, is now taking into consideration the various recommendations submitted, with a view to the better utilisation and accessibility of the magnificent park we have in the midst of the North Island, whose attractions only require to be better known to insure increased visits from all classes of tourists and residents of the Dominion.

Dr. Cockayne's botanical report is made the subject of a separate paper, and the map attached thereto serves to indicate the extent of the park and its position with regard to the Main Trunk Railway and main roads in the locality.

KAPITI ISLAND.

An interesting report on the birds of Kapiti Island, by Mr. J. Drummond, F.Z.S., is printed as an appendix to this report, and the Department is much indebted to Mr. Drummond for his contribution, it being undertaken solely at his own expense, and in the interests of science. The caretaker (Mr. Newson) having resigned, Mr. Richard Henry, of Resolution Island, was offered the position, and accepted the same. He hopes to take over charge of the island at the beginning of June. During the recent dry summer a fire started upon the Maori land at the north end of the island, but fortunately did not enter the main forest, and was confined to the fern and grass country.

DRAINAGE OF THE HAURAKI PLAINS (FORMERLY KNOWN AS PIAKO).

For some considerable period the necessity of rendering available for settlement the large area of Crown land (some 90,000 acres) in the Ohinemuri and Thames Counties has been apparent, and from 1902 to 1907 comparatively small sums have been appropriated by Parliament with a view of securing a complete set of levels over the whole area, so that some well-devised scheme of drainage might be initiated. This preliminary work, involving an expenditure of £1,322, was excellently carried out by the Department of Roads, under the immediate supervision of the District Road Engineer at Auckland, Mr. A. B. Wright. It, however, became apparent that the magnitude of the work required the services of an engineer who could devote his whole time and energies to the work of reclamation. This Department was fortunate enough to secure the services of Mr. W. C. Breakell, C.E., who had recently so successfully drained the Makerua Swamp, in the Wellington District, and he assumed charge in August, 1907, though, owing to the exceptionally wet winter, little progress could be made until December. However, from August to the 31st

March last a sum of £5,070 has been spent in drainage and other works, with most satisfactory results, about 29½ miles of drains having been cut up to date. On the 31st March a staff of 156 men were employed upon the works, and it is hoped to make very marked progress during the ensuing year, when an expenditure of probably £13,000 to £14,000 will be involved, which will include the purchase of two Priestman dredges manufactured to order and the necessary pontoons for them. Mr. Breakell's report is also an appendix to this report, and I may add that the experience gained up to the present date points to the fact that the Crown will recoup twice over any expenditure incurred in reclaiming the area. Both the Right Hon. the Prime Minister (Sir J. G. Ward), the Hon. Mr. McGowan, and yourself have visited the works, and recognise the immense benefit to the State derived from a drainage of the plains. Personally—and I understand you concur in the view—I am of opinion that special legislation is needed to enable a proper control to be kept over the expenditure on and revenue from these lands.

SOUTH ISLAND LANDLESS NATIVES.

The necessary surveys are in some cases incomplete, but schedules for considerable areas in Southland and Westland have been checked, and are ready for gazetting in the *Kahiti* as soon as proofs have been returned from Messrs. S. Percy Smith and J. Mackay, the former Commissioners. I trust, however, within nine months from now that the whole of the titles will be able to be issued.

“THE WORKERS’ DWELLINGS ACT, 1905.”

Since the publication of last year's report the remaining workers' dwellings—nineteen in number—have all been let, and additional dwellings—four—off Coromandel Street, Wellington City, have been constructed, whilst six more are almost ready for selection. These, together with additional houses at Sydenham, Christchurch, and Petone, near Wellington, are being erected under directions from the Hon. Minister of Labour, and the Department of Labour employ their own architect (Mr. Temple) in constructing them, the buildings being handed over to the respective Land Boards to deal with as soon as they are completed. Mr. J. E. March, who has acted as Inspector for this Department in connection with the Act, is now retiring upon superannuation, and his active co-operation will be much missed by both the Labour and Lands Departments.

DOMAINS.

On the 31st December, 1907, the total number of domains was 440. Every Domain Board is required by “The Domain Boards Act, 1904,” to furnish an annual statement of its operations, and a synopsis of these statements is published in a separate report. The various Boards are actively co-operating with the Department in endeavouring to obtain the best results for the public benefit.

CEMETERIES.

Twelve areas, comprising 55 acres, have been gazetted during the year as cemetery reserves. The applications for assistance in clearing and fencing new cemeteries continue to increase, and without small subsidies it is difficult for the settlers to put the reserves in order.

DEPARTMENTAL AND GENERAL.

It is with great regret the Department has to chronicle the loss by death of Mr. John Hay, Commissioner of Crown Lands and Chief Surveyor of the Southland District, which occurred on the 1st August, 1907. Mr. Hay literally died in harness, after a short but painful illness. He was a man of the most sterling character, who took the greatest interest in his work, and, being always cheerful and optimistic, he was a loss not only to his own Department but to the public at large. Mr. Hay has been in the Government service since the 1st May, 1867, less an absence of eighteen months in 1872–3, and successively filled the positions of District Surveyor in Southland; Chief Surveyor of Otago, from January, 1897, to January, 1901; taking charge of the Southland District as Commissioner of Crown Lands and Chief Surveyor on the latter date. His death was the more sad as it was followed only a few months afterwards by the enforced retirement, occasioned by a severe and dangerous illness, of his brother, Mr. James Hay, Chief Draughtsman of the Napier office, who, like Mr. John Hay, was a licensed surveyor of New Zealand, and had formerly carried out extensive and difficult surveys for the Department. Mr. James Hay's *charāo*.

ter is of an equally sterling nature. He is now under medical treatment in Sydney, and the sympathies of the Department are extended towards him in earnest wishes that he may recover, as his withdrawal from the Government service is deplored by all who know him.

Following upon the death of Mr. John Hay, the Department lost one of its most promising officers by the sudden death of Mr. T. M. Grant, acting Chief Surveyor and Chief Draughtsman of the Nelson Land District. Mr. Grant, whilst inspecting some road surveys in the Buller Valley, met with an accident, caused by the overturning of a vehicle, which resulted in a broken leg. He was under medical treatment at Murchison, when unfavourable symptoms set in, terminating in his death on the 7th December. The late Mr. Grant entered the Department in 1877, but resigned shortly after, joining again in 1887 as a member of the Head Office staff. After passing his examination as a licensed surveyor he was appointed Chief Draughtsman in the Hokitika office in February, 1902, being transferred to Nelson in a similar capacity on the 1st July, 1906. He was an energetic and painstaking officer of high character, and was universally respected.

Mr. E. H. Wilmot (Chief Draughtsman, Hokitika) was promoted to the vacant position of Commissioner of Crown Lands and Chief Surveyor for Southland, and Mr. H. G. Price (Land Transfer Draughtsman, Wellington) to the Chief Draughtsmanship at Napier, whilst Mr. H. M. Skeet (District Surveyor, Taranaki) filled Mr. Wilmot's place as Chief Draughtsman at Hokitika.

The following officers voluntarily retired from the Department during the last year, viz.: Messrs. C. W. McFarland, G. H. Davis, and W. C. Wall (staff surveyors), and R. Mitchell (draughtsman), who leave the Department with its best wishes for their future success.

In addition to the foregoing, and ere this report is laid before Parliament, a number of old and valued officers will come under the operation of "The Public Service Superannuation Act, 1907," having reached the age of sixty-five years or upwards, and retire from the active list of the New Zealand Civil Service. Among those whose names call for special mention, and who, besides their long and zealous service under the General Government, were formerly in the employ of different Provincial Governments before the abolition of provinces, are Messrs. J. E. March (Superintendent of Village Settlements and Inspector of Workers' Dwellings), Llewellyn Smith (Chief Draughtsman, Wellington District office), and C. B. Shanks (Chief Draughtsman, Christchurch District office), who have given the best years of their lives to the work of settlement, both in "the field" and in the office. Another valued officer is Mr. G. E. Reade (Receiver of Land Revenue, Dunedin), who has served well and faithfully under both the General and Provincial Governments; and the same may be said of Mr. Francis Kilfoyle, who has been in charge of the preparation of titles in the Auckland office for many years; whilst long and faithful service has been rendered by Crown Lands Rangers John Barron (Taranaki), George Mackenzie (Otago), Duncan Campbell (Southland), and W. H. Williams (Canterbury), who have all reached the age of retirement, but who can look back with pleasure and pride to the high standing which they, with other Rangers, have always occupied both in the Department of Lands and in the eyes of the general public. I can only say that personally I am very thankful that the Superannuation Act of last session became law before these officers retired from the service.

I also regret to have to record the voluntary retirement, through ill-health, of Mr. Frederic Samuel, for many years Clerk of Titles in the Head Office. Although not of a robust constitution of late years, Mr. Samuel did his work manfully and well, and it is hoped that he may be spared to enjoy a well-merited superannuation allowance for a long time to come.

Another officer with long service who similarly retired (but on compensation) was Mr. Frederick Bull, Receiver of Land Revenue, Napier. Mr. Bull had previously filled the position of Chief Accountant at the Head Office, and always attended to his duties in an assiduous manner, earning the respect of all with whom he had been associated.

The work of the Head Office has necessitated the most unremitting attention by all the officers. I have to thank the Chief Clerk and all the staff for the loyalty and zeal with which they have carried out their duties. In addition to the work of Chief Clerk, Mr. O'Neill has dealt with a large amount of immigration details, which is largely increasing. Amongst other officers, I feel it is only just to mention Messrs. Jourdain (also secretary to the Scenery Preservation Board), upon whom has devolved a good deal of the work in connection with the preparation and gazetting of the new land regulations, &c.; Hawthorne, who has now taken over the duties of Clerk of Titles; Hardy, who supervises all the details in connection with the opening of lands for selection, made doubly arduous owing to the new land legislation; and last, but not least, Messrs. Gambrill and Verschaffelt, respectively in charge of revenue returns and records.

EXPENDITURE OF THE DEPARTMENT.

The following is a summary of the expenditure of the Department, certified to by Mr. Paterson, Chief Accountant:—

SUMMARY of STATEMENT of EXPENDITURE for Twelve Months ending 31st March, 1908.

Vote No.	Name of Vote or Account.	Amount voted (Net).	Expenditure (Gross).			Recoveries.			Expenditure (Net).		
		£	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
70	Lands and Survey ...	149,232	159,435	6	1	22,893	19	3	136,541	6	10
71	Lands and Survey, Miscellaneous	61,620	37,620	9	7	135	19	6	37,484	10	1
109	Immigration ...	10,000	20,591	9	7	11,460	12	0	9,130	17	7
120	Improved Farm Settlements ...	4,950	3,690	10	7	1,478	11	1	2,211	19	6
121	Lands, Miscellaneous ...	9,550	5,797	11	0	2	19	0	5,794	12	0
122	Irrigation and Water-supply ...	3,000	1,555	6	3	1	4	8	1,554	1	7
123	State Forests Account ...	31,147	25,841	17	8	10	11	4	25,831	6	4
125	Scenery Preservation Account ...	12,475	6,260	18	7	776	11	6	5,484	7	1
	Totals ...	281,974	260,793	9	4	36,760	8	4	224,033	1	0
	Consolidated Fund Unauthorised Account...		1,437	13	11	1,298	1	1	139	12	10
	Special Acts, Deposit Accounts, &c. ...		21,226	5	8	...			21,226	5	8
	Land for Settlements Account ...		46,952	4	9	...			46,952	4	9
	Cheviot Estate Account ...		8,872	10	6	...			8,872	10	6
	Maori Land Settlement Account ...		145,954	16	2	3,032	18	9	142,921	17	5
	Totals ...		224,443	11	0	4,330	19	10	220,112	11	2
	Grand totals ...		485,237	0	4	41,091	8	2	444,145	12	2

The work of this branch has increased to such an extent that, in addition to Miss Woodhouse, who is a very competent assistant, the office had to be strengthened by the addition of two cadets. The deposits on immigration from those persons who desire to bring out to New Zealand near relatives form no inconsiderable item in the accounts. Mr. Paterson has also had large dealings with Native-land purchases, necessitating special ledgers being opened for every block of native land.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, it may not be out of place to state that my own share of the work has been made much easier by your knowledge of every portion of New Zealand, as you have now personally visited every settled district from the North Cape to Stewart Island. I am also glad that from your personal knowledge you will bear me out in recording that the whole of the Commissioners of Crown Lands and Chief Surveyors, together with their staffs, are doing their utmost to advance settlement and to render loyal and efficient service to the Government of this Dominion, work which may not be realised by the public generally, but which is nevertheless bearing ample fruit at the present time, and likely to do so even more in the great future which awaits New Zealand and its inhabitants.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.—SETTLEMENT OF CROWN LANDS.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CROWN LANDS ON SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS DURING THE TWELVE MONTHS WHICH ENDED ON THE 31st MARCH, 1908.

AUCKLAND.

THE SETTLEMENT OF CROWN LANDS.

THE following schedule will show clearly what might be termed the “ new business ” of this Department in the Auckland Land District for the past twelve months. Although it necessarily forms a basis for comparison in connection with the general progress of the Department in its operations for the promotion of settlement, to arrive at a correct estimate of the position the variety of interests which go to make this vast district must be taken into consideration.

Some account must also be taken of the interruption of the general rhythm of the work following upon the coming into operation of “ The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907,” and the extensive inspections and transactions entailed by the assistance rendered to settlers who suffered by the bush and grass fires.

Number of New Selectors and Area taken up, from 1st April, 1907, to 31st March, 1908, and Total Amount of Revenue received during the Year.

Nature and Tenure of Lands selected.	Number of Selectors.	Area selected.			Cash received on Past and Current Transactions.		
		A.	B.	P.	£	s.	d.
Town lands sold for cash	9	24	0	13	241	14	0
Suburban lands sold for cash	21	34	1	32	418	13	6
Rural lands sold for cash	35	2,749	0	2	1,200	11	6
Perpetual leases made freehold ...	...	...	...	...	782	16	6
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	...	...	...	...	6,288	8	3
Deferred-payment instalments ...	...	...	...	...	142	16	3
Perpetual leases ... ..	...	...	...	...	869	2	1
Occupation with right of purchase ...	167	69,716	0	28	14,807	9	6
Lease in perpetuity... ..	17	5,512	3	9	6,682	7	5
Renewable lease	1	261	2	0	3	6	0
Village settlement (lease in perpetuity)	15	38	2	21	114	18	2
Village-homestead special settlements	...	...	...	...	162	0	11
Repayments of advances ... ..	...	...	...	...	344	1	6
Special-settlement associations (lease in perpetuity)	...	...	...	...	297	11	2
Improved-farm special settlements ...	...	...	...	...	402	17	11
Occupation leases, Mining Districts Land Occupation Act	7	473	1	23	326	2	7
Small grazing-runs	2	16,421	2	31	608	13	6
Pastoral runs	14	1,392	0	0	477	19	8
Thermal springs, Rotorua ... ..	...	...	...	...	2,149	0	7
Miscellaneous leases and licenses ...	4	223	1	27	46,049	18	8
Miscellaneous ... ..	...	...	...	...	5,520	17	9
Land for Settlements Acts—							
Cash	14	38	3	26	520	9	4
Lease in perpetuity	119	20,449	2	18	16,294	17	1
Renewable lease	4	208	1	7	59	2	8
Small grazing-runs	2	8,210	0	0	253	5	10
Miscellaneous leases	7	768	0	10	2,691	17	11
Workers' Dwellings Act	6	1	1	18	731	16	2
Totals	444	126,523	1	25	108,442	16	5

LANDS OFFERED AND DISPOSED OF DURING THE YEAR.

During the year now closed the operations of the Department have resulted in the following area being thrown open for selection :—

							Acres.
North of Auckland City	..	..	..	..	..	..	14,427
South of Auckland City	..	..	..	..	..	..	66,082
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	80,509

At the beginning of the year the following area was available for selection :—

							Acres.
North of Auckland City	..	..	..	..	..	..	109,435
South of Auckland City	..	..	..	..	..	..	693,869
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	803,304

This, with the area opened during the year, made a total open for selection as follows :—

							Acres.
North of Auckland City	..	..	..	..	..	..	123,862
South of Auckland City	..	..	..	..	..	..	759,951
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	883,813

After the 20th November, 1907, by the coming into operation of the new Act, the whole of the lands in the Guide were withdrawn from application.

In round figures the area taken up during the year has been—

							Acres.
North of Auckland, chiefly in the Counties of Hokianga, Mangonui, Whangarei, and Otamatea	..	..	..	..	..	..	32,400
South of Auckland, chiefly in the Counties of Piako, Opotiki, Waikato, Whakatane, Waitomo, and Waipa	..	..	..	..	..	..	94,100
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	126,500

CONDITIONS AND PROGRESS OF SETTLEMENT.

A healthy spirit of prosperity appears to permeate the entire district, even those settlers who have been deterred in their operations by indifferent access, and those who later, having already encountered the ordinary trials of pioneer life, suffered loss by fire, showing no signs of being disheartened. At the present moment inquiries from all parts of the Dominion are being made about Auckland lands, doubtless on account of the scarcity of ordinary Crown lands in other districts, as also from the fact that putting blocks regularly in the market is drawing the attention of residents of other parts of the Dominion to Auckland's mild climate and well-distributed rainfall, making land profitable to work that in other districts would hardly be practicable.

RANGERS' REPORTS.

The Crown Lands Rangers have during the year had a very busy time, and their duties have been performed without any semblance of friction with the settlers. Although a Ranger's principal duty is, of course, to make the statutory inspections of holdings provided for by the Land Act, during the year, as in previous years, this work has been greatly interfered with owing to the necessity of utilising the services of the Rangers in a variety of other directions. A Ranger who is working methodically through a particular district may at any moment receive directions to immediately visit a locality far removed from the scene of his operations; and the demands of timber, flax, kauri-gum, scenic, Native, trespass, and other matters probably cut into his statutory work to a very great extent.

The Rangers report as follows :—

North of Auckland.

The steady increase of *bona fide* settlers of a desirable class in the northern district which I referred to last year still continues, fifty-one selectors having taken up land during 1907, thirty-five of these being in Hokianga County, where there is still a considerable area of good second-class land available. Mangonui comes next in favour. In the Bay of Islands and Whangaroa the most of the Crown land available is of too poor a quality to be dealt with in small sections. During the year there has been a decided increase of substantial improvements effected by settlers throughout the district. The area of bush felled is 3,832 acres, as against 1,880 acres last year. The dairying industry is slowly but surely pushing its way to the front, especially in the Mangonui County. There has been great activity in timber, gum, and flax industries. During the last month bush-fires have been raging in many places and doing a considerable amount of damage. In some instances settlers have lost almost all they possessed. Fortunately, the State forests have escaped with very little injury. The settlers in this district are nearly all prosperous and contented.

Bay of Islands County (Part I).—There is very little Crown land fit for settlement left in this county, but there is a large area of first-class Native land lying idle which ought to be utilised. The chief industries

are stock-raising, dairying, flax, timber, and gum. The settlers as a whole are prosperous and contented. The chief townships are Russell, Kawakawa, and Ohaeawai. The best Crown settlement is Okaihau.

Bay of Islands County (Part II).—Hukerenui: This district was formerly settled under the village-settlement conditions, but the holdings are now principally under the lease-in-perpetuity tenure. The settlers are sending their cream by rail to Hukerenui, where a well-established butter-factory exists. Generally speaking, the settlers are prosperous and hopeful for the future; but, unfortunately, the flax industry is on the wane, owing to the low price ruling for that product having the effect of stopping that industry for the time being. The timber and gum industries have been active during the year, and there has been a good demand for labour of all kinds at a fair remuneration.

Hokianga County (Part I).—Settlement in this county is progressing at a very satisfactory rate, thirty-five selectors having taken up land during the past year. The chief industries are stock-raising, dairying, timber, and gum. The best settlements are Waimamaku, Waiotemarama, Motukaraka, Utakura, Broadwood, and Herekino. There are two thriving townships—Kohukohu and Rawene—both on the Hokianga Harbour. There are still about 60,000,000 ft. of kauri on Crown lands undisposed-of, besides large quantities of rimu and other milling-timbers.

Hokianga County (Part II).—The pioneer settlers in the Tufamoe and Waipoua Survey Districts are making fair progress, and of the new settlers in Tufamoe who last year took up land, some have done very well, whilst others were handicapped in making improvements by the scarcity of labour, but all are hopeful for the future.

Mangonui County.—The settlers in this county are in a fairly prosperous condition, owing in a great measure to their increased interest in the dairying industry. They have two co-operative factories and two creameries in full work, and propose erecting two more creameries for next season. The timber, flax, and gum industries provide plenty of work for all those not actively engaged in farming. Settlers have felled during the year 928 acres of bush, and owing to the dry season have had very satisfactory burns.

Whangaroa County.—This county is almost at a standstill as far as new settlement is concerned, only two new selectors coming into it during the past year. The chief industries are stock-raising, ship-building, timber, and gum. The two latter are, however, nearly exhausted, and settlers are being forced by circumstances to pay more attention to their land. They have felled 412 acres of bush this year, as against 260 acres last year, an increase of 152 acres. There is very little Crown land fit for settlement left in the county.

Whangarei County.—The ordinary Crown tenants in this county are with few exceptions doing very well.

Otamatea County.—The Crown tenants in this county are doing fairly well. This is especially true of the Tokatoka tenants, who have made great progress during the year. There are three creameries in operation in the Tokatoka district alone—one at Tokatoka and two at Raupo.

Hobson County.—The Crown tenants in this district are progressing fairly well, more especially in the Kaihu and Manguru Survey Districts.

Waitemata County.—All Crown sections in this county were inspected, and generally settlers were found doing fairly well and to be contented with their holdings. The land being principally second-class, settlers' operations are confined to stock-raising and fruit-growing. Several large timber contracts are in progress, affording work for a number of men, and the ground, having been previously rich in kauri timber, affords good scope for gum-diggers. The natural hot springs at Helensville have been developed, and baths erected, and, being within easy reach of Auckland, a great number of sufferers are enabled to participate in the benefits to be derived therefrom. Several large industries are to be seen in full swing in the manufacture of bricks and tile pipes, thus providing employment for a large number of hands.

Rodney County.—An inspection of all Crown sections in this county shows that, although land is only second-class throughout, settlers through hard work and perseverance have all done well, and are contented and prosperous. Stock-raising is the chief use this class of land is put to, and stock have greatly increased in numbers, particularly sheep. There is a great inquiry for land in this county, and properties are continually changing hands at satisfactory prices to both parties. Dairying is also being carried on successfully. The class of land in this county seems specially adapted for fruit-growing, apples and grapes doing exceptionally well, and many fine orchards are to be seen, thus proving that the land, although not rich enough for agricultural purposes, can be made by judicious working and management to give far better results financially than are obtained by grazing. Timber operations provide employment for a number of men, and, having been rich in kauri, the land naturally provides employment also by way of gum-digging.

South of Auckland.

Waitomo, Awakino, Kawhia, Raglan, and West Taupo Counties.—There has been a considerable influx of settlers and an increase in the number of cattle and sheep, notably the latter. A large area of bush has been felled, and of open country large areas have been ploughed and grassed. The area sown in grass last season has given great satisfaction, and there are strong evidences that once the land is fairly grassed the pastures will be permanent. The extensive bush-fires that occurred, while temporarily embarrassing to the settler of small means, will ultimately prove of great advantage, the fires having thoroughly cleared the ground of all rubbish. Where grass-seed has been sown over the new burns really good pastures will be the result.

Schools, dairy factories, and flax-mills are being erected, and there is every sign of a progressive district, and every indication that the settlers who have gone into the backblocks are satisfied with their

hold ings. The greater number of these are residing on the land, but in a few instances some selectors are non-resident owing to the isolated position of their sections. This latter disability will be removed as soon as the roads are made within a reasonable distance of such lands.

Thames County.—In this county the majority of settlers are making good progress and improvements, and, considering that the greater portion of land available for selection has been broken, hilly country, settlers have done exceedingly well, and, generally speaking, are contented and prosperous. The dairying industry plays an important part in the success of this county, and the Thames Valley Dairy Association hold the proud position of having obtained the highest marks against all comers in the various exhibitions. Stock-raising is also carried on largely, and a marked increase is noticeable, especially in cattle. Being a mining district, settlement is greatly curtailed through most of the unoccupied land being bush-clad, and therefore withheld from Hauraki Pastoral Lease Regulations, a tenure that is becoming more popular every year. Large contracts have been let for the removal of kauri timber, and when these are completed settlers will be able to obtain land under the renewable-lease tenure, there being a lot of fern land on the timber leases. The mining industry also plays an important part in the progress of this county, a large number of men being employed in the mines. A large amount of employment is also obtained through gum-digging operations, and this class of workman is always fairly successful, notwithstanding that gum is getting scarce. New schools have been erected in the outskirts where fresh settlement has taken place, and where required new roads are being energetically pushed on by the local bodies, and will be the means of inducing settlers to take up land in the vicinity. The large tract of rich swamp land owned by the Crown on the Piako River is now being drained in a comprehensive manner, and in a few years will provide large areas of land for settlement, and at no distant date for flax-culture. Owing to the low prices ruling for fibre, the flax industry at the present time is very quiet; but, through judicious management, up-to-date plant, and satisfactory contracts, several mills are still carrying on operations. Generally speaking, this district is very prosperous, good roads, railways, and water-carriage all contributing largely to the welfare of the district.

Coromandel County.—Settlement is steadily increasing, and generally the settlers are making fair improvements, and are thrifty and prospering. The greater portion of the land in this county being very broken, settlers confine most of their operations to stock-raising; but in some instances settlers have gone in for separators, and produce a good article, which is readily disposed of at good prices in the district. The erection of saleyards in the district has been a great boon to the settlers, and a great number of applications, comprising thousands of acres of land, have been made under pastoral-lease regulations. Several large timber contracts are at present in full swing, thus providing employment for all classes competent to do the work, and being also the means of enabling settlers to dispose of their products locally and at remunerative rates. The kauri-gum industry also provides employment for a large number of men. New schools have been erected in several parts of the district where required, and new roads are gradually being made. Stock has greatly increased in numbers. No fires of any consequence occurred in this district.

Waikato County.—From inspections made, settlers were making good improvements, and all had splendid burns owing to a very dry season. Stock were looking exceptionally well, and still increasing in numbers, especially cattle. Dairying and stock-raising are the principal occupations of the settlers, who are all prosperous and contented. There are many inquiries for land in this county. New roads are being pushed ahead wherever required.

Manukau County.—An inspection of all Crown sections was made in this county, and it was found that with few exceptions good improvements were being made, and that settlers generally were contented and prosperous. Stock-raising and dairying are the principal uses this class of land is put to, with good results. Bush-fires temporarily harassed settlers through loss of feed, but most of them look upon the fires as a gain rather than a loss, owing to the amount of weeds destroyed and general clearing-up of old burns, thus practically making new pasture. New roads are being made where necessary, and schools erected where required.

Tauranga County.—As in all parts of the east coast, land here is in great demand, the dairying industry having proved such a great success. The late dry summer has also been a good advertisement for this district, it having withstood the drought better than the greater portion of the North Island. The cutting-up of the forest lands in the Otanewainuku and Rotorua Survey Districts in the vicinity of the Tauranga, Oropi, and Rotorua Coach-road has not been a success, owing to the sections being cut up into too small areas. Like all bush lands, the settler must have capital, and the area must be sufficiently large. There have been a lot of inquiries for Crown lands in Te Papa and Apata Parishes. These lands have been withdrawn from sale for resurveying and roading, and when opened will find ready sale. The whole of the county is moving ahead, the butter-factories having done very well for the season, and the drought and fires having done little damage.

Opotiki County.—Settlement in this county is progressing apace. All the bush country lying between the Opotiki settled lands and the Motu on the Gisborne side is being eagerly sought after, and rapidly taken up when thrown open for selection in large areas varying from 500 to 1,000 acres. The reason of this is that the country is steep and broken generally, and is naturally a grazing district. A very good class of settler has already taken up a large area of these forest lands, and in spite of the rough country they have felled some thousands of acres, some areas of which are already stocked with some ten thousand sheep. The long spell of dry weather this season has been just what the settlers needed: they have all had good burns, and about 4,700 acres is now being sown in grass. This county has a great future as a first-class agricultural and pastoral district.

Whakatane County.—Flax being at a good price during the last two years, flax-mills have sprung up round the edges of the big Whakatane and Matamata Swamps, and a great output of fibre has been the result; but, owing to a big drop in price, the five mills were shut down. Then came the long spell of dry weather, and with it fires which destroyed most of the standing flax. As regards draining opera-

tions, the Rangitaiki Drainage Board has carried a resolution in favour of cutting an outlet through the sandhills, which, if successful, will be the means of settling the whole drainage problem of this swamp, as it will keep the flood-waters of the Rangitaiki River from flowing all over the large area of swamp as it does at present. As regards the uplands in this county, land is in great demand, and all the available Crown lands have been taken up. Bushfelling, house-building, and grass-sowing have been going on satisfactorily. The long spell of dry weather has been an advantage to the settlers, very little damage being done by fires.

Rotorua County.—Progress in this county is pretty much the same as last year as regards the Crown settlers. It has been stated that a scheme to erect a butter-factory in the vicinity of Mamaku has failed. The cattle-disease is given as the reason, but it has been found that as the land gets more stock on and gets well trodden this disease dies out. This has been proved over the northern parts of the county. The milling industry is in full swing, and, taking the district as a whole, the fires have done very little damage to the forests throughout.

FORFEITURES AND SURRENDERS.

In the large majority of cases forfeitures have taken place either by reason of the holdings being abandoned, or at the direct request of the selectors. It is unfortunately the case that persons who have no intention of farming have in the past secured holdings with some other motive in view. It may be that they imagined that the area selected would yield gum or flax, or it may be that they have simply taken up the land because it could be worked in conjunction with an adjacent contract, and then, the necessity having passed, they threw up the land. The forfeitures for the non-fulfilment of conditions or through inability to carry on have been surprisingly few. The policy of the Land Board has been never to forfeit unless it is found beyond doubt that a man is either an impossible settler, or has no intention of complying with either the spirit or the letter of the law.

REBATES OF RENT.

The total amount granted as a rebate for prompt payment reached the sum of £2,829 19s. 8d., and was secured by 2,787 settlers.

ARREARS OF RENTAL.

The arrears, exclusive of the current payment ending on the 30th June next, on ordinary Crown lands amounted to £1,602 17s., which was owing by 355 tenants, out of a total on the books of 5,027, paying an annual rental of £40,853 11s. 7d.

Of land-for-settlements tenants for the same period, 54 tenants, out of a total of 664, owe £1,200 16s. 4d., out of gross rentals amounting to £19,263 4s. 2d. There are many and varied reasons for such arrears, such as the settler who spends every penny on his holding, with the one aim in view of bringing it into profitable occupation and money-earning within the shortest possible time; then there is the settler who entirely underestimates the cost of what he has taken in hand, although his intentions have been *bona fide* all through; the difficulty of getting produce to market accounts for much; and there is the ne'er-do-well and the speculator, who are simply an incumbrance to the soil. This year, however, the drought and the fires have closed down the incomes of settlers in the middle of their money-earning season, and not a few have had to start again from the beginning, just as they were getting on their feet. It will thus be readily seen that great discrimination is required in dealing with arrears where there is so much pioneer settlement going on, although the liabilities of settlers to the State in this respect are kept before them.

CROWN LANDS UNDER PART III OF THE ACT.

The operations of clause 47 of "The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907," will result in a satisfactory settlement of the position in regard to many holdings selected for cash under Part III of "The Land Act, 1892." In this district a very large number of selectors under this tenure had, either through ignorance or neglect, failed to effect the improvements required within the time specified. Owing to there being no direction in the 1892 Act as to what action (beyond the non-issue of title) would follow this default, these selections remained on the books in the names of the selectors. The new power will settle the old transactions, and obviate a recurrence of this in future.

"THIRDS" AND "FOURTHS" AND "HALVES" FROM TIMBER AND FLAX.

On account of "thirds" and "fourths," proposals have been received for the expenditure of over £8,000, and, with the exception of a few cases received just about the end of the year, the amounts have been paid over to the local bodies. There is a considerable sum still standing to the credit of local bodies for which no proposals have been made. The difficulty appears to be that in a large number of cases the amounts are so small (£5 and under) that it is considered hardly worth while making proposals until a larger amount accrues. Action is, however, being taken to carry out the provisions of section 121 of "The Public Works Act, 1905." A sum of £8,699 5s. 4d. has been paid to the local authorities under the provisions of "The Timber and Flax Royalties Act, 1905." But as the policy of the Auckland Land Board has been to get the latter royalties received by the local bodies spent on backblocks roads, the neighbourhood of where the timber came from having preference, some correspondence has ensued with the local bodies on this account, but on the whole the wishes of the Board have been met in the fairest spirit.

HAURAKI PASTORAL LEASES.

During the year a number of remote sections held under this tenure have been inspected. To effect improvements at the rate of 2s. per acre within three years from the date of selection is the only

obligation (other than payment of rent) under this class of holding. The Rangers visited fifty-three selections, on which improvements to the value of £1,120 should have been effected, and it was found that the improvements actually made are worth £3,700. In addition to this, although, as stated, residence is not compulsory, there were thirty-seven selectors who had made their homes on or adjoining their Hauraki pastoral-lease holdings. The area covered by these leases is, as a rule, rough broken fern and bush country suitable for grazing. In the localities over which this tenure may be exercised, there are two distinct classes of settlers. In the north the lessees are farmers making their living off the land; in the south they are mostly business people, contractors, &c., who employ labour on their holdings.

MINING DISTRICTS LAND OCCUPATION ACT.

The main difference between selections under this tenure and that of Hauraki pastoral lease is that, whereas improvements are required under the latter, residence only is the feature of the mining-districts-land-occupation holdings (also, holdings are limited to 100 acres in the latter case, 1,000 acres being the maximum in the former). There were seventy-two inspections made, covering an area of 4,620 acres. Of these, forty-two selectors were residing, and they had carried out improvement-works to an estimated value of £5,076. This tenure is not producing such energetic settlers as the Hauraki pastoral leases, for the lessees do not depend on their areas for a living, and are consequently more careless as to their condition and development. A number of areas are held as adjuncts to other holdings: this is particularly the case in proximity to goldfield towns, where a few acres are of great use to residents.

TIMBER.

Four parties, comprising ten men, have been busily engaged measuring timber to meet the requirements of applicants. Since last report 55,614,536 ft. of various kinds of timber have been disposed of by public tender, the value of which is £44,875, and revenue received during the same period amounted to £41,604, as against £34,629 for the previous year, being an increase of £6,975.

Timber-floating Licenses.—Forty-six new licenses were issued, and thirty-three renewals were granted during the year.

Bush-fires.—Every known precaution has been taken to preserve Crown and State forests from the ravages of fires. Four caretakers are employed, two full and two half time. The late fires extended over wide areas, and a great deal of damage to private property resulted. Fortunately, Crown forests largely escaped, with the exception of the scorching of some trees in Kauri Park and a small scenic reserve at Herekino, also some mixed timber standing on worked-out kauri areas.

FLAX INDUSTRY.

During the early part of the past year operations in the above industry were exceptionally active, owing to the then ruling high market prices obtained for fibre. In consequence thereof a large number of applications for flax cutting and cultivating areas were received and dealt with by this office, resulting in keen competition and record royalties being obtained for green flax, the gross royalty amounting to £1,627 17s. 3d. Amongst the more important areas dealt with was the lease for fourteen years of the flax area situated on the west coast south of Kawhia in the Whareorino Survey District, the amount realising in the aggregate for royalties and rent about £4,500. During the latter part of the year several applications for flax were withdrawn owing to the lesser demand and present values for fibre, but inquiries are still being made regarding areas suitable for flax planting and cultivation. Considerable quantities of green flax have been destroyed in different parts of the district by the recent fires.

FIRES.

Towards the end of the year the district was overrun with fires. As soon as it became known to the Government how extensive the fires had been, prompt instructions were received to render assistance to those who were financially embarrassed, repayment being made by promissory notes extending over several years as the circumstance of individual cases demanded.

In this district the services of Rangers and surveyors were requisitioned to make inquiries with a view to supplying those in need with grass-seed to resow the grassed areas that had been destroyed. I personally visited the locality where the most extensive fires took place, and since my return to Auckland have with my staff of Inspectors been kept continuously busy in making outside inspections and in examining the applications for seed, ordering, supervising, and despatching the required quantities as soon as the applications were approved. In all 296 applications were received. Of these 197 were approved, and seed was supplied to the value of £7,913 on the Government conditions of repayment. Although the loss sustained by many settlers has been very severe, there are many compensations, areas of fallen bush which selectors had for some seasons despaired of ever firing have been swept clear, and the ultimate result must be decidedly beneficial to those so situated. The assistance rendered by the Government to settlers who were quite incapable of financing the resowing of large areas will be most apparent next season, and, given favourable climatic conditions, and provided the settlers who were almost ruined can hold out, the season should result in prosperity to all concerned. In many cases worthless farms have suddenly been converted into profitable holdings, the carrying-capacity when regressed being often more than doubled, and I feel that a rough estimate of 30 per cent. is low in view of the increased carrying-capacity in the fire-swept districts, and a general ultimate increase in value of at least £1 per acre.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Record Clerk reports that 32,480 letters and parcels and 2,168 telegrams were received, and 49,735 letters and parcels and 2,196 telegrams were despatched. These figures show a gross increase on last year's returns of 1,648.

RECEIVER OF LAND REVENUE.

In the Receiver's Office 8,947 ordinary revenue receipts and 138 provisional-title receipts were issued, covering a gross revenue of £109,836 18s. 9d., an increase on the previous year of £15,000. In the Deposit Account, 1,935 receipts for a sum of £41,643 11s. 4d. and 796 cheques for refunds and disbursements were issued. The sum of £22,258 8s. 2d. was paid into the Local Bodies Account, from which was disbursed by 139 payments to eighty-three local bodies the sum of £15,714 19s. 2d.

In conclusion, I wish to acknowledge the valuable assistance I have received from the officers of this branch of the Department, particularly those in charge of the various sub-branches with whom I come more directly in contact.

JAMES MACKENZIE,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

HAWKE'S BAY.

LANDS OPENED FOR SALE OR SELECTION.

The condition and progress of closer settlement in Hawke's Bay District during the past financial year may be considered as very satisfactory. The lands opened for sale or selection as ordinary Crown lands, under the various tenures, during the year amounted to 9,227 acres. Of this, 8,529 acres were offered for the first time, and 698 acres had been previously offered. Under the Land for Settlements Act 21,694 acres were offered for the first time, comprising sections situated in Te Mata, Pourerere, Raumati, Kanakanaia, and Te Arai Settlements.

The small area still open for selection—viz., 1,299 acres—clearly shows the unabated demand for Crown lands in the district.

Summary of Land Transactions, 1907-8.

Tenure.	Transactions during Year.		Leasehold Lands held at 31st March, 1908.		Revenue received during Year 1907-8.
	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	
		A. R. P.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Cash	48	132 2 28	...	...	1,368 4 6
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	...	...	...	...	2,497 7 9
Perpetual lease ... ..	...	...	11	3,352 0 23	132 5 0
Deferred payments ... ..	...	...	1	1,415 0 0	42 10 0
Occupation with right of purchase	22	4,760 3 7	258	136,751 3 23	6,536 5 10
Lease in perpetuity	6	597 1 23	209	104,404 1 11	3,465 9 11
Village settlements—					
Cash	1	0 1 31	...	...	9 0 0
Occupation with right of purchase	3	2 3 22	10	47 3 36	1 11 3
Lease in perpetuity	15	1,247 3 8	73	3,902 1 5	1,565 13 8
Village - homestead special settlements	...	...	27	160 1 18	49 0 5
Special - settlement associations—Lease in perpetuity	...	...	14	3,111 0 19	127 14 9
Improved farms ... ..	...	...	16	1,830 0 0	198 18 7
Small grazing-runs	1*	2,478 0 0	87	251,416 3 2	2,320 19 1
Pastoral runs ... ..	...	...	16	103,703 0 0	722 6 0
Timber-cutting ... ..	...	...	...	...	786 18 6
Miscellaneous leases	11	385 3 9	92	63,748 0 20	1,247 7 10
Transfer and lease fees ... ..	...	...	...	...	253 7 6
Crown-grant fees ... ..	...	...	...	...	44 11 8
Survey liens ... ..	...	...	...	...	49 1 9
Other sources ... ..	...	...	...	...	581 8 0
Land for settlements—					
Lease in perpetuity	9	648 2 0	427	119,740 0 17	34,180 19 6
Lease in perpetuity (village)	2	0 3 16	16	34 3 0	13 14 5
Small grazing-runs ... ..	...	...	16	19,681 0 0	4,180 10 8
Miscellaneous leases	2	5 2 16	11	374 3 3	269 1 4
Buildings, &c. ... ..	...	...	...	...	683 12 3
Renewable lease	83	20,168 2 1	83	20,168 2 1	7,806 1 7
Renewable lease (buildings)	...	...	...	...	62 10 3
Native townships	7	33 3 30	108	723 1 10	343 3 0
Endowments ... ..	...	...	27	9,797 3 36	294 8 11
Totals	210	30,463 0 31	1,502	844,363 1 24	69,834 3 11

* Exclusive of 12 holdings, covering an area of 21,430 acres 2 roods 1 perch, the leases of which expired during the year, but were renewed.

SMALL GRAZING-RUNS.

Twelve holdings, covering an area of 21,430 acres, expired during the year, but were all renewed under the terms and conditions of their leases at advanced rentals in each instance. It was found that none of these areas was suitable for closer settlement. Only one new selection was made during the year, containing an area of 2,478 acres, and paying an annual rental of £298. Thirty-nine holdings, comprising an area of 131,481 acres 3 roods, and paying an annual rental of £1,936, were set apart under the provisions of "The National Endowment Act, 1907." Of thirteen leases expiring during the year, seven, comprising an area of 11,526 acres, have been offered to existing lessees for a further term of twenty-one years at greatly increased rentals, and six holdings, covering an area of 16,868 acres, are to be subdivided and offered for selection during the year under the optional system.

INSPECTION AND PROGRESS OF SETTLEMENTS.

The total number of inspections made by the Crown Lands Ranger for the Napier portion of the district was 622, including special inspections covering an area of 272,261 acres. The total value of improvements as required by the Act is £77,088, and the value of improvements effected £228,560. There were thirty defaulters for non-residence and forty-five for improvements. There were 1,724 souls residing on the properties inspected.

The Crown Lands Ranger for the Gisborne portion of the district reports that he inspected 237 holdings and made thirty-three special inspections. Altogether he made 270 inspections, comprising an area of 233,937 acres, on which he found 500 souls residing. The value of improvements required was £66,876, as against £304,058 actually effected. Thirty-two of the holdings inspected were defaulting for residence-conditions, and eight for improvements.

The very large value of improvements placed upon the holdings, and the very small proportion of defaulters for non-residence and improvements, emphasize the success which has attended Crown settlement in this district. Generally speaking, the district has progressed very satisfactorily.

REBATE OF RENT.

Rebate for prompt payment of rent amounting to £4,990 18s. 11d. was granted to 947 tenants. These figures show an increase over last year's returns of eighty-two selectors and £433 10s. 3d.

ARREARS OF RENTAL.

There are seventy-nine selectors in arrears with one or more payments amounting to £1,235 13s. 11d., comprising an area of 62,092 acres, being an increase of £981 15s. 1d. This is greatly due to the long dry season experienced throughout the district during the past summer, and also to the bush-fires occurring in various parts of the district.

FORFEITURES AND SURRENDERS.

There were seven forfeitures for non-compliance with conditions, comprising an area of 106 acres 1 rood and 4 perches.

Five surrenders were accepted, containing an area of 14,085 acres 2 roods and 13 perches.

TRANSFERS.

Owing to the high value of land and the prosperous condition of the country no less than 171 selectors transferred their holdings during the year, and twelve were refused by the Land Board.

DISPOSAL OF REMAINING CROWN LANDS.

A block of 10,000 acres, portions of the Waimarama, Waipuka, and Okaihau Blocks, situated about twenty to thirty miles from Hastings; and 9,641 acres, portion of Piripiri and Manawatu Blocks, adjoining Mangatera and Matamau Railway-stations, and only about three miles from Dannevirke; also 11,523 acres in Tuahu Survey District, near Waikaremoana, are now under survey, and will be ready for offering about the end of the year. 16,868 acres of small-grazing-run holdings will expire during the year, mostly in the Gisborne district; and it has been decided to subdivide these runs, and offer them under the optional system before the end of the financial year. Besides the foregoing there will be about 8,000 acres in the district that will be thrown open for selection during the year. I have very good reason to anticipate that all the land to be offered will be applied for, as there is such a demand for land in this district.

RESERVES, FORESTS, ETC.

Reserves with a total area of some 2,975 acres have been made and permanently gazetted, while 266,246 acres have been set aside under the National Endowment Act of last session. There have been 8,400 acres withdrawn from forest reserves in the Waikarara and Makaretu Survey Districts as being of no further use for the purpose for which they were reserved, and these lands will shortly be opened for selection.

BUSH-FIRES, ETC.

Owing to an exceptional period of drought extending over several months, settlers have been sorely tried in making provision for feeding and watering their stock, and, as an outcome of the exceptionally hot and dry season, certain portions of the district in the neighbourhood of Ormondville, Norsewood, and Dannevirke were subsequently devastated by extensive bush-fires, which caused considerable loss of stock, fences, and pasture, and in a few instances of buildings.

The Department issued instructions for assistance to be afforded those needing same, by providing them with grass-seed to resow their holdings, and allowing payment to be made therefor by instalments extending over a period of from one to four years; and a number of claims have been dealt with in that manner.

The bush-fires also spread over considerable tracts of Crown lands near Dannevirke which are being prepared for settlement, and these are also being resown with grass-seed. In connection with these fires there is a compensating phase of the question, which is that, although the damage done is very

serious in some instances, the general effect will be of ultimate benefit to the settlers, inasmuch as the land has been more thoroughly cleared of stumps and logs than could have been accomplished under the ordinary system of clearing.

“THIRDS,” “FOURTHS,” AND “HALVES.”

The sum of £3,640 8s. 5d. was paid to the local bodies, and expended in the following manner: 765 chains formation, 101 chains bush-clearing, £100 for bridges and culverts, £1,483 4s. for maintenance of roads, and £860 interest on loans borrowed for the formation of roads.

The amount still to the credit of local bodies is £4,265 17s. 9d.

DEPARTMENTAL.

The volume of departmental work continues to increase as further settlements are brought into the market and other business is placed under the management of the Department. Correspondence inwards and outwards, circulars, applications, parcels, &c., show a total of 39,658. The total cost of the Department for stamps during the twelve months was £157 16s. 6d. Cheques were drawn to the amount of £17,467, and 684 vouchers dealt with, while receipts for rents, deposits, &c., totalled 3,450.

The following changes in the Land Office staff occurred during the year: Mr. F. Bull, Receiver of Land Revenue at Napier, retired after a service of thirty-six years; Mr. J. H. O'Donnell was transferred from the Gisborne office to succeed him; and Mr. H. F. Robinson, from the Auckland office, was appointed in the latter's place. In September last Mr. Denham Goldsmith, shorthand clerk and typist, was transferred to the Invercargill office, his post being afterwards filled by Mr. D. M. Yeates, formerly of the Government Life Insurance Department, Wellington.

I have conducted several important land-ballots, notably Raumati, Kanakanaia, and Te Arai, at each of which the number of applicants was evidence of the steady demand for land.

In concluding this report I would like to acknowledge the manner in which the officers of the Land Office staff, both at Gisborne and Napier, have carried out their several duties, as well as responded to extra demands made upon them from time to time.

HENRY TRENT,

Commissioner of Crown Lands.

TARANAKI.

The land transactions for the year ending the 31st March, 1908, are shown in the subjoined summary:—

Class of Selection.	Transactions during Year.				Held at 31st March, 1908.				Revenue received during Year.		
	Number.	Area.			Number.	Area.					
		A.	R.	P.		A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
Cash	11	44	0	11	...	...	...	...	421	16	0
Perpetual lease made freehold	1	180	0	0	...	...	...	...	342	0	0
Deferred payment ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	99	0	0	8	16	10
Perpetual lease ... ..	...	...	...	...	12	3,781	0	16	219	2	9
Occupation with right of purchase	45	42,150	2	18	449	246,684	0	6	6,105	2	10
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	9	2,530	0	8	...	...	...	...	3,658	15	7
Lease in perpetuity	4	2,231	3	12	470	178,746	3	36	5,004	15	1
Lease in perpetuity—Land for settlements	3	587	2	20	35	4,022	2	15	3,276	6	9
Village settlements—											
Occupation with right of purchase	...	...	...	...	9	8	1	0	3	9	0
Lease in perpetuity ... ..	...	...	...	...	10	69	0	8	9	5	2
Special settlements—Lease in perpetuity	...	...	...	...	87	16,210	1	16	867	19	4
Improved-farm settlements...	3	410	0	30	247	32,631	1	6	1,661	2	11
Small grazing-runs ... ..	...	7	1	26	17	16,660	0	12	236	10	1
Miscellaneous leases	17	133	1	35	114	1,341	3	25	388	3	10
Miscellaneous leases—Land for settlements	...	...	...	...	1	43	3	16	340	1	5
Transfer and other fees ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	198	2	0
Crown-grant fees ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	15	3
Endowments ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	143	3	12	47	0	0
Timber licenses and royalties	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	3	7
State forests ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	10	0
Survey liens ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	286	11	1
Survey fees, searches, lithographs, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61	14	11
Miscellaneous ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	184	3	3
Totals	93	48,275	1	0	1,454	500,442	1	8	23,385	7	8

The volume of business transacted is not nearly so much as last year, the sales for cash having fallen off, and the selections under the leasehold tenures being only about half the number. Had the land been available, no doubt the results would have been very much larger, but towards the end of 1907 every available section was taken up, and there were no new lands ready to offer.

The revenue proper last year was £25,523, which would have been maintained had there been more sales for cash, these always being a fluctuating quantity.

CROWN LANDS OFFERED FOR SELECTION AND DISPOSED OF.

The area open for selection on the 31st March, 1907, was 54,590 acres, and 11,033 acres were offered during the year, making a total area of 65,623 acres available. Out of this, 52 selections were made, comprising an area of 44,969 acres, and 3,755 acres in addition will be returned next year. An area of 9,211 acres was withdrawn for reoffering under "The National Endowment Act, 1907," and 3,888 acres were also withdrawn to be reoffered under "The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907." This leaves 3,800 acres open for application at the close of the year.

The only land offered for the first time were seven allotments in the Ohura and Heao Survey Districts, comprising an area of 1,859 acres, which were keenly competed for. The remainder of the sections offered were forfeited holdings in various parts of the district.

The remaining sections in the Huinga Settlement, near Toko, three in number, were taken up, but one was abandoned for no apparent reason. Applications have already been made for it.

Five reserves were offered for lease by public auction, and all were taken up.

Two sections, totalling 3 acres, were sold as sites for dairy factories—one at Nihoniho and the other at Aria—under the provisions of section 62 of "The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907."

The land offered for cash by public auction consisted of eighteen allotments in the Town of Manaia, eleven being disposed of at upset prices.

There has been such a steady demand for land during the year that there is now practically none open for selection.

PRINCIPAL SYSTEMS OF TENURE.

These are confined to the occupation with right of purchase and leases in perpetuity, and when lands were offered under the optional conditions the preference was given to the former tenure, as the following figures will show: Occupation with right of purchase, 45 selections, area 42,150 acres; lease in perpetuity, 1 selection, area 755 acres; cash, nil.

CONDITIONS AND PROGRESS OF SETTLEMENT.

The evidence of substantial progress over the whole of the Taranaki District has been very marked during the past year. The report of the Ranger for the central and southern part of the district discloses that good progress is being made, and with very few exceptions the improvements effected are in excess of requirements, the holdings inspected being 330, having a total area of 121,188 acres. The required improvements by the Act were valued at £48,014; the improvements actually effected were valued at £97,323.

The Ranger for the northern and more lately settled part of the district reports having visited 406 holdings, comprising an area of 140,241 acres. The requirements of the Act were improvements to the value of £22,597, and the value of improvements actually effected was £74,411. He remarks that the non-fulfilment of required improvements is generally due to the scarcity and high cost of labour. He also reports the first cattle-sale at Maticre on the 19th April, when 800 head were sold. Three schools and several post and telephone offices have been opened during the year, and a doctor is now resident at Mangaroa.

REBATES OF RENT.

During the year 800 tenants holding under lease-in-perpetuity and occupation-with-right-of-purchase conditions of the Land Acts were granted 10 per cent. rebate on their annual instalments, amounting to £985 2s. 4d., and thirty-two land-for-settlements tenants received a rebate of 10 per cent., equal to £250 18s. 2d. These figures show an increase of twenty-five selectors and £191.

ARREARS OF RENT.

Excluding the current instalment, the number of tenants in arrear was sixty-one, as compared with fifty-five last year; but the amount owing was £323, as against £465, a decrease of £142. Taking into consideration the current instalment, a substantial decrease is shown both in number of tenants in arrear and the amount owing—viz., 182 selectors, £1,487; last year, 229 selectors, £1,923. It is, however, only by constant attention and occasional resort to legal proceedings that this fairly satisfactory position can be maintained.

FORFEITURES AND SURRENDERS.

Twenty-one holdings under ordinary conditions of the Land Acts were resumed during the year—two less than the previous year—mostly for non-improvement. In some of these cases the forfeiture was consequent on the unfitness of the intending settler to battle with the usual hardships of frontier settlement, in addition to the sometimes inadequate road access and inability to obtain assistance in bushfelling. The difficulty in obtaining the services of bushfellers at anything like a reasonable figure has become most pronounced during the last two years. Some of the selectors also of recent years have not been possessed of sufficient capital to work their holdings, and there has been too much

land taken up by people who have no idea of what the conditions in the back country are, consequently when they get on the ground their expectations are not immediately realised, and they allow the land to revert to the Crown. Now that the Land Boards can examine applicants before admitting them as selectors, it is probable there will be more permanency in the holding of land. Three holdings under the Land for Settlements Acts were abandoned—two in Spotswood and one in Huinga Settlement.

RESERVES, FORESTS, ETC.

An area of 14,740 acres was reserved for preservation of forest and scenery, and 2,687 acres for primary education. The remainder of the area reserved during the year, 473 acres, comprised school-sites, recreation-grounds, and other purposes.

BUSH AND GRASS FIRES RELIEF.

During February, disastrous fires, occasioned by the long dry summer, swept over various parts of the district, some settlers losing their homesteads and farm buildings, and many others having most of their available pasture swept away by the flames, which spread with great rapidity. The districts round Mount Egmont, principally on the northern side, appear to have been the greatest sufferers, in a few instances the settlers' stock being burnt, while owing to the loss of pasture the cattle fell off in condition, which was especially felt by those dependent upon the dairying for their livelihood.

In many of the cases relieved by the Government the assistance was most opportune, as otherwise these sufferers would have been compelled either to obtain the grass-seed on terms that might have hampered them for years, or, on the other hand, to see the burnt areas remain unsown.

It is, however, admitted that, though in many instances the immediate loss was most serious, yet generally the beneficial effect of these fires will be most marked within the next twelve months, as areas which for years past remained only partially cleared were, owing to the unusually dry season, swept clean by the fires; the ground, being resown, can now be brought into full profit. One hundred and ninety-five applications were dealt with, and about 58,000 lb. seed issued to 103 persons, at an approximate cost of £1,686.

DISPOSAL OF REMAINING CROWN LANDS.

None of the blocks mentioned in my last report were in a condition to offer for sale during the year just closed, but that in the Ohura and Piopotea West Survey Districts, 14,747 acres, will be offered in June next under the provisions of "The National Endowment Act, 1907." There are also surveys in progress for opening other lands under the same Act, as follows: 5,000 acres in the Totoro Survey District, on the south bank of the Mokau River; 4,500 acres in the Mahoe and Pouatu Survey District, between the Tangarakau and Heao Rivers; 4,000 acres in the Piopotea West Survey District, near Taumarunui Township.

In conjunction with the blocks in the Totoro and Piopotea West Survey Districts, there will be about 3,500 acres offered under the ordinary conditions of settlement; 5,000 acres in Otamati and Tangitu Blocks, portion of Rangitoto-Tuhua Block, lately purchased by the Crown, near the Main Trunk Railway; and about 6,000 acres of the Whakaihuwaka and Taumatamahoe Blocks, lying between the settled country east of Strathmore and the Wanganui River, also newly acquired.

The demand for good grazing-land in this district is still as keen as in former years, inquiries being received daily from all parts of the Dominion, and occasionally from foreign countries.

During the coming year an area of about 17,000 acres, comprising forfeited sections in various parts of the land district, will be reoffered, and no doubt will be eagerly sought after, as the access is gradually improving.

OFFICE-WORK.

The correspondence inwards and outwards, circulars, applications, parcels, &c., totalled 21,932; cheques drawn for wages, &c., 793; vouchers dealt with, 680; transfers recorded, 195; receipts for rents, refunds, &c., 3,237; provisional titles issued, 75; cards furnished to the Auditor of Land Revenue, 277: total, 27,189—a considerable increase on last year's business.

As in past years, the ordinary clerical work has been increased by the correction of areas of holdings resulting from completion of surveys of land disposed of during the last three years under the "provisional area" system; the greatest objection to this method of alienation of land being the delay in issuing titles to the selectors, who in many cases have to borrow for making improvements, thereby necessitating special surveys.

FRANS. SIMPSON,

Commissioner of Crown Lands.

WELLINGTON

The subjoined summary shows the land transactions for the year ending the 31st March, 1908 :—

Nature and Tenure of Lands selected.	Number of Selectors.	Area selected.			Cash received on Past and Current Transactions.		
		A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
Town lands sold for cash	113	32	1	6	9,352	15	11
Suburban lands sold for cash	14	39	1	34			
Rural lands sold for cash	6	348	1	12			
Perpetual leases made freehold ... ..	...	...	...	...	2,690	3	8
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold ... ..	...	...	...	...	19,232	14	9
Deferred-payment instalments ... ..	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
Perpetual leases ... ..	...	...	...	...	206	15	6
Occupation with right of purchase	65	53,596	3	12	10,761	8	6
Lease in perpetuity	10	6,441	0	8	5,377	4	10
Renewable lease	1	200	0	0	5	0	0
Village settlement—							
Cash	1	1	0	33	4	0	0
Lease in perpetuity	25	712	1	7	1,719	7	2
Renewable lease	2	2	0	24	0	5	0
Village-homestead special settlements ... ..	...	...	...	...	414	16	6
Special-settlement associations—Lease in perpetuity ... ..	...	...	...	...	4,927	12	6
Improved-farm settlements ... ..	...	...	...	...	2,235	7	2
Small grazing-runs	12	13,068	2	0	1,975	12	10
Pastoral runs	10	19,982	2	0	2,436	14	5
Improved farms made freehold ... ..	...	...	...	...	1,632	12	2
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	44	45,824	1	1	1,548	10	3
Miscellaneous ... ..	...	...	...	...	*10,920	13	0
Workers' dwellings, Coromandel Street	4	0	0	32	54	18	2
Land for Settlements Acts—							
Lease in perpetuity	8	203	3	22	13,276	1	3
Workers' dwellings, Petone	12	1	0	8	553	13	4
Small grazing-runs ... ..	...	...	...	...	1,732	7	6
Miscellaneous leases	1	2	1	0	1,165	17	3
Miscellaneous ... ..	...	...	...	...	4,190	3	8
Totals	328	140,456	0	39	96,419	15	4

* Includes £111 paid under section 16, (7), of "The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907."

LANDS OPEN FOR SALE OR SELECTION.

The total area of Crown land offered during the year was 126,375 acres, which, added to the area standing open on the 1st April, 1907—viz., 7,129 acres—made a total area of 133,504 acres available for selection. Of the area of 126,375 acres placed in the market during the year, 101,800 acres were offered for the first time. Only one lot, comprising an area of 200 acres, was offered subject to the provisions of "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903."

The principal operations during the year were as follows: The Tapui Block, 636 acres; North Waimarino Block, 23,967 acres; and Retaruke Blocks, 31,142 acres, were opened for selection on optional system. A run of 45,000 acres in the Rangipo North Block, and Mana Island, 525 acres, were offered for lease by public auction for terms of twenty-one and fourteen years respectively. The Nireaha and Hukanui Village Settlements, comprising an area of 672 acres, and Tapui Village, 35 acres, were opened for application. A successful auction sale was held at Raetihi of the Ninia, Ohakune, and Raurimu Townships; and in Wellington of freehold allotments in Cuba and Wallace Streets. Four workers' dwellings in Coromandel Street, Wellington, were offered and leased under "The Workers' Dwellings Act, 1905."

The demand for some of the lands offered was very keen, particularly for one section offered in Tararua Survey District, for which there were 520 applications, and for sections in North Waimarino Block, for some of which the applications considerably exceeded 200; also for village lots in Hukanui and Nireaha Settlements, for some of which the applications ranged up to the number of 145. The total number of land applications received during the year was 2,419.

EXPIRING SMALL-GRAZING-RUN AND PASTORAL LEASES.

During the year renewed leases for further terms of twenty-one years were granted to the lessees of twelve small grazing-runs, comprising an area of 13,050 acres; and renewals of leases of sixteen small grazing-runs, comprising an area of 13,014 acres, have been offered to the present lessees under section 209 of "The Land Act, 1885." Renewals have not been granted in the cases of two small grazing-runs, comprising an area of 1,693 acres, which have consequently reverted to the Crown.

As the lessees of eleven pastoral runs, comprising an area of 23,352 acres, mostly sand-drift on the west coast, will expire in February next, new leases were offered by public auction, all of which, with the exception of one, were disposed of

INSPECTIONS AND RANGERS' REPORTS.

These comprise 1,046 inspections by the two Rangers in the east coast district, of an area of 223,780 acres, being a decrease of forty-eight in number, but an increase of 79,616 acres on last year's figures. The value of the improvements required to be effected was £28,104; the amount actually spent was £107,657, being £79,553 more than was required to be spent.

In the west coast district 481 inspections were made by the two Rangers, of an area of 855,577 acres, being a decrease of 253 in number and an increase of 707,591 acres in area from last year's figures. The amount required to be spent on improvements was £13,870, whereas £24,750 was expended, being £10,880 in excess of requirements.

The grand totals for both districts are as follows: Number of inspections made, 1527, over an area of 1,079,357 acres; being a decrease on last year's figures of 301 in number, and an increase of 787,208 acres in area. Improvements were required to be effected to the value of £41,974, and improvements actually made amounted to the value of £132,407: excess, £90,433. Out of the holdings inspected, only sixty-two selectors had not complied with requirements.

NOTE.—These figures include inspections in Te Ohu and Okahakura Blocks, also pastoral runs along coast. On these large areas no improvements were required.

REBATES OF RENTAL.

Rebate amounting to £2,902 2s. 6d. was granted to 2,372 selectors for prompt payment of rental, being an increase over last year's figures of £405 2s. 6d. in amount, and fifty-eight in number.

ARREARS OF RENTAL.

One hundred and two selectors were in arrear with two or more payments—£1,029 4s. 2d., of an area of 14,841 acres, being a decrease on last year's figures. The total arrears, including the current half-year's payment, are 331 in number, £3,163 7s. 8d. in amount, and 51,382 acres; being an increase over last year's figures.

SMALL GRAZING-RUNS.

Five leases expired by effluxion of time during the year, the annual rent being £120 1s. 8d., and the area 4,802 acres. All these runs have been offered to and accepted by the late lessees at new valuations, in terms of section 209 of "The Land Act, 1885."

FORFEITURES AND SURRENDERS.

During the year there were eight forfeitures of ordinary Crown leases, four under the Land for Settlements lease-in-perpetuity tenure, and three Native-township leases; being a total area of 2,307 acres; the annual rental being £179 8s. 4d. There were six surrenders accepted, aggregating 834 acres, and an annual rental of £78 12s. 10d.

RESERVES AND ENDOWMENTS.

9,712 acres 1 rood 34 perches were set aside during the year for the following purposes: Scenery, gravel, primary education, public buildings, &c.

CASH LANDS.

The area disposed of under this heading was 420 acres, comprising one section of 133 acres, under Part III of "The Land Act, 1892," and 113 lots of town land, aggregating 32 acres; fourteen suburban lots, of 39 acres, and five rural lots of 250 acres, were disposed of without option.

"THIRDS" AND "FOURTHS."

The allocation, under "The Land Act, 1892," of the proportion of rent from Crown lands taken up under the various systems of tenure has been made, and the due amounts have been passed to the credits of the respective local authorities, to whom during the twelve months £9,296 18s. 4d. has been paid for approved proposals for road-works, and under hypothecation certificates. Five hundred and seventy-four proposals for expenditure for "thirds" and "fourths" were received from the local bodies, and after careful examination 527 of these were submitted to the Land Board for favourable consideration, and were approved. Four certificates of hypothecation were also approved of by the Land Board and issued under the signature of the Chairman.

Acting under instructions, I had schedules prepared showing the "thirds" and "fourths" accrued to the 31st October, 1905, and for which the local authorities had failed to make any satisfactory proposals. In order that the provisions of section 121 of "The Public Works Act, 1905," might be carried out, the District Road Engineers, in conjunction with one of my officers, prepared proposals for the expenditure of these over-accrued "thirds" and "fourths." These proposals were approved by the Land Board, and forwarded for the Minister's action. However, the Hon. the Acting Minister for Public Works decided not to enforce the Act, but to give the local authorities the further opportunity of making proposals for these sums. I regret to add that only a few of the local bodies have availed themselves of this consideration.

On the 31st March, 1908, £14,579 10s. 9d. was in the Receiver of Land Revenue's Deposit Account to the credit of the County Councils and Road Boards. This amount includes the over-accrued "thirds" and "fourths." During the past year, as stated above, £9,296 18s. 4d. has been disbursed, which is an increase of above £3,000 on last year's payments.

ISSUE OF PROMISSORY NOTES FOR PAYMENT FOR GRASS-SEED.

Owing to the unusual continuance of dry weather during the summer months, disastrous bush and grass fires swept over practically the whole of this land district, and in consequence many settlers suffered more or less severely in the loss of buildings, furniture, fences, stock, &c.; and in accordance

with your instructions, assistance has been given to settlers to regrass the destroyed areas of their holdings by the issue of promissory notes for the cost of the grass-seed required to resow the same. 328 settlers were supplied with 467,087 lb. of grass-seed, to the value of £13,579.

CLERICAL.

The number of letters received during the year amounted to 16,980, and those despatched, including telegrams, rent-notices, lithographs, &c., to 40,000. A grand total of 56,980 letters, &c., were received and despatched during the year. Six hundred and ninety-one cheques were drawn on imprest accounts, for a total of £6,300. The number of vouchers dealt with was 1,300, representing a total of £34,024.

JOHN STRAUCHON,

Commissioner of Crown Lands.

NELSON.

SETTLEMENT OF CROWN LANDS.

The year ending 31st March, 1908, generally speaking, has witnessed a steady advance in settlement right throughout the district. The settlers in the old-established localities are fairly prosperous and sanguine, and the new settlers in the backblocks—engaged as they are in the preliminary work of felling, burning, and sowing—have made headway under difficulties only known to the pioneer settler, and are quite satisfied with their prospects. What is particularly noticeable in the old-established settlements extending along and fringing the Waimea Plains, and extending back from the seaboard of Tasman and Golden Bays, is the unmistakable movement towards more efficient farming. Settlement in the localities referred to dates back as far as 1842, and mixed farming has been carried on there more or less ever since, but the progress made, except in a few notable instances, has not been equal to that in other less-favoured districts in the Dominion, nor at all commensurate with the capabilities of the land, much of which is of a first-rate quality. Recently, however, the settlers have become inspired with the spirit of enterprise: they are clearing their land of blackberries and noxious weeds, extending their grazing-areas, improving the breed of stock, manuring exhausted lands, and adopting more modern methods of farming. The primary cause of this progressiveness is no doubt the advent amongst them of farmers of wide practical experience from other provincial districts, who appreciate the productive power of the land more thoroughly than those men born and bred on it, and who have become in a sense creatures of environment.

The condition of settlement in that portion of southern Nelson known as the Inangahua Valley has made but slow progress. Along this fertile valley the best of the lands are freehold, overrun in many instances with noxious weeds. It is only recently that Crown lands have been opened up there. I have, however, observed indications lately of a desire to clean and cultivate the waste lands for dairying purposes. The potentialities of the Inangahua Valley should grow in the hands of an energetic body of settlers. There is no doubt but that the Crown lands recently leased will be brought under cultivation during the current year.

In Buller County mining interests are paramount, and absorb the labour of a large portion of the local population. There is no systematic land-settlement there. The ranks of the farmers are added to occasionally by men who have relinquished mining, and labourers who have saved a little money. There are in this country excellent tracts of freehold land capable of utilisation as dairy farms, but here again the unimproving freeholders block the way. Their lands are covered with blackberries and noxious weed, and they make no attempt to clear them. It is against the public interests that these owners be allowed to evade their responsibility in this respect. As a rule the lands in question are river-flats, the very best land in the district, and are for the most part infested with weeds. If they were available the Land Board could dispose of them to settlers who would improve them.

The most interesting feature of the year is the progress of new settlement in central Buller. Only quite recently the placing of settlers in this portion of Nelson was looked upon as a hazardous experiment. Not alone by strangers, but by many residents of Nelson, the lands lying between the Hope River and the Maruia River were for years regarded as below the standard of inferior grazing-lands in other districts of the Dominion. A densely wooded country—as viewed from the main coach-road—principally birch—practically uninhabited save for a few miners on the Buller River and its tributaries—the consensus of opinion obtained that it was no better than it looked. It has, however, become common knowledge that this very country comprises an area of 127,000 acres well adapted for pastoral purposes. An area of 99,000 acres has been selected already, and in the instances where energetic settlers have reached the experimental stage in cultivation, the results have exceeded their most sanguine anticipations—grass has taken well on the clearings, and all kinds of stock fatten rapidly upon it. The principal timber on this land is birch growing on limestone, marls, and granite, thus affording a refutation of the generally accepted theory that various kinds of timber indicate the grades of the land.

An estimate may be formed of the possible growth of the pastoral interests in the central Buller when I state that within a radius of thirty miles from the Town of Murchison there is an area of 300,000 acres of country capable of carrying three hundred settlers, allowing an average of 1,000 acres to each holding.

A season of drought, unprecedented for fifteen years, extending from November to March last proved detrimental to many settlers in northern Nelson. Turnip, rape, and potato crops, and also in a lesser degree hops, suffered; but oats, wheat, and barley crops were equal to previous years.

The bush-fires, which occurred during the drought, and to which I specially refer in another paragraph, swept a large area, the probable outcome of which will be the grassing of the burnt country, and consequently an increased carrying-capacity for stock. In view of the establishing of freezing-works in Nelson at an early date (a company has been formed and capital subscribed) several farmers have already commenced to bring waste lands into cultivation. There is no doubt but that freezing-works successfully established will mean the regeneration of Nelson from a pastoral point of view.

The Crown lessees in this district are observing the terms and conditions of their leases in as satisfactory a manner as can reasonably be expected in bush-clad country. Bush settlement requires nursing in its early stages. It is inevitable that a settler here and there shall fail in his efforts to succeed on land, just as a man will fail in any other walk of life. Where, however, the settler is possessed of energy, perseverance, and industry, and desires to establish himself on the land, the Board treats him generously, affording him all the assistance permissible by law—and the Land Act is read liberally in this regard.

Writing with a personal knowledge of most of the backblocks settlers in this district, and having witnessed their submission to the hardships associated with pioneer settlement, I have nothing but admiration for their qualities. At the same time the Government of the Dominion by expenditure on roads, extension of telegraphs, telephones, postal and educational facilities, is doing its share in the work of creating and furthering settlement, and the settler recognises this.

The following tabulated statement shows the land transactions during the year, the area under lease at the 31st March, 1908, and the revenue received during the past year:—

Tenure.	Transactions during the Year.			Area under Lease at 31st March, 1908.			Revenue received during the Year.				
	Number.	Area.		Number.	Area.						
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands.</i>											
Cash	28	A.	R.	P.	...	A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
Deferred payment	...	4,975	0	9	24	2,919	0	27	1,856	13	8
Deferred payment made freehold	57	5,943	0	4	...	...	...	...	394	4	0
Perpetual lease	...	...	...	...	11	1,922	2	13	49	13	0
Occupation with right of purchase	23	9,268	3	11	206	45,451	3	2	676	10	2
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	6	1,510	3	39	...	...	...	...	514	10	5
Lease in perpetuity	63	20,214	2	21	381	108,625	0	3	1,154	17	0
Lease in perpetuity made freehold	4	1,521	2	0	...	...	...	...	1,032	0	0
Lease in perpetuity—Land for settlements	14	4,204	0	9	13	4,099	0	9	631	9	8
Mining districts land occupation lease	8	558	1	37	40	2,085	1	32	51	17	1
Small grazing-runs	2	4,034	3	18	9	16,757	3	18	83	16	5
Small grazing-runs—Land for settlements	1	1,947	0	0	1	1,947	0	0	24	8	8
Pastoral runs	...	...	...	...	2	165,829	0	0	317	10	0
Pastoral licenses within mining districts	18	4,215	0	30	40	7,830	0	30	106	14	5
Miscellaneous leases and licenses, including coal and timber royalties	129	21,217	3	7	710	185,087	1	36	4,315	11	9
Other sources — Renewable lease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	641	11	1
Totals	353	79,611	1	25	1,437	542,553	2	10	11,851	6	11
<i>Endowment Lands.</i>											
Lease in perpetuity	4	1,585	0	0	15	6,384	2	38	14	3	3
Village - homestead special settlement	...	...	...	...	20	100	3	7	14	4	9
Mining districts land-occupation lease	7	276	3	14	83	1,551	2	11	111	12	4
Miscellaneous leases	35	3,538	0	0	355	8,920	0	19	1,266	17	6
Royalty on coal and timber	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,811	18	5
Grand totals	399	85,011	0	39	1,910	559,510	8	5	29,070	3	2

COMMENTS ON THE TENURES.

Cash.—4,975 acres were sold for cash to twenty-eight purchasers—the total amount realised being £1,689 11s. 11d., or £1,613 less than the previous year. Of the areas mentioned 243½ acres of rural land were sold to four owners of adjoining lands under section 114 of “The Land Act, 1892”; 4,711½ acres of rural land were opened on the optional system; 243½ acres of rural land were opened without option; and 19½ acres were town allotments. I anticipate a much-reduced revenue from cash lands during the current year. Existing township lands are exhausted, and the National Endowment land has absorbed nearly the whole of the area hitherto available for cash purchase.

Lease in Perpetuity (ordinary Crown Lands).—About one-half of the area offered during the past year was confined to lease-in-perpetuity tenure, and that proportion was maintained in respect of the area selected. An area of 20,214½ acres of ordinary Crown lands was disposed of to sixty-three selectors—the average area of the holdings being 321 acres, and the average rental per acre per annum 4d.; and an area of 4,204 acres acquired under “The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900,” was disposed of to fourteen selectors. It is undeniable that lease in perpetuity was a popular tenure in this district, and it is problematical if the privilege of acquiring the freeholds of their leaseholds conferred on the 381 selectors holding 108,625 acres of ordinary Crown lands by “The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907,” will be largely exercised. As a matter of fact the man who takes up land to establish a permanent home thereon does not worry himself to acquire the fee-simple of the land. His concern is to improve and develop it, and so long as he has a permanent tenure, and the value of his improvements secured to him, with the security of reasonable advances from the State if necessary on the security of his interest in his lease, discussions on land-tenures are regarded by him with indifference. Since the passing of “The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907,” up to the 31st March last only three applications for the purchase of the freehold have been made by lessees in perpetuity.

Occupation with Right of Purchase.—Twenty-three selectors took up an area of 9,268½ acres, and six selectors holding 1,511 acres acquired the freeholds of their holdings. Hitherto the option of selecting land on occupation-with-right-of-purchase tenure had been confined to a comparatively small area fringing the earliest-settled portions of Nelson, extending south between Tasman Bay and Upper Motupiko and outside the boundaries of the mining district, and nearly the whole of this area is now absorbed by the National Endowment. There are 45,451 acres held by 206 selectors.

Mining Districts Land-occupation Leases.—Under the regulations for the leasing of land in mining districts up to 100 acres for a term of twenty-one years, authorised by “The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894,” 558 acres of ordinary Crown lands were granted during the year to eight selectors. These figures are a marked advance on last year’s transactions—the latter being 128 acres to eight selectors.

The conditions under which this tenure served a good practical purpose are rapidly changing in this district. Alluvial mining is declining, and as it declines so does the necessity diminish for the use of a system which, while adequate for a man who derives his whole livelihood from alluvial mining, provides an area of land far too small and too variable in quality to enable him to support himself and family by cultivating it. Already men who have abandoned mining pursuits are experiencing this drawback. To meet altered conditions is the object of section 19 of “The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907.” Under this section the lessee may surrender his lease and obtain in lieu thereof a renewable lease (provided the Warden approves of the latter being granted) and so become qualified to hold an extended area. The total area held up to the 31st March, 1908, is 2,085 acres; selectors, forty.

Small Grazing-runs.—This tenure is not adapted to the requirements of this district—the country being practically forest and scrub land. Two runs comprising 4,035 acres of ordinary Crown lands and one run containing 1,947 acres were selected under the Land for Settlements Act. There are only ten areas on small-grazing-run tenure in this district.

Pastoral Leases under Part VI of “The Land Act, 1892.”—The total area held under this tenure is 165,829 acres, comprised in two leases. These two leaseholds practically include all the available Crown land in this district of any extent which is not bush-clad, and which is suitable for pastoral farming on an extensive scale.

Village Settlements.—At Seddonville, close by the State Coal-mines of that name, there has been established for some years a special settlement on village-homestead conditions. This settlement is in a very prosperous condition. There are twenty selectors holding allotments therein of an average area of 5 acres; sixteen of these selectors are resident on their allotments, and four are non-resident. Seventy-seven acres out of a total of 100 acres are cultivated. The improvements effected up to date are valued by the Crown Lands Ranger at £1,832. The total resident population of this settlement is sixty-one (men, women, and children).

An area of 31 acres situated a short distance from the Town of Murchison was set apart as a village settlement a few months ago, and subdivided into twelve allotments for disposal on lease in perpetuity, but so far only three allotments have been applied for.

Occupation of Pastoral Lands in Mining Districts.—A system peculiarly applicable to a mining district, the regulations thereunder permitting of the use of the surface of the land without in any way impeding the mining industry. A total area of 6,510 acres was granted to twenty-nine applicants—the average area comprised within a license being 224 acres. Compared with last year’s figures the transactions under this tenure show an increase of 4,735 acres and ten applicants.

Miscellaneous Leases and Licenses.—The miscellaneous leases and licenses granted over ordinary Crown lands during the year cover a total area of 18,922 acres. Included in this area are 44 temporary-occupation licenses, comprising 16,334 acres; 2 flax-cutting licenses, of 5 acres; 14 mineral leases; 63 sawmill licenses, reserved timber areas, timber warrants, and sleeper-cutting warrants. The licenses relating to timber and minerals were granted by the Warden; the rents and royalties received from these is territorial revenue, for which the Lands Department is responsible.

Westport Harbour Board Endowment.—The transactions during the year in connection with the lands comprised in the Westport Harbour Board Endowment were as follows: viz., 1,585 acres disposed of on lease in perpetuity to four selectors; 276½ acres disposed of on occupation lease under "The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894," to 7 lessees; 1 coal lease, covering 1,999 acres; 26 timber-cutting warrants granted; and 8 miscellaneous licenses granted. The total revenue received during the year from rents and royalties derived from the endowment was £17,218 16s. 3d.

LAND OPENED FOR SALE OR SELECTION.

The area of Crown lands opened for sale or selection during the year ending 31st March, 1908, was 73,343 acres—nearly all forest land. Of this area 60,746 acres were opened for the first time, and 38,441 acres were subject to the provisions of "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903." Of the 73,343 acres mentioned, 36,015 acres were offered for disposal on lease in perpetuity under "The Land Act, 1892"; 4,204 acres were offered for disposal under "The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900"; 3,512 acres were offered on the optional system; 83 acres were offered for sale for cash; 12,053 acres were offered on lease by tender under "The Public Reserves Act, 1881"; 1,947 acres were offered on the small-grazing-run tenure under "The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900"; 2,402 acres were offered on renewable lease; and 13,127 acres were offered under special regulations for the occupation of pastoral lands in Glenroy Block, central Buller. The total area disposed of amounted to 45,203 acres, the number of selectors being 139. To these totals must be added an area of 1,862 acres situated in the Westport Harbour Endowment taken up by 11 selectors, thus making a general total for the year of 47,065 acres disposed of to 150 selectors.

LANDS PROPOSED TO BE OPENED DURING THE YEAR 1908-9.

It is proposed to offer for selection an area of 63,464 acres of unsurveyed Crown lands, and an area of 18,063 acres of land under "The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900"—a total area of 81,527 acres. Of this total, an area of 43,731 acres is National Endowment land. These lands are principally second-class land, forest-clad, and of fair average quality, suitable for pastoral purposes when cleared and grassed. The numerous inquiries which have been received respecting these lands from a good type of settler is satisfactory evidence that there is a demand in this district for cheap payable country.

The following are the names, areas, localities, and brief descriptions of the blocks to be opened for selection:—

Braeburn Settlement (subject to the provisions of the Land for Settlements Act).—Containing 18,063 acres, situated in Inangahua County, in the valleys of the Mangles, Tutaki, and Tiraumea Rivers, about eleven miles from the Town of Murchison. Mixed agricultural and pastoral land of good quality. Formation chiefly calcareous shales and sandstone resting on blue marl. Between 2,000 and 3,000 acres open land in English grasses; the balance forest.

Mangles-Blackwater Block (ordinary Crown lands).—Containing 8,458 acres forest land lying to the west of and adjoining the Braeburn Settlement. Chiefly pastoral country suitable for subdivision into areas averaging 650 acres. Flat land on each farm sufficient for growing crops for winter feed. General formation, sandstone and shales.

Nuggety Block.—Containing about 6,000 acres, adjoining Braeburn Settlement on the west and extending to the head-waters of the Mangles River and the basin of Nuggety Creek. Forest land of good average quality, suitable when felled and grassed for sheep-grazing. Formation, calcareous shale. This block will be subdivided into areas averaging 1,000 acres.

Inangahua Junction Block (National Endowment land).—This block contains 4,220 acres of chiefly hilly forest land with limestone outcrops, provisionally subdivided into seven farms. These farms can be profitably worked, when felled and grassed, as grazing-areas. The block is situated in Inangahua County on the western bank of the Inangahua River, extending from the confluence of that river with the Buller River in a south-westerly direction, and including the valley of Hard Creek. Distance to Westport and Reefton, twenty-seven and sixteen miles respectively.

Matakitaki Block (National Endowment land).—This block is situated in Inangahua County between the Maruia North Block and the Matakitaki River. It contains about 6,500 acres of forest country eminently suitable for sheep-grazing when cleared. Distance, two miles from the Town of Murchison.

Extension Maruia North Block (National Endowment land).—This block lies between the Maruia North Block and the Buller River. It contains about 1,800 acres of hilly country, forest clad. Will make good pastoral farms. Partly limestone formation. Distance from Murchison, three miles.

Wangamoa Block (National Endowment land).—This block contains 12,580 acres of hilly country, mostly forest-clad, portions of which have been swept by fire. When cleared and sown in grass this land will make excellent pasture for sheep, thus enabling the small farmers in the Wangamoa Valley to extend their holdings. This block is situated in Waimea County, twenty miles from the City of Nelson by the main road Nelson to Blenheim.

Dart Block (National Endowment land).—This block contains 7,931 acres of chiefly forest-clad country capable of being worked into good pastoral farms. The land is of fair quality; formation, decomposed granite. Situated in the Waimea County in the valley of the Dart River (a branch of the Wangapeka River), where there are flats suitable for homestead-sites. Distance from City of Nelson, thirty-one miles by rail, thence by road eleven miles.

Extension of Lee River Block (National Endowment land).—This block contains about 5,500 acres, and is practically an extension of the Lee River Block already disposed of. The land is rough and hilly, forest-clad, but suitable for sheep-grazing when stripped. It has a special value in that it is situated in Waimea County only thirty miles from the City of Nelson.

Extension of Wairoa Forks Block (National Endowment land).—This block adjoins the Lee River hereinbefore described, and has the same characteristics. It contains about 7,000 acres.

7 *Upper Aorere Block*—Area, 3,475 acres. Situated in Collingwood County, in the basin of Brown's River and tributaries of the Aorere River, and extends along the bridle-track Aorere to Heaphy River. Forest-clad, principally hilly. Will make good pastoral land. Distant from Collingwood 18½ miles.

REPORTS AND INSPECTIONS BY CROWN LANDS RANGERS.

Crown Lands Rangers Harris and Hursthouse have accomplished very valuable work during the year. The evidence of their integrity and tact is afforded by the fact that they enjoy the confidence of the Land Board and of the Crown tenants. The success of a land policy under which the Crown tenancy is increasing yearly depends to a very large extent upon the character of the men whose duty it is to move about amongst the tenants and see that the obligations of the latter to the State are fulfilled. It is but natural that settlers in the backblocks struggling in face of difficulties should resent the application of the law if enforced in a cold, unsympathetic manner; hence the value of the official who combines in his methods the *suaviter in modo* with the *fortiter in re*.

The reports of Messrs. Harris, Hursthouse, and Wesley are furnished below. Those of the two first-named officers show that 407 properties, comprising an area of 90,064 acres, were visited and inspected during the year. The value of the improvements required by law on these properties is £15,066; the value of the improvements actually made thereon is £40,143. There were 111 defaulters in respect of improvements, and ninety-three in respect of residence conditions. The great majority of the defaulters are in the Buller County, and it is only right to state that a misconception of the statutory period within which improvements had to be effected prevailed in the minds of many tenants in cases where the land had been selected as "unsurveyed."

Crown Lands Ranger Harris reports as follows: "During the year I have visited and inspected 162 leasehold sections, covering an area of 66,402 acres. The value of improvements required thereon by law was £12,110; the value of improvements effected was £21,980. The number of defaulters for improvements was forty-one, and for non-residence nineteen. In addition to the inspections I have mentioned an area of 51,800 acres of Crown lands was inspected and reported upon for the Land Board with the view of opening it for selection, and seventy-nine miscellaneous inspections and reports were made respecting land, flax, timber, reserves, &c. In the Collingwood and Takaka Counties three leasehold sections were inspected, covering an area of 1,403 acres. The value of improvements required by law was £425, the value of improvements effected £1,590. The lessees had complied with all conditions of their leases. In Buller and Inangahua Counties forty-four inspections were made, covering an area of 16,620 acres. The value of improvements required by law was £1,998, and the value of improvements effected was £2,456. I found that fifteen lessees had not complied with the improvement conditions of the lease, and that five were non-residents. In Waimea and Sounds Counties 115 inspections were made, covering an area of 48,379 acres. Value of improvements required was £9,686, while the value effected was £17,934. The number of defaulters for non-compliance with the improvement conditions of lease was twenty-six, while fourteen had failed to reside on their land. Speaking generally respecting settlement in this district, I am pleased to be able to state that the Crown tenants and freeholders have prospered during the year, good prices having been obtained for wool, sheep, cattle, and produce, thus encouraging them to get additional areas under cultivation. There was keen competition for all lands opened for selection during the year, and those who were successful at the ballots are very well satisfied with their present position and prospects. I estimate the area of bush lands brought under cultivation during the year to be about 7,000 acres, and I am quite within the limit when I say that 5,000 acres more would have been felled if bushmen could have been obtained. I anticipate a scarcity of bushfellers during the coming season, although high prices are being offered. Bush that would have been felled some three years ago for 15s. per acre now costs £1 5s. However, owing to the general prosperity ruling in the district, settlers are quite willing to give the ruling price for felling, they being so anxious to get their lands brought under cultivation."

Ranger Hursthouse reports that during the year he made 245 inspections of land held on lease in perpetuity, occupation with right of purchase, and Mining Districts Land-occupation Act lease, in Buller County, covering an area of 23,661 acres. The value of improvements required by law was £2,957, while the improvements effected are valued at £18,163. Seventy selectors had not complied with the necessary improvement conditions, and seventy-four had not complied with the residence conditions of their leases. In addition to the inspections above mentioned several inspections have been made respecting flax, timber, and reserves, both for the Land Board and for the Warden.

Ranger Wesley, whose duties are confined to timber-ranging principally, reports that during the year 170 miscellaneous inspections have been made for the Land Board and Warden on matters relating to timber, flax, and coal.

REVENUE.

The total gross revenue collected from all sources, including rents from the Westport Harbour Board Endowment and royalties on timber and coal, amounted to £29,070 3s. 2d.—an increase of £3,132 4s. 4d. on the previous year's revenue.

REBATES OF RENTAL.

Rebates of rent granted under "The Crown Tenants' Rent Rebate Act, 1900," and "The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900," during the year amounted to the sum of £70 12s. 7d. Two hundred and twenty-three tenants participated in the grant.

PAYMENT OF "HALVES" TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES UNDER "THE TIMBER AND FLAX ROYALTIES ACT, 1905."

The total amount paid during the year under the authority of the above-named Act was £606 10s. 1d. The Inangahua County Council received £219 7s. 4d., and the Buller County Council £387 2s. 9d. of this sum.

ARREARS OF RENT.

The total amount of arrears of rent is very much less than it has ever been in this district. Exclusive of the current half-yearly instalments, the arrears amount to £348—made up of small amounts—distributed amongst thirty-eight tenants. Only £5 is owing on land held on occupation-with-right-of-purchase tenure, and £4 on land held on lease-in-perpetuity tenure. Of the balance, £160 is owing on mineral leases granted by the Warden. Out of 600 tenants whose holdings are on the principal tenures—viz., lease in perpetuity and occupation with right of purchase—there are only four in arrear, to the value of £9. This result is in a great measure due to the excellent methods of the Receiver of Land Revenue.

FORFEITURES AND SURRENDERS OF LANDS HELD ON PERMANENT TENURE.

During the year five holdings were forfeited for non-payment of rent. These comprise one license held on occupation-with-right-of-purchase tenure, two leases in perpetuity, and two occupation leases under "The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894." Five lessees surrendered their holdings—two of them with the view of obtaining lands on a more permanent tenure than mining-districts-land-occupation lease, one because the area was too small, and one lessee assigned no special reason. The surrendered areas are in every instance small.

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

An area of 38,441 acres was opened during the year subject to the provisions of "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act 1903," under which remission of rent and rates are allowed up to four years. Of this area 26,409 acres were selected by seventy-three selectors. The amount of rental remitted per annum was £442 16s. 4d.

RESERVATIONS.

A total area of 56,967 acres was reserved under section 235 of "The Land Act, 1892," for various purposes during the year. Of this area 46,196 acres were set apart as scenic reserves. These scenic reserves include the forest around the margins of Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti, and a belt of beautiful forest scenery extending for forty-three miles along the main coach-road Nelson to Westport from the Hope River, at intervals, to the Buller Coal Reserve, about fourteen miles from Westport, thus including the celebrated Buller Gorge, one of the principal beauty-spots of the Dominion.

"THIRDS" AND "FOURTHS."

Pursuant to section 126 of "The Land Act, 1892," payment of "thirds" and "fourths" was made during the year to the undermentioned local authorities: Waimea County Council, £328 0s. 10d.; Takaka County Council, £68 7s. 10d.; Collingwood County Council, £57 17s.; Inangahua County Council, £85 16s. 6d.; Buller County Council, £32 12s.; Waimea West Road Board, £4 18s. 3d.; Stoke Road Board, £32 1s.; Upper Moutere Road Board, £12 19s. 7d.; Dovedale Road Board, £7 10s. 9d.; Suburban North Road Board, £2 17s.

TRANSFERS.

Forty-six transfers were approved by the Land Board during the year. Thirty-four related to leases in perpetuity, fifteen to occupation-with-right-of-purchase selections, and seven to occupation leases under "The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894." The Land Board exercised discrimination and judgment in dealing with this important branch of its functions, the dominant motive of the Board being to prevent speculation in Crown lands; and I have no hesitation in affirming that it has been successful in attaining that end.

COAL INDUSTRY.

The principal seat of the coal industry in the Dominion is on the west coast of Nelson, between Westport and the Mokihinui River. In this coalfield there are located the Westport Coal Company's mines, Denniston and Millerton; the Seddonville State Coal-mine; and the coal area about to be mined by the Westport-Stockton Coal Company. The areas held by the Westport Coal Company comprise 5,451 acres, and there is in that area an approximate known supply of coal sufficient to last for eighty years at present rate of output; the output from the Denniston and Millerton Mines for the year ending 31st March, 1908, was 610,759 tons—an increase of 9,846 tons over the previous year; 45,000 tons were exported beyond the Dominion and 565,759 tons were consumed within the Dominion; the total number of men employed by the Westport Coal Company is 1,094. The Seddonville State coal area comprises 2,951 acres; the output during the year was 35,426 tons; there are ninety-two men employed in this mine. The Westport-Stockton Coal Company holds an area of 2,000 acres, but has not yet started operations; an expenditure of £45,000 has, however, been incurred in development; tenders have been let for the rolling-stock and machinery for the bins; the power-house and bin-buildings are in course of construction; the laying of the rails on the formation is proceeding, and the erection of the overhead work of the electric system is being taken in hand; provided no delays occur in the delivery of the machinery, the company expects to ship coal about the end of the present year.

The State briquette-works established at Westport are doing good work. The output at present averages about 300 tons of briquettes per week. The number of hands employed is fifteen.

It is satisfactory to note that the Westport Harbour Board realises the importance of undertaking works of port-equipment of considerable magnitude in view of the immense possibilities of the coal industry in the Buller district. The proposal of the Board is to make Westport an efficient harbour for coaling His Majesty's ships—a worthy object of Imperial as well as local concern.

In the Inangahua district the coal industry has remained stationary during the year. The mines in that district are worked on a small scale, the output being consumed locally. The coal in this portion of Nelson District is equal to any in the Dominion for household purposes. The number of hands employed in connection with coal-mining is thirty-nine; the output for the year is roughly estimated at 12,300 tons.

Of the northern portion of the Nelson District the most that can be said is that if the industry has not developed it has not declined. Although large areas of coal-bearing country are held, the output is very small. It is acknowledged that there are both quality and quantity of coal to warrant more active operations. The Puhonga Mine, which gave promise of permanency, has closed down temporarily owing to another change in management. The Pakawau property is not yet established as a coal-producing mine, but prospecting on the area is being carried on vigorously.

THE TIMBER INDUSTRY.

Little or no improvement has taken place in the timber industry through the northern portion of the Nelson District during the past year. The mills are of small capacity, ill-adapted for a large output, and the scarcity of timber does not warrant the expenditure involved in establishing up-to-date plants. I predict that during the next few years cutting will continue off and on to meet local requirements as heretofore. In about ten years all the available milling-timber will have been cut out between Nelson City and the Tadmor Saddle, and between Motueka and Cape Foulwind. The recent bush-fires have accelerated the extinction of the industry, about 600 acres of good forest on private property and 2,000 acres of State forest having been destroyed.

In the Buller County a slight improvement is noticeable in the timber industry. The majority of the mills there are at work continuously, and large quantities of timber are exported to other districts. Between Westport and Karamea nearly all the mills cut timber off Crown lands, royalty being paid at schedule rates. The principal timber cut is rimu. It is estimated that in about fifteen years the milling-timber on the flats and slopes will have become exhausted.

An important consideration in relation to the Crown forests in the district is the preservation of areas for mining purposes. The expansion of coal-mining in Buller County has induced the Land Board to reserve areas of forest for the supply of timber for the mines.

In Inangahua County the mills cut for local consumption, the timber being utilised principally for purposes in connection with the mining operations which are carried on in the vicinity of Reefton.

The revenue derived from timber during the year—viz., £2,850—taking last year for comparison—places this district third in value of importance in the Dominion, Auckland and Westland Districts taking precedence.

The administration of this portion of the public estate is now run on business lines. Close office supervision and effective field inspection, and the assistance of the Warden, make evasions of the regulations a matter of extreme difficulty. These safeguards are, however, accompanied by a liberal interpretation of the regulations. There is no friction existing as between the sawmillers and the Department—a result in no small degree due to the manner in which the Rangers carry out their duties.

The reports of the Rangers in respect to the timber industry are summarised as follows:—

There are eighty sawmills in the Nelson Land District, eight of which are cutting timber off Westport Harbour Board Endowment lands, forty-eight off freehold lands, and twenty-four off Crown lands. The cutting-capacity of these mills per annum is 69,700,000 superficial feet. Fourteen mills are worked with water generating 145-horse power, and sixty-six with steam generating 765-horse power—total horse-power, 910.

Fifty-nine sawmills supply timber for local purposes, twelve for local purposes and export to other districts, and nine for export only.

The output during the year of different classes of timber cut was 12,047,358 superficial feet rimu, 2,220,565 superficial feet kahikatea, 540,000 superficial feet matai, 925,747 superficial feet birch, 155,000 superficial feet totara, 742,617 superficial feet yellow-pine, 400 superficial feet cedar—total, 16,631,687 superficial feet, an increase of 37,288 ft. over the previous year. The value of the output is approximately £76,008. The number of persons employed in the timber industry is 493, the number of horses 302, and of bullocks 123. There are eighty-one miles of tramway used in connection with the mills.

During the past year eight new mills have been erected. Of the eighty sawmills in the district, twenty-three are situated in the Buller County, fifteen in Inangahua County, and the remainder—orty-two—in the northern portion of the Nelson District.

THE DAIRYING INDUSTRY.

The development of the dairy industry is a matter worthy of notice. In the localities where the industry has been taken up seriously the results show that there are great possibilities ahead of it. There are nine factories established in this district, seven of them in northern Nelson, one at Karamea, and one at Cronadon in the Inangahua Valley. There is a creamery at Ikamatua connected with a factory at Grey Valley, Westland District. There are about 4,100 cows supplying the factories mentioned. The yield of butter for the year is roughly estimated at 270 tons, valued at about £31,000.

Dairying in the settled districts around Nelson City suffered a check owing to the unfavourable conditions attending an unprecedentedly lengthy season of drought. In several localities the farmers ran short of water and pasturage.

At Karamea dairying is now established on a solid basis, and remarkable development has taken place during the last two years. The number of cows supplying the factory is 400, an increase of 100 during the year. The dairy herds are far above the average. The output of butter for the season—September, 1907, to 31st March, 1908—is 62,400 lb., valued at £3,120 approximately. I anticipate an increased output of butter from the Karamea district during the coming year, for there is a large area of splendid country admirably suited for dairying.

The factory recently re-established at Cronadon is turning out about 7,200 lb. of butter per month, all of which finds a local market. There are about 360 cows supplying this factory.

Farmers are engaged clearing their lands in Inangahua Valley with the view to providing milk-walks. Doubtless as the industry develops more attention will be paid to the breed of the dairy herds, and there is urgent need for a reform in that direction.

THE FLAX INDUSTRY.

The flax industry has declined during the year. Following on reduced price of fibre, mills have been working short-handed, and turning out in consequence thereof a reduced quantity of fibre. The price of fibre is the lowest for a number of years—viz., £22—a drop of £9 per ton. In the northern portion of the district there are seven mills, employing sixty-four hands, the quantity of fibre produced being about 300 tons, approximate value £6,600. In the southern portion of the district there are six mills, employing forty-nine hands, the quantity of fibre produced being about 330 tons, valued at £6,600 approximately.

All the Crown lands in this district carrying flax are under lease. Cutting is done on Crown and freehold lands. The flax is naturally grown, no attempt being made to cultivate it further than by draining the swampy ground.

There is a large extent of swampy *pakihis* in Buller County very suitable for the cultivation of flax. The capabilities of this class of land have been tested by an enterprising settler there, who has in three years converted an area of 600 acres of barren swamp into fields of flax by cutting sixteen miles of drains through it. It appears that the seed lies dormant in the swampy ground until drains are cut, when it germinates and grows with rapidity.

BUSH-FIRES.

During the drought which I have referred to in another paragraph eight rural localities in Waimea and Takaka Counties were swept by fire. Altogether about 25,000 acres were burnt, and a very large portion of this area consisted of noxious weeds, fallen bush, and rubbish, on freehold lands—the accumulation of years—the existence of which helped to spread the fire. The regrettable fact is that the clean farmer suffered for the sins of his neighbours. The actual damage done by the fire has been grossly exaggerated. No doubt several small grazing-areas and some fencing were destroyed, and farmers who could ill afford the loss were compelled to sell their stock at prices below its value. The Crown is, however, the greatest loser, 2,000 acres of State forest containing good milling-timber having been burnt or scorched. Regarded from every point of view the fires were a blessing in disguise, for lands that were lying idle have since been sown down in grass. In order to compensate the settlers for the losses which the fires entailed, the Government generously authorised a supply of grass-seed to them, and a total expenditure of £1,022 8s. 11d. has been incurred in this connection on behalf of forty-four settlers—freeholders and Crown lessees—on the security of promissory notes for terms extending from one to four years, as the cases justified, bearing no interest. A further expenditure has been authorised for the purpose of sowing about 2,000 acres of burnt Crown forest, with the object of disposing of the grazing rights thereof on lease, and thus recouping the Government for the outlay.

LAND BOARD.

Eleven ordinary meetings and two special meetings of the Land Board were held during the year at Nelson. Special meetings of the Board were also held at Westport and Reefton for the convenience of the settlers in southern Nelson, and for the purpose of enabling the members of the Board to visit the various localities and familiarise themselves with the actual conditions and requirements of settlers, and the value of the land.

The aim of the Board is primarily directed to the settling of *bona fide* settlers on suitable land at rentals fair to the settler and to the State, and to this end the Land Act is administered in a liberal manner.

A vacancy occurred in the membership of the Board on the 15th December, 1907, and in accordance with the provisions of section 27 of "The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907," which amends the constitution of Land Boards, an election was held on the 31st December, 1907, and resulted in the return of Mr. Sinclair, the retiring member.

DEPARTMENTAL.

The number of letters and telegrams received and despatched during the year was 13,540. The number of vouchers passed through the books for the year was 739, representing a sum of £16,504 12s. 9d.

The work of this district has increased very materially, owing in a large measure to the fact that the Crown tenants are in touch with the Commissioner and the Land Board. It is recognised by the settlers that any applications for assistance will be acceded to, and that any genuine grievance will be inquired into and, if possible, remedied. I have paid several visits to various parts of the district during the year on special business. My thanks are due to both the office and field staffs for their valuable assistance. I could not desire a better or more efficient staff.

F. W. FLANAGAN,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

MARLBOROUGH.

The table below gives a summary of the land transactions within this land district for the year ended 31st March, 1908. The area dealt with is 81,954 acres, selected by sixty persons; and the amount received during the year is £32,955 5s. 4d., or £30 10s. 3d. less than last year; but, as the rent in arrear is this year £90 16s. 10d. more than it was at this time last year, the gross rent we should have collected shows an increase of £60 6s. 7d.

TABLE SHOWING TRANSACTIONS AND REVENUE.

Nature and Tenure of Lands selected.	Number of Selectors.	Area.			Cash received on Past and Current Transactions.		
		A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
Suburban lands	1	16	3	0	418	15	0
Rural lands sold for cash	5	189	2	33	475	1	1
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold ... ..	...	...	...	...	490	17	6
Perpetual leases ... ..	...	...	...	...	30	10	8
Occupation with right of purchase	4	1,017	0	0	535	13	8
Lease in perpetuity	10	3,229	1	15	2,878	3	5
Village settlements—							
Perpetual lease ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	2	6
Lease in perpetuity ... ..	...	...	...	...	15	15	6
Special-settlement associations—							
Perpetual lease ... ..	...	...	...	...	14	14	11
Occupation leases, Mining Districts Land Occupation Act	8	713	0	0	46	7	9
Small grazing-runs ... ..	...	...	...	...	2,905	3	5
Pastoral runs	2	74,750	0	0	3,918	12	2
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	17	1,955	2	11	2,470	13	8
Miscellaneous ... ..	...	...	...	...	163	4	1
Land for Settlements Acts—							
Lease in perpetuity	12	78	2	3	11,065	15	11
Small grazing-runs ... ..	...	...	...	...	6,874	9	8
Miscellaneous leases	1	5	0	0	650	4	5
Totals	60	81,954	3	22	32,955	5	4

Owing to the limited area of suitable Crown lands within this district, the progress of settlement has been very slow, but the demand for good land is as keen as ever.

The total number of selectors now stands at 1,074, or thirty-four more than last year: these are chiefly on some sections taken up in the Rai Valley; selections under section 115 of "The Land Act, 1892," generally in the northern portion of the district; and some miscellaneous licenses. The reasons why section 115 is so greatly used in this district are, chiefly, because in the early days of the settlement all the river-flats and much of the lower slopes of the hills were either purchased or held under lease for a long time, leaving only the poorer lands behind, inaccessible without going to the expense of acquiring expensive road-rights through the freeholds—rights which generally would exceed the total value of the lands to be benefited. This form of settlement, although valuable in enabling the settlers to extend small sections and make their holdings large enough to make a living from, greatly increases the cost of the surveys. The settlers in the northern division of the district have very much to contend with, because the soil is frequently poor, is much subject to reversion to fern and rubbish, and appears to be singularly suitable to the growth of all kinds of noxious weeds; it is also frequently broken and rocky land. Fortunately, it has a much greater rainfall than the district south of the Wairau River; but even this part has suffered a good deal by the drought, and consequently there has been a great deal of damage done by bush-fires, causing loss of fencing, grass, and stock.

GRASS-SEED.

The Government has assisted the settlers in this part of the district very materially by supplying them with grass-seed, to be paid for within four years. Twenty-two settlers have had assistance given to them in this way, at a total cost of £1,717. About 1,650 acres of Crown land, which had the bush burnt off it, has been sown at a cost, up to date, of £1,550 3s. 0d. This will be recovered by loading its cost on to the land as it is selected. The fires causing the loss of grass, stock, and fencing, although considerable, have done an immense amount of good in clearing off many badly burnt clearings, which, under normal conditions, would have taken a great deal of labour and years to have got into the same state as they now present, and when the soreness of the loss is healed the fire will be appreciated as probably one of the best things that could have happened to the settlers.

The area of bush felled during the year has been roughly estimated at 900 acres, but there has also been burnt a considerable area of standing bush.

The flax-dressing industry, although just now in rather a depressed condition, has been of considerable assistance to the settlers during the year, and in some cases has formed a welcome addition to the receipts.

A small quantity of gold is still being obtained in the Wakamarina and other valleys, but I fear the amount won gives but a poor return for the labour expended.

The southern portion of the district south of the Wairau River contains most of our tenants and the Land for Settlements estates, which are reported upon separately. This portion also contains most of the pastoral country, chiefly rough mountainous country, and some fertile plains and valleys, and also the Kaikoura district, a very fine tract of country, where the settlers are making very good progress, and, owing to the greater rainfall, have done relatively better than those farther north. The last year has been phenomenally dry all over the district, but it has been exceptionally so on the country between the Wairau and Clarence Rivers. By the kindness of some of the meteorological observers I am able to give the winter and summer rainfalls for the year, the mean annual fall, and the quantity this year's fall is below the mean of other years:—

Station.	Winter Fall, April to September.	Summer Fall, October to March.	Total Fall, Year 1907–8.	Mean Annual Rain- fall of Pre- vious Years.	Last Year below Mean Annual Rain- fall.
	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.
Manaroa, Pelorus Sound ...	35.50	17.01	52.51	59.33	6.82
Marshlands, north-east Wairau Plain	18.61	4.80	23.41	28.77	5.36
Grovetown, middle Wairau Plain ...	13.58	5.48	19.06	25.73	6.67
Timara, south-west end Wairau Plain	14.23	4.79	19.02	27.71	8.69
Starborough Nursery ...	13.32	4.0	17.32	24.09	6.77
Cape Campbell ...	18.80	3.29	22.09	26.76	4.67

This shows a very material decrease from the mean of other years. The details of the monthly rainfalls, if they could be obtained, would probably give some striking results. I may mention that the average rainfall for most of the stations available—excluding Manaroa, in the Pelorus Sound—was only 2.42 in. from the 1st October, 1907, to the end of February, 1908, a period of five months; and when it is remembered that during a considerable portion of this time there was a strong dry wind blowing, it is not very surprising that many of the small streams dried up, and that most of the crops were not up to the average yield, except in localities where the land is of a naturally damp nature. The shortness of grass, the almost complete failure of turnip and rape crops, both locally and in Canterbury—which latter not only deprived the settlers of their best market for store sheep, but rendered it almost impossible to hold them until better conditions prevailed—have seriously affected the receipts from pastoral lands. Some of the settlers, taking warning by previous dry seasons, have erected dams for the purpose of storing part of the usually abundant rainfall: I feel sure that if others could see their way to do more of this work they would be amply repaid for their outlay. The settlers in the Kaikoura district have made very good and substantial progress during the year, and, as they were only slightly affected by the drought, and have good soil to work on, their prospects are good.

I may remark that, notwithstanding the severity of the drought, and the subsequent drop in the value of store sheep, the low price of wool, and the losses by fire, there appears to be no appreciable drop in the value of the goodwill of the leaseholds throughout the district.

Out of the various tenures under which Crown land has been taken up within this district, the lease in perpetuity still holds pride of place. The total number of holdings is 1,074: out of this number, lease-in-perpetuity lessees hold 201,748 acres, held by 659 holders.

Small Grazing-runs.—The area held by 109 persons under this tenure is 255,118 acres—that is, thirteen less than last year, and 5,023 acres less in area. This represents a surrender, and several exchanges of small holdings to lease in perpetuity.

Occupation Licenses under "The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894."—There were eight selections and one forfeiture made during the year, leaving twenty-six selectors, holding 1,818 acres, now on our books. These pay an annual rental of £56 16s. Most of these licenses are situated in the Wakamarina Valley. Some of these have made good use of their holdings; but some are doing very little to improve them, and appear to be satisfied with a residence and a little grazing for a cow or two. Now that these holdings can be exchanged for renewable leases under section 19 of "The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907," they may be able to increase the size, and then better results may be expected.

REBATES OF RENT.

Rebates for prompt payment of rents during the year have amounted to £2,130 7s. 2d., distributed among 612 Crown tenants.

SURRENDERS.

There were five forfeitures and one surrender during the year; two of the forfeitures were at the request of the holders, who could not pay the rent, and three were for non-payment of rent. These surrenders are generally only small areas of poor land of no great value; but three of them have been taken up again by other persons.

DEPARTMENTAL.

Twelve ordinary meetings of the Land Board have been held during the year. Ninety-nine transfers and 119 mortgages were dealt with. The number of letters received and despatched was 5,618, and 2,148 rent notices were issued: total, 7,866; also large numbers of sale plans, &c. In the office

of the Receiver of Land Revenue, besides the gross revenue for the year, amounting to £32,955 5s. 4d., for which 1,884 receipts were issued, a sum of £1,826 14s. 6d. was paid into Deposit Account, against which 395 receipts and cheques were issued. A sum of £2,212 19s. 9d. was paid into the Local Bodies Deposit Account, out of which £1,260 0s. 11d. was paid to the local bodies.

In the Accountant's office 192 vouchers, totalling £2,011 0s. 10d., were drawn against the Imprest Account, and 118 vouchers, representing £6,284 18s. 3d., were passed through for pre-audit and payment, making a total of 310 vouchers, representing an expenditure of £8,295 19s. 1d.

F. STEPHENSON SMITH,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

WESTLAND.

CROWN LANDS OPENED FOR SELECTION.

The following table exhibits the manner in which Crown lands were opened for sale or lease during the year :—

	Renewable Lease.	Lease in Perpetuity.	Village Homestead on Lease in Perpetuity.	Pastoral Runs.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Offered for first time ...	3,577	1,407	—	—
Offered previously ...	495	1,076	33	118,000
	4,072	2,483	33	118,000

LAND DISPOSED OF.

The subjoined table sets forth the results of land-administration in this district for the year :—

Class of Selection.	Transactions during the Year.			Leasehold Areas held on 31st March, 1907.			Revenue received during the Year.				
	Number.	Area.		Number.	Area.						
		A.	R.	P.		A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
Perpetual lease ... ..	...	...			7	580	1	8	27	2	4
Occupation with right of purchase	...	...			106	18,590	0	24	526	4	7
Lease in perpetuity	53	9,124	0	19	489	68,062	0	20	1,013	10	11
Lease in perpetuity, land for settlements	...	...			27	4,990	1	4	535	17	0
Lease in perpetuity, village settlements	2	0	1	30	12	198	2	17	12	7	0
Renewable lease	14	2,847	0	0	14	2,847	0	0	46	10	0
Mining Districts Land Occupation Act	19	331	3	2	25	468	0	5	17	2	2
Pastoral runs	36	64,421	1	29	210	603,995	1	33	962	3	7
Miscellaneous leases	33	21,913	1	28	254	96,659	0	0	668	10	0
Miscellaneous leases, land for settlements	...	...			1	8	2	0	...		
Endowments ... ..	...	...			3	1,621	2	5	3,415	2	0
Timber licenses ... ..	...	...			...	...			9,693	1	9
Flax licenses ... ..	...	...			...	...			296	17	9
Other sources ... ..	...	...			...	...			152	3	2
Transfer lease and license fees	...	...			...	...			161	5	0
Village settlements for cash	1	1	2	0	...	...			12	10	0
Totals	158	98,639	2	28	1,148	798,020	3	36	17,540	7	3

REVENUE.

The revenue for the year amounts, as shown above, to £17,540 7s. 3d., or £265 10s. 8d. above the estimate, and £2,216 18s. 6d. more than last year. The revenue for the coming year is estimated at £20,882 11s. 10d., and is based upon additional timber and coal royalties, and also upon rentals now becoming due on leaseholds hitherto rent-free under the provisions of the Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, and likewise upon increased receipts from new lands to be offered during the coming year under the various settlement tenures.

REVIEW OF THE CURRENT SYSTEMS OF TENURE.

Cash.—Only three sections in the Kokatahi Village Settlement have been sold for cash during the year. As the whole of this district is within a mining district, no rural lands have been offered for cash.

Occupation with Right of Purchase.—The area held under this tenure remains the same as last year, as there have been no new selections and no cancellations during the year. The improvement conditions have been satisfactorily performed, as is evidenced by the fact that the required improvements amounted to £7,377 8s. 10d., and improvements have actually been effected to the value of £13,713 18s.

Lease in Perpetuity.—Twelve sections, comprising an area of 2,484 acres, were offered during the year. Of these, three sections, of 1,407 acres, were offered under the provisions of "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903." 1,575 acres were selected by four tenants. In addition to these, 7,549 acres, offered during former years, were selected by forty-nine tenants. A number of inquiries have been received from holders under this tenure who desire to take advantage of the opportunity of acquiring the freehold as allowed by section 20 of "The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907."

Mining Districts Land Occupation.—On account of the minimum area allowed under the regulations for the occupation of pastoral lands in Westland being 25 acres, this is the only tenure available for miners and others who desire to obtain leases of small areas in portions of the district which are contiguous to gold-workings. Most of the leases include residence areas, the holders of which have to surrender these before obtaining a new title to the extended acreage. There are at present twenty-five lessees, holding 468 acres, of which 332 acres, included in nineteen leases, have been taken up during the year.

Pastoral Runs.—Eleven runs, comprising an area of 62,152 acres, have been selected during the year, and of these, three, of 50,000 acres, are under section 189 of "The Land Act, 1892," the remainder being temporary grazing licenses. Most of the areas held under this tenure are bush-covered, and as the licensees formerly could not be granted the right to fell and grass, the runs were used almost exclusively for cattle. The power given by section 55 of "The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907," to allow areas to be cleared and grassed will considerably increase the carrying-capacity of these runs, while the right to full valuation for all improvements effected will popularise this system of tenure, and will encourage settlers in outlying districts to expend their money and labour in making the runs more reproductive.

Pastoral Lands within Mining Districts.—As mining operations are at present being carried on in the northern portion of the district, this is the only tenure under which settlers can select land in fair-sized areas with sufficient security of tenure to warrant their laying out money in improvements. Areas that would in other districts be available for selection under the optional system are therefore leased under these special regulations, and the settlers appreciate the assistance given them by section 19 of "The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907," by which they are entitled, with the consent of the Warden, to exchange to renewable lease. I anticipate that the whole of these lessees will, as opportunity offers, take advantage of this right. The Land Board has insisted on survey of all areas granted under this tenure. An area of 14,534 acres is at present held by ninety-five tenants, paying an annual rent of £295. The improvements due under the leases total £1,132, while the actual value of improvements effected is almost £6,000. These figures fully evince the *bona fides* of the selectors, who have thus been enabled to take up lands from which they were previously debarred. These regulations have proved a splendid solution of the settlement of areas within the goldfield—alike satisfactory to the miners and farmers.

Twenty-five leases, covering an area of 2,269 acres, have been granted during the year.

Miscellaneous Leases.—During the year thirty-three miscellaneous leases, of which six are flax leases, have been taken up, the total area amounting to 21,913 acres. These selections bring the total up to 254 leases, covering 96,659 acres. A number of these leases are situated in districts where the Warden would not agree to more permanent tenures; but as the gold becomes worked out, the areas will be surrendered and permanent titles applied for.

Renewable Lease.—Only one poster of land under this tenure was issued during the year, and 75 per cent. of the sections offered were selected. There are at present fourteen leases held, covering an area of 2,847 acres.

INSPECTIONS AND REPORTS.

The Crown Lands Rangers have inspected each permanent leasehold in the district, and submitted reports to the Land Board, which has considered each case of default on its merits, and where it was proved that *bona fide* settlement was intended extension of time for compliance has been allowed. Lessees in the southern portion of the district have been treated with extra leniency on account of the inaccessibility of their holdings, but in every case the Land Board has given them to understand that non-compliance with the conditions of their leases will not be tolerated.

The Crown Lands Rangers have been fully occupied with inspections and reports for the Land Board, special inspections for Wardens, and general oversight of timber-cutters and sawmillers.

Mr. Ranger Meharry reports that during the past year he made 210 inspections of the different mills, and has made eighty reports for the Warden on sawmill areas, besides inspecting the sleeper-cutters, firewood-cutters, and mining-timber cutters.

Mr. Macfarlane reports that during the past year 422 holdings have been inspected and reported upon, of a total area of 62,250 acres. The required improvements were £23,318 14s. 3d., and improvements effected £63,522 2s. Also, 130 inspections have been made for the Land Board, fourteen residence-sites and eleven timber areas for the Warden, and seven flax-mill areas, making a total of 584 inspections.

POSITION AND PROGRESS OF SETTLEMENT.

The whole of the district has been favoured with splendid weather, and the oaten and meadow crops are far above the average. The northern end of the district from Ross to the upper Grey still shows steady improvement among the tenantry, new areas being cleared for grazing and dairying purposes. The means of access being good and markets handy, the tenants at this end have a decided advantage over those in the south.

Two milking-machines have been installed, one at Kokatahi and the other at Arahura, and the owners are quite satisfied with results. We are given to understand that six more machines will be in operation next season at Wanganui Flat, where a cheese-factory is now in course of construction, and no doubt as soon as the Wanganui and Wataroa are bridged other factories will be erected at Wataroa and Waiho.

All the flax-mills with the exception of the one at the Cascade have shut down, slump in the price of flax being the cause.

Taking the whole of the district from one end to the other, the harvesting operations have been first-class. Some very good yields of turnips in the far south have been recorded, but as a rule the turnip and cabbage crops have been ruined by the white fly this season.

Fat stock have been plentiful, and large numbers of stores have been purchased and taken south.

The butter-factories in the district are all doing well.

The present outlook for the district is decidedly encouraging, and many of the settlers who formerly utilised their holdings for rearing and fattening cattle are now turning their attention to dairying. There are now three dairy factories in the district, while another is now in course of erection at the Wanganui River. Reports furnished during the year show that settlers are effecting substantial improvements and keeping their holdings in good order.

The following schedule shows the position with reference to improvements on each of the permanent tenures :—

	Improvements required.			Improvements effected.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Lease in perpetuity	11,150	14	9	26,842	12	0
Occupation with right of purchase ..	8,078	11	10	15,558	3	0
Leases under regulations within mining districts	1,132	9	0	5,824	0	0
Lease in perpetuity, land for settlement ..	2,211	14	8	12,134	2	0

Township of Runanga.—The progress noted last year in this township has been fully maintained, and lessees still continue to improve their sections and erect houses of very fair quality. During the year the Land Board has forfeited thirty-four leases for non-compliance with improvement conditions. Residence will shortly be due on a number of these sections, and steps will be taken to procure a report in order that the Land Board may deal with all cases of default.

REBATES OF RENTAL.

Rebates of rent were allowed during the year to the amount of £131 3s. 5d., an increase of £60 6s. 10d. over the amount allowed last year.

ARREARS OF RENTAL.

Payments of rent due during the year have been made very promptly, as evidenced by the increase in rebates. The arrears amount only to £6 18s. 9d. due by ten tenants.

FORFEITURES AND SURRENDERS.

On account of failure to comply with the conditions of their leases, the holdings of thirty-four lessees in the Runanga Township and also one holding in the Runanga Village Settlement were forfeited. One pastoral license and eight miscellaneous leases were forfeited for non-payment of rent, while the holdings of three other miscellaneous lessees were forfeited, as the land was required for settlement. The surrenders include one lease in perpetuity, the holder of which was unable to comply with conditions; twelve miscellaneous leases and temporary grazing-leases, which were surrendered by the lessees and taken up by them on permanent tenures; and one pastoral license, the holder of which was deceased.

FORESTS.

The timber industry has increased for the year by 6,423,773 ft., the total output for the year being 51,357,586 ft. Fifty-two mills are working, against forty-seven last year, an increase of five mills. Up-to-date machinery is being used to the greatest advantage so as to minimise the cost of production as much as possible.

The greater part of the milling is still in the northern part of the district, but as the means of access by the extension of the railway southwards improves, much of the southern forests will be utilised. Inquiries keep coming in for extra timber areas. Over a thousand hands find employment directly in connection with sawmilling; and, with the sleeper-cutters, firewood-splitters, and others engaged in obtaining timber for mining purposes, another 250 hands are employed. Everything points to a profitable year, as prices are good. Being mostly an export trade, with a return of ready money, the whole district reaps a benefit. The sleepers cut number 85,000. 1,800 telegraph-poles, all of silver-pine, also 250 extra-large heart-of-rimu poles for electric power have been cut.

WOOD-PULPING.

The provisions of section 72 of "The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907," have opened the way for a new industry in this district, where there are large areas of mountainous country covered with small timber which is useless for sawmilling or other industrial purposes. Two areas, aggregating 50,000 acres, situated on both banks of the Teremakau River, have been set apart for the purpose, and a company is to be floated to install a plant to work the area, and I hope to see the industry started at an early date. Should this venture prove successful, it is probable that other mills will be started, as there are large areas available in different parts of the district carrying timber suitable for the manufacture of wood-pulp.

FLAX-MILLING.

During the year steps have been taken by the flax-millers at Wataroa, Paroa, Poerua, and Barrytown to procure permanent titles to areas of land for the purpose of growing flax. Considerable sums have been expended in draining, but the unfortunate slump in the flax-market has had the effect of stopping operations. We trust, however, that the stoppage will only be temporary, as enterprise of this nature is deserving of reward. Royalty has been paid on 5,117 tons of green flax cut from Crown lands, but unless the value of hemp increases it is improbable that as much will be cut during the coming year, as the cost of getting the flax to market is heavy.

CROWN LANDS FOR DISPOSAL DURING THE YEAR.

The Crown lands at present available and to be thrown open during the year are set out in table below:—

	Town and Suburban Lands.	Rural Lands.		Pastoral Runs.
		Surveyed.	Unsurveyed.	
<i>Lands now open for Selection.</i>				
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
	34	1,225	...	68,000
<i>Lands to be thrown open for Selection.</i>				
	98	41,499	38,320	679,800
Total lands available during the year ...	132	42,724	38,320	747,800

The town and suburban lands comprise sections in the Townships of Runanga, Ahaura, Rohutu, and Roa, and in the Village of Waitaha.

The areas of rural land include land withdrawn from selection to be reoffered under "The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907," and also areas of bush-clad land at present in course of survey in all parts of the district. The whole of the rural land, being situated within the mining district, will be offered on renewable lease only.

PAYMENTS TO LOCAL BODIES.

Payments to local bodies have been made during the year as under :—

	Westland County.			[Grey County.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
"Halves" under "The Timber and Flax Royalties Act, 1905"	1,346	7	0	3,089	18	9
"Thirds" under "The Land Act, 1892"	658	8	9	145	17	6
	£2,004	15	9	£3,235	16	3

The total payments for the year amount to £5,240 12s., being an increase of £1,627 0s. 3d. over the amount paid last year. These amounts have been paid over only after careful consideration of the proposals for expenditure submitted by the local bodies.

ERADICATION OF NOXIOUS WEEDS.

An unexpended balance of £152 8s. 9d. was brought forward under this heading from last year, and of this £147 4s. 3d. was expended under the supervision of the Inspector of Stock in clearing ragwort and Californian thistle from river-bed and Crown lands to prevent these weeds from spreading on to adjoining alienated land which had already been cleared. A large amount of necessary work still remains to be done.

DEPARTMENTAL.

Thirteen ordinary and special meetings of the Land Board have been held during the year. 1,028 applications for land were received and dealt with. In addition to these, many applications for approval of transfers and mortgages, Rangers' reports, and other business were dealt with. The number of letters dealt with was 8,000; notices sent out, 4,134.

The Receiver of Land Revenue's dealings totalled £17,540 7s. 3d., for which 1,574 receipts were issued.

Three hundred and seventy-three leases have been made out, 384 returns and reports submitted, 175 audit cards sent, and 1,166 posters forwarded to applicants for land.

In the Accountant's branch 1,488 vouchers, and 2,590 cheques, for £21,461 8s. 3d., were drawn on Imprest Account.

I have much pleasure in acknowledging the faithful help which has been rendered by the staff during the past year, and would especially record my thankful appreciation of the able administration of the Department by the Chief Draughtsman, who was so cordially assisted by the other officers during my recent illness.

G. J. ROBERTS,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

CANTERBURY.

LANDS OPENED FOR SELECTION.

The area of land offered for public disposal during the past year has been very small, owing to the paucity of available Crown lands in the district. The total number of allotments offered for disposal after public advertisement was 122, comprising a total area of 1,265 acres 2 roods 1 perch.

The lands offered for cash sale at auction consisted of sixty-four allotments in the Township of Hinds, and 22 allotments in the newly established Tekapo Village, at the southern end of Lake Tekapo, on the coach-road to Mount Cook: out of these two blocks fifteen allotments were sold, nearly all at the upset prices, and realised £95. The rural lands similarly offered consisted of three allotments in the Weld, Hororata, and Shepherd's Bush Districts; the upset price was £600, and the price realised was £920. The rural allotment of 271 acres in the Fighting Hill District, offered under the optional system, was selected for cash. The ten village-homestead allotments offered for renewable lease are situated in the Stour Village Settlement, near the Mount Somers Coal-pit, and were previously open under the lease-in-perpetuity system; there does not, however, appear to be any demand at present for small lots in this locality. The seventeen blocks offered for lease by auction or tender are situated in various localities, and were all disposed of, the total upset rentals being £84 7s. 6d. and the rentals realised £193 0s. 6d. per annum.

LAND TRANSACTIONS.

The following table shows the number of land transactions during the year, and the area represented thereby; the number of selectors and area held under the various tenures at the 31st March, 1908; and the total revenue received from all sources during the year :—

Tenure.	Transactions during Year.				Area held at 31s March, 1908.				Revenue received during the Year.
	Number of Se- lectors.	Area.			Number of Holders.	Area.			
Cash lands—		A.	R.	P.		A.	R.	P.	£ s. d.
Town	9	11	2	26·2	...	...	...	...	95 0 0
Suburban ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rural	5	17,081	0	5	...	...	...	...	1,554 6 10
Deferred payments—									
Rural and pastoral ... ..	...	...	...	...	4	8,914	0	10	1,028 12 5
Village ... ..	...	...	...	...	7	64	3	3	24 13 0
Made freehold	1	300	0	0	...	...	...	...	...
Perpetual lease—					0				
Ordinary ... ..	...	...	...	...	26	1,443	1	35	111 10 7
Village ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	198	2	7	86 2 4
Made freehold	3	584	1	38	...	...	...	...	793 2 2
Occupation with right of purchase—									
Ordinary ... ..	...	...	...	...	25	4,608	2	23	249 8 1
Village ... ..	...	...	...	...	8	2	2	0	3 9 4
Made freehold	1	125	0	0	...	...	...	...	187 10 0
Lease in perpetuity—									
Ordinary, Crown ... ..	...	...	...	...	246	75,604	2	23	3,828 9 4
Village, Crown ... ..	...	...	...	...	18	8	2	0	8 2 10
Lake Ellesmere ... ..	...	...	...	...	68	13,937	0	0	1,265 9 4
Conversions to lease in perpetuity—									
Ordinary	5	93	2	2	...	...	...	...	...
Village homestead	2	50	0	0	...	...	...	...	...
Farm homestead ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Village - homestead special settle- ment—									
Perpetual lease ... ..	...	...	...	...	67	1,389	2	36	196 10 1
Lease in perpetuity, Crown ... ..	...	...	...	...	193	7,176	2	4	638 14 4
Lease in perpetuity, Lake Elles- mere ... ..	...	...	...	...	57	1,419	1	3	280 3 9
Farm homestead—									
Perpetual lease ... ..	...	...	...	...	10	669	0	8	49 0 10
Lease in perpetuity, Crown ... ..	...	...	...	...	20	1,867	2	9	92 12 6
Small grazing-runs, Crown ... ..	...	...	...	...	55	133,734	0	19	5,975 14 1
Pastoral licenses—									
Crown	3	1,164	1	0	138	3,430,204	2	32	34,744 0 7
Miscellaneous occupation licenses—									
Crown	72	3,982	0	32	604	77,254	2	21	3,406 6 4
Lake Ellesmere	2	122	0	0	17	1,250	2	10	92 10 3
Endowment ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	195 0 0
State forests	1	3,842	0	0	22	12,139	2	14	360 14 0
Timber licenses	4	880	2	0	22	3,730	1	8	216 5 6
Mineral licenses	2	128	3	9	8	1,527	3	9	78 8 0
Other sources ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	583 17 11
Cheviot Estate.									
Lease in perpetuity ... ..	...	...	...	...	118	24,392	1	2	5,889 12 0
Village homestead ... ..	...	...	...	...	92	2,480	1	0	790 10 3
Grazing farms ... ..	...	...	...	...	49	45,846	1	26	7,215 9 9
Pastoral licenses ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	1,642	0	0	193 3 8
Miscellaneous occupation licenses...	2	130	1	0	60	1,377	3	26	204 17 2
Land for Settlements.									
Lease in perpetuity	7	4	0	14	1,142	175,238	0	3	59,888 14 0
Renewable lease	1	462	0	0	1	462	0	0	194 17 6
Farm homestead ... ..	...	...	...	...	11	2,114	1	9	147 15 6
Small grazing-runs ... ..	...	...	...	...	44	81,161	0	26	9,662 8 6
Miscellaneous occupation licenses	3	9	1	15	38	969	0	6	281 2 4
Other sources ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	386 10 5
Cash sales	2	1	1	13	...	...	...	...	45 15 11
Workers' dwellings	4	0	3	22·2	13	3	0	2·4	300 17 1
Totals	129	28,973	1	16·4	3,194	4,112,832	1	14·4	141,347 8 6

The transactions for the year show a very marked decrease from the previous period, the figures for which were 171 selectors, area 53,191 acres, 1,100 20 perches. The principal decrease appears under the heads of small grazing and pastoral runs, miscellaneous occupation licenses, and land for settle-

ments, the last-named because no fresh estates have been acquired and offered during the year. The number of selectors and area held at the close of the year show an increase of forty-one selectors, but a decrease of about 21,000 acres in the area held, owing to deductions from the areas occupied under pastoral license. The total revenue for the year represents an increase of £9,833 0s. 7d. over the previous period.

PAYMENTS OF RENT, REBATES, AND ARREARS.

The total annual rental payable by the 3,194 Crown tenants, who occupy an area of 4,112,832 acres 1 rood 14 perches, is £142,987 10s. 1d., and the actual rental-payments received in respect of these lands for the year amounted to £137,701 5s. 3d. The arrears due at the close of the year (excluding payments for current unexpired periods) amounted to £1,220 18s. 3d., owing by fifty-six tenants, occupying a total area of 16,291 acres 3 roods 36 perches. These arrears represent, as regards the number of tenants, a percentage of $1\frac{1}{2}$, and as regards the amount owing, under 1 per cent., of the total. The percentages for the previous year were, of tenants 3 per cent., and of rental $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and, considering that the past season has not been a favourable one for the farming community, the result may be regarded as satisfactory.

The customary rebate of 10 per cent. granted under the provisions of "The Crown Tenants' Rent Rebate Act, 1900," and "The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900," was obtained by 1,934 tenants, the amount so remitted being £8,335 19s. 10d., an increase of 179 tenants and £389 7s. 5d. on the preceding year.

FORFEITURES AND SURRENDERS.

During the year thirteen holdings, comprising an area of 249 acres 1 rood 23 perches, were forfeited, and surrenders were accepted at the request of the occupiers in respect of eight holdings, comprising 2,435 acres and 10·2 perches. Of these, three leases in perpetuity, totalling $59\frac{1}{2}$ acres, were forfeited; one lease in perpetuity, of 462 acres, surrendered; and one workers'-dwelling lease of 36·2 perches surrendered; and all the other tenancies forfeited and surrendered belonged to the miscellaneous-occupation-license tenure.

TRANSFERS AND EXCHANGES.

The total number of settlement holdings transferred during the year has been 179, with an aggregate area of 39,250 acres 1 rood 33 perches, made up as follows:—

	Number.	Area.		
		A.	R.	P.
Leases in perpetuity, all classes	127	19,833	1	29
Village-homestead leases, all classes	32	1,041	3	29
Small grazing-runs and grazing-farms	12	17,333	0	16
Occupation-with-right-of-purchase licenses	5	981	3	11
Other tenures	3	60	0	28

The figures show a decrease of twenty-one holdings and 3,964 acres from the transfers effected during the previous year.

Seven holdings, comprising an area of 143 acres 2 roods 2 perches, were exchanged from perpetual lease to lease in perpetuity prior to the abolition of the latter tenure.

"THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT ACT, 1907."

Under the provisions of this Act an area of 1,330,000 acres in the Canterbury District was set apart for the purposes of the National Endowments. The whole of this area is occupied under existing pastoral and small-grazing-run licenses. The aggregate rentals now being derived from these lands are as follows:—

	Area in Acres.	Rental.		
		£	s.	d.
Pastoral-run licenses	1,209,827	17,876	12	11
Small-grazing-run leases	93,962	3,281	11	8

EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENTS.

Two blocks of land which have hitherto been administered by the Crown have this year been handed over to educational governing bodies. The first consisted of a block of 16,700 acres of pastoral land in the vicinity of Hakataramea. This block was sold for a nominal sum of £500 to the Board of Governors of the Canterbury Agricultural College under the provisions of "The Canterbury Agricultural College Reserves Act, 1905," the Board being already the owner of an adjoining endowment reserve, with which the other land could most conveniently be worked. As a sum of money was received in respect of this dealing, it appears in the tables as land disposed of for cash. The second block was known as the Coldstream University Reserve, in the Ashburton County, and comprised an area of 1,480 acres 2 roods 8 perches. This has been handed over to the Board of Governors of Canterbury College, in terms of "The Canterbury College Endowment Act, 1907," that body receiving also the accumulated rents collected in respect of the reserve since the 1st April, 1881.

RESERVES.

During the year an area of 3,926 acres 2 roods 36 perches has been set apart as reserves for various purposes, the principal area being a block of 3,850 acres at Mount Oxford for forest and climatic purposes, in connection with the conservation of sources of water-supply for the adjacent district.

SCENERY-PRESERVATION.

In my last report reference was made to the acquisition of an area of 52 acres 2 roods 39 perches, known as Kennedy's Bush, on the summit of the Port Hills, near Christchurch, comprising one of the best of the few remaining areas of native bush in this vicinity. The reserve so made has recently been extended by the purchase of an additional adjoining area of 44 acres 1 rood 1 perch, the funds being provided jointly by the Government and the citizens. Steps are now being taken for the improvement of the road which leads along the summit of the hills to the bush.

An area of 480 acres 2 roods of excellent native bush situated at Peel Forest has also been acquired from the owners, the trustees of the late Messrs. Tripp and Acland, who were granted Crown lands of equal value by way of exchange, under the powers obtained by section 73 of "The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907." This locality has for many years been a favourite picnic and holiday resort, and it is hoped that its acquisition will secure its preservation for popular enjoyment.

TIMBER, FORESTS, ETC.

Notwithstanding the exceedingly dry season experienced during the past year, it is satisfactory to report that no serious bush-fires have occurred on Crown lands in the district.

The number of splitting and sawmilling licenses in existence at the close of the year was twenty-two, covering an area of 3,730 acres 1 rood 8 perches, from which a revenue of £216 5s. 6d. in fees and royalties has been received.

The Mackenzie County Council continues to carry on planting operations on reserves in the treeless Mackenzie country, the revenue being derived from the occupation of reserves set apart for this purpose.

MINERAL LEASES.

There are now in existence in the district eight mineral leases for coal-mining on Crown lands; the area occupied is 1,527 acres 3 roods 9 perches, and the revenue received £78 8s. One of these leases is situated in the Malvern Hills, near Whitecliffs; two at Broken River, near the Midland Railway line, but these are not yet worked, pending the completion of the railway to a point at which the coal can be brought out to a market; four near Mount Somers; and one recently opened up at the Waitohi Hills, near Geraldine.

WORKERS' DWELLINGS.

Thirteen workers' dwellings, situated at Sydenham, are now in occupation, and the sum of £300 17s. 1d. has been collected in rents during the year. The rents are regularly paid, and the properties are maintained in neat condition by the tenants.

The erection of eleven more dwellings of four, five, and six rooms on the same block is now in hand.

RANGERS' INSPECTIONS, AND CONDITIONS OF SETTLEMENT.

Exclusive of the land-for-settlements holdings, which are dealt with in a separate report, the majority of the Crown lands occupied under settlement conditions in the district have been held for extended periods, and statutory residence and improvements are no longer compulsory. The Ranger for North Canterbury reports that the only recently selected lands were the five small grazing-runs in the Hororata District, and these holders have fulfilled requirements for the first year of occupation. Amongst the holdings of the low-lying lands around Lake Ellesmere, a few lessees are deficient in value of improvements effected, owing to the damage periodically caused to fences and other improvements by the rising of the lake-waters; stock, however, thrive well on the native vegetation which grows when the water subsides, and with the advantage of creameries in the vicinity most of the tenants are doing well. In the Oxford District the settlers on the plains suffered from the dry season, which killed out the cultivated grasses; some damage also resulted by grass-fires, but fortunately not to any serious extent. In the Ashburton County the Ranger reports that most of the tenants appear to be in a prosperous condition; the farmers devote more attention to growing turnips and sheep, and less to grain-crops, whereby the land is kept in better order. In South Canterbury the tenants on the lighter plain lands have suffered from the dry season, and will experience a shortage of winter feed, accentuated by partial failure of root-crops. On the hill lands between Geraldine and Fairlie, and from Burke's Pass to Waimate, which are occupied under the lease-in-perpetuity and small-grazing-run tenures in fair-sized blocks, the tenants have not felt the effects of the season so severely; the holdings are well kept, and, although in some cases the improvements fall short of the rather large amounts required by law, still the lessees have generally effected as much as can reasonably and profitably be placed on the land. The holdings are kept in good order, and surface-sowing has been done to some extent, with satisfactory results.

The reports on the village settlements in all parts of the district show that the conditions of occupation are satisfactorily fulfilled; the holdings are well kept, and the tenants are in fairly comfortable circumstances, being generally able to obtain a reasonable amount of employment near their homes.

DEPARTMENTAL.

Owing to the very limited area of land that has been available for selection during the year, only thirty-nine statutory applications for land have been received, but the Land Board has dealt with large numbers of applications for transfer of Crown leases, besides the very numerous other questions arising out of the occupation of Crown lands under the 3,194 leases and licenses existing within the district. The inward and outward correspondence has totalled over 23,000 letters, and

over 1,000 sale plans and posters have been distributed. In the Accountant's office 253 vouchers, representing a sum of £10,326 Os. 11d., have been passed through for pre-audit and payment, and 238 vouchers, of a value of £2,229 17s. 6d., have been drawn against the Imprest Account. In the office of the Receiver of Land Revenue 5,964 receipts were issued for the year's revenue of £141,347 8s. 6d.; a sum of £2,777 17s. 1d. was paid into deposit account, against which 154 receipts and cheques were drawn. A sum of £1,405 4s. 5d. was paid into the Local Bodies' Deposit Account, and £1,242 16s. 7d. was paid out to local bodies for expenditure upon approved works.

ERIC C. GOLD SMITH,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

REPORT ON THE CHEVIOT ESTATE.

No fresh lands have been offered for disposal during the year, and, with the exception of a slight alteration of the area held under temporary occupation license, the number of holdings and areas occupied under the several tenures remain unchanged.

The total receipts from all sources during the year have amounted to £14,293 12s. 10d.; rents are generally well paid, with the exception of those for the grazing-farms, the lessees of which are excluded from the benefits of the 10-per-cent. rebate, and are somewhat dilatory in remitting their payments.

Seven leases in perpetuity, comprising a total area of 1,221 acres and 25 perches, and one grazing-farm of 966 acres 2 roods have changed hands by transfer during the year.

The following is the Crown Lands Ranger's report on the general condition of the estate:—

"It was to be expected that the long spell of dry summer weather would affect the returns from this estate, yet some of the crops gave unexpectedly good results. The 700 acres of wheat that was grown turned out an average of forty-five bushels per acre of good quality, as the best land is almost always selected for wheat-growing. The oat-crop varied a good deal: the area on which this cereal was grown was 2,320 acres, about 500 acres of which had been threshed, yielding an average of fifty-two bushels to the acre; the remainder will be cut for chaff. Only 170 acres of barley was grown, chiefly of the Cape variety. About 3,000 acres were cultivated for turnips, but the bulk turned out poor, owing to the dry weather, and the same may be said of the 1,900 acres of rape. The total area cultivated this year was (approximately) 8,200 acres for crops of all kinds, and 400 acres of grass-seed harvested. From inquiries made I ascertained that only half the number of fat stock left Cheviot for market that went away during the corresponding period last year. From November to March 40,000 sheep (approximately) were sold by the farmers, but half that number were stores; after the rain during the first week in March the pastures and rape-crops recovered rapidly, consequently there will be more fat stock to dispose of later. The storms in the early spring played havoc with the young lambs; still, the average lambing was over 85 per cent. Eighty-nine thousand sheep were wintered on the leaseholds, and in addition to this flock the farmers had 1,150 cattle and 1,000 horses. Pigs are not a favourite stock, numbering only 280. There are 26,000 acres growing exotic grasses, some only surface-sown; and 40,000 acres remain in native grass and tussock. It need hardly be said that the general condition of the estate is very good, and the remarkably quick recovery of the pastures after the long dry summer shows what excellent stock-raising land Cheviot is. The numerous plantations are becoming each succeeding year a more prominent feature of the landscape; there are (excluding the 140 acres within the homestead block) 347 acres growing shelter and ornamental trees. The area in gardens and orchards is 128 acres. The existing improvements are kept in good order, and are being slightly added to, but the addition in value about equals the usual depreciation; the value can be set down at the same as last year—viz., £100,000."

ERIC C. GOLD SMITH,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

OTAGO.

LAND TRANSACTIONS.

The following table shows in a concise form the transactions that have taken place during the year, and the total revenue received from all sources within the period :—

Number of New Selectors and Area taken up, from 1st April, 1907, to 31st March, 1908, and Total Amount of Revenue received during the Year.

Nature and Tenure of Lands selected.	Number of Selectors.	Area selected.	Cash received on Past and Current Transactions.
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Town lands sold for cash	11	4 0 21	113 0 0
Suburban lands sold for cash	5	6 1 0	37 0 0
Rural lands sold for cash	22	599 1 18	885 2 3
Perpetual leases made freehold ... ..	...	...	2,759 0 0
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold ... ..	...	...	51 0 0
Deferred-payment instalments ... ..	...	...	432 3 0
Perpetual leases ... ..	...	...	989 14 8
Occupation with right of purchase	14	4,174 0 17	1,228 5 3
Lease in perpetuity	40	12,419 3 32	5,282 9 3
Renewable lease	1	118 3 0	1 15 8
Agricultural lease	3	83 3 32	27 3 6
Village settlement—			
Deferred payment ... ..	...	...	3 2 8
Perpetual lease ... ..	...	...	31 11 9
Occupation with right of purchase ... ..	...	...	1 2 6
Lease in perpetuity	1	49 3 31	142 14 5
Renewable lease	4	29 3 24	1 7 7
Village-homestead special settlements ... ..	...	...	(R. 82 18 11 I. 35 3 0)
Special-settlement associations—			
Lease in perpetuity ... ..	...	...	108 12 1
Occupation leases, Mining Districts Land Occupation Act	30	938 1 12	437 7 7
Small grazing-runs	44	180,589 3 24	15,428 18 10
Pastoral runs	14	262,781 3 23	26,626 5 8
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	107	26,504 2 3	2,170 12 6
Miscellaneous ... ..	...	...	5,522 16 6
Land for Settlements Acts—			
Cash	2	3 0 0	30 15 0
Lease in perpetuity	31	5,561 1 29	30,691 13 10
Renewable lease	63	46,268 2 21	4,286 17 10
Renewable lease (village) ... ..	...	...	312 4 0
Small grazing-runs ... ..	...	...	1,254 8 5
Pastoral runs ... ..	...	...	121 13 0
Miscellaneous leases, &c.	8	1,337 2 13	861 11 9
Endowments ... ..	...	...	5,530 8 9
Totals	400	541,471 2 20	105,489 0 2

The results of the year as regards revenue have been highly satisfactory, the gross estimate having been exceeded by the sum of £11,416. This large excess, however, is to be accounted for partly by the fact that a sum of upwards of £4,000 was included in the year's receipts on account of the valuation for improvements on the Blackstone Hill and Home Hills Runs, and also by the fact that under the Land Laws Amendment Act of last session rents for the broken period between the date of selection and the ordinary half-yearly-rent period in the case of land for settlements had to be collected at the date of disposal. But, apart from these facts, there is a substantial surplus of receipts over the estimated amount, sufficient to indicate that the year's transactions in respect of both ordinary Crown lands and land for settlements have been of a satisfactory nature, there being an excess of revenue under each head. For a time—as was somewhat the case the previous year—the early part of the season was characterized by extremely dry weather, which in some parts threatened serious loss to the settlers; but a general break-up of the drought having occurred at an opportune date, the situation was saved, so that the general outcome of the year's operations was favourable.

SETTLEMENT OF ORDINARY CROWN LANDS.

Transactions under this head continue to be comparatively few, as the available area of ordinary Crown lands for selection on settlement conditions becomes gradually less. During the year there was opened under various tenures a total area of 253,212 acres, of which 37,354 acres were under the Land

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.

National Endowments.—In terms of the National Endowments Act of last session the following aggregate areas of land at present under lease or license are embraced within the scheme as from the 1st April, 1908 :—

	Number.	Area.			Annual Rent.		
		A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
Renewable Lease—							
Ordinary Crown lands (rural) ..		118	3	0		11	4
Ordinary Crown lands (village homestead) 4		29	3	24		1	14 0
Small grazing-runs 210		528,553	0	0	10,200	16	10
Pastoral runs 54		1,675,429	0	0	26,447	7	2
Totals 269		2,204,130	2	24	36,653	9	4

INSPECTIONS AND RANGERS' REPORTS.

The value of the improvements effected by selectors, as shown by the reports of the Crown Lands Rangers, is still largely in excess of the amount stipulated in the conditions under which the lands are held. A reference to the tables will show that at the date of the last inspections the excess over actual requirements in respect of the holdings inspected amounted to no less a sum than £86,187. This, of itself, must be regarded as eminently satisfactory.

As regards the progress of settlement generally, it is pleasing to be able to state that, notwithstanding a considerable check through drought in the early part of the season, the final outcome of the year's operations has been of a favourable and successful character. The low price of wool is certainly a matter for regret, but as against that the prices for sheep have been good, while the proceeds from grain-growing and the dairying industry have been satisfactory. In confirmation of this, attention is directed to the following remarks of Crown Lands Ranger O'Neill :—

“*Ordinary Crown Lands.*—The past season has not been altogether favourable to settlers in the northern part of Otago. Owing to drought the ground was too hard to admit of seasonable cultivation. The spring set in dry, and, though the early part of the season showed promise of good grass, the continuance of drought and heat caused an unfortunate set-back. The grain-crops did fairly well until about January, but for want of rain the grain in many cases did not properly develop, the result being that yields came short of the general standard. In the Oamaru district many good yields of wheat have been obtained, and the grain is of excellent quality. The prices obtaining are good, and what the farmer lost in point of small returns has been more than made up by the excellence of prices. The dairy industry also suffered greatly through the drought. The pastures did not get a fair chance during any part of the season, hence milk-yields were low, and the cattle became poor in condition. Those following pastoral pursuits were heavy losers through the low price of wool, and many farmers received only half as much for their clips as they did the previous year. Good lambing percentages have been obtained, and the stock generally are now in fair condition. The root-crop has been poor, and, should a severe winter follow, it is to be feared that heavy losses of sheep may result through want of sufficient winter feed.

“In the Central Otago district practically the same conditions exist. The drought has been severely felt, and has left provision for winter very short. An open mild winter, however, may be hoped for, and under such circumstances the loss of root-crops may not be so great. Perhaps the part of the central district most affected is the low-lying country, where in many cases the creeks actually ceased running. The higher or pastoral country escaped well—in fact, was the part that produced the only reliable feed during the past two seasons.

“In the southern district the season was much drier than usual, and many of the smaller streams dried up altogether. The south, however, has a better rainfall than the north or central, and it is also better adapted for resisting the direct effects of drought. Good grain-yields prevailed, and the root-crops have done very well under the circumstances. Dairying has not been up to the usual standard in all cases, but some localities have more than held their own.

“Generally speaking, the Crown tenants in Otago have made fair progress during the year. The grain-yields were not large, but the good prices more than made up for any loss in that direction. Smaller farmers and dairymen will feel the want of root-crops during the coming winter, but, as there is this year a much greater quantity of straw available than there was last season, the loss of roots may not be so badly felt. The settlers as a whole have no serious grievances, and their prospects are good.”

With regard to the lakes district, Ranger Mackenzie states that in the Hawea, Wanaka, and Tarras Districts the yield of grain has been exceptionally large this year, and of first-class quality. In the Shot-over District continued drought caused generally poor crops, although the grain was of fair quality. At Earnslaw, Glenorchy, and Upper Wakatipu the crops were poor, the land being of inferior quality. In the Makarora District very little progress has been made, and the flax-mills have all but closed down. Although the season was a very dry one, the lakes district is upon the whole in a fair state of prosperity, and inquiries for land are being continually made.

Ranger Mackenzie in his report makes reference to further matters as follows : “The prosperity of Cromwell and the Clutha Valley depends greatly on water for irrigation. A private company is endeavouring to procure a supply from the river, which will be a great boon if successful. Another thing urgently required is a fruit-preserving factory to encourage fruit-growing, there being a deplorable waste of fruit under present conditions. There has been another destructive fire at the Rere Lake Bush, but the damage was not so extensive as was at first supposed, as the fire began close to the lake and ran well up the hill. Every effort has been made to trace the origin of these fires, but so far without success.”

The following figures give particulars at 31st March, 1908 :—

Number of houses erected, 20 ; number occupied, 18.

	<i>Receipts.</i>	£	s.	d.
Rents	359	17	6
Rents for grazing of vacant sections	1	0	0
Fire-insurance premiums	12	14	8
Total	£373	12	2
Arrears of rent	£21	15	3

GENERAL REVIEW.

In reviewing the year's transactions and the progress of settlement generally throughout the district, much the same features present themselves as those that characterised the remarks made in last year's report. The continuance of steady and solid progress, the same unsatisfied demand for land of a suitable quality for close-settlement purposes, the same buoyancy of revenue, the same conditions as to rents outstanding with still hopeful prospects as to the future, constitute what may be regarded as a thoroughly satisfactory outlook in the matter of land-settlement in this district. One of the chief features of the year's transactions was the inauguration of the renewable-lease system under the provisions of "The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907," but it is yet too early to comment on the success or otherwise of this new method of leasing. The fact, however, remains, that, whatever system of leasing be adopted, there is likely to be a constant demand for the land. Upon the whole there is every reason to be satisfied with the general progress made throughout Otago during the past year.

DEPARTMENTAL.

There is a constantly increasing amount of administrative work in connection with the business now intrusted to this Department. The rapid growth of the land-for-settlements scheme, with its numerous estates or settlements necessitating so many separate accounts, the negotiations and oversight in regard to scenery-preservation, irrigation, National Endowments, and various other matters, involve a great amount of time and attention. The volume of correspondence and general clerical work in this office is now very large, and entails a great amount of work and care on the whole staff. I have great pleasure in again testifying to the efficient services of all officers in both the lands and survey branches of the office.

Through the coming into force of the Civil Service Superannuation Act, Messrs. Reade, McKenzie, Harlow, and MacGoun have been advised of their retirement. All these officers have done good work during the many years they have been in the service, and their loss will be severely felt in this district. Mr. Reade has been Receiver of Land Revenue for, I understand, nearly forty years, a great part of the time being spent in this office. The duties carried out by him have been exceedingly onerous and responsible. The methods adopted by him have been so systematic and complete that the work has been done to the satisfaction of all concerned. Ranger McKenzie, who also retires, has been a valued and trusted officer in the goldfields portion of this district. His intimate knowledge of the requirements of settlement has been of great assistance to the Land Board and myself. Messrs. MacGoun and Harlow have also been diligent and painstaking in the work intrusted to them.

D. BARRON.

Commissioner of Crown Lands.

SOUTHLAND.

Before entering upon my report of the transactions of the past financial year it is fitting that I should refer to the somewhat sudden and unexpected death of my predecessor, the late Mr. John Hay.

After an illness which extended over two months, and was not for some time considered serious, he passed away on the 1st August, 1907, deeply lamented by his family and friends. His loss was keenly felt by all his officers, and very numerous expressions of sympathy and regret came from all over the district and from many parts of the Dominion. By his kindness, his goodness of heart, and his genial manner he endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact, and he gained their respect by his conscientious and straightforward administration. Throughout the district I find that the Crown tenants used to look to him for advice, and feel his loss to be that of a personal friend.

LANDS DISPOSED OF.

The following tabulated summary of the lands disposed of, and other transactions during the financial year ended 31st March, 1908, shows a falling-off in the number of selections made, which is partly attributable to unavoidable delay in opening lands to selection which it was hoped would be offered before the end of the year under review, and to the withdrawal from selection of lands previously open, in consequence of the passing of "The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907." Nevertheless, the total results for the year are eminently satisfactory, the gross revenue being £32,073 8s. 8d.,

which gives an increase of £4,829 1s. 9d. on the preceding year, while the increase in the number of selectors in the district is thirty-three.

Nature of Selections.	Transactions during the Year.			Area held under Lease at 31st March, 1908.				Gross Revenue received during the Year.			
	Number.	Area.			Number.	Area.					
		A.	R.	P.		A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
Cash by auction	37	1,031	2	19	...	...	...	...	1,178	2	7
Cash by application	6	1,155	3	35	...	...	...	...	531	2	9
Deferred payments	...	...	...	...	4	5,946	1	14	167	8	6
Perpetual lease	...	...	...	...	58	9,624	3	7	367	8	8
Perpetual lease made freehold	6	2,348	0	7	...	...	...	...	1,796	5	7
Occupation with right of purchase	14	3,114	3	22	324	73,250	1	16	1,449	9	4
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	4	168	1	26	...	...	...	...	116	10	7
Lease in perpetuity	11	4,100	1	26	345	101,998	2	10	2,050	5	7
Exchange to lease in perpetuity	2	77	0	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Occupation lease (Mining Districts Land Occupation Act)	1	31	2	28	42	1,201	3	12	109	6	5
Village settlements—											
Deferred payments made freehold	1	10	3	6	...	...	...	...	13	14	4
Perpetual lease	...	...	...	...	74	1,006	3	30	134	6	5
Perpetual lease made freehold	6	81	1	23	...	...	...	...	198	11	3
Occupation with right of purchase	...	...	...	...	4	3	0	24	1	9	11
Renewable lease	9	76	1	29	9	76	1	29	...	...	...
Lease in perpetuity	12	251	3	15	305	4,781	1	14	388	18	8
Exchange to lease in perpetuity	5	76	1	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Village - homestead special settlement	...	...	...	...	46	523	3	34	127	4	6
Improved-farm settlement	...	...	...	...	45	4,732	1	16	302	4	9
Small grazing-runs (National Endowment)	...	...	...	...	19	64,436	0	13	764	10	0
Pastoral runs (ordinary)	11	147,584	0	0	65	702,138	1	0	3,952	16	5
Pastoral runs (National Endowment)	...	...	...	...	26	668,660	0	0	...	...	...
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	62	3,304	1	32	387	32,958	0	11	1,455	19	9
Timber-cutting	...	11,585,456 s. ft.	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,028	12	7
Other miscellaneous revenue	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	535	18	11
Totals ordinary Crown lands	187	163,413	1	30	1,753	1,671,338	1	30	19,670	7	6
Land for settlements—											
Lease in perpetuity	10	2,757	3	18	234	48,712	0	36	10,127	2	11
Small grazing-runs	...	...	...	...	2	2,808	1	0	210	12	4
Miscellaneous	1	0	2	2	11	1,166	2	39	639	10	7
Totals land for settlements	11	2,758	1	20	247	52,687	0	35	10,977	5	10
Endowments	1	310	1	5	69	131,332	3	37	1,425	15	4
Gross totals	199	166,482	0	15	2,069	1,855,358	2	22	32,073	8	8

LANDS OPENED FOR SALE OR SELECTION.

The area opened for sale or selection for the first time during the year was 3,653 acres, which included 447 acres on the optional system, all of which was selected; 472 acres for cash by auction, of which 463 acres were sold; and burned-bush areas grassed by the Department which were offered on temporary lease, the greater portion of which has been taken up.

The area opened during the year of lands which had been previously offered was 13,236 acres; of this area 1,329 acres were under the optional system, of which 669 acres were selected; 477 acres of village-homestead lands were offered on renewable lease, of which 76 acres were selected. Two pastoral runs containing 9,854 acres were offered, one of 2,744 acres being purchased; the other is on the west coast of Stewart Island, and probably will remain unselected for some time.

The operations in connection with the several tenures are summarised as follows:—

Amongst the areas sold for cash was the greater part of the Township of Greenhills, on the Invercargill-Bluff Railway line, which had lain unused and unsought for a number of years, a considerable

proportion of the land being deep swamp, or swampy scrub land. The whole township was resurveyed, and the unsold portions reclassified as part suburban and part rural land, and offered at auction, with the result that of 46 acres suburban land 31 have been sold, and of 220 acres of rural land 213 acres have been purchased.

Occupation with Right of Purchase.—Fourteen selections, containing 3,115 acres, were taken up during the year—a decrease of thirteen as compared with last year: the number of selectors under the tenure remains the same as last year—viz., 324.

Lease in Perpetuity (ordinary).—Eleven selections comprising 4,100 acres were made—a decrease of twenty-one on those of last year. The net area now held on this tenure is 101,998 acres, the number of lessees being 345, which is an increase of eight lessees over the number holding last year.

Village Settlements.—The total number of lessees in the numerous village settlements in this district is 438, being an increase of nine on the preceding year. Twenty-one new selections were made during the year, nine of which were on renewable lease. The total area held is 6,392 acres.

Pastoral Runs.—The number of pastoral-run licenses held is ninety-one, covering an area of 1,370,798 acres, and yielding an annual rental of £4,152 19s. 4d. Of these, twenty-six have been brought under the provisions of “The National Endowment Act, 1907.” One pastoral run containing 159,700 acres, situate at Preservation and Chalky Inlets, was forfeited, and the area has since been added to the West Coast National Park.

THE BUSH AND SWAMP CROWN LANDS SETTLEMENT ACT.

The total area opened to selection under this Act during the year was 768 acres, comprising 135 acres heavy bush land, 93 acres scrub land, and 540 acres swamp land.

The area taken up during the year by twenty selectors was 5,749 acres.

The total number of selectors holding under this Act is ninety-five, the area held being 21,995 acres.

The Crown Lands Ranger has inspected ninety-three holdings, covering an area of 21,884 acres, and reports that the majority of the selectors have made good improvements, in many cases considerably more than required, while a few have not made any improvements, want of road-access being the cause. Twenty of the selectors are residing on their holdings, and thirty are residing adjoining. The total value of the improvements effected is £4,295 8s. 6d., being £2,568 4s. in excess of the required improvements.

“THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT ACT, 1907.”

In accordance with the provisions of this Act, 670,000 acres of pastoral country have been set apart for the purposes of the Act, the whole of which is held under license, and returns an annual rental of £1,738 7s.

Nineteen small grazing-runs, containing 64,436 acres and yielding an annual rental of £735 17s. 10d., are also brought under the provisions of this Act.

In addition to the above, nine selections of village-homestead lands on renewable lease, containing 76 acres and carrying an annual rental of £7 10s. 6d., come within the provisions of the National Endowment Act.

REBATES OF RENT.

On ordinary Crown land rebates of rent for prompt payment were made to 644 lessees, the amount being £300 18s. 2d.

On land for settlements the rebates made to 181 tenants amounted to £764 10s. 1d.

ARREARS OF RENT.

The number of lessees of ordinary Crown lands in arrear is thirty-five, the total amount being £107 10s. 7d., a decrease of £55 on the previous year.

On land for settlements twenty-two lessees are in arrear to the amount of £555 16s. 9d., which gives a decrease of £359 3s. 2d. on last year.

FORFEITURES AND SURRENDERS.

During the year twenty leases and licenses over ordinary Crown lands were forfeited, the area being 161,803 acres; but this area included one pastoral run containing 159,700 acres. One lease under the Land for Settlements Act was forfeited, area 253 acres.

There were four surrenders of ordinary Crown leases, area 181 acres.

FREEHOLD TITLES ISSUED.

The number of provisional titles issued by the Receiver of Land Revenue during the year was fifty-seven, the area purchased being 4,101 acres, under the tenures shown by the following table:—

Tenure.	Selectors.	Area.		
		A.	R.	P.
Deferred payment	1	10	3	6
Perpetual lease	13	2,439	1	30
Occupation with right of purchase	4	168	1	26
Cash under “The Land Act, 1892”	10	883	1	6
Auction sales	29	599	2	30
	57	4,101	2	18

TRANSFERS.

The total number of transfers approved during the year was 187, the area dealt with being 388,320 acres, comprising lands held under the tenures shown hereunder :—

Tenure.	Lessees.	Area.		
		A.	R.	P.
Lease in perpetuity	67	17,601	3	24
Occupation with right of purchase	22	4,309	1	25
Perpetual lease	16	2,752	0	4
Lease in perpetuity, land for settlements	22	2,998	2	16
Pastoral licenses	31	355,738	0	0
Certificates of occupation	1	796	1	9
Deferred payment	1	6	2	36
Miscellaneous licenses	20	1,004	2	14
Small grazing-runs	2	2,594	2	0
Mining District Land Occupation Act	3	117	3	13
Sawmill licenses	2	400	0	0
Totals	187	388,319	3	21

SELECTORS ON THE BOOKS.

The total number of Crown tenants in this district is 2,069, comprising 1,753 on ordinary Crown lands holding 1,671,338 acres; 247 on land-for-settlements estates holding 52,687 acres, and 69 lessees of endowment lands holding 131,333 acres. The total area held is 1,855,358 acres.

RANGERS' INSPECTIONS.

The Crown Lands Rangers have made 591 inspections of selectors' holdings on the mainland, covering an area of 112,577 acres, and their reports in the main have been very satisfactory, the large majority of the lessees having complied with the conditions of leases and made improvements considerably in excess of the value required.

Ranger Traill has reported on twenty-four Crown tenants on Stewart Island, who hold 2,937 acres, and have made improvements to the value of £3,811 18s., which is £2,162 in excess of the requirements. The position of the selectors may be reckoned as fairly satisfactory, considering the conditions under which they live.

RESERVATIONS.

During the year under review 252,875 acres were permanently reserved. Of this area 43,966 acres in the Jacob's River Hundred and the Waiau and Longwood Survey Districts were reserved for scenic purposes, and 208,650 acres on Stewart Island were reserved for the preservation of the fauna and flora; the balance of the total area was reserved for various public purposes.

LAND PROPOSED TO BE OPENED FOR SETTLEMENT.

The block of land in Invercargill Hundred, Blocks XXIII and XXIV, mentioned in last year's report, comprising some 6,500 acres, has now been surveyed and will be thrown open during the ensuing year.

An area of 10,000 acres in Blocks VI and XI, Alton Survey District, has been under survey, and this block will also be opened during the year.

There is a strip of land between Longwood and Orepuki, of some 4,000 to 5,000 acres in extent, which has up till recently been held as sawmill areas, but as the timber has now been cut out the land has become available for settlement. A start has accordingly been made with the survey of this block, and it is expected that the greater part will be placed in the market during the year.

DEPARTMENTAL.

Just before the close of the financial year Mr. Duncan Campbell, Crown Lands Ranger, gave notice of his intention to retire on the 13th June next. By the time of his retirement Mr. Campbell will have completed sixteen years' continuous service in this office. He originally joined the public service in 1884 and served for several years as Forest Ranger.

Office Work.—Without entering into details of figures, which are generally uninteresting, I may state that the volume of the inward and outward correspondence and other matters dealt with by the clerical branch has largely increased, and has taxed to the utmost the energies of the several officers employed therein. The writing-up of the new allotment-books, a work that has occupied some considerable time and entailed much search and careful investigation, has been completed, and the books will be of much use in the future.

In concluding this report, I would wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to all the officers of the Department for the manner in which they have assisted me. By the willing way in which they have placed their services and local knowledge at my disposal they have made the taking-up of my duties here as Commissioner much easier, and for this I now take the opportunity of thanking them.

E. H. WILMOT,
Commissioner of Crown Lands

APPENDIX II.—LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS (REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS OF CROWN LANDS ON).

AUCKLAND.

THE farms in these settlements continue to show that the settlers are prosperous. There is only one settlement (Okauia) which cannot be classed as a success and has not advanced during the year. On the other hand Opouriao, Matamata, Fencourt, &c., show most encouraging results, and the outlook generally is as favourable as could be wished.

WORKERS' HAMLETS.

The reports this year show a decided improvement in these hamlets, and with the exception of Waari there appears to be a general tone of improvement, and the prospects of the hamlets are more encouraging.

NEW SETTLEMENTS.

The new settlements which have not yet been held a year, and which in consequence have not been inspected in detail, are Waimana, Teasdale, and Rewi.

RANGER'S REPORTS.

The Ranger reports on the several settlements as follows :—

Opouriao Settlement.—This settlement is one of the most progressive in the North Island. There are two large cheese-factories and one butter-factory which are supplied with milk from this settlement. In spite of the dry season the average output has been a good one for the year. In the early stage of the settlement the settlers tried maize-growing, but the summer frosts which the Opouriao Valley is subjected to played havoc with the crops. Then they turned their attention to dairying, and since that date the settlers have all prospered, and during the past year have erected six milking-machines on the settlement, at a cost of £1,771. Nearly every selector is a married man with a family. They have built themselves good homes, so the future prospect of this settlement is a bright one.

Okauia Settlement.—This is the poorest settlement we have, and is situated seven miles from Matamata Railway-station. I cannot report any advancement during the year—in fact, there is a deficiency in improvements; land that has been cleared and grassed for some years has gone back again almost to a state of nature, and fences are very bad. One settler supplies milk to a creamery about six miles away, while the remainder go in for grazing. Prospects are not promising.

Rangiatea Settlement.—This settlement, which is situated in the Te Aroha district, has now been in existence nine years, and the Auckland-Paeroa Railway runs through the centre of it. The improvements effected by the settlers and exclusive of those originally on the land are valued at £9,697. The principal industry of this settlement and the main source of revenue is dairying, but unfortunately, owing to the drought last summer, the milk-supply was far less than during the previous year. The area in white crops this year yielded a good average considering the dryness of the spring and summer, but the green crops suffered considerably, and very few of the settlers had anything approaching a crop. The roads through this settlement are in very good order; all things considered this is a prosperous little settlement, and the settlers appear to be satisfied with the conditions and prospects.

Karapiro Settlement.—This settlement is within a mile of Cambridge Railway-station and is 100 miles from Auckland by train. The land is of good quality and suitable for any kind of farming. There are two creameries within a mile of the settlement, and dairying is the principal source of revenue. The roads are metalled and in good order. The conditions are satisfactorily filled in all cases, and the settlement is prosperous.

Fencourt Settlement.—Situated three miles from Cambridge Township and 100 miles from Auckland by rail. There is a creamery on the settlement and a butter-factory adjoining, and with the exception of two settlers all are suppliers of milk. Owing to the exceedingly dry season experienced there has been a considerable decrease in the milk-supply. The Drainage Board formed about twelve months ago has almost completed the main drain through the settlement, and it has proved a great benefit to settlers. A great deal of low-lying land hitherto useless in winter has now been brought under the plough, and some of the best land in the settlement can now be made productive. Some good white crops were grown and well saved. Roads through the settlement are in very good order. This settlement has proved very successful.

Whitehall Settlement.—Situated about six miles from Cambridge Township, which is 100 miles from Auckland by rail. The land consists of rolling downs of good quality, and first-class stock-raising and sheep land. There is no creamery on this settlement; two of the settlers take their milk to the nearest creamery, about six miles away. The remainder go in solely for cattle and sheep raising, and there are no white crops grown; 286 acres of green crops were looking remarkably well. The settlers appear satisfied, and have good prospects before them.

Bickerstaffe Settlement.—This settlement is now three years in existence, and is situated in the Otamatea, Matakoho, Waipu, and Hukatere Survey Districts, and about eighty-three miles north of Auckland. The area of level land is small, no crops of any description are grown. Most of the settlers have cream-separators of their own, and the cream is taken either to Maungaturoto or Whakapirau

factories. There is a tendency among the settlers to relinquish the dairying industry and return to sheep and cattle raising. Roads in the settlement are in good order. The settlers have made good improvements, and the prospects are promising.

Matamata Settlement.—This settlement is situated on the Auckland-Rotorua Railway, 122 miles from Auckland. The improvements effected by the selectors are valued at £37,039 16s., as against £5,577 1s. required by Act. Dairying is the main source of revenue. The settlement has suffered somewhat from the dry season, and there was a marked decrease in the supply of milk to the creameries, of which there are three on the settlement. Last year four were in operation, but this year one did not start. A large area of oats was sown, and good crops harvested; turnip-crops were poor, and in many instances had to be sown a second time. A much-needed want has been supplied—viz., a new school (making two on the settlement), it having been erected during the last year, and having an attendance of eighteen children. All the roads are in good order. The settlers appear to be all prosperous, and the success of the settlement is assured.

[F] *Selwyn Settlement.*—This settlement is situated about 140 miles from Auckland on the Auckland-Rotorua Railway line, and has been in existence two years. The creamery on the settlement has been working since the commencement of the season, but the supply of milk has been only moderate. Most of the grass on this settlement was running out, and the settlers have broken up old pasture and put in during the last twelve months 344 acres of new grass; 296 acres of green crops had been sown, but owing to the dry season were comparatively a failure. White crops, comprising an area of 176 acres, were generally light owing to the dry summer, but the settlement appears to be in a satisfactory condition.

Mangapouri Settlement.—This settlement, now just one year in existence, is situated in Piako County, and adjoins the Township of Tirau, which is 134 miles from Auckland by train. The soil is light sandy loam on sandstone. For a settlement in its infancy substantial improvements and buildings have been made and erected. There is a creamery on the edge of the settlement, and the majority of the settlers are suppliers. Dairying I consider will be the main source of revenue, the formation of the country being admirably suited for that purpose. Fencing has gone on rapidly, and there does not appear to be any reason why the settlement should not be a success.

Mangawhero Settlement.—This settlement, which was opened for selection on the 25th March, 1907, is situated in the Piako County, and convenient to Matamata Railway-station and Township. It is principally level to undulating country, of light loamy nature, resting on sandstone. There is a creamery in the centre of the settlement to which, with three exceptions, the selectors are suppliers of milk. The settlers are all hardworking and energetic, and for the short time they have been in occupation have effected good and substantial improvements, and there is every reason to believe that in a short space of time this settlement will compare favourably with any in the district.

Methuen Hamlet is situated near Avondale, which is a quarter of a mile distant. During the year several new homes have been erected, and building is still being carried on. Unfortunately two fires occurred and completely destroyed houses, but since then one has been re-erected at considerable cost. The buildings are all of a substantial character and very suitable for the holders. The improvements are excellent.

[F] *Kitchener Hamlet* is situated about six miles from Auckland. All the sections but one are occupied, and good houses are erected thereon. The land is of good quality. The improvements are well in advance of requirements, and selectors appear to be well satisfied with their holdings.

Plumer Hamlet is situated at Henderson, fourteen miles from Auckland by rail. All the sections but one are taken up and good substantial houses built thereon. One settler utilises his holding for a poultry-farm and others go in for gardening, the land being very suitable. This hamlet is permanent and progressive.

[F] *Waari Hamlet* is fourteen miles from Auckland by road or rail. The land is poor. Only eight sections have been taken up, five of which have comfortable houses erected thereon. The prospects of this settlement do not appear so bright, on account of the sections being small for the class of country, but the lots not taken are being grouped.

Hetana Hamlet is within half a mile of New Lynn Station. This place has greatly improved since last year, several new buildings being put up and sections fenced. Most of the holders are labourers and work in the vicinity. The prospects are very hopeful considering the amount of improvements effected during the past year.

Cradock Hamlet is six miles from Auckland, the land being fairly good. The buildings are very substantial, and improvements far exceed the requirements. On the whole I consider this place permanent and satisfactory to the tenants for residences.

J. MACKENZIE,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

HAWKE'S BAY.

Raureka Settlement.—This settlement, which was part of the Frimley Estate, was placed in the market in May, 1896. The area purchased was 427 acres 2 roods. The number of selectors is 19, and total population 99. Number of stock, 1,173, comprising 994 sheep, 101 cattle, 48 horses, and 30 pigs. Area in orchards, 12 acres; area in white and green crops, 67 acres; area ploughed and sown down in permanent pasture, 320 acres. There are eighteen dwellinghouses, of a total value of £2,815. The value of improvements effected by selectors amounts to £5,115 10s., as against £4,228 13s. required by law. Dairying and fruit-growing are the principal sources of income, and the settlement generally is prospering.

Elsthorpe Settlement.—The Elsthorpe Settlement is situated about thirty miles south of Napier, and the main road from Kaikora Railway-station to the sea-coast at Kairakau runs through the property. It is distant from the railway about fourteen miles, with access thereto by good gravelled dray-road the whole distance. The settlement was opened for selection on the 24th June, 1896. The area purchased was 9,740 acres. The present number of selectors is 47; total population, 107. Number of sheep, 24,100; horses, 165; cattle, 600; pigs, 20. Area in grass, 9,050 acres; area in white and green crops, 35 acres 3 roods; balance bush and scrub. There are twenty-seven dwellinghouses in the settlement, of a total value of £4,500. The improvements effected by the settlers, and exclusive of those originally on the ground, are valued at £14,140 5s., as against £8,226 5s. 6d. required by law. Mutton and wool growing are the principal sources of income to the settlers, who have continued to prosper from the inception of the settlement.

Pouparae Settlement.—This settlement contains 337 acres 3 roods 4 perches, and it is situated on the main Ormond Road. It was opened for selection in April, 1897, in nine holdings, the whole of which have been selected. Nine dwellinghouses have been erected, and nine selectors are residing. There are at present fifty-two persons on the settlement. Seventy-six acres are under crop, the balance being laid down in permanent grass. The improvements effected are valued at £4,245 1s., as against £859 6s. 3d. required by the Act. This settlement has had another successful year, and the high prices for produce have been well sustained.

Waimarie Settlement (Poverty Bay District).—This settlement contains 430 acres 2 roods 10 perches, and is situated about ten miles from Gisborne on the main Ormond-Opotiki Road. Sixteen of the selectors reside on their holdings and two on adjoining sections. There are at present sixty-seven persons living on the settlement, and there are sixteen dwellinghouses besides fifteen other buildings. The improvements effected are valued at £3,507 10s., as against £1,086 19s. 3d. required by the Act. Only a few of the sections are large enough for the selectors to make a living on, the remainder being utilised as homes, the selectors finding work in the locality.

Willows Settlement.—This settlement is situated about four miles from Gisborne. It contains 775 acres 1 rood 36 perches, and was offered for selection in March, 1899. All the selectors are residing either on their allotments or on the adjoining sections. The improvements effected are valued at £5,994, as against £1,913 4s. 7d. required by the Act. The principal industry of this settlement is dairying, and the settlers have had a most successful year. Number of persons, 78.

Tomoana Settlement.—This settlement, which was part of the Frimley Estate, is situated near Hastings, and was placed in the market on the 2nd March, 1898. The area purchased was 111 acres 3 roods 38 perches. Number of occupied sections, 13; total population, 61. Total number of stock, 197, comprising 52 sheep, 18 horses, 82 cattle, and 45 pigs. Area in grass, 83 acres, out of which 33 acres have been ploughed, cropped, and again laid down in permanent pasture by the settlers; area in white and green crops, 5½ acres; orchards and gardens, 20 acres. There are twelve dwellinghouses in the settlement, of a total value of £2,460. Eleven selectors are residing on their holdings. An apiary has been started on one of the sections, comprising at the present time some forty colonies. The improvements required by the Act amount to £310 8s. and the value of improvements effected to £3,701 10s., showing a further increase in the value of improvements effected during the year. The season has been on the whole a favourable one for fruit, but too dry for dairying operations.

Mahora Settlement.—This settlement, which was originally part of the Frimley Estate, is situated near Hastings, and was opened for selection on the 22nd March, 1899. The area purchased was 1,133 acres 3 roods. Number of selectors, 34; total population, 150. Number of stock, 3,840, comprising 3,204 sheep, 325 cattle, 94 horses, and 217 pigs. Area in grass, 870 acres, out of which 367 acres have been ploughed and resown in permanent pasture; area in white and green crops, 183 acres; and in orchards, 39 acres. All the sections are now taken up. There are thirty-two dwellinghouses, valued at £6,705. The improvements effected by selectors are valued at £11,680 5s., as against £9,527 effected last year; and the value of improvements required by law amounts to £3,466 7s. 2d. Dairying and fruit-growing are a steady source of income. One of the settlers is secretary to the Hawke's Bay Beekeepers' Association. He has on the ground eighty colonies of bees, and his output of honey for the past season was 2 tons, which sold locally at from 4½d. to 5d. per pound. The Mahora North school has a large attendance of pupils, and another school at Mahora South is now being arranged for.

Hatuma Settlement.—This settlement is situated fifty-nine miles from Napier, on the main trunk railway between Wellington and Napier, and lies near Waipukurau and between Oruawharo and Arlington Estates. It was placed on the market on the 25th April, 1901. The area purchased was 26,522 acres 3 roods 20 perches. The number of occupied sections is 59; total population, 259. Number of sheep, 48,657; horses, 283; cattle, 1,376; pigs, 36. Area in grass, 22,800 acres, out of which 2,150 acres have been ploughed, cropped, and laid down again in permanent English grasses; white and green crops, 1,874 acres; balance scrub. There are fifty-nine dwellinghouses in the settlement, valued at £14,123. The improvements effected are £40,492, as against £23,905 required by the Act. The value of improvements effected during the year amounts to nearly £2,000. Mutton and wool growing are the principal source of income to the settlers. Notwithstanding the dry season, the settlement is in a very prosperous condition.

Manga-a-toro Settlement.—This settlement is situated in the southern end of the Hawke's Bay 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. The area purchased was 19,581 acres 3 roods 12 perches. The number of occupied sections is 26; the total population is 114. Total number of stock, 32,432, comprising 30,630 sheep, 192 horses, 1,605 cattle, and 5 pigs. The area in grass is 16,000 acres, of which 3,000 acres has been regressed, and 550 acres of bush felled and sown; area in white and green crops, 797 acres; balance bush and scrub. All the sections are occupied. There are twenty-five dwellinghouses, or a total value of £7,380. Value of

improvements required by the Act amounts to £6,200 8s. 10d., whilst those effected are valued at £24,961 9s. 9d., and show an amount of £1,793 12s. as having been expended on improvements during the year. The Manga-a-toro Stream flowing through the settlement is now well stocked with fish, and during the season many visitors from outside the district have obtained some excellent trout-fishing. The settlement is prosperous, and settlers are in good heart. The Ongaha Road, giving an outlet to Dannevirke, has been formed for dray traffic, and the work of metalling is now in hand.

Kumeroa Settlement.—This settlement was acquired from Mr. Thomas Crosse under the Land for Settlements Act, and was opened for application on the 12th May, 1902. The area purchased was 3,744 acres 2 roods 38 perches. The number of occupied sections is 15; total population, 75. Number of stock, 7,313, comprising 6,578 sheep, 521 cattle, 65 horses, and 209 pigs. The area in grass is 3,598 acres; area in white and green crops, 61 acres 3 roods; the balance bush, swamp, and scrub. The settlement is distant about six miles from Woodville by good metalled dray-road, the roads through the settlement being also metalled. There are fourteen dwellinghouses, of a total value of £3,010. Thirteen selectors are residing on their holdings, and one (a married woman) resides with her husband on land adjoining her section. The improvements effected are valued at £6,423 12s., as against £1,655 6s. 8d. required by the Act. There are two creameries kept busy during the season, and the prices ruling for butter-fat are 9d. and 10d. per pound. A Drainage Board has been constituted and engineering surveys completed, so that in all probability contracts will be let shortly for swamp-reclamation work.

Forest Gate Settlement.—This settlement is situated in the western portion of the Hawke's Bay District, distant about fifty miles from Napier by rail and road, and ten miles from Waipawa Township and Railway-station. The area purchased was 8,822 acres and 13 perches. Number of occupied sections 28; total population, 103. Number of sheep, 14,840; horses, 160; cattle, 570; and pigs, 30. Area in grass, 7,600 acres, out of which 1,456 acres have been ploughed and again laid down in permanent pasture; area in white and green crops, 700 acres; balance, light bush and scrub. This settlement was opened for selection on the 19th May, 1902. The value of improvements effected is estimated at £12,488 16s. 7d., as against £2,489 15s. required by law. There are twenty-five dwellinghouses, valued at £4,150, and nineteen settlers are resident on their holdings. The settlement is in a prosperous condition, notwithstanding the recent drought experienced this season in Hawke's Bay and elsewhere.

Argyll Settlement.—This settlement, which was opened for selection on the 26th June, 1903, is situated in the Waipawa County, and is distant six miles from Waipawa Township, three miles from Kaikora North, and nine miles and a half from Pukehou Railway-station. The area purchased was 33,705 acres 1 rood 30 perches. The number of occupied sections is 62; total population, 255. Number of sheep, 51,724; horses, 458; cattle, 2,596; pigs, 150. Area in grass, 4,000 acres, out of which 1,000 acres have been ploughed, cropped, and again sown down in permanent pasture; area in white and green crops, 3,198 acres; balance scrub. There are sixty dwellinghouses in the settlement, valued at £11,915. The improvements required by law amount to £9,272, and the improvements effected are valued at £42,385, including £4,071 2s. estimated value of original improvements. Improvements to the value of £6,500 have been effected during the year, and the carrying-capacity of the settlement is increased by 7,664 sheep, 157 horses, and 60 cattle.

Wigan Settlement (Poverty Bay District).—This estate is situated about eight miles from the Town of Buckley (Tolaga Bay) and about forty-three miles from Gisborne, and contains 10,072 acres 1 rood 37 perches, and is divided into seventeen allotments. It was offered for selection in December, 1903. This settlement is purely pastoral country. Fourteen of the selectors are residing on the estate; of the remainder, two are spinsters and reside with their parents in the locality, the third is residing at present with her husband in Taranaki. There are forty-nine persons living on the estate. The selectors have effected improvements to the value of £8,605 which with the original improvements makes a total value of £13,282 1s. 11d., as against £3,418 19s. 10d. required by the Act. This is a most successful settlement, and all the settlers have had a very successful year.

Lindsay Settlement.—This settlement, situated in the Waipawa County, was formerly known as the Mount Vernon Estate, and was acquired by the Government under the Land for Settlements Act. It is distant about forty miles from Napier, and adjoins the Townships of Waipawa, Waipukurau, and Ongaonga, and was opened for settlement on the 11th April, 1905. The area purchased was 13,574 acres. The number of occupied sections is 65; total population, 223. Number of sheep, 22,755; horses, 205; cattle, 1,025; pigs, 130. Area in grass, 4,000 acres; area in white and green crops, 1,540 acres; balance scrub. There are sixty-one dwellinghouses in the settlement. The improvements required by law should be worth £2,254, whilst those effected are valued at £18,828, which shows a substantial increase on last year's figures. This settlement is in a thriving condition.

Mangatahi Settlement.—This settlement, originally part of the Olig Estate, was acquired by the Government under the Land for Settlements Act, and opened for selection on the 5th February, 1907. It is situated fifteen miles from Hastings and twenty-four miles from Napier, having good level formed roads from both places. It adjoins the well-known Maraekakaho Estate. The area purchased was 12,391 acres 1 rood 37 perches. The sections, ranging in area from 194 acres to 879 acres, are all occupied. Total population is 82. Total number of stock, 18,419, comprising 17,785 sheep, 537 horses, and 20 pigs. Area in grass, 11,000 acres; area in white and green crops, 778 acres 3 roods; balance light scrub. There are twenty dwellinghouses in the settlement, thirteen of which have been erected by the settlers themselves, and are valued at £2,266. Seven are original buildings, which are being paid for by instalments. Twenty selectors are now residing on their holdings. The value of improvements effected is put down at £8,408 18s.; this is inclusive of original improvements valued at £2,688 10s.; the difference—viz., £5,720 8s.—represents the value of improvements effected by the

settlers themselves during the last twelve months or since the inception of the settlement. The improvements required amount to £2,122 11s. 8d. As is the case in other parts of the district this settlement has suffered considerably from the very dry summer weather experienced. Feed has been very scarce, and in many cases settlers have been forced to reduce their stock on that account. During the year some seven miles and a half of road-formation has been put through this settlement by the Roads Department.

Te Mata, Pourerere, Raumati, Kanakanaia, and Te Arai Settlements.—As the selections in these settlements were made at the end of the financial year, it is too early yet to report upon them.

HENRY TRENT,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

TARANAKI.

Tokaora Settlement.—Situated about four miles from Hawera, comprising 1,505 acres 2 roods 8 perches, divided into sixteen sections, occupied by thirteen persons, and almost wholly devoted to dairying. There are sixty-eight persons resident, and the live-stock consists of 740 cows and 53 horses. The improvements effected by the tenants comprise eleven residences, valued at £2,680; outbuildings, fencing, &c., £1,558: total, £4,238. The area in new grass is 186 acres, green crops 32 acres. The progress is very steady.

Spotswood Settlement.—Situated about two miles and a quarter from New Plymouth, comprising 310 acres 3 roods 23 perches, divided into sixty-one sections for workmen's homes, and eight small dairy farms. There are seven persons occupying under the former tenure, and one under the latter. One holding was forfeited. Four houses on unoccupied sections are let to weekly tenants, and the grazing of all the vacant sections is let from month to month. There are thirty-eight persons resident, and the live-stock consists of 25 cows and 8 horses. The improvements effected by persons in occupation are seven residences, valued at £1,700; outbuildings, fencing, &c., £198: total, £1,898.

Clandon Settlement.—Situated about a quarter of a mile from Douglas Railway-station, comprising 881 acres and 13 perches, subdivided into six dairy farms, occupied by six persons and almost wholly used for dairying. There are twenty-three persons on the land, and the live-stock consists of 365 cows and 8 horses. The improvements effected are two residences, valued at £550; outbuildings, fencing, stumping, &c., £601: total, £1,151. The area in new grass is 25 acres, in green crop 11 acres. Good progress has been made during the year.

Huinga Settlement.—Situated about three miles from Toko, comprising 1,880 acres 1 rood 13 perches, divided into ten farms, all more or less suited for dairying operations. Nine sections are occupied, the total number of persons on the land being 32. The live-stock consists of 623 cattle, 1,800 sheep, and 21 horses. Two residences have been erected, valued at £500, and four selectors have added to their houses at a cost of £171. Other improvements have been made consisting of outbuildings, fencing, stumping, &c.: total value of improvements, £1,084. The area in new grass is 8 acres, and in white crop 11 acres. The settlement has made good progress.

FRANS. SIMPSON,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

WELLINGTON.

WEST COAST.

Paparangi Settlement.—The area purchased by the Government was 322 acres 3 roods 32 perches. Thirty-seven sections are under occupation, and all the selectors are residing on their holdings, the total population being 166 souls. The majority of the settlers use their sections for residential purposes, and go in for market-gardening and poultry-farming, but a few on the larger areas keep pigs and cattle, and pursue dairying as a means of livelihood. Two hundred and eighty acres have been laid down in new grass, 34 acres are in native grass, orchards, &c., and 10 acres are in green crops. The improvements on the land are valued at £5,425. The stock on the settlement consists of 89 cattle, 35 horses, and 261 pigs. As the settlement is situated conveniently to the railway-station, the land-values have increased considerably since it was cut up. The settlers all appear to be prosperous, and the settlement may be fairly considered to be a very successful one.

Ohakea Settlement.—An area of 1,745 acres 1 rood 30 perches was purchased by the Crown. Fifteen sections, aggregating 1,737 acres, are under occupation, and there are fifty-seven persons on the settlement. 1,334 acres are in new grass, 160 acres in white crops, and 139 acres in green crops. The improvements on the land are valued at £7,122. The stock consists of 2,801 sheep, 400 cattle, 81 horses, and 122 pigs. The settlers are all doing well, and have excellent prospects before them. This is a very successful settlement.

Te Matua Settlement comprises an area of 702 acres and 19 perches, all of which has been selected by thirteen settlers, the total population being fifty-seven souls. The stock running on the land consists of 425 sheep, 303 cattle, 38 horses, and 150 pigs. Six hundred and six acres are laid down in new grass, 11 acres in white crops, 15 acres in green crops, and 63 acres are in native grass, orchards, &c. The total value of the improvements on the land is £4,340. The settlers are gradually improving the land, and are all doing well. This is a decidedly successful settlement.

Aorangi Settlement.—An area of 1,785 acres was purchased by the Government. Thirty-seven sections, of a total area of 1,753 acres, are under occupation, and there are 181 souls on the land. The

stock on the land consists of 1,456 sheep, 834 cattle, 98 horses, and 325 pigs. 1,497 acres are laid down in new grass, 32 acres in white crops, and 44 acres in green crops. The improvements are valued at £14,465. The settlers are all prosperous, and this is undoubtedly the most successful settlement on the west coast.

Mangawhata Settlement.—The area purchased was 1,240 acres 2 roods 36 perches. Seven sections, aggregating 1,226 acres, are occupied, the total number of souls on the land being fifty-seven. The improvements are estimated to be worth £4,377, and the stock on the land consists of 1,200 sheep, 651 cattle, 67 horses, and 238 pigs. 1,159 acres are in new grass, 4 acres in green crops, and 64 acres in native grass, orchards, &c. The settlers have been troubled by floods during the year, but the protective works along the Oroua River have been put in good repair, and it is hoped that the flooding of the land by the river will now be obviated. The selectors are doing well, and the settlement as a whole is a decided success.

Epuni Hamlet.—An area of 100 acres 3 roods 14 perches was acquired by the Government. Forty-two sections are occupied, the total number of souls on the land being 180. Forty acres are in new grass, and an area of 54 acres is sown in native grass and orchards, &c. The improvements on the land are valued at £9,785, and the stock consists of 16 cattle and 19 horses. Most of the selectors use their holdings for residential purposes, but some on the larger areas go in for market-gardening, fruit-growing, poultry-keeping, &c. All the selectors appear to be doing well, and the settlement is a most successful one.

Maungaraki Settlement.—This settlement comprises an area of 472 acres 1 rood 20 perches. Twenty sections are now under occupation, and the number of souls now on the land is seventy-seven. One hundred and thirty-six acres are in new grass, and an area of 131 acres is occupied by native grass, orchards, &c. The total value of the improvements on the land is estimated at £3,799, and the stock consists of 48 cattle, 18 horses, and 30 pigs. The holdings are for the most part used for residential purposes, while some few settlers on the larger areas keep poultry and go in for market-gardening. The settlement is favourably situated near the Petone Railway-station, and has proved a successful one.

Linton Settlement.—The area acquired by the Crown was 551 acres 1 rood 36 perches. Five sections of a total area of 549 acres are under occupation, the total population of the settlement being thirty-four souls. Four hundred and twenty-seven acres are laid down in new grass, 97 acres in green crops, and 43 acres are in native grass, orchards, &c. The improvements are valued at £2,306. The stock running on the land consists of 420 sheep, 156 cattle, 14 horses, and 62 pigs. The settlers are doing well, and the settlement is fairly prosperous.

Normandale Settlement.—The area acquired by the Government was 1,623 acres and 9 perches. Thirty-one sections are under occupation, the total number of souls on the land being 118. Three hundred and thirty-nine acres are laid down in new grass, and the stock on the land consists of 31 cattle, 21 horses, and 10 pigs. The improvements on the land are worth £6,918. The sections are wholly used for residential purposes by men who are absent during the day at their various callings. All have gardens under cultivation, and grow vegetables, &c., for home consumption. The settlers appear satisfied with their holdings, and the settlement is fairly prosperous.

EAST COAST.

Langdale Settlement.—The area purchased was 9,405 acres. The number of sections under occupation is thirty-one, and the total population is seventy-nine souls. The stock on the land consists of 14,475 sheep, 1,088 cattle, and 156 horses. 8,422 acres have been laid down in new grass, 139 acres were in white crops, and 279 acres in green crops, the balance being native grass, orchards, &c. Improvements to the value of £6,583 were required to be made, whereas 13,790 pounds' worth have been effected, being an excess of £7,207 over requirements. The settlement is well established, and the selectors, who are experienced and industrious men, seem to be prospering, and are well satisfied with their prospects for the future.

Longbush Settlement.—The area purchased by the Crown was 3,021 acres 3 roods 26 perches. Eight sections are occupied, and the number of souls on the land is twenty-eight. The stock consists of 3,085 sheep, 455 cattle, 31 horses, 30 pigs. 2,098 acres are laid down in new grass, 5 acres in white crops, 23 acres in green crops, 115 acres in native grass, orchards, &c. The improvements on the land are valued at £3,309. The settlers are practical men who work on their holdings, utilising their sections for pastoral purposes. Although the season has been an exceptionally dry one, the settlers seem to be now well established, and the settlement is a most successful one.

Table-lands Settlement.—An area of 5,496 acres 3 roods 30 perches was purchased by the Government. Ten sections are under occupation, and the total number of souls on the land is twenty-seven. The stock consists of 7,969 sheep, 600 cattle, and 50 horses. 4,410 acres are laid down in new grass, 30 acres in white crops, 59 acres in green crops, and 386 acres are in native grass, orchards, &c. The improvements on the land are valued at £4,057. The settlers are experienced men who work on their holdings, the sections being wholly used for grazing purposes. The settlement is well established and has proved a successful one.

Tawaha Settlement.—An area of 2,328 acres 2 roods 31 perches was purchased by the Government. Twenty-four sections, of a total area of 2,304 acres, are under occupation, the total population being fifty-nine souls. 1,714 acres are laid down in new grass, 314 acres in white crops, 144 acres in green crops, and 129 acres are in native grass, orchards, &c. The stock consists of 1,000 sheep, 678 cattle, 68 horses, and 95 pigs. The improvements are valued at £4,016. The settlers have experienced an adverse year owing to high floods late in the spring, and a drought during the summer months. Given a few favourable seasons, however, it is considered that the settlers would be satisfied with their selections and prospects for future prosperity.

Hikawera Settlement.—The area purchased by the Crown was 2,615 acres 2 roods 33 perches. Five sections, aggregating 2,605 acres, are under occupation and the number of persons on the settlement is nine. 1,725 acres are laid down in new grass, and 28 acres are in native grass, orchards, &c. The improvements are valued at £1,388. The stock consists of 2,665 sheep, 265 cattle, and 11 horses. The settlers use their holdings wholly for pastoral purposes. A bad season has been experienced on account of the drought during the summer months, but otherwise the settlement is in a prosperous condition, and will doubtless prove a successful one.

Mahupuku Settlement.—An area of 7,064 acres 2 roods 25 perches was purchased by the Crown, of which area 7,027 acres have been selected by ten selectors, the total population being sixteen souls. 4,579 acres are laid down in new grass, 40 acres in white crops, 10 acres in green crops, and 202 acres are in native grass, orchards, &c. Improvements to the value of £3,357 have been effected. The stock consists of 5,500 sheep, 545 cattle, 29 horses, and 12 pigs. The selectors use their holdings for pastoral purposes, and are making every effort to make a success of the settlement.

Dyer Settlement.—The area purchased was 16,657 acres. Thirty-five sections, aggregating 16,439 acres, have been selected, the total population of the settlement being 117 souls. 15,742 acres are in new grass, 229 acres in white crops, 269 acres in green crops, and 208 acres in native grasses, orchards, &c. The whole of the improvements are valued at £10,647. The stock consists of 13,463 sheep, 2,627 cattle, 130 horses, and 180 pigs. The land is used principally for pastoral purposes, and the settlers seem well satisfied with their selections and appear to be prospering. When the selectors get thoroughly established on their holdings, this settlement ought to prove a most successful one

JOHN STRAUCHON,

Commissioner of Crown Lands.

NELSON.

Wangapeka Settlement.—This settlement is situated 44½ miles from the City of Nelson, of which distance 42 miles is by railway to Tadmor and 2½ miles by road. It is the only settlement under the Land for Settlements Act in Nelson District. It was established on the 26th June, 1907. The area offered for selection was 6,151 acres, subdivided into fifteen farms and one small grazing-run. The whole of the settlement is taken up excepting one small area of 105 acres which was surrendered recently. There are fourteen tenants, twelve of whom are residing, and thirteen have complied with the improvement conditions of their leases. The value of the improvements required by law is £451 12s. 3d.; the value of the improvements effected is £2,129 3s. 6d. The total population of the settlement is forty-one. A school has been established, the attendance of children thereat being eighteen. The live-stock consists of 3,145 sheep, 56 cattle, 29 horses, and 2 pigs. Wangapeka Settlement contains both agricultural and pastoral land. At present the settlers are principally engaged in pastoral farming. The average percentage of lambs was 98. These lambs brought the highest price in Nelson District as "freezers." I have no doubt but that this settlement will be successful. The quality of the land, its locality relative to the Port of Nelson, and the character of the settlers thereon augur well for its future. Notwithstanding an unfavourable season prejudicial to all kinds of crops, the settlers are satisfied with their prospects.

F. W. FLANAGAN,

Commissioner of Crown Lands.

MARLBOROUGH.

Blind River Settlement.—Situated on the stream of that name, which flows into Cook Strait south of the Awatere River. Area purchased, 5,507 acres. Opened for selection in 1895, cut up into twenty-nine sections of various areas up to 320 acres. Was taken up by nineteen selectors; this number has now been reduced by grouping into fourteen holdings; only ten tenants are permanently residing on their sections, three others with near relations on the estate, and one resides occasionally; the total number of persons residing is forty-four, living in twelve houses. They run the following stock: Sheep, 4,122; cattle, 18; horses, 57; pigs, 4. The area under white crops is 546 acres, green crops 289 acres; land in cultivated grass, 1,742 acres; and in native and surface-sown grass, plantations, gardens, &c., 1,930 acres. The settlement continues to improve, and the early-sown crops on the damper ground have done fairly well, but the recent drought has seriously affected the pastoral interest. The railway is now almost completed to the estate, which will derive a considerable advantage from it.

Omaka Settlement.—Situated on the east bank of the river of that name, about eight miles south-west of Blenheim. The area purchased in 1896 was 3,898 acres, now held in thirteen holdings by thirteen holders, seven of whom are resident and the others reside on adjoining land with near relatives. The estate is generally good agricultural and pastoral land; there are forty-nine persons living in ten houses on the estate. Stock, 3,660 sheep, 40 cattle, 47 horses, and 7 pigs. Six hundred and seventy-three acres of white and 210 acres of green crops; 2,302 acres of land laid down in grass; and 713 acres of native grass, plantations, gardens, &c. This settlement is doing fairly well, but, in common with the rest of Marlborough, has suffered a good deal by the drought.

Pukipuki Settlement.—This is a small area of 320 acres of fairly good land, purchased in 1897; being two small sections of freehold land situated in the midst of a large area of Crown lands. The improvements are probably worth about £250, but, like the stock it is impossible to closely estimate them as the settlement is worked with larger blocks of Crown lands held by the same owners.

Starborough Settlement.—Area, 35,906 acres. Purchased in 1899. This settlement is situated on the right bank of the Awatere River, and also has a frontage on to the sea-coast. The general character of this estate is good agricultural and pastoral land, and, including the Township of Seddon, it is held by 196 holders. There are 100 houses, in which 409 persons reside. This is exclusive of nine houses situated on public reserves. The total value of improvements required by the Act is £19,124; effected, £55,753. Number of sheep carried, 35,893; cattle, 148; horses, 353; pigs, about 40. White crops, 2,965 acres; green crops, 1,614 acres; land laid down in permanent grass, 8,720 acres. The average yield from the white crop—chiefly barley and oats—over the whole of the estate must have been considerably below last year's returns; but some of the early-sown crops were good, and, with the high prices ruling, must have been satisfactory to the owners of them. The pastoral aspect, however, is far from being so encouraging, owing to the unprecedented length and severity of the spring and summer droughts, all the grass being dried up, and, as the rape and turnip crops were practically a failure, the prospect for the stock is rather gloomy unless we have an exceptionally fine and mild winter.

Richmond Brook Settlement.—Area, 5,854 acres. Situated on the right bank of the Awatere River, about six miles above the railway-crossing. This estate was settled in 1899. It is chiefly good pastoral country with some good flats and downs, upon which was grown last year 734 acres of white and 577 acres of green crops; cultivated grass, about 2,850 acres. The estate carries 7,060 sheep, 31 head of cattle, 76 horses, and 7 pigs. The block is divided into eleven holdings, held by eleven tenants, all of whom reside on the estate, and live in ten houses. Total number resident, 53 persons. This is a very successful little settlement, and, despite the unusually dry and trying season, the settlers are, I think, doing well, and have a reasonable prospect of doing much better if favoured by more suitable climatic conditions.

Waipapa Settlement.—Situated on the right bank of the Clarence River, within about two miles and a half from the sea-coast. Area, 3,755 acres. Purchased in 1901. Divided into four holdings, held by four persons living in four houses, in which twenty-one persons reside. This block is a strip of generally flat land along the river-frontage, has not been marked on the ground, and is merged in the grazing-runs of Crown lands, and worked with them. It is, therefore, not possible to estimate the amount of improvements effected or the number of stock carried. Forty-five acres of white crops and 86 acres of green crops have been grown on the flat land, which is of excellent quality. The prospects are good, for, although the drought was felt a little there, it was very slight in comparison with the other estates further north. The settlers have much to contend with in the shape of rabbits, &c., and being far from markets for fat stock.

North Bank Settlement.—Situated on the left bank of the Wairau River, about twenty-five miles above Blenheim. Area, 12,895 acres. Selected in 1901 in seven holdings by eight persons, who are all living on their sections. Number of persons residing, thirty-six, in six houses. Sheep on the estate, 3,390; cattle, 24; horses, 56; pigs, 3. Number of acres in white crops, 112; root-crops, 57 acres; in grass, 680 acres. This estate is rather poor dry land, and the settlers have a great deal to contend with in the briar, blackberry, and other noxious weeds, and in preventing their holdings from reverting to fern and scrub.

Rainford Settlement.—This is a small block of 246 acres, situated within about four miles of the Township of Kaikoura, and about two miles from a very prosperous cheese-factory. The land is all first-class dairying country. Taken up by eleven selectors, only nine of whom are now residing permanently on the estate; there are forty-four persons residing in nine houses. The stock consists of 25 sheep, 116 cattle, 34 horses, and 16 pigs. There were, last year, 19 acres in green crops. The value of improvements effected was £1,971. The holdings on the estate are very small, but the land is very good, and the settlers appear to be doing well. The estate is abundantly well watered, and has suffered very little from the drought.

Flaxbourne Settlement.—This estate has a frontage on the east coast between the Ure River and Cape Campbell, and also on Lake Grassmere, and contains 46,598 acres. It was opened for selection in 1905. Of the 106 holdings, ninety-eight are lease in perpetuity, held by eighty-four persons, of whom sixty-three are residing and twenty-one not complying with the residential conditions: these are mostly small holdings, not large enough to support the holders entirely, and they have to go afield for employment; it is hoped that when the railway is completed to the settlement a large number of these may become permanent residents. There are eighteen small grazing-runs on the estate: all the holders are residing, and all but three have complied with the improvement conditions, and it is anticipated that these will be up to the statutory requirements next year. There are also twenty-five miscellaneous leaseholds on Flaxbourne, upon which have been built four houses, in which seventeen persons reside. The number of houses on the estate is eighty-four, and 299 persons were residing in them at the end of the year. In addition to these there is a floating population of about twenty persons engaged in the flax-work and other industrial pursuits. The total number of sheep on the estate is 40,599; cattle, 856; horses, 317; and about 36 pigs. The total area of cultivated land is—under white crops, 1,644 acres; green crops, 1,631 acres; cultivated grass, 5,586 acres; the balance being in native grass (surface-sown), plantations, gardens, &c. The total value of the required improvements is £15,887 3s. 6d.; improvements effected £30,316. This estate suffered a great deal by the phenomenally dry season, which not only greatly injured the crops of barley, oats, &c., but almost destroyed the rape and turnip crops, and burnt up the other feed. Some of the early crops were fairly good, but the prospect of feed for the winter is very gloomy unless we have a mild season. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, the settlers are making considerable improvements, and have a good prospect of doing well if they get better climatic conditions than they had last year.

F. STEPHENSON SMITH,

Commissioner of Crown Lands.

WESTLAND.

Poerua Settlement.—The Crown Lands Ranger reports that the tenants have had a very successful year as a whole. Very little more clearing has been done since last year, but some new sheds and additions to houses have been added. Eleven tenants are supplying the creamery with the milk of 229 cows. One has a separator, and churns his own butter, and disposes of it at Greymouth, whilst the remainder go in for grazing alone. There have been wonderful crops of oats and meadow hay, all well saved; the heads of the former being above the average, and quality first-class. All the barns are full, and on some farms it is in stack as well, so that there will be ample to keep the stock up to the standard during the winter months. On two of the farms the tenants are growing rye for winter feed, and I am informed this grain stands well when all grass has disappeared. The grass during the season has been phenomenal, and clover paddocks have been cut three times and made into hay. The potato-crop, with one or two exceptions, has been destroyed by blight. Carrots and mangels are good, but only small areas are planted. Turnips and cabbages have suffered from the ravages of the diamond-backed moth, the latter being practically destroyed altogether. The fruit-yield has been very good, especially apples, and the fine summer we have had is responsible for heavy crops of tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkins, &c., all grown in the open. A good many porkers and vealers are sent down to Greymouth weekly, and are in great demand. Stock of all kinds are in good condition, and well able to stand the winter. Area, 3,230 acres 1 rood 6 perches; occupied sections, 19; population, 76. Horses, 73; cattle, 718; sheep, 634; pigs, 162. Area in grass, 1,643 acres; area in white and green crops, 50 acres. Requirements of Act, £1,943 18s. 1d.; improvements effected, £8,082 2s. Arrears of rental, nil.

Kokatahi Settlement.—The Ranger also reports that he made the usual yearly inspection of the above estate during the month of March, and found everything very satisfactory. There are four tenants supplying milk to the factory, the other three going in for grazing only. The main crop this year on the estate is hay, of which a splendid lot has been well saved. With one exception, the potato-patches have been ruined by the blight. Turnips are also a failure, owing to the ravages of the white-fly, but as the areas in crop were small this season, the loss is not so great. Grass has been very abundant and stock in good condition, consequently the milk-yield has been good—ninety-two cows supplying milk. Area, 1,894 acres 2 roods 20 perches; under grass, 1,620 acres. Cattle, 238; horses, 32; sheep, 1,811; pigs, 37. White and green crops, 70 acres. Population, 38. Required improvements, £267 16s. 7d.; improvements effected, £4,052. Arrears of rental, nil.

G. J. ROBERTS.
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

CANTERBURY.

LANDS OPENED DURING THE YEAR.

The lands available for selection at the beginning of the year comprised a total area of 16 acres 3 roods 13 perches, situated in the Annan Settlement (Waiau Township), Kapuatohe Hamlet (near Belfast), Highbank Settlement, Rosewill Settlement (Cave Village), and Waikakahi Settlement (Morven Township), all open for selection under the lease-in-perpetuity system. In addition to these there were offered during the year one allotment of 1 rood 38 perches in the Cave Village under the lease-in-perpetuity system, and one surrendered allotment of 462 acres in the Kinloch Settlement under the renewable-lease system. The last-named section was immediately selected. The small allotments previously available for disposal under lease in perpetuity are now being reopened under the renewable-lease system.

LANDS TO BE OPENED.

The Government has taken steps to acquire under the Land for Settlements Act the Culverden Estate in the Amuri County, the property of the trustees of the late Sir J. C. Wilson. The estate comprises about 25,829 acres, situated immediately adjacent to the present terminus of the main north line of railway at Culverden. It will be opened for selection under the renewable-lease system on the 19th June, subdivided into twenty-nine allotments varying in size from about 228 to 2,892 acres. About 7,500 acres are hilly pastoral land ranging up to an altitude of 1,819 ft.; the remainder is flat land varying in quality from light shingly soil to deep agricultural land.

LAND TRANSACTIONS.

As no fresh settlements have been opened during the year, the new selections consisted of only six allotments, totalling 3 acres 2 roods 14 perches, under the lease-in-perpetuity system, and one allotment of 462 acres under renewable lease.

The total number of lessees under all tenures on the 31st March, 1908, was 1,236, occupying an area of 259,944 acres 2 roods 4 perches, and paying an annual rental of £77,228 6s. 6d.

PAYMENT OF RENTS.

The total amount of rents and other payments received on account of all land-for-settlements estates during the year was £70,607 4s. 2d., bringing the total receipts for the district since the inception of the system to £498,587 5s. 10d.

The arrears of rent owing on the 31st March, 1908, exclusive of current payments, amounted to £426 16s. 11d., owing by twenty-six lessees occupying a total area of 1,595 acres 3 roods 10 perches. These arrears are due by slightly over 2 per cent. of the total number of tenants under the system, and the amount owing is less than $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. of the annual rent-roll.

TRANSFERS, FORFEITURES, AND SURRENDERS.

Transfers were registered and completed of ninety-nine leases in perpetuity, comprising an area of 13,720 acres and 27 perches, and of eight small grazing-runs with an area of 14,566 acres 8 roods 31 perches. In some of the settlements which have acquired a specially favourable reputation, the prices paid by the incoming tenants appear to show a large amount for goodwill alone, apart from the value of improvements, &c., effected by the previous tenants.

A surrender was accepted, at the request of the tenant, of a lease in perpetuity of 462 acres (which has since been reselected); and two leases in perpetuity of quarter-acre township allotments were forfeited for breach of conditions.

CONDITION OF ESTABLISHED SETTLEMENTS.

The detail reports received from the Crown Lands Rangers upon the forty-eight settlements within the district continue to emphasize the satisfactory results already disclosed concerning the working of the land-for-settlements system. So far as compliance with the statutory requirements of the leases is concerned, it may be said at once that the percentage of defaulters is very small indeed, and only in very rare cases does the default prove to be of a serious character. The majority of the cases are those in which the lessees fail to bring their improvements up to the required amount within the statutory period; but the lessees nearly always show themselves anxious to effect complete compliance as soon as possible. It is noticeable also that as tenants' circumstances permit, existing buildings are either enlarged or replaced by new buildings of an improved character, and more attention is paid to tree-planting, and as a whole the general appearance of most of the settlements is found to compare very favourably indeed with the surrounding freehold properties. As regards the cultivation conditions of the leases, these are generally well observed. A very large amount of good work is done by the tenants in cleaning and improving their lands, which are generally carefully and prudently farmed. The two dry seasons which have been experienced have caused the failure of much newly sown pasture, and judicious relaxation of the cultivation conditions will be necessary to assist the lessees in regressing these lands. Probably the severest sufferers from the dry seasons are the tenants on the recently established Morice and Kinloch Settlements, near Little River, Banks Peninsula: these have encountered very unfavourable circumstances at the beginning of their career as Crown tenants, and may be found to need some consideration to enable them to tide over their difficulties.

The general condition of the small suburban settlements near Christchurch and Timaru continues satisfactory, and many very comfortable little homes have been established upon them. Amongst the tenants on the workmen's homes allotments, it is found that the necessities of their employment sometimes compel them to remove for a time to another locality, and in such cases a tenant will seek for leave of absence with permission to sublet, so as to retain the home to which he hopes to return; this, however, is a tendency that needs careful watching, as it is no part of the settlements policy that Crown tenants should in their turn become landlords, save under special circumstances and for strictly limited periods.

Appended are notes upon the condition of the various settlements:—

1. *Pareora No. 1 Settlement* (near St. Andrew's, Waimate County).—Established January, 1894. Area purchased, 620 acres 2 roods 13 perches. There are twenty-eight holdings occupied, and the population is 110 souls residing in twenty-four houses. During the past season 147 acres were in grain-crops, 95 acres in green and root crops, and 347 acres in cultivated grasses; and the stock included 179 head of cattle, 41 horses, and 65 pigs. The total value of improvements required is £1,144 5s. 2d., and the value effected £2,958 0s. 6d. The tenants are all complying satisfactorily, and have established good homes on their small areas.

2. *Studholme Junction Settlement* (near Studholme Junction, Waimate County).—Established January, 1894. Area purchased, 109 acres and 7 perches. There are four sections occupied, and the number of souls is ten, residing in two houses, the other two sections being held by settlers living close by. The area under cultivation last season consisted of 43 acres in grain-crops, and 52 acres were in cultivated grasses. The stock comprised 26 head of cattle, 12 horses, and 6 pigs. The value of improvements required is £214 7s. 10d., and the value effected £586 2s. The holdings are in good order, and the conditions satisfactorily fulfilled.

3. *Kapua Settlement* (near Waimate, Waimate County).—Established March, 1894. Area purchased, 574 acres 1 rood 22 perches. Twelve sections are occupied, each having a separate dwellinghouse, and the total number of souls is forty-three. The stock on the settlement consist of 149 head of cattle, 33 horses, and 40 pigs; and the cultivated area comprised 205 acres in grain-crops, 42 acres in green or root crops, and 301 acres in artificial grasses. The value of improvements required is £977 8s. 9d., and the value effected £1,918 5s. The settlement is in a satisfactory condition, the tenants apparently doing well, and most of them supplying milk to an adjacent creamery.

4. *Rosebrook Settlement* (near Timaru, Levels County).—Established June, 1895. Area purchased, 600 acres 1 rood 8 perches. There are fourteen sections occupied, thirteen dwellinghouses, and a resident population of sixty-nine souls. During the past season the crops grown included 193 acres in grain, and 71 acres in green and root crops, and 285 acres were in cultivated grasses; the stock carried were 54 sheep, 102 head of cattle, 68 horses, and 68 pigs. The value of improvements required is £1,061 16s. 4d., and the value effected £2,396 3s. 6d. The holdings are in good order, and the crops have been fairly satisfactory, but the tenants have suffered from shortage of water, as there has not been sufficient rainfall to fill the dams during the past two years.

5. *Otaio Settlement* (near St. Andrew's, Waimate County).—Established June, 1895. The area purchased was 373 acres 3 roods 14 perches, on which there are nine settlers, with eight dwelling-houses, inhabited by forty souls. The stock on the settlement comprise 120 sheep, 54 cattle, 23 horses,

and 15 pigs, and the cultivated area last season included 124 acres of grain-crops, 65 acres of green and root crops, and 178 acres of new grasses. The value of improvements required is £692 6s. 1d., and the value effected £2,359 5s. 6d. The tenants are doing well and keeping their holdings in good order; there is a creamery in the vicinity, and most of them supply milk to it.

6. *The Peaks Settlement* (between the Hurunui and Waitohi Rivers, Ashley County).—Established August, 1895. The area purchased was 2,811 acres and 9 perches, and it was acquired with the object of extending the holdings of settlers occupying small areas in an adjacent village settlement which had been established in 1887. The settlers therefore reside on their original selections, and only two persons are actually resident on the settlement, in one dwellinghouse. The area under cultivation during the past season included 391 acres in wheat and oats, and 216 acres of green and root crops. Most of the land is light in character, but with husbandry gives fair returns. The stock on the settlement consisted of 1,830 sheep, 9 head of cattle, and 22 horses. The total value of improvements required is £2,357 17s. 11d. and the value effected £2,354 15s. In three cases the improvement conditions have not been entirely fulfilled, but if the improvements which have been effected are added to the value of the improvements on their village-settlement holdings, they will have complied on their grouped allotments. The plan adopted of increasing the areas for these settlers to occupy has turned out well; their present position is a moderately good one, and their future prospects fair.

7. *Roimata Settlement* (at Woolston, a suburb of Christchurch).—This settlement was established in August, 1895, being the first suburban block acquired near Christchurch. The area purchased is 48 acres 3 roods 27 perches, and it is subdivided into twenty-seven allotments of from 1 to 3½ acres, which are used for residential and gardening purposes. The number of dwellinghouses is twenty-five inhabited by 110 souls, and the value of improvements effected is £6,214, against £864 3s. 6d. required. The Ranger states that "all have done sufficient in value, but one settler has not yet built a proper dwelling-house and is not residing, and another has a house but does not continuously reside. The settlement as a whole is in a satisfactory state. Most of the holdings are in a neat and clean condition, indicative of the class of tenants occupying them. The small orchards, shrubs, and hedges have now grown sufficiently to give a pleasing appearance to the settlement; there is now no trouble with drainage; and the unimproved value of land in this locality is increasing."

8. *Patoa Settlement* (adjoining the Peaks Settlement).—Established November, 1895. The area acquired was 4,535 acres 3 roods 14 perches, on which there are four selectors, two of whom, representing fourteen souls, reside on their holdings, and two reside on prior selections in the neighbourhood. The value of improvements required is £978 8s. 5d., and the value effected £1,722. The land is generally of light quality, partly covered with manuka scrub, and is used principally for grazing. The stock on the settlement consisted of 1,516 sheep, 15 head of cattle, and 9 horses. Seventy acres have been in white crop, 490 acres are laid down in cultivated grasses, and the remainder is in its native condition.

9. *Braco Settlement* (at Fendalton, a Suburb of Christchurch).—The area purchased was 27 acres 2 roods 4 perches, which is occupied in fourteen holdings from 1 to 3½ acres in size. There are fourteen dwellinghouses, and a resident population of fifty-two souls. All the tenants are complying with the conditions, and have effected improvements to an aggregate value of £2,546, against £461 19s. 8d. required. Most of the land is used for gardening purposes, and very few stock are kept. The settlement is in a satisfactory condition.

10. *Epworth Settlement* (close to Temuka, Geraldine County).—Established November, 1895, the area purchased being 21 acres and 3 perches. Held under two leases by husband and wife with five children. The value of improvements required is £41 7s. 2d., and the value effected £158 16s., and the combined holding is kept in good order.

11. *Ashley Gorge Settlement* (near East Oxford, Selwyn County).—Established December, 1895. The area purchased was 1,165 acres 3 roods 6 perches; this is subdivided into ten small farms, and two blocks form homestead-sites for 2,812 acres of adjoining pastoral Crown land, held under the small-grazing-run system, the latter being included in the following figures. There are twelve dwellinghouses, occupied by forty-six souls. The value of improvements required is £1,891 19s. 5d., and the value effected £4,942. The small farms are occupied principally for dairying, and only a little cropping is done. During the past season 71 acres were in white crop, and 34 acres in green crops. The stock wintered on the settlement comprised 2,641 sheep, 199 head of cattle (chiefly milking-cows), 34 horses, and 14 pigs. All the occupiers have complied satisfactorily with the conditions of their leases. The position and prospects of the settlers are fair.

12. *Kereta Settlement* (near Timaru, Levels County).—Established December, 1895. Area purchased, 105 acres 2 roods 29 perches. The number of holders is four, and the population twenty-seven souls, residing in three dwellinghouses. The settlement is used almost exclusively for dairying, and carries 103 head of cattle, 11 horses, and 15 pigs; the only areas under the plough last season being 11 acres of grain-crops and 8 acres in green or root crops. The total value of improvements required is £230 0s. 8d., and the value effected £909 17s. 6d. The dry season has suited this rich swampy land, and the settlement is prospering.

13. *Orakipaoa Settlement* (near Temuka, Geraldine County).—Established June, 1896. Area purchased, 384 acres and 31 perches, which is occupied by twenty-seven holders in areas from 5 to 58 acres. The number of dwellinghouses is twenty, and the population eighty-eight souls. The area cultivated last season included 138 acres in grain-crops, and 30 acres in green or root crops, while 215 acres were in artificial grasses. The settlement also carried 132 head of cattle, 43 horses, and 65 pigs. The total value of improvements required is £1,492 7s. 4d., and the value effected £2,338 19s. Some of the smaller allotments are held by tenants who reside by permission on previous selections from the Crown in the Arowhenua Village Settlement, a short distance away. The tenants are doing well and the holdings are in good order, but great effort is needed to keep down twitch-grass.

14. *Highbank Settlement* (near Methven, Ashburton County).—Established June, 1896, the area purchased being 9,121 acres 3 roods 8 perches. Seventy-six sections are occupied, and there are fifty-nine dwellinghouses, inhabited by 226 souls. The area under cultivation comprises 2,989 acres in grain-crops, 1,160 acres in green or root crops, and 4,721 acres in cultivated grasses. The stock on the settlement number 7,859 sheep, 194 head of cattle, 272 horses, and 62 pigs. The value of improvements required is £13,907 11s. 9d., and the value effected £19,748 15s. 9d. The Ranger states that this settlement has had a prosperous year, the dry season having apparently done but little harm, and with recent rains both root-crops and grass for winter feed are promising well. Some sections have changed hands during the year at high values, but the new tenants appear well satisfied with their purchases. The school on the settlement is well attended, and the store alongside does a good business. Altogether the settlement appears to be in a thoroughly prosperous condition.

15. *Rakitairi Settlement* (between Temuka and Hilton, in the Geraldine County).—Established March, 1897. Area purchased, 3,526 acres 1 rood 26 perches, now occupied in twenty-two holdings. The number of dwellinghouses is seventeen, in which seventy-four souls reside. During the past season the stock depastured on the settlement consisted of 4,150 sheep, 92 head of cattle, 124 horses, and 46 pigs, and there were 825 acres in grain-crops, 490 acres in green and root crops, and 1,899 acres of cultivated pasture. The value of improvements required is £4,915 2s. 3d., and the value effected £6,840 15s. 6d. This settlement is making fair progress; all the tenants are complying satisfactorily, and appear to be doing well. Crops have been fairly good, but grass sown failed in most cases owing to the dry season. The Ranger notes that more tree-planting might be done with advantage.

16. *Waiapi Settlement* (near Temuka, Geraldine County).—Established March, 1897. Area purchased, 1,124 acres 2 roods 36 perches. The settlement is divided into fifteen holdings, on which there are fourteen dwellinghouses, occupied by sixty-one souls. The area under cultivation during the past season included 319 acres in grain-crops, 156 acres in green or root crops, and 568 acres in artificial grasses. The stock comprised 850 sheep, 120 head of cattle, 74 horses, and 58 pigs. The value of improvements required is £1,821 6s. 9d., and value effected £4,184 11s. 1d. The settlement is in a satisfactory condition, and the tenants are doing fairly well; the majority of the holdings are under 20 acres, and are occupied merely as homes. Very little planting is done, as tenants fear to make shelter for the birds. The crops have been light.

17. *Otarakaro Settlement* (at Fendalton, a Suburb of Christchurch).—Established March, 1897. The area purchased was 39 acres 3 roods 9 perches, and the number of tenants is seven, representing twenty-four souls, occupying seven dwellinghouses. The value of improvements required is £201 19s. 1d., and the value effected £1,729, all the tenants having complied satisfactorily. Twelve acres are devoted to gardens and orchards, and the balance of the land is in pasture, grazing 15 cows and 3 horses.

18. *Wharenui Hamlet* (at Riccarton, a Suburb of Christchurch).—This is the first workmen's-homes settlement in the district, and was established in March, 1897. The area purchased was 73 acres 1 rood 10 perches, which is occupied by twenty-six holders, each having a separate dwellinghouse. The population of the hamlet is 118 souls; the value of improvements required £810 1s., and the value effected £5,748. Twenty-five acres are in gardens and orchards, and the remainder in pasture and small crops. With the assistance of a grant from the Government, drains have been cut intersecting the block, and it is hoped that the condition of the settlement during the rainy season will be considerably improved thereby. The settlement is generally in a healthy state of progress.

19. *Albury Settlement* (at Albury, Mackenzie County).—Established April, 1897. The area purchased was 19,539 acres 1 rood 24 perches, and an adjoining block of 5,457 acres of pastoral Crown land was incorporated in the subdivision. Including the latter the total number of holdings is seventy-seven, and there are fifty-nine dwellinghouses, inhabited by 343 souls. The whole area depastures 26,256 sheep, 466 head of cattle, 486 horses, and 147 pigs; and the areas under cultivation last season included 1,946 acres of grain-crops, 2,035 acres of roots or green crops, and 9,454 acres in cultivated grasses. The value of improvements required is £18,793, and the total value effected £29,766 9s. 10d. The Ranger states that this settlement is still making good progress, the tenants are adding to the improvements, and the holdings on the whole are looking well; the land is well worked and kept clean, and the crops and grass returns have improved. With a few minor exceptions, the tenants are all complying satisfactorily, and are in prosperous circumstances.

20. *Marawiti Settlement* (between Rakaia and Methven, Ashburton County).—Established May, 1897. Area purchased, 2,028 acres 2 roods 33 perches, subdivided into thirteen sections. There are twelve dwellinghouses, in which sixty-nine souls reside. The crops last season consisted of 647 acres in grain, and 263 acres in root or green crops, while 970 acres had been laid down in grass. The stock owned by the settlers were 1,435 sheep, 65 head of cattle, 60 horses, and 18 pigs. The value of improvements required is £3,089 5s. 7d., and value effected £4,610 8s. 6d. The Ranger's report shows that, in spite of the dry season, the crops have been fairly good; the settlers are prosperous, and have good homesteads which are well maintained.

21. *Horsley Down Settlement* (near Hawarden, Ashley County).—Established June, 1897, upon a purchased area of 3,982 acres 3 roods and 35 perches, now held by twenty-seven settlers, and carrying a population of ninety-nine souls in twenty-five dwellinghouses. Last season the crops consisted of 729 acres in wheat, oats, and barley, and 391 acres in turnips, rape, and potatoes; the white crops gave moderate returns, but the green crops suffered from the dry weather. The stock wintered on the settlement consisted of 4,400 sheep, 128 head of mixed cattle, 106 horses, and 40 pigs; and the lambing averaged about 94 per cent. The value of improvements required is £5,468 16s. 6d., and the total value effected is £12,762 19s.; all the lessees have fulfilled the requirements of their leases, and the settlement as a whole is one of the most prosperous in the district.

22. *Hekeao Settlement* (near Mount Somers, Ashburton County).—Established March, 1898. Area purchased, 2,254 acres 2 roods 11 perches, divided into fifteen sections, and occupied by sixteen individuals, two of whom have been allowed to increase their small holdings. There are thirteen dwelling-houses, inhabited by forty-two souls. During last season 575 acres were in grain-crops and 339 acres in green or root crops, and 1,176 acres had been laid down in new pastures. The stock on the settlement comprised 2,375 sheep, 29 head of cattle, 58 horses, and 7 pigs. The value of improvements required is £3,125 3s. 7d., and the value effected £5,315 12s. 6d. The crops on this settlement are reported to have been good, the holdings are well kept, and the settlers appear to be prosperous and contented.

23. *Pawako Hamlet* (a Workmen's homes Settlement, situated at Heathcote Valley, adjoining the Christchurch-Lyttelton Railway).—Established April, 1898, on a purchased area of 52 acres and 18 perches, which is divided into twenty-five allotments. There are twenty-four dwellinghouses (one having been destroyed by fire in December last), occupied by ninety souls. The value of improvements required is £750, and the value effected £3,904 10s. 11d. The Ranger states that there is one selector who does not continuously reside, the rest are complying. During the dry summer months the settlers had difficulty in obtaining sufficient water for their households; in a number of the wells that have been dug the water has so much mineral-matter in solution as to render it unfit for drinking or domestic purposes. Except for this trouble, the position of the settlement is satisfactory.

24. *Waikakahi Settlement* (between the Waihao and Waitaki Rivers, Waimate County).—Established March, 1899; the area purchased being 48,262 acres 2 roods 34 perches. The holders number 138 of rural lease-in-perpetuity lands, fourteen of small grazing-runs, and thirty-two of leases in perpetuity in the Township of Morven. The total number of dwellinghouses erected is 157, in which 813 souls reside; and the value of improvements effected is £92,453 12s. 6d., against £59,338 10s. 9d. required. The area under crop last season included 8,147 acres of grain-crops, and 4,084 acres of green and root crops; while 32,264 acres had been laid down in cultivated grasses. The stock carried on the settlement comprise 44,847 sheep, 1,758 head of cattle, 1,126 horses, and 348 pigs. The Ranger states that this settlement is still progressing steadily: the tenants are in comfortable positions and thriving well while making excellent additions to their improvements. Morven Township continues to make satisfactory progress. The settlement as a whole is in good order, and presents a very satisfactory and prosperous appearance. Crops have been generally fair.

25. *Tamai Hamlet* (Workmen's Homes, situated at Woolston, a Suburb of Christchurch).—Established June, 1899. The area purchased was 41 acres and 28 perches, now divided into forty allotments, on which forty dwellinghouses have been erected, occupied by 169 souls. The total value of improvements required is £1,200, and the value effected £6,402 8s. 9d. The Ranger reports that there is one tenant who is not residing, but the rest are complying with the residential conditions. In some cases the fencing is not up to the required standard, and the drainage is not yet satisfactory; in other respects the condition of the settlement is fair, and its establishment has afforded a number of work-people engaged in a variety of occupations the means of possessing comfortable and independent homes.

26. *Takitu Settlement* (on the North Side of the Waitaki River, between Glenavy and Hakataramea, Waimate County).—Established March, 1900, on a purchased area of 9,713 acres and 37 perches. This is subdivided into five small grazing-runs, on which twenty souls reside, in five dwellinghouses. Very little cropping is done, there being only 104 acres in white crops last season and 513 acres in green or root crops, but 8,776 acres were in cultivated grasses. The stock depastured on the settlement comprised 6,500 sheep and 5,000 lambs, 102 head of cattle, and 35 horses. The value of improvements required is £4,850 7s. 4d., and value effected £7,663 4s. 3d. The tenants have added considerably to the value of their improvements, and are doing well; they have had ample feed throughout the season, and root-crops promise well for winter feed.

27. *Pareora No. 2 Settlement* (near St. Andrew's, Waimate County).—Established March, 1900. Area purchased, 8,132 acres and 31 perches. There are thirty-two separate allotments, on each of which a dwellinghouse has been erected, and 201 souls are in residence. The stock on the settlement consist of 7,515 sheep and 7,235 lambs, 326 head of cattle, 270 horses, and 91 pigs; and the area in crop last season included 2,197 acres in grain-crops, and 1,066 acres in green and root crops, while 4,629 acres had been laid down in new grass. The value of improvements required is £13,328 18s. 9d., and the value effected £19,117 5s. 6d. The Ranger states that good substantial progress is being made on this settlement, alike in value and quality of improvements, the planting and cleaning of land, and other matters; the homesteads are good, and the tenants doing well, and the whole appearance of the settlement is very prosperous.

28. *Rautawiri Settlement* (between Temuka and Winchester, Geraldine County).—Established April, 1900. Area purchased, 113 acres and 7 perches, on which there are six holders, six dwellinghouses, and twenty-two souls. The value of improvements required is £312 7s. 6d., and the value effected £1,171 17s. 6d. During the past season 53 acres were in grain-crops, 21 acres in green or root crops, and the balance in grass. The stock consisted of 26 head of cattle, 20 horses, and 20 pigs. The holdings are in good order, and the tenants doing fairly well.

29. *Papaka Settlement* (between Timaru and Pleasant Point, Levels County).—Established April, 1900, on a purchased area of 1,561 acres 2 roods 25 perches. There are nine holders, representing forty-two souls, residing in nine dwellinghouses. The cultivation last season included 533 acres of grain-crops, 15 acres of root and green crops, and 938 acres in artificial grasses; and the stock on the settlement comprised 1,775 sheep, 54 head of cattle, 52 horses, and 24 pigs. The value of improvements required is £2,904 18s. 5d., and the value effected £4,327. All the tenants are complying satisfactorily, and have their holdings in good order. The crops have been light, as the settlement has felt the effects of the dry season.

30. *Punaroa Settlement* (near Fairlie, Mackenzie County).—Established April, 1900. Area purchased, 7,029 acres 3 roods 5 perches, on which there are sixteen lease-in-perpetuity holders, and one small-grazing-run holder. There are seventeen dwellinghouses, occupied by sixty-six souls. During last season grain-crops were sown in 293 acres, root or green crops in 745 acres, and 4,031 acres were in cultivated grasses. The stock on the whole area included 7,544 sheep and 5,607 lambs, 133 head of cattle, 118 horses, and 36 pigs. The value of improvements required is £6,342 13s. 9d., and the value effected £9,772 2s. 10d. The tenants have put in excellent work in cleaning their lands, and are now reaping the advantage in heavier crops and more grass, as the land is of good quality and repays working. The homesteads and other improvements are well kept, and the lessees are prosperous and contented, and are complying satisfactorily with the conditions of occupation.

31. *Lyndon No. 1 Settlement* (near Waiau, Amuri County).—Established March, 1901. Area purchased, 4,243 acres 3 roods 28 perches. There are ten holders, nine dwellinghouses, and thirty-nine souls on the settlement. The stock include 4,448 sheep, 37 cattle, 63 horses, and a few pigs; and the area under cultivation during the past season has been 373 acres in grain-crops, and 416 acres in green or root crops, besides which 2,623 acres had been sown in artificial grasses. The value of improvements required is £5,093 13s., and the value effected £8,161 12s. 4d.; in one case the value of improvements effected is somewhat short of requirements, but this deficiency will probably be made up during the ensuing year. The lambing was not so satisfactory as in previous years, an unexpected cold snap with snow having caught the bulk of the lambs at an early stage of their career. The holdings are of suitable size for profitable occupation, and the present condition of the settlement is satisfactory.

32. *Kohika Settlement* (near Otaio, Waimate County).—Established May, 1901, on a purchased area of 3,864 acres 1 rood 10 perches, now occupied by seventeen holders. There are fifteen dwellinghouses, and a resident population of fifty-six souls. The value of improvements required is £5,604 18s., and the value effected £6,478 0s. 9d. The areas in crop last season consisted of 561 acres in grain and 540 acres in green and root crops, and 2,634 acres were in cultivated grasses. The stock numbered 4,086 sheep and 3,567 lambs, 77 cattle, 140 horses, and 33 pigs. The Ranger reports that the settlement is progressing satisfactorily; the tenants are cleaning the land well, and keeping their homesteads in good order, and appear to be prosperous. The crops have been fairly good, and prospects are favourable for winter feed. In three cases the improvements effected are short of the amounts required for the sixth year, which recently expired, but these deficiencies will probably be made good before long.

33. *Tarawahi Hamlet* (Workmen's Homes, situated at Spreydon, a Suburb of Christchurch).—Established June, 1901. The area purchased was 31 acres 3 roods, which has been subdivided into twenty-four holdings; on each of these a dwellinghouse has been erected, and there is a total population of ninety-six souls. The value of improvements required is £720, and the value effected £5,883. Two of the lessees are not residing at present, but in other respects the requirements have been satisfactorily fulfilled. The Ranger reports that "the general appearance of this hamlet is improving, ornamental hedges are taking the place of the old post-and-wire fencing, and the gardens and shrubs give it a homely look. Unfortunately the tomato-crop (a feature of the settlement) suffered a good deal from blight this past season, seriously affecting the returns. However, the settlement is on the whole in a satisfactory position, and the unimproved value of the land is advancing."

34. *Raincliff Settlement* (near Fairlie, Geraldine County).—Established June, 1901. The area purchased was 745 acres 2 roods; 206 acres 3 roods, being in plantation, was constituted a State forest, and the balance is occupied as one holding, on which three souls reside. Grain-crops have been grown on 75 acres, and 405 acres are sown down in English grasses. The stock included 2 head of cattle and 10 horses. The value of improvements required is £522 3s. 3d., and value effected £571 1s. 1d.

35. *Puhuka Hamlet* (Workmen's Homes at Washdyke, close to Timaru).—Established July, 1901, on a purchased area of 39 acres 2 roods 7 perches. The number of holders is ten, each possessing his own dwellinghouse, and there are thirty-five persons living in the hamlet. The value of improvements required is £300, and the value effected £1,740 5s. 11d. The tenants are all complying satisfactorily and making good homes; it is a useful settlement and very conveniently situated for workmen's homes.

36. *Kaimahi Settlement* (situated at Papanui, a Suburb of Christchurch).—Established October, 1901. The area purchased was 100 acres 2 roods 1 perch, and there are eleven holders, residing on allotments of from 5 to 10 acres each; 4 acres are held by the local Road Board for a gravel-pit, and 10 acres, originally infested with Californian thistle, are occupied by the Agricultural Department for experimental purposes. The value of improvements required is £404 16s. 9d., and the value effected £3,487 6s., and there are forty-four persons residing in the settlement, all requirements being satisfactorily fulfilled. The stock consists of 22 head of cattle, 9 horses, and 15 pigs. The small crops grown comprised—tomatoes, 2 acres; peas, 3 acres; carrots, 2 acres; mangels, 3 acres; cabbage and cauliflowers, 5 acres; potatoes, 10 acres; oats, 13 acres; and there are 11 acres in gardens and orchards. The crops were poor, owing to the dry season.

37. *Kaputoke Hamlet* (Workmen's Homes at Belfast, about Six Miles from Christchurch).—Established October, 1901. Area purchased, 49 acres 3 roods 37 perches. Eleven sections are residentially occupied, one is held by the local Road Board for a gravel-pit and two allotments of half an acre each are unselected; eleven dwellinghouses have been erected, in which twenty-five souls reside. The total value of improvements required is £336, and the value effected £1,520, all the tenants having complied with residential and improvement conditions. The stock owned by the holders consists of 10 cows, 4 horses, and 10 pigs; but the land is mostly used for gardens.

38. *Rapuwai Settlement* (near Pleasant Point, Geraldine County).—Established December, 1901. Area purchased, 2,247 acres 2 roods 11 perches, which is divided into five holdings, on which twenty-two persons reside, in five houses. During last season 227 acres were in grain-crops, 251 acres in root and green crops, and 1,607 acres were in cultivated grasses. The stock on the settlement consisted

of 2,370 sheep, 18 cattle, 40 horses, and 3 pigs. The value of improvements required is £2,619 13s. 2d. and the value effected £2,837 13s. 7d.; in one case the improvements are short of the value required for the sixth year, but this will shortly be made up. Good work has been done in clearing gorse and scrub, and satisfactory progress is being made by the settlement as a whole. Crops generally have been good, though the holdings are used principally for grazing.

39. *Lyndon No. 2 Settlement* (near Waiau, Amuri County).—Established April, 1902, on a purchased area of 15,887 acres, divided into six lease-in-perpetuity holdings and three small grazing-runs. There are nine dwellinghouses, inhabited by thirty-three persons. The total value of improvements required is £3,321 17s., and the value effected £8,517 15s. 9d. All the lessees are now complying with the conditions of occupation. The Ranger states that 371 acres were in grain-crops and 560 acres in green and root crops. Owing to the dry season the returns from cropping were light, and at the time of his visit the turnip-crops were expected to fail; the grass on the level land was in a parched condition, but the hill land on the grazing-runs still provided good sheep-feed. The stock, which appeared in fair order, consisted of 10,550 sheep, 44 head of cattle, and 63 horses. In two instances the lambing was poor, and in the remaining cases fair.

40. *Maytown Settlement* (close to Waimate Township, Waimate County).—Established April, 1902. The area purchased was 391 acres 3 roods 32 perches, and it is now occupied by eleven holders, with a population of forty-seven, residing in eleven houses. The stock on the settlement during last season comprised 99 cattle, 23 horses, and 63 pigs. Ninety-six acres were in grain-crops, 54 acres in green or root crops, and 212 acres in artificial pastures. The value of improvements required is £282 11s., and the value effected £1,903 3s. 11d. The holdings are all in good order, and the tenants appear to be prospering.

41. *Eccleston Settlement* (near Otaio, Waimate County).—Established May, 1902. Area purchased, 1,246 acres 1 rood 5 perches, on which there are four settlers, representing thirteen persons. The value of improvements required is £496 4s. 10d., and the value effected £2,912 17s. 8d. The area in crop last season included 333 acres of grain, and 116 acres of root and green crops, and 787 acres had been laid down in grass. The stock numbered 1,020 sheep and 1,016 lambs, 28 cattle, 23 horses, and 6 pigs. The lessees are all complying satisfactorily, and steadily improving their holdings, and appear to be doing well.

42. *Mead Settlement* (on the North Side of the Rakaia River, near the Railway, Selwyn County).—Established January, 1903, the area purchased being 5,914 acres 3 roods 17 perches. There are twenty-two settlers, two of whom reside on adjacent previous selections; nineteen dwellinghouses have been erected, in which sixty-six souls reside. The value of improvements required is £932 16s. 2d., and the value effected £6,429 5s. 10d. The area under crop has been small, consisting of 622 acres of grain and 630 acres of green or root crops, and 4,050 acres are in cultivated grasses. Owing to the dry season, oat-crops have been light, and young grass has been a failure. The stock on the settlement include 4,585 sheep, 42 head of cattle, 72 horses, and 4 pigs. A school has now been opened in the settlement and is a great advantage.

43. *Chamberlain Settlement* (near Albury, Mackenzie County).—Established March, 1903. Area acquired, 10,500 acres 1 rood 9 perches, to which is added a block of 9,523 acres of adjoining pastoral Crown land, and the whole is divided into three small grazing-runs, nineteen lease-in-perpetuity holdings, and a coal-mine holding occupied under a twenty-one-years lease. Twenty-three dwellinghouses have been erected, and are occupied by 107 souls. The stock depastured by the tenants during the year included 18,475 sheep and 5,730 lambs, 144 head of cattle, 162 horses, and 33 pigs. The area cultivated comprised 982 acres in grain-crops and 1,104 acres in root and green crops; 6,867 acres had been laid down in artificial grasses, and the balance was in native pasture. The value of improvements required is £3,064 4s. 2d., and the total value effected £12,264 9s. 10d. The Ranger states that this settlement is making splendid progress, the tenants making good improvements, cleaning the land well, and obtaining better returns thereby. The crops have varied from fair to good.

44. *Annan Settlement* (near Waiau, in the Amuri County).—Established June, 1903, on a purchased area of 32,858 acres 2 roods and 33 perches, on which there are ten small-grazing-run holders, twenty-five holders of leases in perpetuity of rural allotments, and eight of township allotments. The number of dwellinghouses erected is forty, and the population 169 souls. On some of the more recently selected township allotments the building and residence conditions have not yet been satisfactorily fulfilled, but in all other cases full compliance with requirements has been effected. The value of improvements required is £8,290 18s. 2d., and the total value effected £26,478 5s. 5d. The Ranger states that in spite of the unusually dry season the farmers on this settlement have had good crops, oats in two instances yielding 60 bushels per acre; in some cases the settlers had fair turnip-strikes which were looking well at the time of his inspection, their appearance being far ahead of others in North Canterbury, while rape-crops also looked well. The difficulty under which the north Amuri farmers labour is that when they have fat sheep and lambs, especially the latter, the market is so far away that they go off in driving. 1,855 acres were cropped, of which 800 acres were in white crops, chiefly oats, and the balance in turnips and rape, with small patches of mangels, kale, and carrots. The Ranger suggests that it would be well if the settlers having river-flats would try lucerne, as it makes such good fodder in summer, and by its habit of sending its roots down in loose gravelly soil to find moisture it affords succulent food for stock when all else is parched and dry. The pasture lands comprise 9,034 acres of exotic and 21,538 acres of native grasses, some portions of the latter area having been surface-sown with cocks-foot.

45. *Rosewill Settlement* (between Timaru and Albury, in the Levels and Mackenzie Counties).—Established March, 1904. Area purchased, 38,683 acres 2 roods 15 perches, now occupied by two small-grazing-run holders, 142 holders of rural leases in perpetuity, and ten village allotments on the same tenure. There are 145 dwellinghouses, and a resident population of 574 persons. The value of

improvements required is £13,956 4s. 4d., and the value effected £57,700 13s. 5d. The Ranger reports that the improvements made during the year are all substantial and useful, especially the construction of dams, as the tenants find that with plenty of storage-space only an exceedingly dry season could cause any serious shortage of water. They have taken full advantage of the dry season for cleaning the land of twitch, &c. A fair quantity of planting is being done, though more might be done with advantage, especially in the direction of fruit-growing. The crops on the whole have been fair, some of them above the average, and the tenants are all doing well.

46. *Morice Settlement* (near Little River, Akaroa County).—Established December, 1905. Area purchased, 2,261 acres and 27 perches. There are twenty-nine holders, whose holdings vary from 8 to 215 acres; all reside within the limits of the estate, and the improvement-conditions have been complied with by every lessee. The value required is £2,101 19s., and the total value effected £6,596 5s. 2d. The population is ninety-five, in twenty-nine dwellings. Most of the tenants are dairy-farmers and cocksfoot-seed growers. This seed was harvested off 730 acres, the returns varying from one to five sacks of seed per acre: the best return came from the high country, which had the benefit of sea-mists during the long spell of dry weather; and good prices were obtained, which made up for the poor returns. There were 442 head of cattle (about two hundred of these would be dairy cows), 700 sheep, 42 horses, and 50 pigs at the time of inspection. The shortage of pasture was telling very badly on the dairy cattle. The Ranger suggests that as twenty out of the twenty-nine holders have holdings less, and in some cases considerably less, than 100 acres, they should be allowed when opportunity occurs to obtain one other section in the settlement in addition to the one they occupy. There is no land suitable for agriculture, and they must depend entirely on their cows and grass-seed. At present the young stock have to be sold off at any price, there being no room to rear young cows to take the place of those which become unfitted (through age or other causes) for the dairy. The young stock included in the returns given are almost all located on the larger sections.

47. *Kinloch Settlement* (near Little River, Akaroa County).—Established March, 1906. Area purchased, 13,042 acres and 2 perches, which is divided amongst twenty-six sheep- and four dairy-farmers; one sheep-farm which had been surrendered was recently reselected. There are twenty-four dwelling-houses, in which seventy-six souls reside; two other houses are being built; and in three cases the lessees have not yet fully complied with the residential conditions. The total value of improvements on the estate is £11,127 10s. 5d., as against £4,974 0s. 9d. required. Three tenants have not yet done the required amount, but in two of these cases they have been waiting for the completion of the road to their homestead-sites. In connection with the improvements effected, it may be pointed out that nineteen of the settlers have to lift all their goods, timber, and fencing up nearly 2,000 ft., and then bring them down nearly as far again to their homesteads. The lessees have been unfortunate in that the two years during which they have had possession of their lands have been unusually dry; they depend almost entirely on grazing for their returns; the stock which they disposed of had to be sold as stores; and this, together with the drop in wool, has placed the settlers in difficulties at the very beginning of their tenancy. The stock wintered on the estate consisted of 15,239 sheep, 547 head of cattle, 84 horses, and 35 pigs. Lambing was fair, but some losses were occasioned by the cold snap which came late in the season.

48. *Mills Settlement* (near Waimate, Waimate County).—Established March, 1906. Area purchased, 882 acres 2 roods 30 perches. There are twenty-one holders, occupying areas varying from 10 to 124 acres; and the population numbers seventy-two souls, residing in twenty-one houses. The area under cultivation last season included 388 acres in grain-crops and 41 acres in root or green crops, and 436 acres had been laid down in artificial pasture. The stock on the settlement consisted of 201 head of cattle, 50 horses, and 68 pigs. The value of improvements required is £672 3s. 4d., and the value effected £3,427 19s. 6d. There have been two bad cases of non-compliance in this settlement, and the leases have since been forfeited; in other cases the holders are doing good work, and complying satisfactorily. The holdings are in good order, crops have been fair, and some of the holders use their sections for dairying.

Homestead-sites, Low-lying Lands, &c.—There are eleven of these blocks, comprising a total area of 1,227 acres 3 roods 36 perches, five held on lease in perpetuity, four under small-grazing-run lease (to agree with the tenure of the larger holding to which they are attached), and two under temporary-occupation license. Four of the holdings are residentially occupied, by nine souls; and the total value of improvements effected is £2,107 5s., against £618 7s. required.

General Summary.

The following is a general summary of the figures quoted in this report:—

Number of subdivided settlements	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
„ homestead-sites, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	59
Number of tenants,—							
Lease in perpetuity	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,142
Small grazing-runs	..	..	..	..	..	..	44
Farm homestead	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Renewable lease	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Miscellaneous occupation licenses	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,236

Total area occupied ..	..	..	..	..	..	259,944a. 2r. 4p.
Number of houses erected ..	..	..	..	..	..	1,074
„ souls resident ..	..	..	..	..	..	4,678
Number of stock,—						
Sheep ..	..	..	..	..	..	246,755
Lambs ..	..	..	..	..	..	90,481
Cattle ..	..	..	..	..	..	7,463
Horses ..	..	..	..	..	..	4,902
Pigs ..	..	..	..	..	..	1,707
Area in cultivation,—						
Grain-crops ..	..	..	..	..	..	31,926 acres.
Green and root crops ..	..	..	..	..	..	20,557 „
Cultivated grasses ..	..	..	..	..	..	139,450 „
Native grass, swamp, &c. ..	..	..	..	..	..	68,011 „
Total value of improvements required ..	..	..	..	..	..	£207,880 11s. 2d.
„ effected ..	..	..	..	..	..	£437,067 10s. 0d.

ERIC C. GOLD SMITH,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

OTAGO.

I have the honour to submit the following report on land for settlements in the Otago Land District for the year ended 31st March, 1908 :—

During the year four new settlements were disposed of—viz., Kurow, on 21st May, 1907 ; Airedale, on 25th June, 1907 ; Otekaike, on 3rd February, 1908 ; and Taumata, on 25th March, 1908. The aggregate area of these four settlements for disposal was 57,578 acres, of which 50,819 acres have been let. The first two settlements, comprising an area of 3,742 acres, were let on lease in perpetuity ; and the last two, comprising the balance of 47,077 acres, were chiefly let on renewable lease, there being four miscellaneous leases over an area of 809 acres. The particulars of each of these settlements will be given in their respective places. Since the close of the financial year there has also been disposed of a further settlement called “ Meadowbank,” near Palmerston South, comprising an area of 4,343 acres, opened for selection on the 22nd and balloted for on the 25th April, the whole being disposed of.

Pomahaka Downs.—Established February, 1894. Area, 7,479 acres. Occupied holdings, 28, over 7,286 acres, at an annual rental of £1,153 14s. 6d., including four miscellaneous licenses, over 348 acres, at £7 15s. per annum. The whole area in this settlement is now in occupation. The number of dwellings erected is fourteen, and the number of souls resident forty-two. Improvements have been effected to the value of £7,159 11s. 6d. Of stock there are 3,000 sheep, 92 cattle, 68 horses, and 10 pigs. Area in new grass, 843 acres ; in white crop, 1,050 acres ; in green crop, 919 acres ; and in native grasses, &c., 295 acres. The Crown Lands Ranger reports as follows : “ The settlers have had a favourable year. The absence of heavy continuous rains suits the soil in that part of Otago, and the number of hot days during last summer was a decided advantage. The grain-crops were of a fair average, but, unfortunately, some of them were severely shaken when just about ready to cut. The root-crops are moderately good, but the grass is backward owing to the continued want of rain during December and January. The low price prevailing for wool has affected the Pomahaka settlers, most of whom keep a flock of sheep. Generally speaking, however, they have made good progress during the past year, and their prospects now appear to be brighter than they have been for a number of years past.”

Teaneraki.—Established February, 1894. Area, 351 acres. Present number of holdings, 22, over 335 acres, at an annual rental of £273 18s. 4d. ; there having been one forfeiture during the year, over 9 acres 1 rood 15 perches, not yet redealt with. Number of dwellings, 15 ; souls resident, 74. Value of improvements effected £2,166. Sheep and cattle, 151 ; horses, 25 ; pigs, 34. Area in new grass, nil ; in white crop, 71 acres ; in green crop, 26 acres ; native grass, &c., nil. The Ranger reports that this settlement, which has been in existence fourteen years, has not made much headway, there being fewer settlers on it now than at the beginning. In the face of all drawbacks, however, in the shape of high rents, droughts, and distance from railway, the settlers (whose chief occupation is dairying) have, with the assistance of outside employment, managed to hold their own.

Tahawai.—Established August, 1895. Area, 70 acres 1 rood 35 perches. Eight holdings, over an area of 68 acres 2 roods 14 perches, at £35 14s. 4d. yearly. Houses, 8 ; population, 32 ; Sheep, nil ; cattle, 36 ; horses, 10 ; pigs, 25. Area in new grass, 2 acres ; white crop, 19 acres ; green crop, 1 acre ; native grass, &c., nil. Value of improvements effected, £1,438. The Ranger's report states that this settlement, aided by irrigation, is still in a prosperous condition, the settlers generally obtaining outside work, while their families work the land and supply milk for the creamery.

Maerewhenua.—Established September, 1895. Area, 11,164 acres, there being seventy-four holdings over an aggregate area of 10,924 acres at £3,552 7s. 2d. per annum, including four miscellaneous licenses, over 13 acres, at £2 3s. per annum. Number of houses, 58 ; population, 242 ; Sheep, 5,505 ; cattle, 613 ; horses, 257 ; pigs, 112. Area in new grass, 999 acres ; in white crop, 2,828 acres ; in green crop, 940 acres ; native grasses, &c., nil. Value of improvements effected, £21,948 12s. 3d. The Ranger's report is as follows : “ This settlement, which is one of the earliest-acquired under the Land for Settlements Act, is also one of the most successful in North Otago. The settlers suffered through the late drought, but have made wonderful recovery since the drought broke up. The crops have been

generally good, the yields comparing favourably with those of past years. The percentage of lambs has been high, and good prices have been obtained for freezers. Turnips have come away well since the late rains, and the prospects for winter feed are encouraging. The settlers are in a sound position, and are well satisfied."

Puketapu.—Established March, 1896. Area, 509 acres. Eleven holdings, over 496 acres, at £189 0s. 10d., per annum. Houses, 10; population, 34. Sheep, 50; cattle, 118; horses, 27; pigs, 34. Area in new grass, 97 acres; in white crop, 100 acres; green crop, 41 acres; native grasses, &c., 94 acres. Value of improvements effected, £1,585 8s. 6d. The Ranger states that this small settlement continues in a satisfactory position. The settlers complain somewhat of the small size of the holdings, but the soil is good and the settlement is well situated close to Palmerston and the dairy factory. This compensates for the smallness of the sections. The crops have been good: one crop of oats threshed out at the rate of 100 bushels per acre. The settlers are satisfied with their prospects.

Ardgowan.—Established May, 1896. Area, 4,268 acres. Holdings, 66, over 4,170 acres, at £1,897 5s. 4d. yearly, inclusive of two miscellaneous licenses, over 11 acres, at £5 11s. 6d. per annum. Houses, 50; population, 219. Sheep, 1,260; cattle, 890; horses, 182; pigs, 175. Area in new grass, nil; in white crop, 734 acres; green crop, 307 acres; native grass, &c., 220 acres. Value of improvements effected, £14,079. The Ranger reports, "This is another of the earliest-established settlements in North Otago, which from the first has been continuously prosperous, the dairy industry, with the creamery in the centre of the settlement, being one the chief factors that have contributed to its prosperity."

Makareao and Makareao Extension.—Established in June, 1896, and April, 1897, respectively. Total area, 4,973 acres, there being in all thirty-four holdings, with an aggregate area of 4,862 acres, at an annual rental of £721 3s., including three miscellaneous licenses and lease of limestone quarry over 208 acres, at a yearly rental of £61 5s. 6d.; also three small grazing-runs, over 3,667 acres, at £401 18s. 10d. per annum. Houses, 23; population, 84. Sheep, 3,010; cattle, 255; horses, 75; pigs, 41. Area in new grass, 123 acres; in white crop, 223 acres; green crop, 276 acres; native grass, &c., 2,962 acres. Value of improvements effected, £6,241 11s. 9d. The lessee of the limestone quarry and works is making every effort to insure success, and there are reasonable hopes that he will not be disappointed. The Ranger reports as follows: "This settlement is making steady progress in every way. The larger holdings carry a good many sheep. Wool and fat lambs are the principal sources of income, while the dairy industry is accountable for much of the present prosperity of the occupiers of the smaller holdings."

Momona.—Established May, 1897. Area, 224 acres 1 rood 16 perches. Holdings, 14, with an area of 219 acres 1 rood 16 perches, at £185 1s. 2d. per annum. Houses, 13; population, 51. Sheep, nil; cattle, 128; horses, 24; pigs, 41. Area in new grass, 24 acres; in white crop, 31½ acres; green crop, 32½ acres; native grass, &c., 11 acres. Value of improvements effected, £2,297. The Ranger's report is as follows: "Momona has had an excellent year. The dryness and heat of the past season gave the settlers an abundance of grass, and, being all milk-suppliers, they obtained excellent returns. The settlement has a dairy practically on the ground, and it has good roads. The land is of the very finest quality, and the settlers generally are industrious and persevering. Their greatest danger is a wet season, because, owing to the level nature of the surrounding country, there is no fall to take away the surface water. Until some comprehensive drainage scheme is adopted, this estate and the large area of adjoining land will always be subject to flooding, which in the case of dairy farms does an incalculable amount of damage. The Momona settlers have made good progress, and under the circumstances prevailing during the past season their prospects are good."

Tokarahi.—Established May, 1897. Area 11,260 acres there being seventy-nine holdings, with an aggregate area of 10,978 acres, at an annual rental of £4,068 8s. 6d., including twenty-seven miscellaneous licenses, over an area of 194 acres, at £16 14s. 10d. per annum. Houses, 46; population, 194. Sheep, 5,700; cattle, 548; horses, 284; pigs, 70. Area in new grass, 444 acres; in white crop, 2,727 acres; in green crop, 927 acres; in native grass, &c., 2,085 acres. Value of improvements effected, £20,864 6s. 10d. The following is the Ranger's report: "This settlement is also progressing very steadily. The improvements made are of a solid and substantial kind. The settlers on the larger sections go in for wool-growing and raising fat lambs, while the smaller holders patronise the dairy factory. The latter industry has proved a great boon to the small man—in fact, if it were not for the dairy factory he would have a hard time. There are many things which make for the success of this settlement. It is well situated as regards the railway, and is splendidly roaded, well watered, and the soil is of first-class quality. The settlers are doing well and are satisfied with their prospects."

Janefield.—Established September, 1899. Area, 147 acres and 2 perches. There are twenty-one holdings, covering 143 acres 2 roods 37 perches, at £258 6s. 2d., per annum, inclusive of one miscellaneous license, over 10 acres, at £35 13s. 2d. per annum. Houses, 19; population, 83. Sheep, nil; cattle, 48; horses, 29; pigs, 21. Area in new grass, 8 acres; in white crop, 15 acres; green crop, 21½ acres; native grass, &c., 18 acres. Value of improvements effected, £3,691. The Ranger reports as follows: "Janefield is chiefly occupied by persons working in and about Mosgiel. Good progress has been made during the past season. Formerly the land was overrun with weeds of all kinds, but a much better state of things is now being established. There are quite a number of comfortable homes on the settlement, and the lease-conditions have been well complied with. The settlers have no grievances and their prospects are good. No grain is grown except an acre or so for settlers' own use, but root-crops and vegetables for the Dunedin market are largely produced. Owing to the drought of last summer these crops have not been up to the usual standard, but in ordinary years Janefield settlers can do very well."

Elderslie.—Established March, 1900. Area, 11,619 acres, there being thirty-four holdings, with a total area of 11,507 acres, at an annual rental of £4,126 19s. 4d., inclusive of eight miscellaneous

licenses, over 246 acres, at £18 8s 10d. yearly. There are twenty-four houses, while the population is seventy-eight. Number of sheep, 7,870; cattle, 242; horses, 194; pigs, 33. Area in new grass, 876 acres; in white crop, 2,473 acres; green crop, 436 acres; native grass, &c., 752 acres. Value of improvements effected, £15,833. The Ranger states that "this settlement is making very steady progress indeed. When purchased it was said by many people that too high a price had been paid for the land, but the settlers who were fortunate enough to obtain sections at the ballot know how wide of the mark that statement was. Certainly they had a succession of good seasons with high prices ruling for all farm-produce, but, independent of that, the very high premiums which are being paid for the goodwill of the leases show that the price paid was not too high. The principal sources of income are wool-growing, raising fat lambs, and the dairy factory. The improvements, consisting of buildings and fencing, are of a most substantial character, and the settlers themselves are prosperous and well satisfied with their prospects."

Barnejo.—Established May, 1900. Area, 7,079 acres, the holdings numbering twenty-four, and covering a total area of 7,054 acres, at £1,404 2s. 6d. per annum, inclusive of one miscellaneous license, over 19 acres 1 rood 5 perches, at £1 per annum. The dwellings number 16; population, 60. Sheep, 3,790; cattle, 291; horses, 81; pigs, 50. Area in new grass, 530 acres; in white crop, 552 acres; green crop, 568 acres; native grass, &c., 374 acres. Value of improvements, £8,521 15s. The Ranger, in his report, says, "The dry season has more or less affected the position of the settlers occupying the higher land. The want of rain during December and January gave both grass and root crops a considerable set-back, and, though a good growth has been experienced since early February, the turnip-crops are not up to their usual standard. The grain-crops are fair, and several good yields have been obtained. The fall in wool has rather seriously affected those settlers who depend largely on sheep. As against this loss, however, good lambing-averages were obtained. The settlers on the flat land who go in chiefly for dairying have had a really good year. The season suited them, and, though their root-crops may not come up to the average, they will have good grass, and their cattle are in good condition to begin the winter. The Barnejo settlers generally have had a very fair season. Their position is sound and their prospects good."

Earnsclough.—Established December, 1901. Area 1,270 acres, there being thirteen holdings, over 1,239 acres, at £173 10s. 8d. per annum, inclusive of three miscellaneous licenses, over 17 acres 1 rood 4 perches, at £3 7s. 2d. per annum, and two pastoral homestead areas, of 954 acres, at £121 13s. per annum. Houses, 8; population, 50. Sheep, nil; cattle, 41; horses, 14; pigs, 11. Area in new grass, nil; in white crop, 4 acres; green crop, nil; native grass, &c., 891 acres. Value of improvements, £2,195 10s. The Ranger reports as follows: "This settlement has made fair progress during the past year. The various holdings are gradually being planted in fruit-trees, and on such places progress is not so marked as on agricultural areas. Each settler is doing a little every year in the way of planting, and during the past year a fair amount of fruit was forwarded to market. A steady water-supply for irrigation is indispensable, and so far the keen competition between miners and settlers for the available water-supply has resulted in the Earnsclough settlers suffering to some extent through shortage of water. If the position of the water-right were decided in favour of the settlers, sufficient water would be available even in very dry seasons, but until the position of the right is definitely fixed there will always be more or less friction and dissatisfaction. Beyond the water trouble the settlers have no grievances, and their position is fairly sound. The settlement conditions have been well complied with."

Windsor Park.—Established May, 1902. Area, 3,822 acres. The holdings number thirty-seven, with an area of 3,799 acres, at an annual rental of £1,641 3s. There are twenty-three houses, the population being seventy-nine. Sheep, 2,235; cattle, 304; horses, 110; pigs, 55. Area in new grass, 286 acres; in white crop, 768 acres; green crop, 353 acres; native grass, &c., 199 acres. Value of improvements, £5,660. (See Ranger's remarks under Windsor Park No. 2.)

Windsor Park No. 2.—Established October, 1902. Area, 2,180 acres, there being ten holdings, over 2,178 acres, at £875 16s. 8d. per annum. Houses, 8; population, 40. Sheep, 992; cattle, 217; horses, 40; pigs, 21. Area in new grass, 13 acres; in white crop, 449 acres; green crop, 176 acres; native grass, &c., 315 acres. Value of improvements, £2,672 6s. 3d. The Ranger reports on the two Windsor Park Settlements as follows: "These two settlements are in a satisfactory position. The settlers have suffered more or less from drought during the last two years, but the fine rains recently experienced have enabled them to make a good recovery. Dairying and wool-growing, according to the size of the sections, occupy the time of the settlers. Although it will take some little time to recover fully from the effects of the drought, the settlers on the whole are in a fairly prosperous state and well satisfied with their prospects."

Duncan.—Established December, 1902. Area, 634 acres. Holdings, 7, over 632 acres, at £238 1s. 2d. per annum, including one miscellaneous (coal) lease, over 1 acre 1 rood 16 perches, at £10 yearly. Houses, 4; population, 11. Sheep, nil; cattle, 43; horses, 11; pigs, 4. Area in new grass, 50 acres; in white crop, 76 acres; green crop, 8 acres; native grass, &c., 112 acres. Value of improvements, £1,055. The Ranger states as follows: "This settlement has not made any progress during the past year. The dry season was against it, and the grass and crops were not at all good. The land was in a bad state at selection. It had apparently been heavily and continuously cropped, and weeds of all sorts had obtained a strong hold. If the settlers once had their farms well cultivated and laid down in grass, they would probably make it a success, seeing that there is a dairy factory on the ground. That, however, will take a few years of persevering labour. They are somewhat despondent now on account of the inferior yields and poor grass of last season, and their prospects are not by any means bright. The settlement conditions have been fairly well complied with."

St. Helen's.—Established June, 1903. Area, 548 acres, all occupied, in three holdings, at £224 11s. per annum. Houses, 3; population, 8. Sheep, 122; cattle, 41; horses, 17; pigs, 9. Area in new

grass, nil; in white crop, 174 acres; green crop, 19 acres; native grass, &c., nil. Value of improvements, £771 14s. 9d. The Ranger reports that this settlement suffered rather severely during the drought. The improvements effected are of a substantial character. The soil is good, and in ordinary seasons the settlers do very well.

Greenfield.—Established April, 1905. Area, 22,071 acres, there being forty-one holdings, with a total area of 21,785 acres, at £4,244 11s. 8d. per annum, including one miscellaneous license, over 3 acres, at £1 yearly, and one small-grazing-run lease, over 1,205 acres, at £173 3s. 2d. yearly. There are now forty houses in the settlement, with a population of 132 souls. Sheep number 15,963; cattle, 391; horses, 237; pigs, 54. Area in new grass, 1,566 acres; white crop, 1,716 acres; green crop, 1,941 acres; native grass, &c., 3,885 acres. Value of improvements effected, £11,350 8s. 6d. With regard to this settlement the Ranger reports as follows: "This settlement is in a very thriving condition. The drought which was felt so seriously by the settlers of north Otago did not appear to affect Greenfield to the same extent. The crops generally were very good, and the yields in most cases were considered satisfactory. Just when the harvest was secured a splendid rain set in all over the district, the value of which can scarcely be estimated. It established the turnip-crop and brought away the stubble feed, and so secured an abundance of feed for the stock during winter. The improvements effected are very substantial. The settlers appear to be well satisfied, and I think the prospects of the Greenfield Settlement are very bright."

Steward.—Established April, 1906. Area, 21,936 acres. There are forty-seven holdings, covering an aggregate area of 21,665 acres, at an annual rental of £4,954 10s. 6d., including five small grazing-runs, over 5,861 acres, at £981 9s. 2d. per annum. There are already forty-one houses on the land, with a total population of 149 souls. Sheep number 11,698; cattle, 313; horses, 166; pigs, 21. Area in new grass, 680 acres; in white crop, 2,327 acres; green crop, 1,998 acres; native grass, &c., 6,960 acres. Value of improvements effected, £12,807 5s. 3d. The Ranger reports as follows: "This settlement, in my opinion, will owe its success to the irrigation-race brought on to the estate. The settlers suffered a good deal the first year through drought and the non-completion of the race, which having been finished, proved a great boon to the settlers during the last dry season. The stock on this settlement had an ample supply of good water, while on other settlements in the same district they were dying for the want of it. The crops this year have been good, and when the branch races are finished the success of the settlement should be assured."

Plunket (Corriedale).—Established February, 1907. Area, 6,136 acres. Eighteen holdings, over 6,126 acres, at £2,165 6s. 6d. yearly. Houses, 14; population, 51. Sheep, 3,960; cattle, 194; horses, 52; pigs, 28. Area in new grass, 76 acres; in white crop, 578 acres; green crop, 282 acres; in native grass, &c., 2,810 acres. Value of improvements effected, £3,063 1s. The Ranger reports that, notwithstanding the late drought, good progress has been made on this settlement. Already, with one exception, all the settlers are residing, and that one will be resident shortly. Wool-growing and raising fat lambs are the chief occupations of the larger holders, while the smaller holders will become milk-suppliers to the creamery as soon as they get their land into new grass. Substantial improvements have been effected, and general satisfaction appears to pervade the settlement.

Totara.—Established March, 1907. Area, 3,161 acres. Holdings, 27, with 3,129 acres, at an annual rental of £2,603 16s. Houses, 25; population, 61. Sheep, 990; cattle, 170; horses, 81; pigs, 38. Area in new grass, 343 acres; in white crop, 1,438 acres; green crop, 281 acres; native grass &c., nil. Value of improvements, £2,572 1s. The Ranger reports, "This new settlement is in a thriving condition. In most cases the improvements, consisting of buildings and fencing, are very substantial. It is matter for regret that a number of the sections are overrun with Californian thistle, which is a great drawback to begin with. The settlers affected have, however, done a good deal of work in coping with the evil, and are evidently prepared to do their best. Dairying will be one of the chief features of operation on this settlement."

Kurow.—Established May, 1907. Area, 963 acres, the area in occupation being 950 acres, in thirteen holdings, at £347 6s. 6d. yearly. Houses, 12; population, 19. Sheep, 150; cattle, 10; horses, 4; pigs, 2. Area in new grass, 13 acres; in white crop, 180 acres; green crop, 5 acres; native grass, &c., nil. Value of improvements, £1,202 5s. The Ranger states that "this small settlement will, without doubt, prove a success. It is situated within one mile of Kurow Township. The land on the flat is of first-class quality, while that on the hill is good grazing-land. The settlers are nearly all residing, and the buildings and fencing are of a substantial character. The crops harvested this year were very good, and have given a favourable start to the settlers, who appear well satisfied with their prospects."

Airedale.—Established June, 1907. Area, 2,794 acres, taken up by twelve selectors, whose areas aggregate 2,791 acres, at £1,466 2s. 2d. yearly, including one miscellaneous license over 59 acres at £17 17s. yearly. Already this settlement is making good progress, there being eleven houses, with a population of twenty-eight souls: sheep, 1,582; cattle, 80; horses, 26; pigs, 10. Area in new grass, 60 acres; in white crop, 241 acres; in green crop, 71 acres; in native grass, &c., 680 acres. Value of improvements, £1,441 10s. The Ranger reports as follows: "The settlers have been hard at work since they went into occupation, building and fencing having taken up a good deal of time, and the improvements being of a very substantial character. All the settlers are now residing on the land. They appear to be of the right class, and I think in average seasons will do well."

Otekaike.—Established February, 1908, the freehold area acquired being 17,495 acres, to which has been added an area of 33,033 acres of pastoral Crown land, making the aggregate area of the settlement 50,529 acres. There are at present fifty-four holdings under renewable lease and three miscellaneous licenses, the aggregate area occupied being 43,391 acres, at a yearly rental of £4,732 9s.; while there is an unlet area of 6,758 acres, of a yearly value of £348 8s. 4d. This latter area could have been leased but for the Court proceedings pending in connection with the two preference applications

made under section 80 of "The Land Laws Amendment Act, 1907." The disposal of this estate having been so recent, particulars as to buildings, population, stock, and cropping are not yet forthcoming. The Ranger states as follows: "This estate has just been settled, and it is too soon to say anything about the prospects of the settlers. At the present time a good many of the settlers are residing on the land, and all are busy erecting buildings and fencing. A good many miles of the latter have already been put up, all of a substantial character. Many of the settlers are now ploughing and preparing the land for the coming season. The displenishing sale at Otekaike enabled those with the larger holdings to stock up with sheep bred on the spot, so that they are more likely to do well than sheep brought from outside the district. With good seasons Otekaike should prove a very good settlement."

Taumata (Ashley Downs).—Established March, 1908. Area, 3,700 acres. Holdings, 9, over 3,687 acres, at £833 6s. per annum. This land having been so recently taken up, it is too early to report as to progress being made. There is, however, good reason for believing that it will be a successful settlement.

Meadowbank.—This settlement was opened on the 22nd and balloted for on the 25th April, the total occupation area of 4,343 acres being taken up in eight holdings, at an annual rental of £890 5s. 10d. It does not, however, come within the transactions for the year 1907-8.

Summary.—The following is a summary of particulars in respect of these settlements, omitting Meadowbank:—

Number of settlements	..	..	..	..	..	26
Total area acquired	..	..	..	..	..	178,883 acres.
Total number of holdings	..	..	..	..	..	709
Area occupied	..	..	..	..	..	169,964 acres.
Annual rent of occupied area	..	..	..	..	..	£42,366 12s.
Unlet area	..	..	..	..	..	6,775 acres.
Annual value of unlet area	..	..	..	..	..	£357 18s. 3d.
Receipts for the year	..	..	..	..	..	£37,185 11s. 8d.
Total receipts from inception	..	..	..	..	..	£228,832 10s. 11d.
Rebates granted during year, to 531 tenants	..	..	..	..	..	£2,930 8s. 5d.
Arrears owing by thirty tenants, holding 4,997 acres	..	..	..	..	..	£907 9s. 2d.
Total population	..	..	..	..	..	1,821
Number of houses	..	..	..	..	..	485
" sheep	..	..	..	..	..	65,512
" cattle	..	..	..	..	..	5,091
" horses	..	..	..	..	..	1,973
" pigs	..	..	..	..	..	858
Area in new grass	..	..	..	..	..	7,903 acres.
" white crops	..	..	..	..	..	18,379½ "
" green crops	..	..	..	..	..	9,456 "
" native grass, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	22,423 "
Total value of improvements now on the ground	..	..	..	..	..	£150,616.

D. BARRON,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

SOUTHLAND

Merrivale Settlement.—The whole of this settlement is under lease by forty-nine selectors, who have made good and substantial improvements. The past season has been a favourable one, and the crops have been good. Very few of the lessees now require to take outside work, and but five of them are in arrear with rent, to the amount of £79 12s. 8d., which is £181 11s. 4d. less than the arrears of last year. There are 150 persons residing. Dairying and mixed farming are the principal occupations of the settlers. The total number of stock upon the settlement is 6,174. The total value of the improvements effected is £10,691 5s.

Otahu Settlement.—No change has occurred during the year in the holdings on this settlement. There are six selectors upon it, holding 5,954 acres; number of residents, thirteen. There are no arrears of rent. The total value of improvements effected is £1,753 10s. which is slightly under the amount required, but the inferior character of the land will account for this. The number of stock is 2,563. The Ranger reports that owing to the dry season the turnip-crops on some of the holdings are almost a failure. The oat-crops were short and thin. The success of the settlers is only a matter of time, although the land is inferior. The Ranger is of opinion that if it were possible to irrigate the whole of the settlement there would be a vast improvement.

Beaumont Settlement.—One new selection, of 257 acres, was made during the year. The tenants number twelve, and the total of the residents thirty-three; the area held being 4,462 acres. The value of improvements effected is £1,973 14s., which is about £600 below the required amount. The total number of stock is 1,717. The Ranger reports that the settlers seem to be more satisfied with their holdings than formerly, and that they understand the nature of the soil and its requirements better. He thinks they will now be able to live comfortably upon the land. He states that the improvements made are of a substantial character. Five lessees are in arrear for £171 18s. 1d., which is £32 less than last year.

Ringway Settlement.—A forfeiture and reselection of the same section took place, leaving the number of tenants as before—namely, eight—the area held being 2,236 acres. Nine persons live on the settlement. The value of the improvements effected is £1,737, which is £472 under the required value. The number of stock is 2,184. Arrears, nil. The Ranger reports that, owing to the Canadian thistle having almost taken possession of the land, the settlers are not so progressive as they might be. Some of them are making good improvements in the way of buildings and fencing. He considers that in time the settlement will turn out better than expected at present, more especially if the Canadian thistle could be eradicated.

Glenham Settlement.—Four new selections were made during the year; area, 2,243 acres; all the settlement but one section, of 269 acres, being now taken up. The number of tenants is thirty-three and that of persons residing is 161. The stock owned numbers 4,100. The total value of improvements made is £7,100, which is £1,208 over the required value. The arrears owing by two lessees amount to £35 14s. 2d. The Ranger reports that the settlement is improving, and that those settlers who are liming their land are getting very good returns. The oat and turnip crops are excellent. The settlers are more hopeful this year than formerly. The settlement only requires time and plenty of lime to make it a success.

Edendale Settlement.—Five new selections of small sections in Brydone Village and Edendale Township were made during the year. Only one section of the settlement proper remains unselected. The total number of tenants on the settlements is 139, the area held being 19,169 acres. The number of persons residing is 508; number of houses, 119. The value of the improvements effected is £32,587 16s., the required value being £6,209. The stock on the settlement number 7,913, comprising 3,695 sheep, 3,386 cattle, 536 horses, and 296 pigs. Ten lessees are in arrear, to the amount of £268 11s. 10d. The Ranger reports that all the settlers are doing very well, and the crops of turnips and oats are excellent. The only complaints made were from some of the lessees who have no outlet for surplus water. He is of opinion that this settlement is the best in the Southland District, and has a great future before it. With regard to the complaints made to the Ranger as to lack of drainage, I may mention that it has been arranged that the available balance of the sum set apart for drainage on the settlement will be expended by the District Road Engineer on the necessary works, so that this cause of complaint will soon be removed.

It is apparent from the foregoing summary of the position of the settlements under the Land for Settlements Acts in this district that, although very much progress has not been made on the smaller and generally inferior settlements, the position and prospects are on the whole better than at any previous time. Upon the six settlements there are now 247 settlers, as against 239 last year; the area held is 52,687 acres, an increase of 2,242 acres on the preceding year; the number of inhabitants is 874, giving an increase of 40 persons. The total number of stock is 24,741, which shows an increase of 3,852 on last year. The results of the settlement of the lands in these estates appear to show conclusively that, where good first-class agricultural and pastoral land, well situated, is purchased, the selectors have little difficulty in making a good living off the land, they become prosperous and contented, pay their rents regularly, and make the settlement a thorough success; but, where inferior land is purchased, the settlers who keep to their holdings have a long uphill struggle, and much loss and hardship are entailed; the Department also suffers loss by frequent forfeitures and reopenings of sections, or by some of them remaining for long periods unselected upon permanent tenure: this leads to the conclusion that none but first-class land should be purchased for such settlements.

E. H. WILMOT,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

APPENDIX III.—DRAINAGE OPERATIONS, HAURAKI PLAINS (PIAKO).

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in accordance with your instructions, I left Wellington in August last to make a preliminary inspection of the Piako Plains, and reported to you thereon on the 11th September last. Since sending you the above-mentioned report, I have had time and opportunity to explore the property, and have verified to a great extent the opinions I then expressed. I informed you that the principal causes of the submergement of a large area of the plains was due to the incapacity under the then-existing circumstances of the Piako and Waitakaruru Rivers to discharge the waters forced upon them. I have done nothing to the Waitakaruru River, but as soon as the dredges ordered from England arrive they will commence improving the channel of this river. As to the Piako, this river was very much blocked by willows, snags, and logs. The logs (mostly kahikatea) are now being removed by the millers, and their removal will, I apprehend, cause a considerable scour, and this will materially increase the capacity of the channel.

PLAN
SHOWING CROWN AREA KNOWN AS
"THE HAURAKI PLAINS BLOCK"
(PIAKO SWAMP).

Scale of Miles: 0 1 2 3 4

REFERENCE.

Area within present drainage operations	..	81,000 ac.	
Crown Lands influenced by same	..	9,000 "	
Total	..	90,000 Acres.	

H. McC. Dec.

By Authority: John Mackay, Government Printer.

W. D. B. Murray, Chief Draughtsman, Head Office, Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, N.Z.

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W. D. B. Murray, Chief Draughtsman, Head Office, Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, N.Z.

I have already removed most of the snags from the river between Kiripeehi and Waikaka. The snags below Kiripeehi, for economical reasons, I am leaving until the sawmillers have removed their logs. I have cleared the Piako River, for about six miles, of the willows which obstructed the flow of the water. The willows have been pulled out by the roots and delivered upon the banks of the stream. The Awaitei Creek has been widened, and the obstructing willows have been removed; consequently a considerable area has been relieved from stagnant water.

In my report of the 11th September, 1907, I drew your attention to the overflow of the Waihou River, and informed you that I considered that unless something is immediately undertaken to confine the Waihou River to its natural depth and channel a large area of the Piako Plains will be subject to floods from the Waihou River. I informed you that I considered that the Piako River, if cleared from obstructions, could supply outlet for its natural tributaries, and afford the necessary relief for local drainage, but to find escape for the overflow from the Waihou River is beyond its capacity.

The accompanying plan shows the drains constructed and the original creeks opened up up to date in hard blue lines, and the drains in progress in dotted blue lines are principally surface drains, and will in the future when the canal is completed be subsidiary drains which will discharge their local surface water generally into the said canal, and also convey the water from the western watershed, which now inundates the plains, directly into the proposed canal. The proposed canal will also, in cases of up-country floods, give a quick discharge of the flood-waters into the Hauraki Gulf, as its course will be straight and about ten miles shorter than the present course of the Piako River.

It is evident that the proposed canal will not only prove beneficial to the local lands, but will relieve the low-lying lands adjacent to Waitoa and Piako Rivers at least as far south as the Thames-Morrinsville Railway line; but for the scheme to be thoroughly effective, it must be remembered, as I have hereinbefore mentioned, that some action must be taken to prevent the overflow of the Waihou River, or a large area of valuable Government land adjoining the Awaitei River will be subjected to flood. About 29½ miles of drains has been constructed, including of course the opening-up of the original watercourses, which were completely blocked and in most instances were not traceable for miles. Originally the course of the creek was followed where practicable. The effect of the drains has exceeded my most sanguine expectations.

Artesian Wells.—During the hot and dry weather the water in the drains was unfit for the men to use for drinking or cooking purposes, and water had to be obtained from the Thames by tanks on a large punt. I therefore tried driving for artesian water, and had good indications at 120 ft., but at 150 ft. we struck rock too hard for the appliances at my disposal. At Kerepeehi, close to the wharf, mineral water was struck at 40 ft. The Maoris drink it, and others use it for making tea. A sample has been sent to the Government Analyst, as, besides possibly being as valuable as Puriri water, it is possible it may be suitable for flax-fibre washing. If so, it is a valuable asset for that purpose, as the Piako is too muddy at Kerepeehi to give the fibre the required colour.

Telephone.—Communication has been completed between Kerepeehi and Turua, consequently direct communication with the Thames is established. This was a very desirable undertaking.

Number of Men.—There are now engaged on the work about 156 men, but the average for the month would not be more than about 110. There are twenty gangs of men on piecework, who number ninety-eight, but practically only eighty was the average who were continuously at work.

Fires.—Two or three small fires occurred, but they were trifling. About the 13th February, however, two large fires occurred. One was suppressed before doing any material damage to Government flax, but a quantity of flax on Native lands was damaged. The second fire was very extensive, and if means had not been taken to check it considerable damage would have been caused. The fires were all extinguished about the 9th March, and as we had a heavy downpour of rain any further spread of fire was checked. It is very difficult to estimate the area the fires traversed, but I think not more than 6,000 or 7,000 acres were affected. I consider that the fires did practically no damage to the vegetation on the areas burnt, as it was chiefly rushes, tea-tree, and swamp fern, with a few scattered small areas of flax. The above vegetation was so dense that any small flax-plants were completely choked, and it was impracticable for any flax-seed that had fallen to germinate. I do not think that the roots of 30 acres of flax were destroyed, and the flax will grow thicker and stronger where the flax was burnt and the roots not destroyed.

There were certain areas which have been drained, and the flax was improving, and would probably have been fit to cut in two years, but on account of the fire I cannot expect such areas to produce any profit for three or four years. The fire-traversed areas will ultimately, I think, prove profitable, but they caused a temporary loss—the expense of extinguishing them, and the loss of a certain amount of revenue next year, that is, of course, if the flax-market recovers.

Although I used every precaution to prevent fires, yet, as I have before stated, I think they did a considerable amount of good; and it must be allowed that it is fortunate that they occurred this year instead of next, as the portion traversed by the fire will not be liable to be affected by fire for, say, three years, and in that time the drainage-works will be in such a condition, and access to the swamp so comparatively easy, that if a fire broke out it could be easily extinguished or confined to a particular block.

Grass-seed Sowing.—As a portion of the area burnt was not flax-producing, but was sufficiently burnt to give a good seed-bed, I asked your authority to purchase seed for, say, 450 acres, and having obtained your authority I have taken steps to sow the said area.

Flax-seed.—As there were hundreds of acres from which the vegetation was burnt, but not sufficiently so as to give a bed for grass, I recommend the advisability of sowing flax-seed on a portion of same. Having your authority, and as March and April are the months when the flax-seed is ripe, I have obtained some seed locally. I also intend to plant (partially for experiment) a few acres of flax-plants on conveniently accessible swampy portions of the property.

Native Lands.—Reference to the plan attached hereto shows there are blocks on the eastern banks of the Piako River still partially in the hands of the Natives. If these blocks, fronting the river—say, from two miles from the mouth of the river to, say, seven miles from same point—were acquired, the Government would have a complete block of very valuable land easy to reclaim, easy of access, and easy to cut up for settlement. I would point out the desirability of acquiring the Pouarua, Pipiroa, and Te Hopai Blocks on the west of the Piako River.

Besides the question of desirableness of consolidation for purposes of roading and subdivision, there is another important matter to be considered: All the drainage-works, stop-bank works, flood-gates, and works incidental thereto will benefit and improve the Native lands as much as the Government lands. In the case of the stop-bank, it would be extremely expensive if the work had to be intermittent. If the blocks above referred to were acquired, it would be quite practicable a year after their acquisition to have 15,000 acres ready for settlement, and I am of opinion that if put up to auction the above area would be readily sold at from £8 to £10 per acre—possibly more.

The Land.—If the Government continue their present progressive policy as to Hauraki Plains, there is no doubt in my mind that the property will become a most valuable asset and return an enormous revenue. Even if the flax-market does not recover sufficiently to enable profitable milling, half of the property will prove splendid agricultural land, and the balance would prove good grazing-country.

Works proposed.—If funds are available I intend, subject to your authority, to proceed with the following works during the coming financial year, and offer you an estimate of the amount required for expenditure during that period:—

Surface drains, being continuation of those indicated on plan and as may be required	£
Removing willows and snags, Piako River, below junction with Waitoa River	3,600
Cost of two dredges in complete working-order, ready for work	450
Maintenance and working of two dredges, including wages for six months:	4,120
Dredging bars in Piako River and in new canal	860
Grass-seed and flax-seed, and sowing same	350
Clearing	100
Erecting stop-bank, say eight miles	3,200
	£12,680
Allow engineering expenses	350
Contingencies	500
Total	£13,530

In conclusion, I feel assured that, when you next visit “the plains” and have time at your disposal, you will be satisfied as to the immense asset the Government possesses in this property: its capabilities are beyond my description.

The Under-Secretary for Lands, Wellington.

WILLIAM C. BREAKELL.

APPENDIX IV.—REPORT ON THE TIMBER INDUSTRY IN THE AUCKLAND LAND DISTRICT, BY THE TIMBER EXPERT.

THE timber industry has been brisk throughout the year, and the demand for kauri has been fully equal to, if not greater than, the supply. Mills with adequate supplies were employed to their utmost capacity, but the growing scarcity and attendant delay in delivering logs renders it impossible for other mills to keep running up to their full power continuously. Large mills originally erected for the sole purpose and utilised exclusively for years for the production of kauri timber, are now either partly engaged in cutting mixed timbers (kahikatea and rimu, &c.) or making arrangements to do so. This will prolong the life of such mills, and also tend to extend the time for converting the remaining kauri.

The most notable feature during the year is the increasing use locally of timber other than kauri for general purposes—viz., rimu, totara, matai, kahikatea, &c., supplies of which are obtained coast-wise, and delivered in logs by scows, the remainder is mostly procured sawn from mills situated from fifty to 108 miles south of the city and delivered by railway, also the introduction into Auckland (the home of kauri) of one or two shipments or part cargoes of Oregon pine (this timber for some purposes is a good substitute for kauri) and owing to the greater remoteness and scarcity of the latter, also the

increasing difficulty of obtaining adequate supplies of suitable native-grown timber to meet local requirements, regular importations of Oregon or other pine in increasing quantities must be looked for in the future.

Timber-measurers have been fully employed in preparing timber for sale, thus meeting as far as possible the requirements of sawmillers, who generally make applications for Crown forests or clumps, also remnants or remaining timber in the locality of or adjoining their present bush workings or timber-getting operations.

It is proposed to detail off early this year three parties of two each for measuring timber on the Motatau Block for the Maori Land Board of the Tokerau District.

High prices were realised for the kauri timber offered for sale by public tender during the year, and record prices obtained for three of the lots disposed of in March—viz., 3s. 10½d. for one lot, and 4s. 0½d. per 100 superficial feet for two lots. It is not expected these values will be maintained in the near future, as the former lot was good handy timber, and the successful tenderer for the latter lots was able to utilise his dead-work—roads, dams, booms, &c.—in connection with adjoining sections and other workings in the locality.

Various kinds of timber, aggregating 55,614,536 superficial feet, as under, were disposed of during the year; value, £44,875. Royalty received, £41,604, being an increase of £6,975 over previous years.

—	Kauri.	Rimu.	Kahikatea.	Totara.	Matai.	Miscellaneous.	Total.	Value.	Royalty received.
	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Crown lands	30,589,895	5,609,395	5,193,088	1,224,101	10,943	16,439	42,643,861	29,826 6 8	27,370 8 2
State forests	10,207,472	2,127,783	380,081	248,465	6,874	..	12,970,675	15,049 1 9	14,234 14 2
	40,797,367	7,937,178	5,573,169	1,472,566	17,817	16,439	55,614,536	44,875 8 5	41,604 17 4

In addition to the above, the following timber was measured and disposed of for the Education Department:—

Education reserves	1,103,009	7,603	14,112	16,012	1,888	..	1,142,624	1,176 14 1	..
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Export of Timber, December, 1906, to December, 1907.—From Kaipara, 32,616,266 superficial feet, value £128,487; from Auckland and other ports, 30,400,512 superficial feet, value £147,923: totals, 63,016,778 superficial feet, value £276,410, being a decrease in quantity of 5,271,940 superficial feet and £1 in value as compared with similar periods for previous year. (The disparity between quantity and values is owing to the increased price of kauri.) Of the total exports it is estimated that about 45,000,000 ft. is kauri, and the remainder mostly kahikatea.

Timber-floatage.—Forty-six new licenses were issued and thirty-three renewals were granted during the year. In the past many timber-dealers, sawmillers, and others engaged in the timber industry neglected to take out licenses. This neglect also extended to lack of control of the logs after they were placed in the water—so much so that in some cases they were allowed to drift about or sink—if the former, to be picked up at the convenience of the owners, rafters, or others; if the latter, to disclaim ownership or liability, until the abuse became so grave and complaints so numerous of the damage sustained or impending by local bodies and others, and the danger to small craft, launches, boats, &c., also the difficulty and delay experienced by settlers in reaching their homes owing to sunken and derelict logs and other obstructions impeding navigation, that the Marine authorities found it expedient to cause sunken logs to be recovered at the expense of the owners, and this Department took action against all known offenders, as the abuse became acute, owing to the increasing quantity of kahikatea, rimu, and other timbers (less buoyant than kauri) being utilised for milling purposes rendering such action necessary.

Bush-fires.—Owing to the unusually dry summer, bush-fires covering large areas were prevalent throughout the province. With the exception of two small reserves, the undisposed-of portions of Crown forest containing kauri escaped injury, although the fires approached the boundaries of Omatutu, Puketi, and Waipoua State Forests. In a few instances fires passed over old kauri workings and other areas containing mixed timbers, scorching the standing trees. On the whole the loss sustained by the Crown through the fires in Crown forests this year is inappreciable. On the other hand, private owners in various districts suffered more or less severely through damage to standing bush, logs, dams, tramways, buildings, roads, camps, &c. Where opportunity occurred, the timber-measurers, caretakers, bush contractors with their employees, and others assisted to stay the ravages and also the spreading of fires.

Gathering Gum, Waipoua and Warawara State Forests.—A small contract to strip and grade tree-gum in Waipoua has been let recently. Large returns are not expected, as incisions are restricted. About 8½ tons of tree-gum has been received from Warawara State Forest, 6 tons of which has been gathered by contract, and the remainder by the caretaker, part of whose time is utilised for this purpose. The object in stripping the gum is to remove the temptation for trespassing, and the practice is to gather the overflow outside of incisions only with a view to the preservation of the trees.

H. P. KAVANAGH,

Chief Timber Expert.

APPENDIX V.—THE KAPITI ISLAND BIRD-SANCTUARY.

[By JAMES DRUMMOND, F.L.S., F.Z.S.]

IN 1907 Mr. H. G. Ell, M.P., who takes a deep interest in the bird-life of this Dominion, suggested that I should visit Kapiti Island and prepare a report on the birds found there. I told him that I should be very pleased to do so. Mr. W. C. Kensington, Under-Secretary for Lands, kindly gave me permission to visit the island, and when my annual holiday arrived in February of this year I made arrangements to spend several days amongst the birds on the sanctuary.

I left Wellington in the "Queen of the South" at 8 p.m. on the 20th February. At daybreak next morning the steamer reached the island. She sounded her whistle, and this brought off the caretaker, Mr. E. A. Newson,* who took me ashore in his boat. I had taken a tent and a week's provisions, but Mr. Newson placed his cottage at my disposal, and during the six days that I remained on the island, until the 28th February, I stayed with him.

The cottage stands on a high terrace, looking down upon a grassy flat. This is the site of an old whaling-station. It is called Rangatira, and is about half-way down the coast on the eastern side of the island. Hills rise up immediately behind the terrace on which the cottage stands. These hills are covered with forest, and I found the site an excellent one for my headquarters, as it gave me easy access to the birds' haunts.

The island is about 5,000 acres in area, six miles long, and a mile and a quarter broad along its whole length. It lies near the mouth of Cook Strait, and about three miles from the western coast of the Wellington Province. It is generally reached by sailing-boat from the Waikanae River, which is opposite Rangatira. It is a small, rugged, precipitous little island, and is much cut up into gorges, gullies, and creeks. Along the whole of its western coast there are high cliffs, which rise almost sheer from the water to a height of over 1,000 ft. The highest peak on the island is Titeremoana, on the western side, opposite Rangatira. It is 1,780 ft. high.

All the island belongs to the Government, except a small reserve on the east coast held by a European owner, and about 1,200 or 1,300 acres at the northern end in the possession of Maoris, who use the land for sheep-grazing. Their land has been cleared, and the southern end is also bare of forest, but in most of the other parts the island is well wooded. The forest is mixed, and, on the whole, low. In some of the forests, not far from the sea, where the ground is very stony, there is no undergrowth. In those forests large numbers of tree-trunks stand apart, with only a few lianas hanging from the upper branches to the ground. This peculiarity makes some of the Kapiti forests quite dissimilar from the ordinary New Zealand forests, which are characterized by dense undergrowth.† The rugged nature of the island, and its situation a few miles from a long stretch of fine beach, make it an exceptionally attractive place. Some of the scenery in the forests and on the coast is of surpassing beauty. The island has an historical interest on account of the fact that it was one of the principal centres of the whaling industry in the early days of New Zealand, and was once the headquarters of the famous fighting-chief Te Rauparaha and his Ngatitōa warriors, who captured it in 1820.‡

I was delighted to find on the island large numbers of the smaller species of native birds. The forests seemed to be full of them. They were so tame that they often came down from the upper branches of the trees to inquire into the cause of the noise I made as I went along. All day, from sunrise to sunset, during the week I spent on the island, native birds were my companions. There were pigeons, tuis, bell-birds, robins, whiteheads, tomtits, grey-warblers, fantails, and others.

There is one spot on the sanctuary which seems to be a meeting-place for all sorts and conditions of birds. It is the head of a little spring, which flows silently out from a rocky bank, and makes a shallow circular pool of water two feet in diameter and three or four inches deep. It is only fifty yards from the caretaker's cottage. A fallen ngaio-tree has formed a rough bridge over it. Karakas and ngaios shade it from the sun's rays. The clematis, the bush-lawyer, and the supplejack climb up high branches, and filmy ferns grow in the moist soil on the bank. Every hour scores of birds came to that little brook to drink and bathe, and rest in the pleasant shadows. They flew down from the heights, sweeping gracefully through the air, alighted on the tops of the trees, and rapidly came down, branch by branch, until they reached the prostrate ngaio-tree. There they generally rested for a few seconds, as if anticipating the pleasures that awaited them. Then they flitted down into the pool, in which they waded knee-deep, daintily dipping in their bills and throwing the water over their heads. This beautiful brook seemed to be the most popular place on the island. I had only to wait there long enough

* Since my visit Mr. R. Henry has been appointed caretaker in Mr. Newson's place.

† Dr. L. Cockayne has written an exhaustive report on a botanical survey he made of the island at the request of the Hon. R. McNab, Minister of Lands, in October, 1906 (see Parliamentary Paper C.-8, 1907).

‡ The historical aspect of Kapiti is dealt with by Mr. James Fowan (see Parliamentary Paper C.-8a, 1907; also "Te Rauparaha," by W. T. L. Travers).

to see representatives of nearly all the birds on the sanctuary ; and I never saw anything but the utmost goodwill amongst those who came to drink of the peaceful waters. Tuis and robins, bell-birds and whiteheads, warblers and tits, came and drank, bathed, and sang their songs, and there was not a jarring note of discord, an angry gesture, or the slightest sign of a cantankerous spirit. All enmity was sunk, quarrels were forgotten, and peace and goodwill prevailed. A more charming sylvan scene could hardly be imagined.

The first native birds I saw on the island were whiteheads. They belong exclusively to the North Island, but they have close relatives in the yellowheads of the South. The two species are popularly classed together as bush-canaries. I had hardly entered the forest on the slopes of the hills behind Rangatira when I heard a noisy twittering in the distance. It was indistinct at first, and could hardly be heard above the rustling of the leaves in the breeze. It came nearer and grew louder until the higher branches seemed to be filled with it. Then a flock of about a dozen little birds flitted into view. They were the busiest birds imaginable. Their affairs, apparently, were of the utmost urgency. The excitement that prevailed amongst them was intense. They were never silent and never at rest. They turned completely round with one hop off the branch, and turned back again with another hop. I watched them for several minutes, trying in vain to fathom the cause of their activity. They had no time, evidently, to feed upon the small insects on the trees, but as soon as they saw me underneath they peeped down over the branches and through the leaves, and gave many signs of the interest and curiosity my presence had aroused in their breasts. While I was watching their strange antics, the twittering suddenly stopped for a few seconds. When it began again, it was dying away in the distance over the tree-tops. The whole flock had suddenly thought of some urgent business in another part of the island, and had set out post-haste to attend to it. I saw very many whiteheads in the sanctuary afterwards, but I never saw one passing the time in idleness. I never knew one to be silent for more than a few seconds ; and I never saw any signs amongst them of fear at the presence of a human being. The rather oppressive silence of the forests was broken more frequently by whiteheads than by any other birds. The whitehead is one of the native birds whose doom has been announced, but it is satisfactory to learn that it is plentiful on both the Little Barrier and Kapiti sanctuaries, and also, according to information recently supplied, in many places on the mainland of the North Island.

Bell-birds are plentiful in all parts of the island. I do not think that there is any place in the Dominion where they are more plentiful. The tuis' graceful flight from tree to tree is a common sight in the sanctuary. These dark and handsome birds are seen in large numbers on the karaka-trees, where they find supplies of their favourite berries. I saw only a few fantails, kingfishers, kakas, parrakeets, and hawks, but many pigeons, robins, and tomtits. I seldom went more than a few yards through the forests without the pleasure of the company of a robin. The tomtits are not as well represented as the robins, but they are present in large numbers. Several of them were frequent visitors to a tree close to the caretaker's cottage. There are two species of robins and two species of tomtits in New Zealand, one keeping to the North Island and the other to the South Island. In both cases it is the northern species that inhabits Kapiti Island.

I did not see any of the Antipodes parrakeets which Dr. Cockayne liberated on the island at the end of 1907, but Mr. Newson told me that he had seen these birds several times, and that they seemed to be thriving well. The Auckland Island ducks (*Nesonetta aucklandica*) which were liberated at the same time have evidently taken well to their new home. They were placed in a swamp about a quarter of a mile from the caretaker's cottage, and close to the sea-shore. I saw several traces of them in the swamp, and one night a dog found one of them in an old drain, overgrown with watercress and other plants, on the Rangatira flat.

The only natural enemies the birds need dread on the island are cats, and I do not think that they are at all plentiful. I saw one opossum. The principal inhabitants of the island, after the birds, are wild goats. They are present in large herds. They roam all over the hills, and the tracks they form make walking through the forests fairly easy work.

Amongst the foreign birds I saw large numbers of blackbirds, sparrows, English thrushes, gold-finches, starlings, and Californian quail, the last-named being exceptionally plentiful. I was much impressed with the manner in which the English and New Zealand birds live apart on the island. There seems to be no attempt to establish relationships of any kind, friendly or otherwise. The English birds do not interfere with the native birds, and the natives take no notice whatever of the intruders. They do not frequent the same parts. I did not see an English bird inside the fringe of the forest, and I saw hardly any birds in the open, outside of the forest, unless they were hurrying from one part to another. I noted the same position on the Little Barrier Island when I visited the northern sanctuary in February, 1907. The New Zealand birds, evidently, have nothing to dread from the presence of English birds.

My visit to Kapiti showed me that the birds there are comfortable, and that they have every chance to increase. There are fewer species than on the Little Barrier, which is a better sanctuary because it is more difficult of access, and is much further from the mainland. I think that some of the species which are supposed to be rare on the mainland, such as the huia, the North Island thrush and crow, and the saddleback, might be liberated on Kapiti.

I was convinced during my visit that the presence of the Maoris will be a menace to the forest and the birds every summer. While I was on the island, a large grass-fire swept over the Maori land, and only stopped at the edge of the forest on the Government land. On another occasion a bush-fire might gain a good hold and sweep over the island. New Zealand birds will not live away from the native forest, and if the trees are destroyed the island will be quite valueless as a bird-sanctuary. In these circumstances it seems to be advisable to offer the Maoris some inducement to relinquish their rights in respect to the land they own on Kapiti.

I append a list of native birds I noted. It includes a few which I did not see, but which are noted by Mr. H. G. Drew, of Wanganui. These are marked with an asterisk.

Popular Name.	Maori Name.	Scientific Name.
Grey-warbler	Riroriro	<i>Pseudogerygone igata.</i>
White-breasted tit	Miromiro	<i>Petroica toitoi.</i>
North Island robin	Toutouwai	<i>Miro australis.</i>
Pied fantail	Tiwakawaka	<i>Rhipidura flabellifera.</i>
Black fantail	Tiwakawaka	<i>Rhipidura fuliginosa.</i>
Whitehead	Popokatea	<i>Certhiparus albicapillus.</i>
Ground-lark	Pihoihoi	<i>Anthus novæ-zealandiæ.</i>
White-eye	Tauhau	<i>Zosterops cærulescens.</i>
Tui, or parson-bird	Tui	<i>Prothemadera novæ-zealandiæ.</i>
Bell-bird or mocking-bird	Makomako	<i>Anthornis melanura.</i>
Kingfisher	Kotare	<i>Halcyon vagans.</i>
* Shining cuckoo	Pipiwharauoa	<i>Chalcococcyx lucidus.</i>
* Long-tailed cuckoo	Koekoea	<i>Urodynamis taitensis.</i>
Kaka	Kaka	<i>Nestor meridionalis.</i>
Antipodes Island parrakeet .. ..	.. ..	<i>Cyanorhamphus unicolor.</i>
Red-fronted parrakeet	Kakariki	<i>Cyanorhamphus novæ-zealandiæ.</i>
Bush-hawk	Karewarewa	<i>Nesierax australis.</i>
Quail-hawk	Karewarewa	<i>Nesierax novæ-zealandiæ.</i>
Pigeon	Kuku	<i>Hemiphaga novæ-zealandiæ.</i>
* Wood-hen	Weka	<i>Ocydromus australis.</i>
* Blue heron	Matuku	<i>Demigretta sacra.</i>
* Pied stilt	Poaka	<i>Himantopus picatus.</i>
White-fronted tern	Tara	<i>Sterna frontalis.</i>
Black-backed gull	Karoro	<i>Larus dominicanus.</i>
Mutton-bird	Oi	<i>Puffinus griseus.</i>
* Blue penguin	Korora	<i>Eudyptula minor.</i>
Gannet	Takapu	<i>Sula serrator.</i>
* Black shag	Kawau	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo.</i>
* Grey duck	Parera	<i>Anas superciliosa.</i>
Flightless duck (Auckland Island) .. ..	.. ..	<i>Nesonetta aucklandica.</i>

Christchurch, 10th April, 1907.

Table 1.--SUMMARY OF LANDS ABSOLUTELY DISPOSED OF from the Foundation of the Dominion, with TOTAL CASH received to the 31st MARCH, 1908.

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 Dominion.		Total Cash received to the 31st March, 1908, exclusive of Rents.			Total Area disposed of on Leasehold Tenures of a Permanent Character.		Total Area open for Selection on 31st March, 1908.		Total Area remaining for future Disposal, exclusive of Area in preceding Column, and of Native Lands.	
	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	£	s.	d.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.
Auckland ..	2,119,767	1 18	3,560,646	3 29	5,680,414	1 7	873,643	17	7	1,323,244	0 38	4,258	0 12	1,541,981	3 39
Hawke's Bay ..	1,437,091	1 4	3,995,660	0 8	1,832,751	1 2	734,668	19	11	666,016	0 35	1,299	2 21	156,623	1 31
Taranaki ..	449,935	2 6	712,397	2 18	1,162,373	0 24	872,775	9	2	498,912	2 35	3,800	0 0	230,000	0 0
Wellington ..	2,292,797	2 38	1,345,491	3 31	3,585,289	2 29	2,508,908	7	5	680,090	1 32	273	0 0	172,000	0 0
Nelson ..	536,463	1 8	905,220	3 2	1,441,594	0 10	475,642	0	10	183,806	3 24	168	0 0	2,398,000	0 0
Marlborough ..	858,363	1 34	217,994	0 15	1,076,357	2 9	345,586	14	8	473,429	2 18	8	0 0	105,000	0 0
Westland ..	66,545	3 34	201,123	1 20	267,706	0 8	75,903	16	10	95,734	3 38	1,259	0 0	1,550,691	2 1
Canterbury ..	3,586,605	3 31	1,548,772	1 18	5,085,378	1 9	6,474,344	0	1	589,785	3 8	86	0 0	483,531	0 0
Otago ..	2,000,212	3 32	707,356	3 35	2,707,569	3 27	2,228,655	13	10	1,195,894	3 29	308	1 9	498,942	1 3
Southland ..	1,610,648	0 25	3,183,259	1 29	4,793,907	2 14	1,908,944	16	9	319,192	2 15	398	0 0	400,000	0 0
Totals ..	14,865,531	2 30	12,777,862	2 5	27,633,241	3 19	16,499,073	17	1	6,018,908	1 32	11,858	0 2	7,476,770	0 34

Table 2.—LANDS OPENED FOR SALE and SELECTION during the Year ended 31st March, 1908.

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.	Ren-wable Lease only.	Renewable Lease Land for Settlements.	Native Towns.	Totals.
								Acres.	Acres.					
Auckland ..	51,303	230	2,060	1,948	..	14,200	..	192	4,914	4,914	5,273	2,337	..	80,509
Hawke's Bay ..	5,358	14	130	..	..	2,478	..	..	53	53	..	21,642	..	80,923
Taranaki ..	10,059	19	36	..	..	..	..	956	19	19	..	..	..	11,089
Wellington ..	56,147	125	45,572	707	23,352	..	..	..	234	234	..	229	9	126,375
Nelson ..	8,512	83	12,053	..	*13,127	..	1,947	36,015	4,204	4,204	2,402	..	..	78,343
Marlborough ..	1,174	..	43	..	74,550	..	..	1,196	†8	†8	..	..	..	76,971
Westland ..	..	2	..	3	118,000	..	..	2,483	..	..	4,072	..	..	124,590
Canterbury ..	371	259	185	1	64,109	147,551	..	2,209	1	1	187	548	..	1,265
Otago ..	1,661	141	..	651	9,854	..	..	550	3,742	3,742	..	88,612	..	253,212
Southland ..	1,776	754	3,804	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16,889
Totals ..	131,261	1,627	63,383	2,640	302,992	164,229	1,947	43,601	19,175	19,175	11,934	58,368	9	795,166

* Pastoral licenses under special regulations.

† Land for settlements.

‡ This area was also offered on renewable lease.

Table 3 (Part I).—SUMMARY of LANDS taken up during the Year ended 31st March, 1908 (exclusive of Pastoral Runs and Miscellaneous Leases).

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.
ORDINARY CROWN LANDS.											
5—Cash lands	2,807 2 7	132 2 28	44 0 11	420 0 12	4,975 0 9	206 1 33	..	17,092 2 31	609 2 39	2,187 2 14	28,475 3 24
6—Deferred payment .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7—Perpetual lease and small areas ..	69,716 0 28	4,760 3 7	742,150 2 18	53,596 3 12	9,268 3 11	1,017 0 0	..	..	4,174 0 17	3,114 3 22	187,799 0 35
8—Occupation with right of purchase ..	5,612 3 9	597 1 23	2,231 3 12	6,441 0 8	20,214 2 21	3,223 1 15	9,124 0 19	..	12,419 3 32	4,100 1 26	63,871 2 5
9—Lease in perpetuity	261 2 0	..	..	200 0 0	..	..	2,847 0 0	..	118 3 0	..	3,427 1 0
10—Renewable lease .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	88 3 32	..	83 3 32
11—Agricultural leases	473 1 23	..	..	..	558 1 37	713 0 0	331 3 2	..	938 1 12	31 2 28	3,046 2 22
12—Occupation lease under "Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894" ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13—Village settlement, cash .. ..	..	0 1 31	..	1 0 33	..	..	1 2 0	..	..	..	3 0 24
13—Village settlement, deferred payment ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13—Village settlement, perpetual lease ..	..	2 3 22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13—Village settlement, occupation with right of purchase ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13—Village settlement, lease in perpetuity ..	38 2 21	1,247 3 8	..	712 1 7	..	..	0 1 30	..	49 3 31	251 3 15	2,300 3 32
13—Village settlement renewable lease ..	..	..	..	2 0 24	..	..	..	..	29 3 24	76 1 29	108 1 37
13—Village - homestead special settlement ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15—Special-settlement associations .. ..	..	..	410 0 30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	410 0 30
32—Improved-farm special settlement ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16—Homestead	16,431 2 31	2,478 0 0	7 1 26	13,068 2 0	4,034 3 18	..	..	..	180,589 3 24	..	216,600 1 19
17—Small grazing-runs .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	95,231 2 39	9,219 3 39	44,844 0 17	74,442 0 16	39,051 3 16	5,165 3 8	12,304 3 11	17,092 2 31	199,014 2 11	9,762 3 14	506,130 2 2
CHIEFTAIN ESTATE.											
5—Cash lands .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9—Lease in perpetuity .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13—Village-homestead special settlement ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
17—Grazing-farms .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACTS.											
5—Cash lands	38 3 26	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 1 13	3 0 0	..	43 0 39
9—Lease in perpetuity	20,449 2 18	648 2 0	587 2 20	203 3 22	4,204 0 9	78 2 3	..	4 0 14	5,561 1 29	2,757 3 18	34,495 2 13
10—Renewable lease	208 1 7	20,168 2 1	..	..	..	..	..	462 0 0	46,268 2 21	..	67,107 1 29
13—Lease in perpetuity (village) ..	..	0 3 16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 3 16
15—Special-settlement associations .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
17—Small grazing-runs	8,210 0 0	..	..	..	1,947 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	10,157 0 0
Grand totals	124,138 2 10	30,037 3 16	45,431 2 37	74,645 3 38	45,202 3 25	5,244 1 11	12,304 3 11	17,560 0 18	250,847 2 21	12,520 2 32	617,934 2 19

For Details

Table 3 (Part II).—SUMMARY OF LANDS: TRANSACTIONS up to the Year ended 31st March, 1908.

Tenures.	Exchanges from other Tenures during the Year.		Area held at 31st March, 1907.		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, 1908: Past and Current Transactions.		Total Area made Freehold to Date.	
	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.
ORDINARY CROWN LANDS.																
Table 5—Cash lands	12,861,195	2 34
6—Deferred payment	30,741	1 10	6 2 36	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24,565	2 15	970,070	0 29
7—Perpetual lease	105,521	1 29	1,641 0 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	92,627	2 10	776,335	3 7
8—Occupation with right of purchase	1,454,983	1 21	..	..	26,466	3 8	404 0 32	..	..	..	1,573,102	3 23	130,003	2 3
9—Lease in perpetuity	1,387,541	0 0	..	..	12,534	3 17	1,727 3 38	..	..	..	1,450,382	0 37	1,521	2 0
10—Renewable lease	3,427	1 0	..	..
11—Agricultural lease	514	1 21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	521	1 29	140,895	3 23
12—Occupation lease under "Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894"	22,881	3 36	378 2 27	..	576	1 25	67 1 35	..	76 3 24	..	24,906	0 11	..	..
13—Village settlement, cash	7,117	0 14
13—Village settlement, deferred payment	225	2 0	49 3 31	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	164	3 3	12,228	3 31
13—Village settlement, perpetual lease	1,703	3 31	45 1 23	..	19	3 38	..	..	..	..	1,507	0 23	2,576	3 5
13—Village settlement, occupation with right of purchase	61	1 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	64	0 32	7	0 0
13—Village settlement, lease in perpetuity	76	1 26	11,986	3 25	..	..	128	1 0	32 2 0	..	..	..	23,250	1 31	..	..
13—Village settlement, renewable lease	108	1 37	..	..
13—Village homestead special settlement	23,045	1 37	385 2 19	..	10	1 23	..	..	..	..	13,652	2 16	..	..
15—Special-settlement associations	114,156	3 10	..	..	131	0 0	2 2 39	..	..	..	114,023	0 11	91,347	0 34
32—Improved-farm special settlement	71,211	0 23	..	..	1,069	2 19	..	..	..	..	67,916	0 5	1,934	3 30
16—Homestead	80,452	3 10
17—Small grazing-runs	1,407,795	2 14	12,352 0 3	..	3,103	0 0	1,018 2 19	..	61,028 2 24	..	1,568,324	0 28	..	..
Totals	14,384	1 25	4,632,370	0 27	14,859 1 25	..	44,040	1 10	3,253 2 3	..	61,105 2 8	..	4,964,543	3 30	15,075,687	1 20
CHEVIOT ESTATE.																
Table 5—Cash lands	6,842	1 25
9—Lease in perpetuity	24,392	1 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24,392	1 2	..	..
13—Village-homestead special settlements	2,480	1 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,480	1 0	..	..
17—Grazing-farms	45,846	1 26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45,846	1 26	..	..
LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACTS.																
5—Cash lands	93	3 7
9—Lease in perpetuity	648,481	0 10	..	..	2,290	3 29	1,215 1 34	..	..	..	678,971	3 30	..	..
10—Renewable lease	67,107	1 29	..	..
13—Lease in perpetuity (village)	446	3 28	..	..	9	1 15	..	..	..	..	438	1 28	..	..
15—Special-settlement associations	2,114	1 9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,114	1 9	..	..
17—Small grazing-runs	207,508	0 30	..	..	..	..	1 0 24	..	..	..	217,654	0 33	..	..
Grand totals	14,384	1 25	5,563,639	2 12	14,859 1 25	..	46,340	2 14	4,470 0 21	..	61,105 2 8	..	6,003,549	0 27	15,082,633	2 12

Table 4.—ANALYSIS of HOLDINGS taken up during the Year ended 31st March, 1908.

Tenures.	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	386	207	133	31	10	3	2					
Deferred payment .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Perpetual lease	354	..	..	..	..	..	..
Occupation with right of purchase	214	33	20	113	75	79	67					
Lease in perpetuity	17	..	19	75	47	31	9					
Renewable lease	3	..	..	16	1	..	..			
Agricultural lease	73	..	8	..	..	..	..	
Occupation lease under "The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894"	3	1	45	28	..	..	..		
Village settlement, cash	3	2	2	..	..	..	..	
Village settlement, occupation with right of purchase	70	4	48	18	..	..	..		
Village settlement, lease in perpetuity	15	1	14	..	..	..	..	
Village-homestead, renewable lease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Village-homestead special settlement .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Special settlement associations	3	..	..	3	..	..	..		
Improved-farm special settlement	61	..	..	1	2	14	44			
Small grazing-runs	90	..	18	29	6	3	34					
Pastoral runs .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Thermal springs, Rotorua .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	521	57	305	114	17	16	13					
Totals	1,813	305	608	428	158	146	168					
ORREVIOT ESTATE—												
Cash lands .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lease in perpetuity .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Village-homestead special settlement .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grazing-farms .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	2	..	1	1	..	..	..		
LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACTS—												
Cash lands	18	5	13	..	..	..	..	
Lease in perpetuity	213	35	75	47	39	17	..					
Renewable lease	151	..	31	50	53	13	4					
Lease in perpetuity, village	2	2	..	..	..	..	..
Small grazing-runs	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	23	4	10	7	1	1	3					
Grand totals	2,225	351	788	533	251	177	175					

Table 5.—RETURN OF CROWN LANDS SOLD FOR CASH during the Year ended 31st March, 1908.

District.	Area disposed of.						Average Price per Acre.						Consideration received.		
	Town.			Suburban.			Rural.			Total.			Cash.	Scrip.	Total.
	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Number of Purchasers.	Town.	Suburban.	Rural.			
Auckland	9	24 0 13	21	34 1 32	35	2,749 0 2	A. R. P.	2,807 2 7	65	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Hawke's Bay	..	..	44	12 1 28	4	120 1 0	2,749 0 2	2,807 2 7	65	15 14 6	6 14 8	{ 0 12 4 } { 0 14 10 }	1,860 19 0	..	1,860 19 0
Taranaki	7	9 3 0	2	31 1 11	2	3 0 0	120 1 0	182 2 28	48	..	105 6 5	0 15 9	1,368 4 6	..	1,368 4 6
Wellington	113	32 1 6	14	39 1 34	6	348 1 12	3 0 0	44 0 11	11	30 18 5	2 13 1	10 0 0	421 16 0	..	421 16 0
Nelson	10	19 3 37	..	..	18	4,955 0 12	348 1 12	420 0 12	133	258 10 0	10 0 0	{ 1 2 6 } { 1 7 3 }	9,352 15 11	..	9,352 15 11
Marlborough	..	..	1	16 3 0	5	189 2 33	4,955 0 12	4,975 0 9	28	9 5 0	..	{ 0 5 4 } { 1 0 0 }	1,689 11 11	..	1,689 11 11†
Westland	..	..	..	..	..	..	189 2 33	206 1 33	6	..	25 0 0	{ 2 11 3 } { 1 11 4 }	893 16 1	..	893 16 1
Oanterbury	9	11 2 26	..	..	5	17,081 0 5	..	..	..	..	..	{ 2 3 4 } { 0 0 8 }	1,457 16 10†	..	1,457 16 10†
Otago	11	4 0 21	5	6 1 0	22	599 1 18	17,081 0 5	609 2 39	38	27 7 0	5 18 4	{ 0 9 3 } { 2 9 4 }	1,035 2 3	..	1,035 2 3
Southland	1	0 1 0	25	227 1 38	17	1,969 3 16	599 1 18	2,187 2 14	43	50 0 0	2 17 8	{ 0 9 2 } { 0 12 8 }	1,709 5 4	..	1,709 5 4
Totals	160	102 0 23	112	368 0 23	114	28,005 2 18	1,969 3 16	28,475 3 24	386	..	..	..	19,789 7 10	..	19,789 7 10
Land for Settlements—															
Auckland	7	13 2 5	..	..	7	25 1 21	28,005 2 18	38 3 26	14	12 12 9	..	13 15 0	520 9 4	..	520 9 4
Canterbury	1	0 2 0	..	..	1	0 8 13	25 1 21	1 1 13	2	60 0 0	..	19 0 0	45 15 11	..	45 15 11
Otago	..	..	..	..	2	3 0 0	0 8 13	3 0 0	2	..	..	10 5 0	30 15 0	..	30 15 0
Totals	8	14 0 5	..	..	10	29 0 34	3 0 0	43 0 39	18	..	..	..	597 0 3	..	597 0 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.

† Excludes \$167 1s. 3d. paid on an uncompleted purchase of cash lands.

‡ Excludes \$191 10s. paid on an uncompleted purchase of cash lands.

Table 6.—RETURN OF DEFERRED-PAYMENT LANDS: TRANSACTIONS during the Year ended 31st March, 1908.

District.	Forfeitures during the Year.			Exchanges during the Year.			Capitalised during the Year.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1908, including Capitalised Holdings.			Amount received during the Year ended 31st March, 1908.
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Yearly Instalments payable.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Yearly Instalments payable.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Yearly Instalments and Interest payable.	Number of Selectors.	Area.		
Auckland	..	A. B. P.	£ s. d.	..	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	2	320 0 0	7 5 10	17	1,184 3 23	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Hawke's Bay	1	1,415 0 0	30 13 3	142 16 3
Taranaki	1	99 0 0	42 10 0	42 10 0
Wellington	1	213 0 22	8 16 10	8 16 10
Nelson	1	16 4	1 16 4	5 0 0
Marlborough	24	2,919 0 27	145 9 0	394 4 0
Westland
Canterbury	4	8,914 0 10	660 0 8	1,028 12 5
Otago	13	3,873 3 39	88 3 10	432 3 0
Southland	1	6 2 36	0 19 8	..	..	..	4	5,946 1 14	139 2 4	167 8 6
Totals..	1	6 2 36	0 19 8	2	320 0 0	7 5 10	65	24,565 2 15	1,116 12 3	2,221 11 0

District.	Freehold acquired during the Year.			Made Freehold from Commencement of System to 31st March, 1908.			Selectors in Arrear on 31st March, 1908.		
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Total Amount realised, exclusive of Interest.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Total Amount realised, exclusive of Interest.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount.
Auckland	..	A. B. P.	£ s. d.	..	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	4	A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Hawke's Bay	2	320 0 0	22,875 1 3	325	40,145 2 26	89,081 7 9	..	184 3 17	14 7 0
Taranaki	..	..	89,081 7 9	807	88,906 1 20	238,671 16 3	..	..	..
Wellington	..	..	157,098 3 13	1,303	136,987 1 31	151,161 10 10	1	213 0 23	3 1 6
Nelson	..	..	148,171 0 38	1,573	148,171 0 38	119,908 9 10	..	..	..
Marlborough	57	5,943 0 4	3,257 9 3	50	4,638 1 30	4,282 11 3	..	..	..
Westland	..	..	4,282 11 3	100	4,571 3 12	43,039 9 10	..	..	..
Canterbury	..	..	43,039 9 10	118	18,881 0 34	226,662 5 8	1	49 0 28	1 12 10
Otago	1	300 0 0	250,975 0 1	1,123	188,750 3 36	..	..	..	..
Southland	..	..	..	1,310	186,918 0 29	..	..	..	..
Totals..	61	8,060 2 22	1,149,915 2 0	7,363	370,070 0 29	..	6	447 0 27	19 1 4

Table 7.—RETURN OF PERPETUAL-LEASE LANDS: TRANSACTIONS during the Year ended 31st March, 1908.

District.	Taken up during the Year.			Exchanges to other Tenures during the Year.			Forfeitures during the Year.			Surrenders during the Year.		
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental payable.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.
Auckland
Hawke's Bay
Taranaki
Wellington
Nelson
Marlborough
Westland
Canterbury
Otago
Southland
Totals

District.	Freeholds acquired during the Year.			Made Freehold from Commencement of System to 31st March, 1908.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1908.			Amount received during the Year ended 31st March, 1908 (exclusive of Amount from Perpetual Leases made Freehold).			Selectors in Arrear, 31st March, 1908.		
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount realised.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Total Amount realised, exclusive of Interest.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount.
Auckland	12	2,144 3 16	782 16 6	515	157,048	0 26 73,818 13 9	207	36,391 1 14	1,060 4 11	12	1,800 2 15	38 2 11	12	1,800 2 15	38 2 11
Hawke's Bay	..	..	..	295	133,159	1 24 102,008 9 7	11	3,352 0 23	127 11 6	..	..	..	..	..	..
Taranaki	1	180 0 0	342 0 0	401	101,230	1 39 93,795 10 2	12	3,781 0 16	199 2 2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington	7	2,865 2 32	2,690 3 8	789	308,955	2 52 275,616 8 2	14	4,403 0 16	173 5 3	3	150 0 0	8 9 0	3	150 0 0	8 9 0
Nelson	..	..	..	27	9,181 0 30	3,122 5 6	11	1,992 2 13	37 1 6	8	711 0 0	27 12 4	8	711 0 0	27 12 4
Marlborough	..	..	..	7	925 3 24	447 5 0	5	1,170 2 23	38 17 6	1	77 0 14	0 14 3	1	77 0 14	0 14 3
Westland	..	..	..	6	482 3 20	482 17 2	7	1,580 1 8	28 0 4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury	2	534 1 38	743 2 2	91	15,595 0 11	23,792 6 9	20	1,443 1 35	113 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago	11	3,063 3 36	2,759 0 0	145	27,966 0 11	22,114 1 2	175	29,958 0 15	1,085 18 0	8	2,029 0 30	78 0 8	8	2,029 0 30	78 0 8
Southland	6	2,348 0 7	1,796 5 7	92	21,791 0 17	16,432 19 9	58	9,624 3 7	351 5 0	2	416 0 27	8 16 3	2	416 0 27	8 16 3
Totals	39	11,137 0 9	9,113 7 11	2368	776,395 3	7,611,630 17 0	520	92,627 2 10	3,209 6 2	28	5,184 0 6	161 15 5	28	5,184 0 6	161 15 5

Table 8.—RETURN of OCCUPATION-WITH-RIGHT-OF-PURCHASE LANDS taken up during the Year ended 31st March, 1908.

District.	Taken up during the Year.				Forfeitures during the Year.				Surrenders during the Year.				Freeholds acquired during the Year.			
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Average Rent per Acre.	Annual Rental payable.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount received.			
Auckland	167	A. 69,716 0 28	S. 0 11 62	£ 3,375 14 4	57	A. 13,540 1 2	£ 492 1 0	..	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	49	A. 12,753 1 25	£ s. d. 6,288 8 3			
Hawke's Bay	22	4,760 3 7	5 4 45	1,278 14 0	2	40 3 6	2 1 2	..	..	..	7	2,685 3 0	2,497 7 9
Taranaki	45	42,150 2 18	0 8 4	1,457 6 0	15	9,348 1 19	308 14 0	..	..	..	9	2,530 0 8	3,658 15 7
Wellington	65	53,596 3 12	0 10	2,204 17 6	4	726 2 23	37 8 4	..	..	..	52	16,764 0 26	19,232 14 9
Nelson	23	9,268 3 11	0 4	152 8 0	1	35 0 0	0 10 6	1	123 2 0	1 17 2	6	1,510 3 39	514 10 5			
Marlborough	4	1,017 0 0	1 3	62 0 0	..	..	..	..	7 0 0	0 6 1	1	561 0 0	490 17 6
Westland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago	14	4,174 0 17	0 5 2	90 6 10	7	1,050 2 30	30 12 0	1	273 2 32	5 2 10	1	125 0 0	187 10 0			
Southland	14	3,114 3 22	0 4 3	59 18 10	10	1,725 0 8	38 13 2	..	..	..	4	34 1 33	51 0 0
Totals	354	187,799 0 35	..	8,681 5 6	96	26,466 3 8	910 0 2	2	404 0 32	7 6 1	130	37,133 0 37	33,087 14 10			

District.	Made Freehold from Commencement of System to 31st March, 1908.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1908.			Amount received during the Year ended 31st March, 1908 (exclusive of Amount paid for acquiring Freehold).			Selectors in Arrear, 31st March, 1908.		
	Number.	Area.	Total Amount received.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	On the Year's Transactions.	On Past Transactions.	Total.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount.
Auckland	231	A. 43,138 2 5	£ 23,997 2 0	2,367	711,763 1 30	23,272 16 1	£ s. d. 1,687 17 2	£ s. d. 13,119 12 4	£ s. d. 14,807 9 6	139	A. 18,350 0 0	£ s. d. 557 0 6
Hawke's Bay	37	18,114 3 0	15,380 11 3	258	136,751 3 23	7,864 1 1	639 17 0	5,896 8 10	6,536 5 10	3	1,591 0 0	36 10 0
Taranaki	34	7,689 0 1	11,028 11 0	449	246,684 0 6	9,948 4 0	738 17 9	5,366 5 1	6,105 2 10	15	6,056 1 38	139 18 10
Wellington	161	52,360 0 11	60,995 11 9	664	280,614 2 18	14,431 19 7	2,065 16 1	8,695 12 5	10,761 8 6	7	3,067 0 0	62 5 0
Nelson	18	3,519 0 37	1,164 16 8	206	45,450 3 2	854 19 6	260 16 2	415 14 0	676 10 2	2	344 0 0	4 17 6
Marlborough	6	1,318 1 0	988 12 6	43	13,510 3 19	588 1 1	42 16 9	492 16 11	535 13 8	..	..	..
Westland	..	..	..	106	18,590 0 24	601 4 0	..	526 4 7	526 4 7	2	129 3 17	1 12 6
Canterbury	8	618 2 29	1,109 9 5	25	4,608 2 23	247 13 6	..	249 8 1	249 8 1	..	..	..
Otago	4	278 0 36	199 0 0	259	47,878 0 22	1,305 2 0	52 0 8	1,176 4 7	1,228 5 3	7	811 2 7	21 4 6
Southland	23	2,996 3 4	2,891 18 3	324	73,250 1 16	1,761 16 6	29 19 5	1,419 9 11	1,449 9 4	9	2,282 2 10	33 19 11
Totals	521	180,008 2 3	116,205 12 10	4,701	1,579,102 3 23	60,875 17 4	5,518 1 0	37,357 16 9	42,875 17 9	184	32,632 1 32	857 3 9

Table 9.—RETURN OF LEASE-IN-PERPETUITY LANDS, 31st March, 1908.

District.	Taken up during the Year.				Exchanges from other Tenures during the Year.				Forfeitures during the Year.			
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Average Rental per Acre.	Annual Rental payable.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental payable.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands—</i>												
Auckland ..	17	A. 5,512 3 9 R. P. 597 1 23	s. d. 0 5·2 7 5·1	£ s. d. 120 4 8 222 0 0	14	A. 6,696 1 26 R. P. 191 0 0	£ s. d. 138 5 6 3 16 6	25	A. 6,762 0 10 R. P. ..	25	A. 6,762 0 10 R. P. ..	£ s. d. 205 7 4
Hawke's Bay ..	6	2,291 3 12	0 7·8	66 13 2	1	2,341 3 2	225 6 10	6	3,622 0 0	6	3,622 0 0	85 11 8
Taranaki ..	4	6,441 0 8	1 2	371 3 2	4	3,556 1 6	91 0 4	1	200 0 0	1	200 0 0	10 0 0
Wellington ..	10	20,214 2 21	0 4	334 19 2	10	1,351 3 27	28 9 10	2	450 1 0	2	450 1 0	6 15 0
Nelson ..	63	3,229 1 15	0 6	80 9 2	5	77 0 16	47 6 4	1	21 0 0	1	21 0 0	0 8 6
Marlborough ..	10	9,124 0 19	0 4·9	188 17 0	2	14,307 3 89	532 5 8	34	108 2 8	34	108 2 8	45 10 10
Westland ..	53	12,419 3 32	0 5·8	299 18 9	1	1,351 3 27	28 9 10	1	59 0 0	1	59 0 0	1 3 8
Canterbury ..	40	4,100 1 26	0 3·9	67 6 6	3	14,307 3 89	532 5 8	9	1,219 3 3	9	1,219 3 3	29 10 10
Otago ..	11	63,871 2 5	..	1,751 1 7	37	14,307 3 89	532 5 8	3	92 0 36	3	92 0 36	3 2 4
Southland ..	214	20,449 2 18	3 4·4	3,446 8 10	..	1,666 3 25	245 4 2	82	12,534 3 17	82	12,534 3 17	387 10 2
Totals ..	119	648 2 0	7 2	232 7 10	..	1,666 3 25	245 4 2	10	1,666 3 25	10	1,666 3 25	245 4 2
<i>Land for Settlements—</i>												
Auckland ..	9	587 3 20	10 9	316 16 8	..	236 1 20	154 12 0	1	1 2 36	1	1 2 36	2 11 10
Hawke's Bay ..	3	203 3 22	11 4	116 1 8	..	71 2 35	61 6 2	3	236 1 20	3	236 1 20	154 12 0
Taranaki ..	8	4,204 0 9	4 0	826 17 10	..	..	..	4	71 2 35	4	71 2 35	61 6 2
Wellington ..	14	78 2 3	15 6	61 6 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson ..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury ..	7	4 0 14	41 3	8 8 8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago ..	31	5,561 1 29	7 9·5	2,167 11 6	..	..	..	2	0 2 0	2	0 2 0	9 15 0
Southland ..	10	2,757 3 18	3 1·6	492 0 0	..	..	..	1	60 0 0	1	60 0 0	16 10 0
Totals ..	213	34,495 2 13	..	7,607 19 0	..	..	..	1	253 1 22	1	253 1 22	45 12 2
Ohewiot Estate ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23	2,290 3 29	23	2,290 3 29	537 1 4
Ellesmere Endowment ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Area made freehold during year in Nelson Land District: Number of selectors, 4; area, 1,521 acres 2 rods; amount received, £1,032.

Table 9.—RETURN OF LEASE-IN-PERPTUITY LANDS, 31st March, 1908—continued.

District.	Surrenders during the Year.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1908.			Amount received during the Year ended 31st March, 1908.			Selectors in Arrear, 31st March, 1908.		
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	On the Year's Transactions.	On Past Transactions.	Total.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount.
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands—</i>												
Auckland	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	1,224	309,006 2 38	8,479 17 7	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	88	A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Hawke's Bay	209	104,404 1 11	3,882 8 7	60 2 4	6,682 5 1	6,682 7 5	1	21,700 0 0	369 15 3
Taranaki	470	178,746 3 36	7,292 8 6	111 0 0	3,384 9 11	3,465 9 11	16	2,975 2 28	4 12 5
Wellington	505	151,850 0 24	6,792 11 10	33 6 7	4,971 8 6	5,004 15 1	8	2,442 0 0	55 13 3
Nelson	381	108,625 0 3	7,792 15 5	185 15 7	5,191 9 3	5,377 4 10	2	1,185 3 0	69 14 0
Marlborough	68 1 34	1 0 6	333	147,118 1 2	3,448 13 0	199 8 7	955 8 5	1,154 17 0	4	1,503 0 0	3 18 11
Westland	641 0 0	13 16 4	489	68,060 2 20	1,611 4 2	151 7 0	2,726 16 5	2,878 3 5	3	136 0 0	26 6 7
Canterbury	686 0 0	10 5 10	246	75,604 2 23	4,291 2 6	361 10 1	3,828 9 4	3,828 9 4	11	3,080 3 10	2 14 5
Otago	250 2 19	7 9 2	815	204,966 3 30	5,945 4 11	216 0 2	5,066 9 1	5,282 9 3	12	3,673 2 22	45 8 3
Southland	81 3 25	1 12 10	345	101,998 2 10	2,328 10 4	33 13 3	2,016 12 4	2,050 5 7	146	35,911 2 34	46 19 3
Totals ..	7	1,727 3 38	33 4 8	5,017	1,450,382 0 37	45,739 16 6	1,352 3 7	35,385 9 2	36,737 12 9	51	11,488 2 7	626 16 1
<i>Land for Settlements—</i>												
Auckland	618 2 0	78 1 6	638	118,442 2 37	18,617 3 0	1,744 7 5	14,550 9 8	16,294 17 1	10	794 2 12	1,067 1 10
Hawke's Bay	427	119,740 0 17	39,549 16 4	116 3 11	34,064 15 7	34,180 19 6	3	7 2 15	279 8 0
Taranaki	1 0 22	1 6 2	35	4,022 2 15	3,258 2 8	214 9 4	3,061 17 5	3,276 6 9	10	683 0 0	15 17 0
Wellington	27 1 13	42 7 4	313	39,586 0 34	15,265 13 2	50 12 7	13,225 8 8	13,276 1 3	17	2,900 0 0	221 4 0
Nelson	105 0 0	21 0 0	13	4,099 0 9	805 17 10	631 9 8	..	631 9 8	..	..	..
Marlborough	1 1 39	0 3 8	317	54,477 2 33	12,330 19 6	46 15 2	11,019 0 9	11,065 15 11	23	1,318 1 20	296 6 0
Westland	27	4,990 1 4	588 11 8	..	535 17 0	535 17 0	27	4,974 0 24	374 6 11
Canterbury	462 0 0	236 15 6	1,142	175,238 0 3	65,660 8 0	8 2 3	59,880 11 9	59,888 14 0	22	5,154 0 39	893 6 4
Otago	544	109,663 0 2	34,631 19 2	1,799 18 3	28,891 15 7	30,631 13 10	163	27,320 1 37	555 16 9
Southland	234	48,712 0 36	10,748 9 10	216 0 0	9,911 2 11	10,127 2 11	..	..	..
Totals ..	6	1,215 1 34	379 14 2	3,690	678,971 3 30	201,407 1 2	4,827 18 7	175,140 19 4	179,968 17 11	..	..	..
Cheviot Estate	118	24,392 1 2	6,450 14 6	..	5,889 12 0	5,889 12 0	..	..	..
Ellesmere Endowment	68	13,937 0 0	1,399 13 2	..	1,265 9 4	1,265 9 4	..	..	..

Table 10.—RETURN OF RENEWABLE LEASE LANDS, 31st March, 1908.

District.	Taken up during the Year.				Net Area held on 31st March, 1908.				Amount received during the Year ended 31st March, 1908.
	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.			
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands—</i>									
Auckland ..	1	A. R. P. 261 2 0	£ s. d. 6 12 0	1	A. R. P. 261 2 0	£ s. d. 6 12 0	3 6 0		
Hawke's Bay ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Taranaki ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington ..	1	200 0 0	10 0 0	1	200 0 0	10 0 0	5 0 0		
Nelson ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland ..	14	2,847 0 0	62 0 0	14	2,847 0 0	62 0 0	46 10 0		
Canterbury ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago ..	1	118 3 0	3 11 4	1	118 3 0	3 11 4	1 15 8		
Southland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	17	3,427 1 0	82 3 4	17	3,427 1 0	82 3 4	56 11 8		
<i>Land for Settlements—</i>									
Auckland ..	4	208 1 7	73 6 0	4	208 1 7	73 6 0	59 2 8		
Hawke's Bay ..	83	20,168 2 1	8,365 0 8	83	20,168 2 1	8,265 0 8	7,806 1 7		
Canterbury ..	1	462 0 0	236 14 0	1	462 0 0	236 14 0	194 17 6		
Otago ..	63	46,268 2 21	5,368 3 6	63	46,268 2 21	5,368 3 6	4,286 17 10		
Totals ..	151	67,107 1 29	13,943 4 2	151	67,107 1 29	13,943 4 2	12,846 19 7		

Table 11.—RETURN OF AGRICULTURAL-LEASE LANDS taken up during the Year ended 31st March, 1908.

District.	Taken up during the Year.				Expiries during the Year.		Net Area held on 31st March, 1908.		Amounts received during the Year ended 31st March, 1908.				Made Freehold from Commencement of System to 31st March, 1908.		Selectors in Arrear on 31st March, 1908.	
	Number of Selectors.	Area taken up.	Average to each Selector.	Yearly Rental payable.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Yearly Rental payable.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	On the Year's Transactions.	On Past Transactions.	Total.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Total Amount realised.	Number of Selectors.
Auckland ..	A. R. P. A.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	A. R. P. A.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	A. R. P. A.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	A. R. P. A.
Hawke's Bay ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Taranaki ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Southland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	3	83 3 32	27 3 38	2 5 6	2	76 3 24	2 11 6	16	521 1 29	22 4 31	19 6 25	4 0 27	3	61,326	181,296 2	3131,580 12 6
	3	83 3 32	27 3 38	2 5 6	2	76 3 24	2 11 6	16	521 1 29	22 4 31	19 6 25	4 0 27	3	61,326	181,296 2	3131,580 12 6
	3	83 3 32	27 3 38	2 5 6	2	76 3 24	2 11 6	16	521 1 29	22 4 31	19 6 25	4 0 27	3	61,326	181,296 2	3131,580 12 6

Table 12.—OCCUPATION LEASES under "The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894," taken up during the Year ended 31st March, 1908.

District.	Taken up during the Year.			Forfeitures and Surrenders during the Year.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1908.			Amount received during the Year.			Selectors in Arrear on 31st March, 1908.		
	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.	
Auckland ..	7	A. R. P. 473 1 23	£ s. d. 4 16 6	11	A. R. P. 507 0 18	£ s. d. 33 12 0	174	A. R. P. 8,894 3 20	£ s. d. 722 5 0	£ s. d. 2 8 3	£ s. d. 323 14 4	30	A. R. P. 2,410 0 0	£ s. d. 96 6 9	
Hawke's Bay ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Taranaki ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson ..	8	558 1 37	19 4 0	..	..	..	40	2,085 1 32	72 0 2	26 13 3	25 3 10	3	189 1 39	14 6 2
Marlborough ..	8	713 0 0	27 2 2	1	61 0 0	1 10 6	26	1,813 0 0	56 16 0	15 13 7	30 14 2	..	..	..
Westland ..	19	331 3 2	13 8 6	..	..	..	25	468 0 5	18 9 0	11 1 11	6 0 3	..	..	..
Canterbury ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago ..	30	938 1 12	51 0 0	3	75 3 2	3 1 10	270	10,442 3 22	436 3 2	55 14 2	381 13 5	5	316 2 15	4 16 0	
Southland ..	1	31 2 28	0 15 10	..	..	..	42	1,201 3 12	108 8 8	0 7 11	108 18 6	2	47 2 26	3 2 7
Totals ..	73	3,046 2 22	116 7 0	15	643 3 20	38 4 4	577	24,906 0 11	1,414 2 0	111 19 1	876 4 6	40	2,963 3 0	118 11 6	

EXCHANGES to OTHER TENURES during the Year.

	No.	Area.		Annual Rental.	
		A. R. P. A.	£ s. d.	A. R. P. A.	£ s. d.
Auckland ..	4	308 1 7	8 11 10	308 1 7	8 11 10
Southland ..	1	70 1 20	7 0 10	70 1 20	7 0 10
Totals ..	5	378 2 27	15 12 8	378 2 27	15 12 8

Table 13.—RETURN of VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS during the Year ended 31st March, 1908.

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	Cash ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Lease in perpetuity	15	38 2 21	9 12 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Village-homestead special settlement	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hawke's Bay	Cash ..	1	0 1 31	..	8	276 0 19	12 11 10	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Perpetual lease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Occupation with right of purchase	3	2 3 22	2 18 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Lease in perpetuity	15	1,247 3 8	233 15 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Taranaki	Cash ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Occupation with right of purchase	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington	Cash ..	1	1 0 33	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Perpetual lease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Renewable lease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Lease in perpetuity	2	2 0 24	2 8 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Village-homestead special settlement	25	712 1 7	324 17 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough	Cash ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Village-homestead special settlement	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland	Cash ..	1	1 2 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Lease in perpetuity	2	0 1 30	1 15 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury	Cash ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Perpetual lease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Village-homestead special settlement	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago	Cash ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Perpetual lease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Lease in perpetuity	1	49 3 31	1 5 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Renewable lease	4	29 3 24	1 14 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Southland	Cash ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Perpetual lease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Lease in perpetuity	12	251 3 15	65 11 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Village-homestead special settlement	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Renewable lease	9	76 1 29	7 10 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals		91	2,415 1 35	701 7 0	29	586 3 8	74 2 6	8	142 0 29	275 6 2	3,212	21,929 3 10	89,670 15 5
Land for Settlements—		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hawke's Bay	Cash ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Lease in perpetuity	2	0 3 16	1 8 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grand totals		93	2,416 1 11	702 15 0	29	586 3 8	74 2 6	8	142 0 29	275 6 2	3,215	21,931 1 2	89,702 0 5

Table 13—RETURN of VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS during the Year ended 31st March, 1908.—continued.

District.	Tenure.	Amount received during the Year.			Forfeitures during the Year.			Surrenders during the Year.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1908.			Arrears on 31st March, 1908.		
		£ s. d.	A. B. P.	£ s. d.	Selectors.	A. B. P.	£ s. d.	Selectors.	A. B. P.	£ s. d.	Selectors.	Area.	Total Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Amount.
Auckland	Lease in perpetuity	114 18 2	3	2 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	63	2,669 1 29	163 13 4	4	A. B. P.	£ s. d.
	Village-homestead special settlement	506 2 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	1,186 2 9	114 19 2	4	396 0 0	7 5 3
Hawke's Bay	Cash	9 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	170 3 25	10 11 10
	Occupation with right of purchase	1 11 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	47 3 36	6 6 8	1	15 0 0	1 2 6
Taranaki	Lease in perpetuity	1,565 13 8	4	3 14 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	73	3,902 1 5	1,663 16 8	13	535 0 26	202 4 9
	Village-homestead special settlement	49 0 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	160 1 18	61 13 4	..	..	..
Wellington	Occupation with right of purchase	3 9 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	8 1 0	2 9 6	1	0 3 0	0 2 3
	Lease in perpetuity	9 5 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	69 0 8	10 5 8	..	..	..
Marlborough	Cash	4 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Lease in perpetuity	1,719 7 2	1	1 0 0	1	1 1 10	0 5 6	508	9,757 3 10	1,914 6 4	11	191 0 0	..	..	191 0 0	37 4 0
Westland	Renewable lease	0 5 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2 0 24	2 8 0	..	..	..
	Village-homestead special settlement	414 16 6	..	..	..	..	..	163	2,103 3 17	305 16 3	17	178 0 0	..	..	178 0 0	72 11 6
Canterbury	Perpetual lease	1 2 6	..	..	..	..	..	1	10 0 0	1 5 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Lease in perpetuity	15 15 6	..	..	..	..	..	9	153 0 35	22 3 4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago	Village-homestead special settlement	14 14 11	..	..	..	..	..	8	58 0 19	7 16 0	1	6 1 7	..	..	6 1 7	0 9 0
	Cash	12 10 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Southland	Lease in perpetuity	12 7 0	1	0 17 0	..	..	..	12	198 2 17	14 19 4	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Perpetual lease made freehold	50 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cheviot Estate—	Deferred payment	24 13 0	..	..	..	..	..	7	64 3 3	16 5 4	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Perpetual lease	86 2 4	..	..	..	..	..	16	198 2 7	57 13 10	2	21 0 0	..	..	21 0 0	6 15 6
Canterbury	Occupation with right of purchase	3 9 4	..	..	..	..	..	8	2 2 0	4 4 6	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Lease in perpetuity	8 2 10	..	..	..	..	..	18	8 2 0	8 13 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago	Village-homestead special settlement	835 4 5	..	..	..	..	..	260	8,566 1 0	965 5 8	3	64 2 8	..	..	64 2 8	9 8 10
	Deferred payment	3 2 8	..	..	..	..	..	2	100 0 0	3 6 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Southland	Perpetual lease	31 11 9	1	1 0 0	..	..	..	14	291 2 25	28 17 8	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Occupation with right of purchase	1 2 6	..	..	..	..	..	8	2 1 12	0 12 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury	Lease in perpetuity	142 14 5	7	2 14 4	..	..	..	111	1,710 0 33	147 14 8	4	77 0 17	..	..	77 0 17	1 5 9
	Renewable lease	1 7 7	..	..	..	..	..	4	29 3 24	1 14 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago	Village-homestead special settlement	118 1 11	1	1 19 4	..	..	..	71	1,053 0 39	133 5 0	8	64 1 7	..	..	64 1 7	24 5 10
	Perpetual lease made freehold	198 11 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Southland	Deferred payment	13 14 4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Perpetual lease	134 6 5	..	..	..	..	..	74	1,006 3 30	131 4 8	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury	Occupation with right of purchase	1 9 11	..	..	..	..	..	4	3 0 24	1 13 2	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Lease in perpetuity	388 18 8	3	1 9 2	1	31 0 24	2 10 0	305	4,781 1 14	472 17 4	8	93 3 4	..	..	93 3 4	5 3 11
Otago	Renewable lease	127 4 6	1	0 12 0	..	..	..	9	76 1 29	7 10 6	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Village-homestead special settlement	127 4 6	1	0 12 0	..	..	..	46	523 3 34	121 10 0	1	10 0 15	..	..	10 0 15	1 9 10
Totals		6,623 16 6	22	15 6 4	2	32 2 0	2 15 6	1,876	38,747 1 21	6,394 5 11	78	1,823 3 29	..	..	1,823 3 29	380 0 9
Cheviot Estate—		790 10 3	..	..	..	..	..	52	2,480 1 0	870 10 4	2	15 0 0	..	..	15 0 0	7 8 0
Canterbury		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Land for Settlements—		13 14 5	..	..	..	..	..	16	34 3 0	24 0 0	4	1 1 6	..	..	1 1 6	2 3 0
Hawke's Bay		312 4 0	1	7 11 2	..	..	..	30	403 2 28	309 12 8	1	9 1 16	..	..	9 1 16	13 13 6
Otago		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grand totals		7,740 5 2	23	22 17 6	2	32 2 0	2 15 6	2,014	41,666 0 9	7,598 8 11	85	1,849 2 11	..	..	1,849 2 11	403 5 3

Table 14.—SUMMARY OF POSITION OF VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS at 31st March, 1908.

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, 1908.			Amount of Advances which have been repaid to 31st March, 1908.	Total Amount of Interest paid to 31st March, 1908.	Value of Improvements now on the Land.	Arrears of Interest on 31st March, 1908.
	Resident.	Non-resident.				For Houses.	For Bushfelling, Grassing, &c.	Total.				
Auckland ..	60	32	A. B. P. 3,855 3 38	A. B. P. 1,688 2 1	£ s. d. 278 12 6	£ s. d. 958 0 0	£ s. d. 1,253 17 6	£ s. d. 2,211 17 6	£ s. d. 1,275 6 7	£ s. d. 3,019 12 5	£ s. d. 14,190 17 6	£ s. d. 7 4 6
Hawke's Bay	70	40	4,110 2 19	2,300 0 0	1,731 16 8	580 0 0	296 15 9	876 15 9	386 19 0	648 0 3	12,500 0 0	..
Taranaki ..	18	1	77 1 8	77 1 8	12 15 2	..	..	..	..	..	892 0 0	..
Wellington ..	624*	49	11,863 3 11	10,257 0 0	2,356 5 1	3,024 17 6	3,670 19 11	6,695 17 5	4,021 8 10	79 3 10	109,494 0 0	28 12 6
Nelson ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough	11	7	221 1 14	172 0 0	34 7 0	85 0 0	18 15 0	103 15 0	15 0 0	89 13 0	1,905 0 0	..
Westland ..	11	1	198 2 17	198 2 17	14 19 4	..	..	..	..	..	2,134 15 0	..
O Canterbury ..	244	65	8,840 2 10	7,828 3 13	1,052 2 4	2,460 0 0	..	2,460 0 0	1,027 0 0	1,975 1 4	30,226 4 2	1 0 0
Otago ..	100	105	3,187 1 13	2,062 0 0	315 9 4	1,101 5 0	440 0 0	1,541 5 0	305 2 6	1,121 2 0	14,347 2 0	15 13 5
Southland ..	379	59	6,891 3 11	3,699 0 0	734 15 8	756 0 0	350 2 2	1,106 2 2	241 17 6	934 3 3	31,570 0 0	0 17 5
Totals ..	1,517	359	38,747 1 21	28,278 0 39	6,531 3 1	8,965 2 6	6,030 10 4	14,995 12 10	7,272 14 5	7,860 16 1	217,259 18 8	53 6 10
Cheviot Estate, Canterbury	56	36	2,480 1 0	2,303 3 0	870 10 4	120 0 0	..	120 0 0	120 0 0	26 0 0	12,414 10 0	..
Land for Settlements—Hawke's Bay	3	13	34 8 0	31 0 0	24 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	482 10 0	..
Otago ..	20	10	403 2 28	287 0 0	309 12 8	..	..	..	..	..	3,604 0 0	..

* Inclusive of 160 not reported on.

Table 15.—RETURN OF SPECIAL-SETTLEMENT ASSOCIATIONS, under Section 163 of "The Land Act, 1885," and Part IV of "The Land Act, 1892," to 31st March, 1908, not included in the Special Returns.

District.	Taken up during the Year.		Total Amount received on Current and Previous Transactions to 31st March, 1908.		Made Freshhold.		Number of Selectors required to reside, and actually residing, and Area.	
	Number.	Area.	Amount received during the Year.	£ s. d.	A. B. P.	From Commencement of System to 31st March, 1908.	Number required to reside.	Area.
Auckland	..	A. B. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	..	52	68	A. R. P.
Hawke's Bay	297 11 2	9,040 8 8	..	54	14	11,528 1 0
Taranaki..	127 14 9	903 0 10	..	..	..	600 0 0
Wellington	867 19 4	11,208 16 1	..	..	56	15,764 2 23
Nelson	4,927 12 6	152,878 8 4	..	815	333	70,800 3 2
Marlborough
Westland
Canterbury	141 13 4	2,172 12 4	..	..	..	..
Otago	108 12 1	1,578 4 1	..	..	4	660 3 11
Southland	1,980 0 36
Totals	6,471 3 2	177,776 10 4	..	991	475	101,334 2 32
Land for Settlements— Canterbury	147 15 6	1,981 12 5	..	..	..	232 0 0

District.	Forfeitures during the Year.		Surrenders during the Year.		Net Area held, 31st March, 1908.		Selectors in Arrear, 31st March, 1908.	
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount.	£ s. d.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Number of Selectors.	Amount.
Auckland	1	A. B. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	68	A. B. P.	3	£ s. d.
Hawke's Bay	..	131 0 0	5 5 0	..	14	..	1	370 1 16
Taranaki..	87	..	6	101 16 0
Wellington	0 2 4	481	..	1	200 0 0
Nelson	6	1,298 0 0
Marlborough	1	1,728 0 0
Westland
Canterbury	30	..	..	..
Otago	14	..	..	..
Southland
Totals	1	131 0 0	5 5 0	0 2 4	644	114,023 0 11	19	3,591 1 16
Land for Settlements— Canterbury	11	2,114 1 9	..	167 9 8

Table 16.—RETURN of HOMESTEAD LANDS: TRANSACTIONS during the Year ended 31st March, 1908.

District.	Net Area held on 31st March, 1908.		Made Freehold during the Year.		Made Freehold since Commencement of System to 31st March, 1908.	
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Number of Selectors.	Area.
		A. B. P.		A. B. P.		A. B. P.
Auckland	464	76,096 3 10
Westland	39	1,480 0 0
Otago	22	2,876 0 0
Totals	525	80,452 3 10

Table 17.—RETURN of SMALL GRAZING-RUNS taken up during the Year ended 31st March, 1908.

District.	Taken up during the Year.					Forfeitures during the Year.			Surrenders during the Year.		
	Number of Holders.	Area.	Average Area.	Average Rent per Acre.	Annual Rent payable.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.
		A. B. P.	A. B. P. s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		A. B. P. £ s. d.	£ s. d.		A. B. P. £ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland	2	16,421 2 31	8,210 3 15	0 1 6	109 11 8	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .
Hawke's Bay	1	2,478 0 0	2,478 0 0	2 4 86	298 0 0	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .
Taranaki .. .. .	..	7 1 26	.. .. .	.. .. .	0 1 10	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	1 3 20	0 0 6
Wellington	12*	18,068 2 0	1,089 0 0	1 0	607 2 8	2	1,018 0 0	36 8 10	1	800 0 0	30 0 0
Nelson	2	4,034 3 18	2,017 1 24	0 1 1	25 4 6	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .
Marlborough .. ..	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	1	858 0 0	7 3 0	..	216 2 39	2 14 0
Westland .. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .
Canterbury .. ..	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .
Otago	44*	180,589 3 24	4,104 1 11	0 4 08	3,071 6 6	1	1,227 0 0	23 0 4	..	.. .. .	.. .. .
Southland .. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .
Totals	61	216,600 1 19	3,550 3 12	0 4 48	4,111 7 2	4	3,108 0 0	66 12 2	1	1,018 2 19	32 14 6

Land for Settlements—

Auckland	2	8,210 0 0	4,105 0 0	0 2 73	93 7 10	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .
Hawke's Bay .. ..	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .
Wellington .. ..	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .
Nelson	1	1,947 0 0	1,947 0 0	0 0 6	48 13 6	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .
Marlborough .. ..	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	1 0 24	0 3 10
Canterbury .. ..	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .
Otago .. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .
Southland .. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .
Totals	3	10,157 0 0	3,385 2 26	0 9 92	142 1 4	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	1 0 24	0 3 10

Cheviot Estate:
Canterbury

District.	Exchanges during the Year.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1908.			Amount received during the Year.			Arrears on 31st March, 1908.		
	No. of Holders.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	On the Year's Transactions.	On Past Transactions.	Total.	Number.	Area.	Amount.
		A. B. P. £ s. d.	£ s. d.		A. B. P. £ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		A. B. P. £ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland	1	6,062 0 0	38 17 6	15	78,634 0 31	658 7 3	54 15 10	553 17 8	608 13 6	8	34,617 3 0	183 4 2
Hawke's Bay .. ..	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	87	251,416 3 2	3,860 9 2	677 0 0	1,643 19 1	2,320 19 1	121	56,223 3 26	544 2 9
Taranaki .. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	17	16,660 0 12	235 1 10	.. .. .	236 10 1	236 10 1	1	693 0 0	5 8 4
Wellington	4	2,341 3 2	86 14 10	84	81,364 2 17	2,687 13 11	328 6 1	1,647 6 9	1,975 12 10	4	4,372 0 0	82 6 0
Nelson .. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	9	16,757 3 18	109 1 10	15 9 3	68 7 2	83 16 5	1	1,088 0 0	25 0 0
Marlborough	8	3,948 1 1	49 7 3	82	200,267 1 81	2,727 6 5	.. .. .	2,905 3 5	2,905 3 5	9	24,086 3 31	238 2 6
Westland .. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .
Canterbury .. ..	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	55	133,734 0 19	6,061 7 6	.. .. .	5,975 14 1	5,975 14 1	2	5,438 0 0	159 7 6
Otago .. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	295	725,053 0 5	15,478 17 4	2,734 0 7	12,694 18 3	15,428 18 10	17	24,728 2 37	288 19 8
Southland .. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	19	64,436 0 13	735 17 10	.. .. .	764 10 0	764 10 0	..	.. .. .	.. .. .
Totals	18	12,352 0 3	174 19 7	663	1,568,824 0 28	32,554 3 1	3,809 11 9	26,490 6 6	30,299 18 3	63	151,248 1 14	1526 10 11

Land for Settlements—

Auckland .. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	9	97,346 0 0	499 3 2	46 13 11	206 11 11	253 5 10	3	14,597 0 0	133 14 6
Hawke's Bay .. ..	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	16	19,681 0 0	4,440 18 6	.. .. .	4,180 10 8	4,180 10 8	..	.. .. .	.. .. .
Wellington .. ..	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	7	9,127 0 0	1,795 5 4	.. .. .	1,732 7 6	1,732 7 6	..	.. .. .	.. .. .
Nelson .. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	1	1,947 0 0	48 13 6	24 8 3	.. .. .	24 8 3	..	.. .. .	.. .. .
Marlborough .. ..	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	31	54,850 1 16	7,515 16 4	.. .. .	6,874 9 8	6,874 9 8	1	2,026 0 0	16 17 8
Canterbury .. ..	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	44	81,161 0 26	10,882 6 6	.. .. .	9,662 8 6	9,662 8 6	..	.. .. .	.. .. .
Otago .. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	9	10,733 1 31	1,556 11 2	.. .. .	1,254 8 5	1,254 8 5	..	.. .. .	.. .. .
Southland .. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	2	2,808 1 0	201 7 4	.. .. .	210 12 4	210 12 4	..	.. .. .	.. .. .
Totals .. .. .	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	119	217,654 0 33	26,940 1 10	71 2 2	24,121 9 0	24,192 11 2	4	16,623 0 0	150 12 2
<i>Cheviot Estate:</i> Canterbury .. ..	..	.. .. .	.. .. .	49	45,846 1 26	6,871 13 2	.. .. .	7,215 9 9	7,215 9 9	9	8,542 3 0	548 7 9

* Inclusive of renewals.

† Four of these are not separate holders, but are included in the 82 ordinary Crown-land holders.

Table 18.—NUMBER and AREA of PASTORAL LICENSES for the Year ended 31st March, 1908.

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.		
	Number of Holders.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Holders.	Area.	A. R. P.	Number.	Area.	A. R. P.	Number of Holders.	Area.	A. R. P.		
Auckland*	14	A. 1,392 0 0	£ s. d. 25 5 0	..	..	..	1	10,956 0 0	..	..	2	A. 17,480 0 0
Hawke's Bay	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	14,010 0 0	..
Taranaki	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington	10	19,982 2 0	402 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	1	120 0 0	..	..
Nelson	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough	2	74,750 0 0	790 0 0	1	220 0 0	..	1	200 0 0	8	151,430 0 0	..	..
Westland	36	64,421 1 29	117 6 2	..	..	..	1	5,089 0 0	13	7,319 0 1	5	9,077 0 30
Canterbury	3	1,164 1 0	129 4 10	..	..	..	..	..	5	21,633 0 7	..	..
Otago	14	262,781 8 23	2,191 15 0	..	..	..	1	2,320 0 0	6	120,912 0 25	1	93,640 0 0
Southland	11	147,584 0 0	535 8 0	..	..	..	1	159,700 0 0	11	99,839 0 0	..	..
Totals	90	572,076 0 12	4,190 19 0	1	220 0 0	..	5	178,265 0 0	44	401,253 0 33	9	134,207 0 30		

District.	Net Area held on 31st March, 1908.				Rent paid during the Year.		Holders in Arrear on 31st March, 1908.	
	Number of Holders.	Area, approximately.	Average Holdings.	Annual Rental.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Number.	Area.
Auckland	142	A. 217,970 3 37	A. R. P. 1,585 0 0	£ s. d. 934 2 8	£ s. d. 477 19 8	22	A. 58,230 0 0	£ s. d. 113 6 3
Hawke's Bay	16	103,703 0 0	6,481 1 30	762 10 4	722 6 0	..	..	..
Taranaki..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington	38	153,199 2 0	4,031 2 4	4,992 18 0	2,436 14 5	..	..	..
Nelson	2	165,829 0 0	82,914 2 0	330 0 0	317 10 0	..	..	..
Marlborough	47	831,527 0 0	17,479 0 0	4,008 18 0	3,918 12 2	1	1,670 0 0	5 10 0
Westland	210	603,995 1 33	2,876 0 27	933 11 6	962 3 7	2	230 0 0	1 0 0
Canterbury	138	3,480,204 2 32	24,856 2 10	32,755 2 4	34,744 0 7	..	..	..
Otago	221	4,199,496 0 33	19,002 0 0	26,447 7 2	26,626 5 8	1	2,263 2 32	2 0 0
Southland	91	1,370,798 1 0	15,063 2 35	4,152 19 4	3,952 16 5	..	..	..
Totals	905	11,066,724 0 15	12,228 1 28	75,317 9 4	74,158 8 6	26	62,443 2 32	121 16 3
Cheviot Estate— Canterbury	1	1,642 0 0	1,642 0 0	193 3 8	193 3 8	..	..	..
Land for Settlements— Otago	2	953 2 38	496 3 19	121 13 0	121 13 0	..	..	..

* Includes Hauraki Pastoral Leases.

Table 19.—RETURN of MISCELLANEOUS LEASES and LICENSES, not otherwise enumerated, during the Year ended 31st March, 1908.

District.	Objects for which leased.										Total Area in Occupation on 31st March, 1908.				Lessees in Arrear on 31st March, 1908.							
	Coal and Mineral.					Timber-cutting, &c.					Miscellaneous.					Total Area leased during the Year.		Total Annual Rental of the Lands leased during the Year.		Total Amount received during the Year.		
	Amount received.		Area.		Annual Rental.	Amount received.		Area.		Annual Rental.	Amount received.		Area.		Annual Rental.	Amount received.		Area.		Annual Rental.	Amount.	
	£ s. d.	Acres.	£ s. d.	Acres.		£ s. d.	Acres.	£ s. d.	Acres.		£ s. d.	Acres.	£ s. d.	Acres.		£ s. d.	Acres.	£ s. d.	Acres.		£ s. d.	Acres.
Auckland ..	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.	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.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Hawke's Bay ..	..	586 9 9*	..	42,162 1 6	..	786 18 6	..	223 1 27	37 0 0	223 1 27	37 0 0	46,049 18 9	211 41,619 3 12	1,342 13 9	30 2,500 2 7	88 1 0	..	..	..	..	..
Taranaki ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	385 3 9	80 0 0	385 3 9	80 0 0	2,291 4 2	92 63,748 0 20	1,190 14 6	19 2,307 0 2	143 18 0	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	133 1 35	59 14 3	133 1 35	59 14 3	405 9 11	114 1,341 3 25	339 3 3	6 115 2 27	19 17 6	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43 45,724 1 1	491 9 6	45,834 1 1	491 9 6	1,548 10 3	286 77,631 1 12	1,942 12 2	21 210 3 0	150 13 0	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough ..	143,190	0 25 175	8 0	173 13 6	2	..	..	68 17,576 0 8	192 2 10	25,432 3 97	541 4 4	4,422 6 2	750 192,917 2 26	2,727 6 6	29 4,717 2 37	300 2 4	..	..	..	..	..
Westland ..	..	..	..	54 9 3	..	..	..	13 1,168 2 11	82 10 0	1,995 2 11	82 10 0	2,470 13 8	129 45,489 2 22	1,008 1 10	3 24 2 12	5 10 0	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury ..	2	128 3 9	13 19 6	33 15 0	..	..	..	27 10,871 1 28	43 5 0	21,913 1 28	49 5 0	10,658 9 6	656 94,652 1 25	3,684 15 2	9 426 3 29	43 18 9	..	..	..	..	..
Otago ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	73 7,824 0 32	382 5 3	8,833 2 1	441 4 9	4,061 18 10	795 141,476 1 12	1,610 18 7	7 213 0 15	7 0 0	..	..	..	..	..
Southland ..	1	40 0 0	6 0 0	..	..	..	..	25,875 1 9	203 18 6	26,504 2 3	203 18 6	2,170 12 6	387 32,958 0 11	971 5 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	173,358	3 34 195	7 6	1243,210 17 9	17 11,501	3 26	1,640 17 3	403 112,736	3 32	1,774 9 10	134,511 1 24	2,201 10 10	79,563 16 0	3,674 788,544	1 5	15,508 5 6	127 10,607	2 5	761 13 1	..	..
Land for Settlements—																						
Auckland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	768 0 10	64 18 0	768 0 10	64 18 0	2,691 17 11	13 793 0 24	73 12 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hawke's Bay ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5 2 16	2 12 0	5 2 16	2 12 0	108 12 8	11 374 3 3	128 15 6	4 15 2 0	8 12 7	..	..	..	..	..
Taranaki ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	340 1 5	1 43 3 16	44 16 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 1 0	3 7 6	2 1 0	3 7 6	1,165 17 3	10 5,629 2 26	761 9 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	650 4 5	47 913 2 29	321 17 0	3 124 0 31	18 12 0	..	..	..	..	..
Westland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8 2 0	1 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9 1 15	36 8 6	9 1 15	36 8 6	281 2 4	38 969 0 6	286 10 4	3 277 1 30	52 10 0	..	..	..	..	..
Otago ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,937 2 13	273 18 6	1,937 2 13	273 18 6	268 17 1	61 1,941 1 37	378 12 6	2 13 0 13	0 9 4	..	..	..	..	..
Southland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 2 2	0 10 0	0 2 2	0 10 0	138 12 4	11 1,166 2 39	30 1 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,128 1 16	386 14 6	2,128 1 16	386 14 6	5,645 5 5	193 11,840 3 20	2,021 13 9	12 430 0 34	80 3 11	..	..	..	..	..
Crown Estate—																						
Canterbury ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	130 1 0	1 7 0	130 1 0	1 7 0	204 17 2	60 1,377 3 26	261 6 1	1 2 2 28	2 13 6	..	..	..	..	..

* Amount received.

Table 20.—RETURN OF GROSS REVENUE RECEIVED during the Year ended 31st March, 1908.

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.
ORDINARY CROWN LANDS.											
Cash lands	1,860 19 0	1,368 4 6	421 16 0	9,352 15 11	1,856 13 8	898 16 1	..	1,649 6 10	1,035 2 3	1,709 5 4	20,147 19 7
Perpetual lease made freehold	782 16 6	..	342 0 0	2,690 3 8	..	743 2 2	..	743 2 2	2,759 0 0	1,796 5 7	9,113 7 11
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	6,288 8 3	2,497 7 9	3,658 15 7	19,232 14 9	514 10 5	490 17 6	..	197 10 0	51 0 0	116 10 7	33,037 14 10
Lease in perpetuity made freehold .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1,032 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	1,032 0 0
Village settlement occupation with right of purchase lease made freehold .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Village settlement perpetual lease made freehold	142 16 3	..	8 16 10	5 0 0	394 4 0	..	..	50 0 0	..	198 11 3	248 11 3
Deferred payment, rural .. .. .	..	42 10 0	..	..	..	..	..	369 17 11	44 19 8	34 3 10	999 18 6
Perpetual lease and small areas	865 2 1	132 5 0	219 2 9	206 15 6	49 13 0	30 10 8	27 2 4	638 14 6	387 3 4	133 4 8	1,221 12 6
Occupation with right of purchase	14,807 9 6	6,536 5 10	6,105 2 10	10,761 8 6	676 10 2	535 13 8	526 4 7	111 10 7	989 14 8	367 8 8	3,003 5 3
Lease in perpetuity	6,682 7 5	3,465 9 11	5,004 15 1	5,377 4 10	1,154 17 0	2,878 3 5	1,013 10 11	3,838 9 4	1,228 5 3	1,449 9 4	42,875 17 9
Renewable lease	3 6 0	..	..	5 0 0	..	..	46 10 0	..	5,282 9 4	2,050 5 7	36,737 12 9
Agricultural lease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 15 8	..	56 11 8
Occupation lease under "The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894"	326 2 7	..	..	..	51 17 1	46 7 9	17 2 2	..	27 3 6	109 6 5	988 3 7
Village settlement, cash .. .. .	..	9 0 0	..	4 0 0	..	..	12 10 0	..	..	..	25 10 0
Village settlement, deferred payment .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24 13 0	3 2 8	13 14 4	41 10 0
Village settlement, perpetual lease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1 2 6	..	86 2 4	31 11 9	134 6 5	253 3 0
Village settlement, occupation with right of purchase .. .. .	..	1 11 3	3 9 0	..	..	..	..	3 9 4	1 2 6	1 9 11	11 2 0
chase .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Village settlement, lease in perpetuity	114 18 2	1,565 13 8	9 5 2	1,719 7 2	..	15 15 6	12 7 0	8 2 10	142 14 5	388 18 8	3,977 2 7
Village homestead special settlement	506 2 5	49 0 5	..	414 16 6	..	14 14 11	..	895 4 5	118 1 11	127 4 6	2,065 5 1
Village settlement, renewable lease .. .. .	..	..	..	0 5 0	..	..	..	..	1 7 7	..	1 12 7
Special settlement association, perpetual lease	297 11 2	127 14 9	867 19 4	4,927 12 6	..	..	..	49 0 10	108 12 1	..	49 0 10
Special settlement association, lease in perpetuity	402 17 11	198 18 7	1,661 2 11	4,915 18 9	..	..	..	92 12 6	..	..	6,422 2 4
Improved farm special settlement	608 13 6	2,320 19 1	236 10 1	1,975 12 10	83 16 5	2,905 3 5	..	5,975 14 1	15,428 18 10	302 4 9	*7,481 2 11
Small grazing runs	477 19 8	722 6 0	..	2,436 14 5	317 10 0	9,918 12 2	962 3 7	34,744 0 7	26,526 5 8	764 10 0	30,299 18 3
Pastoral runs	523 8 11	..	..	..	1,053 11 1	..	381 5 0	77 6 0	709 7 8	290 6 9	74,158 8 6
Coal and mineral leases	63 0 10	30 10 6	..	..	..	..	..	1 2 0	..	..	3,035 5 5
Prospectors' mining leases	27,674 11 10	786 18 6	10 16 1	103 9 3	54 8 0	934 9 0	9,693 1 9	216 5 6	114 12 1	1,486 0 1	149 1 4
Timber licenses and other leases, and sale of timber	1,627 17 3	..	..	..	17 5 0	12 6 1	296 17 9	0 5 0	88 4 0	149 6 8	43,550 11 4
Flax-cutting	1,564 1 11	1,247 7 10	90 12 8	528 1 1	531 10 7	211 7 4	250 10 0	..	1,063 11 6	1,016 6 4	2,192 1 9
Miscellaneous leases	663 1 6	253 7 6	198 2 0	510 7 4	208 18 6	105 8 0	161 5 0	277 1 0	458 4 6	231 1 0	6,503 9 3
Transfer, lease, and license fees, &c.	109 8 3	182 7 6	297 11 2	743 8 5	235 4 3	897 2 6	36 15 0	3,406 6 4	77 17 1	..	3,066 16 4
Rents of reserves	2,783 5 10	324 10 2	184 9 3	4,421 0 7	107 7 10	49 19 1	24 8 2	225 13 7	5,002 10 5	237 10 2	5,926 0 6
Miscellaneous	149 7 4	44 11 8	28 15 3	180 10 10	104 2 3	7 17 0	1 0 0	33 16 4	55 17 5	59 7 9	13,360 9 1
Grown-grant fees	14,487 9 8	43 19 10	6 10 0	173 11 6	..	475 8 9	..	380 14 0	117 0 2	2,542 12 6	665 5 10
State forests .. .. .	..	..	286 11 1	4,760 14 10	61 4 0	..	126 15 0	47 2 0	..	8 0 0	18,207 6 5
Survey liens on Native lands	1,925 3 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,021 10 9
Survey fees which do not form part payment of land .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	304 15 11
Survey fees which do form part payment of land .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6 4 2	..	6 4 2
Totals	85,742 6 10	22,000 2 0	19,708 12 0	75,446 14 2	11,085 10 6	14,864 15 4	13,589 8 3	54,312 11 1	62,399 7 7	719,670 7 6	378,264 15 3

* Includes £1,047 15s. 6d. received on account of improvements on improved farms.

Table 20.—RETURN OF GROSS REVENUE RECEIVED during the Year ended 31st March, 1908—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 ..	85,742 6 10	22,000 2 0	19,708 12 0	75,446 14 2	11,035 10 6	14,364 15 4	13,589 8 3	54,312 11 1	162,399 7 7	19,570 7 6	378,264 15 3
LANDS FOR SETTLEMENTS.											
Cash ..	520 9 4	..	..	..	..	..	..	45 15 11	30 15 0	..	597 0 3
Lease in perpetuity ..	16,234 17 1	134,180 19 6	3,276 6 9	13,276 1 3	631 9 8	11,065 15 11	535 17 0	59,888 14 0	30,691 13 10	10,127 2 11	179,968 17 11
Renewable lease ..	59 2 8	7,806 1 7	..	..	..	..	..	194 17 6	4,286 17 10	..	12,346 19 7
Lease in perpetuity, village ..	..	13 14 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	312 4 0	..	325 18 5
Special-settlement associations ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	147 15 6	..	..	147 15 6
Small grazing-runs ..	253 5 10	4,130 10 8	..	1,732 7 6	24 8 3	6,874 9 8	..	9,662 8 6	1,254 8 5	210 12 4	24,192 11 2
Pastoral runs ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	121 13 0	..	121 13 0
Miscellaneous ..	2,691 17 11	1,015 3 10	358 8 11	5,356 0 11	159 18 6	650 4 5	..	667 12 9	487 19 7	639 10 7	12,026 17 5
Totals ..	19,819 12 10	47,186 10 0	3,634 15 8	20,364 9 8	815 16 5	18,590 10 0	535 17 0	70,607 4 2	37,185 11 8	10,977 5 10	229,727 13 3
CHEVIOT ESTATE.											
Cash sales ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,889 12 0	..	..	5,889 12 0
Lease in perpetuity ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	790 10 3	..	..	790 10 3
Village homesteads ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,215 9 9	..	..	7,215 9 9
Grazing farms ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	193 3 8	..	..	193 3 8
Pastoral runs ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	204 17 2	..	..	204 17 2
Miscellaneous leases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14,293 12 10	..	..	14,293 12 10
Rotorua Town Council											
..	2,104 8 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,104 8 1
Endowment lands											
..	1,293 16 1	294 8 11	47 0 0	228 1 7	17,218 16 3	..	3,415 2 0	1,833 3 4	5,530 8 9	1,425 15 4	31,286 12 3
Thermal-springs Districts Act: Rents											
..	44 12 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44 12 6
"Native Townships Act, 1895"											
..	100 6 3	343 3 0	..	614 11 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,058 0 4
Workers' Dwellings											
..	731 16 2	..	..	608 11 6	..	..	..	300 17 1	373 12 2	..	2,014 16 11
Grand totals ..	109,836 18 9	69,634 3 11	23,385 7 8	97,262 8 0	29,070 2 2	232,955 5 4	17,540 7 8	141,347 8 6	105,489 0 2	232,073 8 8	658,794 11 5

Table 21.—RETURN of LANDS RESERVED and ALIENATED under Acts, or for Scrip.

District.	During the Year ended 31st March, 1908.						Total Area reserved, granted under Acts, &c., from the Foundation of the Colony to the 31st March, 1908.			
	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.		
Auckland ..	18,917	3 26	..	..	..	..	18,917	3 26	3,560,646	3 29
Hawke's Bay ..	2,975	1 30	..	..	..	..	2,975	1 30	395,660	0 8
Taranaki ..	17,900	2 34	20	0 34	..	..	17,920	3 28	712,397	2 18
Wellington ..	9,712	1 34	..	..	..	..	9,712	1 34	1,345,491	3 31
Nelson ..	56,967	0 15	..	..	..	..	56,967	0 15	905,220	3 2
Marlborough ..	884	3 8	..	..	..	..	884	3 8	217,994	0 15
Westland ..	51,750	2 30	..	..	..	..	51,750	2 30	201,122	1 20
Canterbury ..	3,926	2 36	59	0 33	..	..	3,985	3 29	1,548,772	1 18
Otago ..	1,195	0 37	..	..	..	..	1,195	0 37	707,356	3 35
Southland ..	252,875	1 23	..	..	..	..	252,875	1 23	3,183,259	1 29
Totals..	417,106	1 33	79	1 27	..	..	417,185	3 20	12,777,862	2 5

Table 22.—FORFEITURES and SURRENDERS during the Year ending 31st March, 1908, 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.		
	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.
ORDINARY CROWN LANDS.						
Occupation with right of purchase	96	A. R. P. 26,466 3 8	£ s. d. 910 0 2	2	A. R. P. 404 0 32	£ s. d. 7 6 1
Lease in perpetuity ..	82	12,534 3 17	387 10 2	7	1,727 3 38	33 4 8
Mining Districts Occupation Act..	14	576 1 25	35 14 0	1	67 1 35	2 10 4
Village Settlement,—						
Perpetual lease ..	1	19 3 38	1 0 0	..	..	..
Lease in perpetuity ..	19	129 0 0	11 15 0	2	32 2 0	2 15 6
Homestead special settlement ..	2	9 2 23	2 11 4	..	..	..
Special-settlement associations ..	1	131 0 0	5 5 0	..	2 2 39	0 2 4
Improved-farm special settlements	7	1,069 2 19	22 3 10	..	..	..
Small grazing-runs ..	4	3,103 0 0	66 12 2	1	1,018 2 19	32 14 6
Pastoral runs ..	5	178,265 0 0	37 10 0	9	134,207 0 30	845 17 8
Miscellaneous ..	41	9,747 3 28	78 4 2	21	4,538 1 38	178 19 4
Total ..	272	232,053 0 38	1,558 5 10	43	141,999 0 31	1,103 10 5
CHEVIOT ESTATE.						
Miscellaneous ..	1	100 0 0	1 0 0	1	4 0 0	16 0 0
Total ..	1	100 0 0	1 0 0	1	4 0 0	16 0 0
LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS.						
Lease in perpetuity ..	23	2,290 3 29	537 1 4	6	1,215 1 34	379 14 2
Village lease in perpetuity ..	1	9 1 15	7 11 2	..	..	..
Small grazing-runs ..	..	..	..	..	1 0 24	0 3 10
Total ..	24	2,300 1 4	544 12 6	6	1,216 2 18	379 18 0
Grand totals ..	297	234,453 2 2	2,103 18 4	50	143,219 3 9	1,499 8 5
Native townships ..	9	14 1 39	58 7 6	10	7 2 6	28 15 0

Table 23.—RETURN of LAND TAKEN UP during the Year ended 31st March, 1908, within the Thermal-springs District of Auckland.

Locality.	Taken up during the Year.		Net Area held on 31st March, 1908.		Amount received during the Year.	Selectors in Arrear on 31st March, 1908.	
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Number of Selectors.	Area.		Area.	Amount.
	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Rotorua*	3106,080	0 24,2,188 16 4	2,149 0 7 20	73 3 27	100 10 0

* Inclusive of Rotorua Town Council lands.

Table 24.—RETURN of LANDS disposed of under "The Native Townships Act, 1895," for the Year ended 31st March, 1908.

Land District.	Name of Township.	Date of Proclamation.	Area of Township.		Date when opened for Sale.	Taken up during the Year.		
			Pro-claimed.	Offered.		No.	Area.	Rent payable.
			A. R. P.	A. R. P.			A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland	Kaimakau	14 July, 1897	190 0 0	..	14 Oct., 1898	..	..	..
"	Rotoiti	8 June, 1900	78 0 0	4 3 0	14 July, 1904	..	..	..
"	Parawai	29 June, 1900	485 0 0	42 0 26	30 June, 1904	..	..	..
"	Te Puru	26 Sept., 1901	23 3 37	2 0 25	30 June, 1904	..	..	..
"	Karewa	16 Oct., 1902	55 0 19	25 1 23	30 June, 1904	..	..	..
Hawke's Bay	Te Puia	13 July, 1898	497 0 0	166 1 32	15 Feb., 1900	2	25 1 34	7 12 6
"	Te Araroa	4 Oct., 1899	383 0 0	206 0 1	14 Dec., 1900	1	0 0 37	1 0 0
"	Tuatini	14 Sept., 1899	90 0 0	39 0 29	16 Jan., 1901	4	8 0 39	14 5 0
"	Waipiro	25 Oct., 1900	497 1 0	338 1 27	10 Feb., 1904	..	..	..
Wellington	Pipiriki	5 Aug., 1896	366 0 0	254 3 20	27 July, 1897	..	..	..
"	Tokaanu	11 Mar., 1897	490 0 0	198 0 0	17 June, 1898	1	0 2 0	7 0 0
"	Potaka	26 July, 1899	188 0 0	80 2 6	9 May, 1900	..	..	..
"	Parata	14 Aug., 1899	49 0 18	33 0 4	11 Sept., 1900	..	..	..
"	Hokio	1 Aug., 1902	39 3 30	19 2 25	11 Mar., 1903	1	0 3 0	0 15 0
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	9	35 0 30	30 12 6

Land District.	Name of Township.	Net Area held on 31st March, 1908.			Forfeitures or Surrenders during the Year.			Rent paid during Year.
		Number.	Area.	Rent payable.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rent.	
			A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland	Kaimakau	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Rotoiti	19	5 2 34	46 10 0	6	1 2 6	17 15 0	27 8 9
"	Parawai	13	9 0 16	61 2 6	1	0 3 28	5 0 0	48 7 0
"	Te Puru	26	8 3 18	95 5 0	4	1 1 19	15 7 6	17 10 6
"	Karewa	8	2 0 22	31 2 6	..	..	..	7 0 0
Hawke's Bay	Te Puia	22	161 0 26	78 13 0	1	1 0 0	6 0 0	55 15 0
"	Te Araroa	29	203 2 3	83 19 0	..	..	..	70 0 6
"	Tuatini	26	89 1 6	129 15 0	1	2 1 22	3 15 0	89 18 6
"	Waipiro	31	319 1 15	184 2 6	..	..	..	127 9 0
Wellington	Pipiriki	42	197 0 0	165 6 10	..	..	..	177 6 8
"	Tokaanu	28	76 2 33	197 8 4	2	10 1 4	26 0 0	174 18 3
"	Potaka	55	85 2 37	191 19 0	1	0 1 0	1 5 0	163 7 6
"	Parata	18	26 2 15	82 4 0	1	2 0 12	8 0 0	86 0 8
"	Hokio	21	9 1 37	12 6 0	2	2 0 34	4 0 0	13 18 0
Totals	..	898	1,144 2 22	1,359 13 8	19	22 0 5	87 2 6	1,058 0 4

Table 25.—RETURN showing the AREA of BUSH felled on LANDS sold or leased by the Crown from 1st April, 1895, to 31st March, 1908.

District.	Felled during the Year on Lands taken up during the Year 1906-1907.		Felled during the Year on Lands taken up in Previous Years.		Total felled at 31st March, 1907.		Total felled at 31st March, 1908.	
	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.
Auckland	6,058	0 0	13,643	0 0	118,075	0 0	137,776	0 0
Hawke's Bay	605	0 0	11,158	0 0	123,192	0 0	134,955	0 0
Taranaki	2,500	0 0	3,000	0 0	47,580	0 0	53,810	0 0
Wellington	1,300	0 0	13,800	0 0	672,760	0 0	687,860	0 0
Nelson	860	0 0	7,000	0 0	33,257	0 0	41,117	0 0
Marlborough	200	0 0	700	0 0	92,057	0 0	92,957	0 0
Westland	2,000	0 0	1,500	0 0	61,620	0 0	65,120	0 0
Canterbury	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago	..	..	63	0 0	23,351	0 0	23,414	0 0
Southland	620	0 0	800	0 0	11,719	0 0	13,139	0 0
Totals	14,148	0 0	51,664	0 0	1,183,611	0 0	1,250,148	0 0

Table 26.—STATEMENT of the NUMBER of SELECTORS on the BOOKS of the LANDS AND SURVEY DEPARTMENT on 31st March, 1908.

District.	Deferred Payment.		Perpetual Lease.		Occupation with Right of Purchase.		Lease in Perpetuity.				Renewable Lease.		Agricultural Lease.		Occupation Lease under "The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894."		Village Settlement.	Village Settlement.	Village Settlement.	Village Settlement.	Village Settlement.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																															
	Crown Lands.	Endowment Lands.	Crown Lands.	Endowment Lands.	Crown Lands.	Endowment Lands.	Crown Lands.	Endowment Lands.	Crown Lands.	Endowment Lands.	Crown Lands.	Endowment Lands.	Crown Lands.	Endowment Lands.	Crown Lands.	Deferred Payment.	Village Settlement.	Perpetual Lease.	Village Settlement.	Occupation with Right of Purchase.	Crown Lands.	Endowment Lands.	Land for Settlements.	Settlements.	Acta.	Land for Settlements.	Crown Lands.	Land for Settlements.	Acta.	Endowment Lands.	Workers' Dwellings.	Thermal Springs, Rotorua.	Native Towns.	Total.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
Auckland ..	17	207	1	5	2,367	5	1,224	638	23	1	4	174

* Includes eighteen holders of endowment lands.

Table 27.—STATEMENT showing the TOTAL NUMBER of CROWN TENANTS, with Area selected or held, the Yearly Rent payable, and Rent in Arrear on 31st March, 1908.

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.
ORDINARY CROWN LANDS.				
Deferred payment	65	A. 24,565 B. P. 2 15	£ 1,116 s. 12 d. 3	£ 19 s. 1 d. 4
Perpetual lease	520	92,627 2 10	3,209 6 2	161 15 5
Occupation with right of purchase	4,701	1,579,102 3 23	60,875 17 4	857 3 9
Lease in perpetuity	5,017	1,450,382 0 37	45,739 16 6	626 16 1
Renewable lease	17	3,427 1 0	82 3 4	..
Agricultural lease	16	521 1 29	22 4 3	..
Homestead .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Mining Districts Land Occupation Act	577	24,906 0 11	1,414 2 0	118 11 6
Village settlements—				
Deferred payment	9	164 3 3	19 11 4	..
Perpetual lease	105	1,507 0 22	219 1 2	6 15 6
Occupation with right of purchase	34	64 0 32	15 5 10	1 4 9
Lease in perpetuity	1,109	23,250 0 31	4,418 9 8	253 3 8
Renewable lease	15	108 1 37	11 12 6	..
Village-homestead special settlements—				
Perpetual lease	261	4,565 2 2	635 5 11	89 19 2
Lease in perpetuity	343	9,087 0 14	1,074 19 6	28 17 8
Special-settlement associations—				
Deferred payment .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Perpetual lease	10	669 0 8	48 4 0	..
Lease in perpetuity	634	113,354 0 3	5,881 4 2	167 9 8
Improved-farm special settlements	583	71,101 0 24	4,251 8 5	359 14 2
Small grazing-runs	663	1,568,324 0 28	32,554 3 1	1,526 10 11
Pastoral runs	905	11,066,724 0 15	75,317 9 4	121 16 3
Miscellaneous leases	3,674	788,544 1 5	15,508 5 6	761 13 1
Totals	19,258	16,822,997 0 29	252,415 2 3	5,100 12 11
CHEVIOT ESTATE.				
Lease in perpetuity	118	24,392 1 2	6,450 14 6	..
Village-homestead special settlement	92	2,480 1 0	870 10 4	7 8 0
Grazing-farms	49	45,846 1 26	6,871 13 2	548 7 9
Pastoral runs	1	1,642 0 0	193 3 8	..
Miscellaneous	60	1,377 3 26	261 6 1	2 13 6
Totals	320	75,738 3 14	14,647 7 9	558 9 3
LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACTS.				
Lease in perpetuity	3,690	678,971 3 30	201,407 1 2	3,703 6 10
Renewable lease	151	67,107 1 29	13,943 4 2	..
Lease in perpetuity, village	46	438 1 28	383 12 8	15 16 6
Special-settlement associations	11	2,114 1 9	162 7 8	..
Small grazing-runs	115	217,654 0 33	26,940 1 10	150 12 2
Pastoral runs	2	953 2 38	121 18 0	..
Miscellaneous	193	11,840 3 20	2,021 18 9	80 3 11
Totals	4,208	979,080 3 27	244,929 14 3	3,949 19 5
Workers' dwellings	83	14 0 17	2,250 9 4	21 15 3
Thermal Springs (Rotorua)	310	6,080 0 24	2,188 16 4	100 10 0
Grand totals	24,179	17,883,911 0 31	516,431 9 11	9,731 6 10
Endowments	841	402,541 1 28	12,460 0 2	101 18 2
Native townships	338	1,144 2 22	1,359 13 9	505 17 11

Table 29.—ENDOWMENTS: RETURN of REVENUE received during the Year ended 31st March, 1908.

Tenure.							Revenue received.		
							£	s.	d.
Cash lands	..	..	..	..	..	..	157	11	11
Perpetual lease made freehold	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	..	..	..	..	..	..	106	10	0
Deferred payments	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	3	8
Perpetual lease and small areas	..	..	..	..	..	..	415	18	1
Occupation with right of purchase	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	4	9
Lease in perpetuity	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,801	11	10
Mining Districts Land Occupation Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	111	12	4
Village-homestead special settlement	..	..	..	..	..	..	294	8	6
Village lease in perpetuity	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	1	5
Small grazing-runs	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,190	11	4
Pastoral runs	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,320	1	6
Coal and mineral leases	..	..	..	..	..	..	18,666	16	2
Timber licenses and royalties	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,571	16	3
Miscellaneous leases	..	..	..	..	..	..	250	5	0
Rents of reserves	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,218	17	0
Thermal Springs District	..	..	..	..	..	..	133	2	6
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	£31,286	12	8

Table 30.—SUMMARY of CHEVIOT ESTATE RECEIPTS for the Financial Year ending 31st March, 1908.

							£	s.	d.
Rents, lease in perpetuity	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,680	2	8
grazing-farms	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,215	9	9
miscellaneous and pastoral leases	..	..	..	..	..	..	395	13	10
Total							£14,291	5	10

Table 31.—CHEVIOT ESTATE: RETURN of Outlay and Income at 31st March, 1908.

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, 1907	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,352	14	11
Landing-service—Administration and contingencies, 1st April, 1907, to 31st March, 1908	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	8	0
Interest to 31st March, 1907	..	..	..	..	..	..	122,722	14	5
Interest, 1st April, 1907, to 31st March, 1908	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,866	2	6
Cheese-factory	..	..	..	..	..	..	900	0	0
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	£456,637	19	9
Cr.							INCOME.		
Cash—									
Freehold disposed of	..	..	..	..	..	..	39,196	16	4
Rents and royalties to 31st March, 1907	..	..	..	..	..	..	188,537	0	6
Rents and royalties, 1st April, 1907, to 31st March, 1908	..	..	..	..	..	..	14,291	5	10
Interest to 31st March, 1907	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,556	10	11
Interest, 1st April, 1907, to 31st March, 1908	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,828	3	11
Shipping and port charges	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,240	19	6
Rents and interest unpaid at 31st March, 1908	..	..	..	..	..	..	205,987	2	9
Balance	..	..	..	..	..	..	£456,637	19	9
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	£456,637	19	9

Table 31a.—SUMMARY OF ARREARS due to the CROWN on 31st March, 1908.

Tenure.	Exclusive of current Half-year's Rent.			Number of Selectors.	Inclusive of current Half-year's Rent.			Tenure.	Number of Selectors.	Exclusive of current Half-year's Rent.			Number of Selectors.	Inclusive of current Half-year's Rent.		
	Area.	Amount in Arrear.	£ s. d.		Area.	Amount in Arrear.	£ s. d.			Area.	Amount in arrear.	£ s. d.		Area.	Amount in Arrear.	£ s. d.
ORDINARY CROWN LANDS.								CHEVRIOT ESTATE.								
Deferred payment ..	6	A. R. P. 447 0 27	£ s. d. 19 1 4	15	A. R. P. 4,175 2 37	£ s. d. 145 4 3	Lease in perpetuity..	..	2	A. R. P. 15 0 0	£ s. d. 7 8	1	A. R. P. 25 3 0	£ s. d. 7 14 7		
Perpetual lease...	28	5,184 0 6	161 15 5	99	15,149 2 25	438 0 3	Village - homestead	..	2	8,542 3 0	548 7 9	10	200 2 33	40 15 0		
Occupation with right of purchase ..	184	32,632 1 32	857 3 9	565	134,035 2 4	3,030 6 7	Special settlements	..	9	2 2 28	2 13 6	33	35,291 1 7	3,130 8 1		
Lease in perpetuity ..	146	35,911 2 34	626 16 1	605	128,284 1 17	2,671 5 2	Grazing-farms ..	..	1			9	196 1 28	62 1 10	
Agricultural lease ..	..						Miscellaneous ..	..	12	8,560 1 28	558 9 3	53	35,714 0 28	3,240 19 6
Mining Districts Land Occupation Act ..	40	2,963 3 0	118 11 6	150	7,410 0 32	385 6 9	Totals ..	..							
Village settlements on deferred payment ..	..			1	5 0 0	0 18 8									
Village settlements on perpetual lease ..	2	21 0 0	6 15 6	20	192 0 35	23 16 7	LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS.									
Village settlements on occupation with right of purchase ..	2	15 3 0	1 4 9	4	36 3 9	4 1 11	Lease in perpetuity..	163	27,320 1 37	3,708 6 10	453	72,132 1 13	11,948 0 7			
Village settlements on lease in perpetuity ..	40	1,293 0 7	253 3 8	162	3,887 2 20	712 9 1	Village lease in perpetuity	5	10 2 22	15 16 6	10	45 1 25	35 16 7			
Village-homestead special settlements ..	34	494 0 22	118 16 10	132	2,716 0 1	298 7 7	Small grazing-runs...	4	16,623 0 0	150 12 2	15	44,406 0 0	1,413 12 0			
Special-settlement associations ..	19	3,591 1 16	167 9 8	61	11,552 2 36	470 3 11	Miscellaneous ..	12	430 0 34	80 3 11	34	519 0 26	175 4 8			
Improved farms ..	36	3,764 3 15	359 14 2	110	12,733 2 6	900 9 9	Totals ..	184	44,384 1 13	3,949 19 5	512	117,102 3 24	13,572 13 10			
Small grazing-runs ..	63	151,248 1 14	1,526 10 11	275	657,925 1 9	8,391 13 1	Thermal Springs, Rotorua	20	73 3 27	100 10 0	87	464 3 39	332 15 8			
Pastoral runs ..	26	62,443 2 32	121 16 3	96	262,028 1 26	547 5 9	Grand totals ..	969	363,637 1 38	9,709 11 7	3,372	1,501,718 1 13	37,185 14 3			
Miscellaneous (not otherwise specified) ..	127	10,607 2 5	761 13 1	425	108,303 0 25	2,019 15 11										
Totals ..	753	310,618 3 10	5,100 12 11	2,720	1,348,436 1 2	19,989 5 3	Native Townships ..	85	284 2 25	505 17 11	176	670 3 30	865 19 6			

Table 32.—RETURN showing POSITION and TRANSACTIONS in Improved-farm Settlements from their Commencement to 31st March, 1908.

Name of Settlement.	Areas.	Dates of Gazette Proclamation.	Number of Sections in each Settlement.	Number of Settlers remaining in Occupation on 31 Mar., '08.	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., '08.	From Commencement of System.	
Auckland— Te Rau-a-moa Paemako Mangatu Awatuna Katui Rangitira Tawai Karua Kakepuku Totals	Acres.	1896, p. 655	12	12	35	A. 1,424 2 32 R. P. 1,145	Acres. 1,085	Acres. 1,145	750	Mls. ch.	£ s. d. 237 16 2	£ s. d. 1,737 16 1	£ s. d. 1,975 12 3	£ s. d. 242 4 4	£ s. d. 994 16 2	£ s. d. 7,431 11 0
	1,412	1897, p. 5	13	10	40	1,221 2 38	120	625	475	..	337 8 0	37 8	709 14 8	73 9 7	751 15 11	3,048 11 0
	1,100	1895, p. 863	10	3	20	200 2 0	180	180	86	..	184 8 3	1,466 17 8	1,651 5 11	36 12 0	352 16 1	1,100 0 0
	1,000	1895, p. 863	10	1	3	100 0 0	40	38	6	..	122 2 11	989 12 11	1,111 15 10	7 2 2	332 5 5	1,080 0 0
	1,000	1895, p. 863	10	4	24	292 0 0	170	160	75	..	165 11 4	901 0 0	1,066 11 4	25 17 7	388 18 3	1,088 0 0
	1,000	1895, p. 863	10	2	9	200 0 0	66	66	28	..	45 18 4	146 8 0	192 6 4	3 15 4	75 2 5	304 0 0
	411	1896, p. 1541	19	7	15	91 3 27	80	76	45	..	102 10 0	487 0 8	589 10 8	13 4 5	119 13 4	880 1 0
Hawke's Bay— Waikopiro Akitio Totals	1,924	1904, p. 1098	11	3	4	850 3 25	..	85	25	..	55 0 0	..	55 0 0	0 12 6	3 9 6	430 0 0
	2,738	1904, p. 1904	16	10	34	1,536 0 0	..	190	45	..	300 5 0	..	300 5 0	..	2 6 0	1,085 16 6
Taranaki— Ngairi Tongaporutu Mangaere Uruti Tauratatahi Whangamomona Poti Maata Huiroa Okau Derwent Nihoniho Greenlands Mangapoua Totoro Mangapapa Paoraie Totals	12,104	..	111	52	184	5,917 3 2	1,741	2,565	1,535	..	1,551 0 0	6,101 2 0	7,652 2 0	402 17 11	2,822 0 1	15,477 19 6
	1,880	1895, p. 79	15	14	64	1,685 0 0	1,684	1,684	442	..	139 14 4	1,708 5 0	1,847 19 4	198 18 7	2,532 15 10	7,321 0 0
Taranaki— Ngairi Tongaporutu Mangaere Uruti Tauratatahi Whangamomona Poti Maata Huiroa Okau Derwent Nihoniho Greenlands Mangapoua Totoro Mangapapa Paoraie Totals	2,025	1896, p. 655	17	16	64	1,830 0 0	1,829	1,829	442	..	159 14 4	1,860 9 5	2,020 3 9	198 18 7	2,687 11 5	8,141 12 9
	170	7 Feb., 1895	16	15	26	159 2 30	166	166	125	..	262 10 0	311 7 9	573 17 9	44 19 6	493 12 0	1,557 0 0
Taranaki— Ngairi Tongaporutu Mangaere Uruti Tauratatahi Whangamomona Poti Maata Huiroa Okau Derwent Nihoniho Greenlands Mangapoua Totoro Mangapapa Paoraie Totals	2,500	4 Oct., 1894	16	4	37	450 1 16	529	529	337	..	200 0 0	922 13 11	1,122 13 11	42 19 3	488 9 0	1,595 0 0
	482	10 Jan., 1895	13	11	44	442 2 16	460	460	239	..	132 10 0	574 2 0	706 12 0	39 15 6	561 14 7	2,321 0 0
Taranaki— Ngairi Tongaporutu Mangaere Uruti Tauratatahi Whangamomona Poti Maata Huiroa Okau Derwent Nihoniho Greenlands Mangapoua Totoro Mangapapa Paoraie Totals	697	10 Jan., 1895	7	5	21	502 0 0	494	494	140	..	79 0 0	817 7 0	896 7 0	53 6 0	543 12 9	1,570 0 0
	430	22 Oct., 1894	4	4	1	404 0 0	290	290	600	..	70 0 0	281 14 2	351 14 2	28 15 10	330 10 7	1,366 0 0
Taranaki— Ngairi Tongaporutu Mangaere Uruti Tauratatahi Whangamomona Poti Maata Huiroa Okau Derwent Nihoniho Greenlands Mangapoua Totoro Mangapapa Paoraie Totals	10,543	30 Jan., 1896	111	59	163	7,524 0 16	5,205	5,205	2,609	..	827 10 0	6,859 3 5	7,686 13 5	574 13 0	4,880 5 6	19,887 0 0
	108	4 July, 1895	8	8	18	108 0 0	106	106	75	..	120 0 0	173 15 3	233 15 3	37 8 9	399 0 8	1,324 0 0
Taranaki— Ngairi Tongaporutu Mangaere Uruti Tauratatahi Whangamomona Poti Maata Huiroa Okau Derwent Nihoniho Greenlands Mangapoua Totoro Mangapapa Paoraie Totals	30	4 July, 1895	3	3	2	30 0 0	30	30	16	..	50 0 0	58 1 8	108 1 8	7 3 2	77 1 1	249 0 0
	668	29 Nov., 1894	9	7	26	563 1 23	522	522	450	..	93 10 0	587 3 0	680 13 0	55 14 5	509 19 9	2,257 0 0
Taranaki— Ngairi Tongaporutu Mangaere Uruti Tauratatahi Whangamomona Poti Maata Huiroa Okau Derwent Nihoniho Greenlands Mangapoua Totoro Mangapapa Paoraie Totals	1,888	5 Mar., 1896	19	2	30	183 1 11	506	506	30	..	137 10 0	1,010 1 6	1,147 11 6	13 13 10	180 5 8	1,380 0 0
	1,369	5 Mar., 1896	13	5	30	696 0 0	596	596	305	..	192 10 0	1,123 11 5	1,316 1 5	48 16 3	659 19 11	2,079 0 0
Taranaki— Ngairi Tongaporutu Mangaere Uruti Tauratatahi Whangamomona Poti Maata Huiroa Okau Derwent Nihoniho Greenlands Mangapoua Totoro Mangapapa Paoraie Totals	3,190	15 Aug., 1895	23	22	55	3,037 3 0	941	1,026	555	..	155 10 0	1,093 18 6	1,249 8 6	165 11 4	435 0 2	4,457 0 0
	603	17 Sept., 1896	6	6	9	199 1 10	236	236	165	..	50 0 0	629 0 3	679 0 3	15 8 8	190 3 5	795 0 0
Taranaki— Ngairi Tongaporutu Mangaere Uruti Tauratatahi Whangamomona Poti Maata Huiroa Okau Derwent Nihoniho Greenlands Mangapoua Totoro Mangapapa Paoraie Totals	702	27 Oct., 1897	7	2	7	200 0 0	108	108	120	..	30 0 0	286 5 6	316 5 6	10 1 9	104 14 7	490 0 0
	6,642	18 Feb., 1904	37	36	101	6,482 0 30	1,292	1,854	1,085	..	287 10 0	1,321 4 7	1,608 14 7	128 5 9	162 10 3	5,652 0 0
Taranaki— Ngairi Tongaporutu Mangaere Uruti Tauratatahi Whangamomona Poti Maata Huiroa Okau Derwent Nihoniho Greenlands Mangapoua Totoro Mangapapa Paoraie Totals	5,322	18 Feb., 1904	29	29	128	5,328 0 9	1,573	2,067	982	..	540 0 0	1,760 4 5	2,300 4 5	208 14 6	270 14 2	6,894 0 0
	6,784	19 Mar., 1904	35	33	97	6,320 2 5	1,138	1,199	501	..	347 10 0	1,259 6 4	1,606 16 4	185 15 5	257 19 7	4,086 0 0
Taranaki— Ngairi Tongaporutu Mangaere Uruti Tauratatahi Whangamomona Poti Maata Huiroa Okau Derwent Nihoniho Greenlands Mangapoua Totoro Mangapapa Paoraie Totals	42,129	..	356	247	795	32,631 1 6	14,192	15,394	8,334	..	3,575 10 0	19,069 0 8	22,644 10 8	1,661 2 11	10,545 13 8	57,959 0 0

Table 32.—Return showing Position and Transactions in Improved-farm Settlements from their Commencement to 31st March, 1908—continued.

Name of Settlement.	Areas.	Dates of Gazette Proclamation.	Number of Sections in each Settlement.	Number of Settlers remaining on 31st Mar., 1903.	Number of Persons resident.	Area occupied.		Area felled.	Area grassed.	Number of Cattle or other Stock on Allotments.	Freeholds during 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.					
						A.	R. P.				No.	Area.	Rent.	£	s.	d.	For Houses.	For Bush-felling and other Works.		Total Payments.	During the Year ending 31 Mar., '08.	£	s.	d.
Wellington—Pemberton ..	Acres. 1,390	(20 Dec., 1894 10 Sept., 1897 2 Feb., 1903)	13	10	80	991 2 23	1,200 1,200	Acres. 1,200 1,200	1,475	1	A. R. P. 68 2 10	£ s. d. 15 11 10	£ s. d. 227 0 0	1,828 10 1	£ s. d. 2,055 10 1	£ s. d. 142 15 7	£ s. d. 2,573 2 0	£ s. d. 9,100 0 0						
Kawhatau ..	1,000	31 Oct., 1894	12	8	38	666 2 24	638	638	950	..	..	..	959 14 6	1,189 14 6	89 17 8	1,260 5 11	6,500 0 0				
Hautapu ..	1,204	31 Oct., 1894	12	11	42	973 0 0	850	850	630	1	101 0 0	13 9 4	265 0 0	859 2 10	1,124 2 10	98 12 5	1,196 18 4	5,420 0 0						
Masterton-Tenui ..	1,168	(18 Sept., 1895 24 Sept., 1896)	12	11	48	1,065 1 37	1,000 1,000	1,000	2,220	..	..	..	220 0 0	627 0 1	847 0 1	113 7 4	1,173 5 7	5,450 0 0			
Akitio ..	4,880	(30 Apr., 1896 21 Dec., 1896 20 Apr., 1898 23 Aug., 1898 24 May, 1899)	44	33	21	3,467 1 22	3,823 3,612	3,612	6,092	3	343 0 18	36 10 11	606 10 0	3,084 9 1	3,690 19 1	366 17 4	3,540 3 0	10,750 9 3						
Horopito ..	2,000	2 Oct., 1894	12	3	6	300 0 0	142	142	120	..	..	..	60 0 0	333 1 4	393 1 4	30 18 10	250 13 8	800 0 0			
Otaihape ..	200	19 Dec., 1894	10	6	90	150 3 10	204 204	204	150	2	27 3 24	10 2 10	259 0 0	405 12 0	664 12 0	23 1 5	532 10 2	4,100 0 0						
Ohutu ..	2,881	(7 Apr., 1896 27 Dec., 1899)	34	28	140	2,394 3 33	2,310 2,310	2,310	1,750	6	499 3 33	53 6 8	307 0 0	1,634 0 11	1,941 0 11	208 19 7	2,049 13 8	14,150 0 0						
Otuarei ..	1,500	(16 Nov., 1897 20 Apr., 1898 2 Dec., 1898 27 Mar., 1904)	11	7	40	1,370 0 0	600 1,285	1,285	2,500	..	..	..	180 0 0	368 14 5	548 14 5	159 16 7	880 10 8	3,350 0 0			
Rongiti ..	1,087	(1 Sept., 1896 10 Nov., 1897 13 Dec., 1897 19 Mar., 1902 21 Dec., 1896 14 Oct., 1897 15 Aug., 1898 14 Apr., 1899 17 Sept., 1901 28 Oct., 1901 10 Dec., 1903)	8	4	27	396 0 0	656 816	816	1,600	1	96 2 0	12 12 0	87 10 0	376 13 1	464 3 1	64 15 0	574 12 11	2,820 0 0						
Mangatiti ..	5,356	(15 Aug., 1898 14 Apr., 1899 17 Sept., 1901 28 Oct., 1901 10 Dec., 1903)	36	24	24	3,164 3 38	3,630 3,396	3,396	4,048	..	..	..	306 15 0	3,033 18 0	3,340 13 0	315 1 9	2,992 4 1	9,959 3 5			
Orakura ..	1,819	24 May, 1899	10	10	50	1,919 0 0	800 820	820	615	..	..	..	141 0 0	365 17 2	506 17 2	134 5 8	836 18 4	4,700 0 0			
Sommerville ..	1,600	24 May, 1899	8	1	37	200 0 0	640 780	780	625	..	..	..	101 0 0	181 14 9	282 14 9	93 6 0	479 7 1	2,650 0 0			
Taihape ..	567	19 Sept., 1901	6	6	26	567 1 16	360 360	360	250	..	..	..	30 0 0	73 10 0	103 10 0	208 19 7	365 10 3	2,230 0 0			
Horowhenua ..	138	3 April, 1902	1	1	..	138 1 8	85 85	85	40	..	..	..	10 0 0	30 0 0	40 0 0	17 15 9	35 16 7	150 0 0			
Namunui ..	1,841	(26 Aug., 1904 22 Oct., 1904)	24	24	7	1,840 2 1	522 522	522	110	..	..	..	..	120 15 0	120 15 0	44 1 5	55 3 9	1,694 0 0		
Raketapauma ..	3,141	12 Nov., 1903	16	16	44	2,698 2 9	224 224	224	650	..	..	..	..	84 8 9	84 8 9	66 1 6	74 2 10	1,013 0 0		
Tapui ..	600	12 Nov., 1903	3	3	21	600 0 0	157 157	157	91	..	..	..	60 0 0	..	60 0 0	46 11 3	85 11 5	880 0 0			

Lands alienated but not disposed of	Kauaeke	200	19 Sept., 1901	1	1	1	200	0	0	150	150	270
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Table 33 (Part I).—Return of LANDS disposed of under the Land for Settlements Acts to the 31st March, 1908.

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, resumed, or also Land not yet offered for Selection.		New Selections and Addition to Holdings during the Year.			Total Lands leased at Date.		
		A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rent payable.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rent now payable.
Auckland—													
Opouriao ..	Feb. 12, 1896..	7,419 2 31	253 1 28	253 1 28	1,598 0 10	1 0 0	325 0 0	1	430 3 30	88 18 0	93	7,160 1 2	1,432 3 10
Okauia ..	Feb. 21, 1898..	5,920 0 0	79 3 0	1,598 0 10	1,598 0 10	325 0 0	395 0 0	1	430 3 30	88 18 0	8	3,996 3 30	224 1 10
Rangitake ..	June 22, 1898..	4,004 0 0	79 3 0	79 3 0	79 3 0	..	..	..	..	..	20	3,924 1 0	714 10 2
Karapiro ..	Oct. 21, 1898..	2,335 0 24	48 2 31	48 2 31	48 2 31	..	..	..	..	..	18	2,286 1 33	442 4 4
Fencourt ..	Mar. 12, 1900..	7,105 3 5	49 0 29	49 0 29	49 0 29	..	..	..	..	..	37	7,056 0 16	1,626 19 10
Whitehall ..	April 9, 1900..	8,959 0 0	9 1 28	9 1 28	9 1 28	..	..	..	..	..	11	8,949 2 12	366 1 0
Bickersstaffe ..	Dec. 7, 1903..	12,480 0 19	532 3 19	532 3 19	532 3 19	2,597 0 33	1,535 1 19	5	1,535 1 19	255 19 6	33	9,350 0 7	1,862 18 4
Matamata ..	June 2, 1904..	42,738 3 2	283 3 13	283 3 13	283 3 13	856 1 0	2 3 0	2	2 3 0	2 5 0	181	41,579 3 29	6,989 8 10
Selwyn ..	Dec. 18, 1905..	159,302 0 0	2,756 3 32	2,756 3 32	2,756 3 32	96,131 2 6	15,647 2 18	27	15,647 2 18	293 9 6	82	60,394 1 32	2,244 15 2
Mangawhero ..	Mar. 25, 1907..	5,001 0 0	159 2 26	159 2 26	159 2 26	34 1 20	4,802 2 34	17	4,802 2 34	1,009 9 0	17	4,805 1 34	1,010 11 8
Mangapouri ..	Mar. 25, 1907..	2,572 1 13	20 0 10	20 0 10	20 0 10	..	2,728 0 33	10	2,728 0 33	587 8 2	10	2,550 0 33	547 7 2
Teasdale ..	Aug. 26, 1907..	169 3 31	17 1 29	17 1 29	17 1 29	68 2 24	82 0 29	33	82 0 29	268 14 0	33	82 0 28	268 14 0
Waimana ..	Aug. 5, 1907..	4,365 2 6	0 3 5	0 3 5	0 3 5	..	4,364 1 1	24	4,364 1 1	1,101 2 2	24	4,364 1 1	1,101 2 2
Rewi ..	Jan. 28, 1908..	1,717 1 0	..	..	..	1,717 1 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Craddock Hamlet ..	April 22, 1902..	33 0 9	3 3 14	3 3 14	3 3 14	11 0 5	1 2 0	1	1 2 0	4 0 0	9	18 0 30	45 13 4
He-tana Hamlet ..	April 22, 1903..	451 1 34	42 3 9	42 3 9	42 3 9	315 2 11	22 0 0	9	22 0 0	29 7 0	30	93 0 14	79 7 2
Kitchener Hamlet ..	April 22, 1902..	26 3 35	3 2 21	3 2 21	3 2 21	2 0 0	..	..	..	..	11	21 1 14	55 4 4
Methuen Hamlet ..	April 22, 1902..	77 3 14	6 2 22	6 2 22	6 2 22	4 0 29	11 3 38	6	11 3 38	33 8 10	28	67 0 3	189 6 2
Plumer Hamlet ..	April 22, 1902..	74 0 0	6 2 1	6 2 1	6 2 1	6 0 3	2 0 0	1	2 0 0	2 6 0	16	58 1 25	50 14 0
Waari Hamlet ..	April 22, 1902..	427 2 32	28 0 26	28 0 26	28 0 26	867 2 1	4 1 33	1	4 1 33	1 13 6	8	32 0 5	12 0 10
Totals ..	..	265,181 2 15	5,901 2 33	5,901 2 33	5,901 2 33	102,437 2 12	29,635 3 35	197	29,635 3 35	3,678 0 8	669	156,790 0 28	19,263 4 2
Hawke's Bay—													
Raureka ..	May 6, 1896..	427 2 0	11 1 2	11 1 2	11 1 2	..	..	..	..	..	19	416 0 38	543 2 0
Elsthorpe ..	June 24, 1896..	9,740 0 0	145 1 27	145 1 27	145 1 27	1 0 16	..	3	..	2 0 0	47	9,593 1 37	2,314 13 0
Waimarie ..	Sept. 9, 1896..	430 2 10	4 2 16	4 2 16	4 2 16	..	..	..	..	..	18	425 3 34	463 0 0
Pouparae ..	April 21, 1897..	337 3 4	1 1 32	1 1 32	1 1 32	..	..	..	..	..	9	336 1 12	405 8 0
Tomoana ..	Mar. 2, 1898..	111 3 38	1 3 35	1 3 35	1 3 35	..	..	..	..	..	13	110 0 3	135 2 0
Mahora ..	Mar. 22, 1899..	1,133 3 0	17 1 5	17 1 5	17 1 5	..	..	..	..	..	34	1,116 1 35	1,638 2 2
Willows ..	Mar. 22, 1899..	775 1 36	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22	775 1 36	758 10 2
Hatuna ..	April 25, 1901..	26,522 3 20	649 1 2	649 1 2	649 1 2	..	..	..	..	..	63	25,873 2 18	7,841 10 10
Manga-a-toro ..	Jan. 21, 1902..	19,581 3 12	159 3 12	159 3 12	159 3 12	..	..	..	..	..	26	19,422 0 0	4,727 16 4
Kumeroa ..	May 12, 1902..	3,774 2 38	29 2 38	29 2 38	29 2 38	..	..	..	..	..	15	3,745 0 0	1,688 13 6
Forest Gate ..	May 19, 1902..	8,822 0 13	65 0 15	65 0 15	65 0 15	..	..	..	..	..	29	8,756 3 38	2,502 10 8
Argyll ..	June 23, 1903..	93,705 1 30	102 2 37	102 2 37	102 2 37	..	..	..	..	..	62	38,602 2 33	8,464 0 4
Wigan ..	Dec. 15, 1903..	10,072 1 37	27 2 1	27 2 1	27 2 1	..	..	..	..	..	17	10,044 3 36	2,799 12 10
Lindsay ..	April 11, 1905..	13,574 0 0	290 2 18	290 2 18	290 2 18	1 2 36	..	..	..	..	66	13,281 2 26	5,404 5 2
Mangatahi ..	Feb. 5, 1907..	12,891 1 37	114 1 3	114 1 3	114 1 3	..	..	..	..	..	23	12,277 0 34	4,247 3 4
Te Mata ..	Nov. 4, 1907..	82 3 10	30 1 10	30 1 10	30 1 10	..	..	..	..	..	8	52 2 0	105 0 0
Pouerere ..	Jan. 22, 1908..	2,214 1 28	4 1 21	4 1 21	4 1 21	979 1 1	52 2 0	8	52 2 0	105 0 0	5	1,830 3 6	875 4 6
Raumati ..	Jan. 28, 1908..	4,116 3 0	40 1 20	40 1 20	40 1 20	1,531 2 20	2,544 3 0	20	2,544 3 0	745 8 6	20	2,544 3 0	745 8 6
Kanakanae ..	Feb. 18, 1908..	5,296 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	7	..	..
Te Arai ..	Mar. 25, 1908..	10,773 3 19	103 0 24	103 0 24	103 0 24	173 3 0	10,496 3 35	51	10,496 3 35	5,442 2 8	51	10,496 3 35	5,442 2 8
Totals ..	..	163,885 3 12	1,799 0 38	1,799 0 38	1,799 0 38	2,067 1 38	20,823 1 33	96	20,823 1 33	8,501 8 6	553	159,999 0 21	52,403 11 0

* Includes five selectors who also selected land in Selwyn Settlement.

Taranaki—	Nov. 20, 1901..	1,505 3 8	14 3 23	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	1,490 2 25	1,581 6 2
Tokaara	May 5, 1903..	310 3 23	9 1 35	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	38 1 13	114 4 4
Spotwood	Nov. 16, 1903..	881 0 13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	881 0 13	583 4 7
Olandon	Oct. 4, 1906..	1,880 1 13	26 1 33	3	3	587 2 20	316 16 8	9	1,661 1 20	9	1,024 3 8	1,024 3 8
Huinga..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	..	4,577 3 17	50 3 11	3	3	587 2 20	316 16 8	36	4,066 1 31	36	3,302 18 9	3,302 18 9
Wellington—	Feb. 28, 1898..	322 3 32	24 2 31	..	..	..	..	..	..	37	298 1 1	308 10 2
Paparang	Dec. 27, 1899..	1,745 1 30	8 1 24	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	1,737 0 6	1,129 3 10
Ohakea..	Dec. 27, 1899..	702 0 19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	702 0 19	527 7 4
Te Mata	Apr. 5, 1900..	1,785 0 0	31 8 29	..	..	..	..	..	..	37	1,753 0 11	1,342 16 10
Aorangi..	Mar. 19, 1901..	9,405 0 0	150 0 37	2	2	20 0 0	5 16 0	31	9,254 3 8	31	1,560 2 8	1,560 2 8
Langdale	May 14, 1901..	1,240 2 36	14 1 36	..	..	..	..	7	1,236 1 0	42	91 0 29	515 13 8
Mangawhata	June 25, 1901..	100 3 14	7 0 10	..	..	..	..	20	267 1 4	5	549 1 36	314 1 2
Epunu Hamlet	Dec. 20, 1901..	472 1 20	97 1 16	..	..	..	..	8	3,002 3 4	10	5,466 2 0	1,387 3 2
Maungaraki	Sept. 17, 1902..	551 1 36	2 0 0	..	..	..	..	31	1,618 3 36	24	2,308 3 21	1,851 6 6
Linton ..	June 16, 1903..	3,021 3 26	19 0 23	6	6	183 3 22	110 5 8	5	2,605 0 0	10	7,027 0 0	1,534 6 0
Longbush	June 16, 1903..	5,496 3 30	30 1 30	1	1	2 1 0	3 7 6	35	16,439 1 10	35	16,439 1 10	4,828 19 0
Tabelands	Dec. 15, 1903..	1,623 0 9	4 0 13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Normandale	Mar. 26, 1906..	2,328 2 31	24 3 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tawaha..	June 5, 1906..	2,615 2 33	10 2 33	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hikawera	June 5, 1906..	7,064 2 25	37 2 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mahupuku	June 25, 1906..	16,657 0 0	217 2 30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dyer ..	Sept. 17, 1906..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	..	55,193 3 21	680 2 26	9	9	206 0 22	119 9 2	380	54,942 3 20	380	17,822 7 8	17,822 7 8
Nelson—	June 26, 1907..	6,263 1 24	112 1 15	15	15	6,151 0 9	875 11 4	14	6,046 0 9	14	854 11 4	854 11 4
Wangapeka	..	6,263 1 24	112 1 15	15	15	6,151 0 9	875 11 4	14	6,046 0 9	14	854 11 4	854 11 4
Totals	..	6,263 1 24	112 1 15	15	15	6,151 0 9	875 11 4	14	6,046 0 9	14	854 11 4	854 11 4
Marlborough—	Jan. 16, 1895..	5,507 0 0	272 0 15	..	..	..	..	19	5,229 1 0	19	5,229 1 0	882 8 4
Blind River	June 24, 1896..	3,898 0 0	69 1 0	..	..	..	..	13	3,828 3 0	13	3,828 3 0	585 19 4
Omaka ..	Feb. 25, 1897..	320 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	2	320 0 0	2	320 0 0	24 10 0
Puhipuhi	Mar. 13, 1899..	35,906 0 0	904 2 37	10	10	3 2 30	25 0 0	196	34,939 3 14	196	34,939 3 14	5,876 1 8
Starborough	Aug. 18, 1899..	5,854 0 0	185 0 0	..	..	..	..	11	5,669 0 0	11	5,669 0 0	1,305 0 6
Richmond Brook	Feb. 25, 1901..	3,755 2 0	100 0 0	..	..	..	..	4	3,655 2 0	4	3,655 2 0	408 10 8
Waipapa	Feb. 27, 1903..	12,895 0 0	57 0 0	..	..	..	..	8	11,144 0 0	8	11,144 0 0	352 3 0
North Bank	Aug. 31, 1903..	246 0 21	..	..	..	..	..	11	246 0 21	11	246 0 21	315 15 4
Rainford	June 22, 1905..	46,598 0 0	689 3 8	3	3	79 3 13	41 6 0	131	45,309 1 3	131	45,309 1 3	10,418 4 0
Flaxbourne	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	..	114,979 2 21	2,277 3 20	13	13	83 2 3	66 6 0	395	110,241 2 38	395	20,168 12 10	20,168 12 10
Westland—	June 26, 1896..	3,230 1 6	93 1 6	..	..	..	..	20	3,137 0 0	20	3,137 0 0	271 15 2
Poerua	Nov. 4, 1902..	1,894 2 20	32 3 16	..	..	..	..	8	1,861 3 4	8	1,861 3 4	267 16 6
Kokatahi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	..	5,124 3 26	126 0 22	..	..	..	..	28	4,998 3 4	28	4,998 3 4	539 11 8

Lyndon No. 2	April 21, 1902..	15,887 0 0	42 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	10	15,845 0 0	2,281 10 2
Pt. R.S. 90791	April 23, 1902..	100 0 0	0 3 21	..	..	..	..	..	1	99 0 19	17 0 0
Maytown	April 28, 1902..	391 3 32	5 2 8	..	..	..	..	..	11	384 1 2	284 11 4
Pt. R.S. 86326	Oct. 16, 1902..	46 1 36	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	46 1 26	5 3 0
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	1	..	5 0 0	0 12 6	..	22	5,906 2 16	975 11 0
Chamberlain	Mar. 9, 1903..	10,500 1 9	12 1 8	..	..	..	..	..	21	10,488 0 1	2,169 19 10
Annan ..	June 15, 1903..	32,858 2 33	490 3 14	4	..	2 2 0	4 10 0	..	44	32,426 3 19	5,136 11 4
Rosewill	Mar. 31, 1904..	38,688 2 15	401 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	158	38,298 3 37	13,670 13 8
Morloe ..	Dec. 16, 1904..	2,261 0 27	133 2 21	..	..	..	..	..	29	2,123 1 27	2,258 1 0
Kinloch	Mar. 31, 1906..	13,042 0 2	263 2 2	1	..	462 0 0	286 14 0	..	30	12,778 2 0	6,748 1 10
Mills ..	Mar. 31, 1906..	882 2 30	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	882 0 6	940 6 4
Walker ..	..	3 3 15	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	3 3 15	33 16 0
Totals	..	262,195 1 24	2,225 0 4	11	24 1 38	475 1 29	281 11 2	1,236	259,944 2 4	77,228 6 6	
Otago—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pomahaka Downs	Feb. 20, 1894..	7,478 2 2	192 3 39	5	..	2,038 2 32	271 2 4	28	7,285 3 3	1,153 1 4	6
Teaneraki	Feb. 7, 1894..	351 0 39	6 3 9	..	9 1 15	..	..	22	335 0 14	273 18 4	4
Tahawai	Aug. 21, 1895..	70 1 35	1 3 21	..	..	..	..	8	68 2 14	35 14 4	4
Maerewhenua	Sept. 10, 1895..	11,163 8 31	237 1 2	1	3 0 0	1 0 0	0 5 0	74	10,923 2 29	3,552 7 2	2
Puketapu	Mar. 18, 1896..	509 0 6	12 3 10	..	..	..	..	11	496 0 36	189 0 10	10
Ardgowan	May 12, 1896..	4,267 3 28	97 1 35	..	..	..	..	66	4,170 1 38	1,897 5 4	4
Makareao	June 26, 1896..	2,383 0 4	91 1 4	1	..	147 3 28	52 0 0	31	2,291 3 0	424 7 8	8
Makareao Extension	April 14, 1897..	2,589 2 12	19 0 3	..	..	..	..	3	2,570 2 9	296 15 4	4
Momona	May 10, 1897..	224 1 16	5 0 0	..	..	..	..	14	219 1 16	185 1 2	2
Tokarahi	May 11, 1897..	11,259 2 36	281 2 1	..	..	..	..	79	10,978 0 35	4,068 8 6	6
Janesfield	Sept. 13, 1899..	147 0 2	8 1 5	..	..	..	..	21	143 2 37	258 6 2	2
Elderslie	Mar. 20, 1900..	11,618 2 4	111 2 26	1	..	..	..	34	11,506 3 18	4,126 19 4	4
Barnego	May 15, 1900..	7,078 2 1	24 1 31	..	..	..	..	24	7,054 0 10	1,404 2 6	6
Earnsleigh	Dec. 18, 1901..	1,269 3 5	30 3 1	..	..	..	..	13	1,239 0 4	173 10 8	8
Windsor Park No. 1	May 28, 1902..	3,821 2 16	23 0 8	..	..	..	..	37	3,798 2 8	1,841 3 0	0
Windsor Park No. 2	Oct. 28, 1902..	2,179 2 17	2 0 6	..	..	..	..	10	2,177 2 11	875 16 8	8
Duncan..	Dec. 29, 1902..	633 2 3	1 2 13	..	..	..	..	7	631 3 30	238 1 2	2
St. Helens	June 29, 1903..	547 3 20	286 0 27	..	..	..	..	3	547 3 20	224 11 0	0
Greenfield	April 11, 1905..	22,071 1 30	..	..	..	..	..	41	21,785 1 3	4,244 11 8	8
Steward	April 9, 1906..	21,985 2 7	265 0 5	1	4 3 0	60 0 0	16 10 0	47	21,664 3 2	4,954 10 6	6
Plunket	Feb. 5, 1907..	6,136 0 0	9 3 31	..	..	..	..	18	6,126 0 9	2,165 6 6	6
Totara ..	Mar. 25, 1907..	3,161 0 22	31 3 2	2	..	98 0 37	90 1 0	27	3,129 1 20	2,603 16 0	0
Kurow ..	May 21, 1907..	962 2 12	12 0 24	13	..	950 1 28	347 6 6	13	950 1 28	347 6 6	6
Airedale	June 25, 1907..	2,793 3 14	2 2 37	12	..	2,791 0 17	1,466 2 2	12	2,791 0 17	1,466 2 2	2
Orekaika	Feb. 3, 1908..	50,528 2 0	379 0 5	57	..	43,391 1 4	4,732 9 0	57	43,391 1 4	4,732 9 0	0
Taumata	Mar. 25, 1908..	3,699 3 22	13 0 35	9	6,758 0 31	3,686 2 27	833 6 0	9	3,686 2 27	833 6 0	0
Totals	..	178,888 0 24	2,143 3 20	102	6,775 1 6	53,167 2 23	7,809 13 6	709	169,963 3 37	42,366 12 0	
Southland—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Merrivale	Dec. 18, 1895..	9,998 0 0	178 3 29	..	..	..	..	49	9,813 0 11	1,429 2 6	6
Oahu ..	Nov. 4, 1897..	6,153 0 36	128 2 25	..	69 3 36	..	..	6	5,954 2 15	360 4 2	2
Beaumont	Jan. 26, 1898..	4,484 0 4	21 1 5	1	..	257 2 36	17 14 4	12	4,462 2 39	457 16 2	2
Ringway	Dec. 20, 1901..	2,253 2 8	17 1 30	1	..	253 1 22	45 12 2	8	2,236 0 18	460 19 0	0
Glenham	Mar. 24, 1902..	11,484 2 10	164 0 23	4	269 0 0	2,243 1 9	364 5 2	33	11,051 1 27	1,931 18 6	6
Edendale	April 15, 1904..	19,809 3 11	253 3 2	5	386 3 4	3 3 33	4 18 4	139	19,169 1 5	6,339 18 0	0
Totals	..	54,183 0 29	764 0 34	11	725 3 0	2,758 1 20	492 10 0	247	52,687 0 35	10,979 18 4	4
Grand Totals	..	1,110,408 3 13	16,081 3 23	397	115,184 2 2	113,889 0 34	22,081 7 0	4,217	979,080 3 27	244,929 14 3	3

Table 33 (Part II).—Return of LANDS acquired and leased under the Land for Settlements Acts up to the Year which ended 31st March, 1908.

Name of Settlement.	Yearly Value of Unlet Land 31st March, 1908.	Occupied Land.		Amount advanced to Selectors for Buildings, &c.			Arrears on 31st March, 1908.		Rent and other Payments received during the Year.	Total Receipts from Inception to 31st March, 1908.
		No. of Houses on Holdings.	No. of Souls resident on Holdings.	Value of Improvements.	During previous Years.	During Year.	Total.	Area		
	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland—										
Opouriao ..	1 10 0	77	411	39,423 12 9	..	..	..	..	1,974 4 5	16,209 13 0
Okauia ..	62 6 0	7	15	2,966 14 0	..	..	..	..	308 6 2	1,915 14 5
Rangitikea ..	..	18	108	9,740 3 0	..	..	..	492 2 0	665 17 6	6,721 9 5
Karapiro ..	..	11	51	5,385 5 0	..	..	..	47 3 10	896 11 4	3,898 13 5
Fencourt ..	..	33	181	13,798 11 0	..	..	..	..	1,842 9 10	12,778 10 11
Whitehall ..	..	10	35	5,740 12 0	..	..	..	..	301 13 9	2,767 6 6
Bickerside ..	114 3 4	24	79	5,329 15 2	..	..	..	321 2 0	2,481 7 3	9,256 6 4
Matamata ..	131 14 10	138	496	42,627 0 6	..	..	..	5,563 1 6	6,894 15 3	25,251 19 6
Selwyn ..	2,288 6 4	37	147	7,895 10 0	..	..	..	19,628 0 19	1,908 14 2	5,508 1 8
Mangawhero ..	7 4 6	15	41	1,656 8 0	..	..	..	..	1,972 6 4	972 6 4
Mangapouri ..	..	6	23	792 4 0	..	..	..	..	460 16 2	460 16 2
Waimana ..	126 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	739 7 10	739 7 10
Tesdale ..	660 18 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	559 11 3	559 11 3
Rewi ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	74 10 6	74 10 6
Tauri ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	80 0 6	80 0 6
Craddock Hamlet ..	20 5 0	9	32	1,250 5 0	130 0 0	..	..	..	49 5 10	254 5 2
Hetana Hamlet ..	245 16 0	22	91	1,695 10 0	198 10 0	127 10 0	..	15 2 35	84 17 3	369 9 2
Kitchener Hamlet ..	4 4 0	10	46	1,113 2 0	284 0 0	80 0 0	..	2 0 0	90 13 6	305 16 1
Methuen Hamlet ..	8 0 8	23	89	3,316 19 3	380 10 0	135 0 0	..	10 3 37	267 4 1	975 12 8
Plumer Hamlet ..	3 6 9	16	24	1,473 6 9	263 10 0	..	..	3 2 20	241 8 3	414 16 11
Wairi Hamlet ..	187 3 8	7	14	437 0 0	92 10 0	..	..	..	30 11 8	91 3 2
Totals ..	3,810 19 11	462	1,883	144,641 18 5	1,349 0 0	292 10 0	1,641 10 0	26,085 2 7	19,819 12 10	89,605 10 11
Hawke's Bay—										
Raureka ..	..	18	99	5,115 10 0	..	..	..	15 1 35	548 10 4	6,288 12 3
Elsthorpe ..	2 16 3	27	107	14,140 5 0	..	..	..	1 1 6	2,118 14 11	27,172 0 2
Waimarie ..	..	16	67	3,507 10 0	..	..	..	41 0 26	460 0 11	4,977 9 4
Pouparae ..	..	9	52	4,245 1 0	..	..	..	16 0 39	397 14 7	4,176 18 4
Tomoana ..	..	12	61	3,701 10 0	..	..	..	..	123 5 8	1,319 17 0
Mahora ..	..	32	150	11,680 5 0	..	..	..	46 0 35	1,421 1 6	13,933 16 9
Willows ..	..	14	78	5,994 0 0	..	..	..	..	717 0 3	6,423 19 0
Hatuna ..	..	59	259	40,493 18 0	..	..	..	111 2 0	7,057 4 11	52,355 19 3
Manga-a-toro ..	..	25	114	24,961 9 9	..	..	..	..	4,266 8 2	26,424 9 3
Kumerua ..	..	14	75	6,423 12 0	..	..	..	79 0 0	1,512 2 2	9,092 15 5
Forest Gate ..	..	25	108	12,488 16 7	..	..	..	..	2,786 18 11	14,669 7 5
Argyll ..	..	60	255	42,885 5 6	..	..	..	278 3 0	8,256 19 5	39,261 8 6
Wigan ..	..	14	49	13,282 1 11	..	..	..	..	2,725 9 2	11,433 12 10
Lindsay ..	2 14 0	61	233	18,828 2 0	..	..	..	216 2 37	4,837 2 9	15,280 13 11
Mangatahi ..	..	20	82	8,408 18 0	..	..	..	5 0 0	2,031 13 9	4,274 4 3
Te Mata ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52 10 0	52 10 0
Pouerere ..	147 19 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	819 12 3	819 12 3
Raumati ..	922 17 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,306 18 5	1,306 18 5
Kanakanae ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,794 6 7	1,794 6 7
Te Arai ..	195 9 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,963 0 5	3,963 0 5
Totals ..	1,271 16 1	406	1,774	215,655 4 9	..	..	..	811 1 18	47,196 10 0	244,921 6 3

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, 1908.	Occupied Land.		Amount advanced to Selectors for Buildings, &c.			Arrears on 31st March, 1908.		Rent and other Payments received during the Year.	Total Receipts from Inception to 31st March, 1908.		
		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.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
Canterbury—												
Pareora	..	24	110	2,958 0 6	..	..	..	2	47 3 38	23 12 0	364 9 7	5,270 12 8
Studholme Junction	..	2	10	586 2 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	65 18 4	970 17 2
Kapua	12	43	1,918 5 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	234 5 11	3,631 15 1
Rosebrook	..	13	69	2,396 3 6	..	..	..	2	115 2 38	28 14 1	302 8 8	3,816 19 4
Otao	8	40	2,359 5 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	210 8 10	2,725 17 8
The Peaks	..	1	2	2,354 15 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	194 0 0	2,289 9 9
Roimata	..	25	110	6,214 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	127 8 5	1,688 7 2
Fatua	2	14	1,722 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	164 10 0	1,952 19 8
Braco	14	52	2,546 0 0	10 0 0	..	10 0 0	..	..	..	65 7 3	840 14 2
Epworth	..	1	7	158 16 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	12 4 2	159 13 0
Ashley Gorge	..	12	46	4,942 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	246 12 8	3,063 1 6
Kereta	3	27	909 17 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	74 12 4	989 5 4
Orakipaoa	..	20	88	2,338 19 0	..	..	..	1	30 2 14	11 0 6	341 6 8	4,507 12 9
Highbank	2 2 8	59	226	19,748 15 9	..	..	..	2	118 1 14	19 15 1	2,788 9 1	95,266 11 0
Rakitari	..	17	74	6,840 15 6	..	..	..	1	424 2 0	58 7 4	975 16 0	10,993 7 10
Waipai	14	61	4,184 11 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	471 1 6	5,392 16 9
Otarakaro	..	7	24	1,729 0 0	230 0 0	..	230 0 0	1	7 0 31	23 8 4	96 1 4	1,138 10 1
Wharenui	..	26	118	5,748 0 0	..	..	..	1	2 2 0	15 2 8	258 17 4	2,927 3 8
Albury	59	343	29,766 9 10	..	..	..	2	207 1 26	32 3 11	3,260 8 1	35,510 1 7
Marawiti	..	12	69	4,610 8 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	684 19 0	7,807 17 5
Horsley Down	..	25	99	12,762 19 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	969 7 4	11,415 6 3
R.S. 1862	..	1	1	210 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	3 0 8	32 17 0
Hekeao	13	42	5,315 12 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	543 2 4	5,895 19 6
Pawaho	..	24	90	3,904 10 11	404 0 0	..	404 0 0	..	..	..	130 6 8	1,428 16 8
Waikakahi	33 1 6	157	813	92,433 12 6	..	..	..	4	402 3 21	82 1 6	15,208 18 10	140,714 16 7
Tamai	40	169	6,402 8 9	801 10 0	50 0 0	851 10 0	1	1 0 0	8 12 9	280 16 11	2,072 10 11
Omih Valley	13 5 0	119 5 0
Pt. R.S. 2682	167 8 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 17 6	108 11 1
Adj. R.S. 36463	..	1	3	397 11 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	23 2 8	212 1 0
Adj. R.S. 36231	16 0 0	143 19 4
Adj. R.S. 36056-57	13 9 0	115 16 9
Takitu	5	20	7,663 4 8	..	..	..	..	187 3 15	39 18 4	1,147 16 3	9,300 0 0
Pareora No. 2	..	32	201	19,117 5 6	..	..	..	1	..	..	3,864 12 7	27,486 1 10
Rautawiri	..	6	22	1,171 17 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	122 13 2	1,016 2 9
Papaka	9	42	4,927 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	867 11 2	6,964 0 5
Punaroa	..	17	66	9,772 2 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,650 18 0	12,330 4 10
Adj. R.S. 36228	..	1	3	507 9 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	11 6 4	93 13 2
Lyndon	..	9	39	9,161 12 4	..	..	..	..	..	..	766 14 0	5,468 16 1
Kohika	15	56	6,478 0 9	645 0 0	..	645 0 0	2	1 1 0	21 14 8	1,308 8 4	9,615 4 10
Tarawahi	..	24	96	5,883 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	249 10 3	1,523 5 4
Raincliff	..	1	3	571 1 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	76 13 6	1,377 14 10
Puhuka	..	10	35	1,740 5 11	175 0 0	..	175 0 0	..	..	..	76 3 0	448 1 2
Kaimahi	..	11	44	3,487 6 0	..	..	..	4	40 0 0	59 15 9	248 9 11	1,317 11 6
Kaputahi	19 9 10	11	25	1,520 0 0	270 0 0	60 0 0	330 0 0	..	..	..	177 6 9	1,075 12 7
R.S. 36278	4 1 0	..	..	403 10 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	22 11 6	147 19 10
Rapuwa	..	5	22	2,837 13 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	483 14 2	3,106 3 10
Lyndon No. 2	..	9	33	8,517 15 9	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,479 2 11	12,083 12 5
Pt. R.S. 30791	50 2 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	15 6 0	93 10 0

Table 34.—COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of SELECTORS and LANDS selected under SETTLEMENT CONDITIONS for the Ten Years ended 31st March, 1908.

Year ending 31st March,	Cash.		Deferred Payment.		Perpetual Lease.		Lease in Perpetuity.		Renewable Lease.		Occupation with Right of Purchase.		Agricultural Lease.		Occupation Leases.*	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
1899†	534	Acres. 37,400	1	Acres. 13	1	Acres. 640	675	159,415	..	..	458	109,950	2	Acres. 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	2,123
1902†	489	27,290	1	52	1	10	501	116,125	..	..	447	128,893	1	23	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
1905†	371	18,990	..	..	..	..	751	173,811	..	..	330	138,206	3	218	40	1,914
1906†	229	11,132	..	..	1	127	706	158,018½	..	..	388	157,432½	..	..	30	1,194
1907†	447	20,357	..	..	..	..	597	154,237	..	..	412	215,530	..	..	26	1,044
1908†	404	28,519	..	..	..	..	427	98,367	168	70,535	354	187,799	3	84	73	3,047

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.
1899†	21	Acres. 30	3	Acres. 2	106	Acres. 2,115	12	Acres. 134	5	Acres. 607	64	Acres. 4,823	40	Acres. 77,632	1,953	Acres. 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	..	2	96	1,082	7	376	..	..	13	1,936	35	86,076	1,767	559,774
1902†	21	10	1	..	33	456	30	469	..	..	..	1,618	36	112,947	1,632	390,406
1903†	19	9	..	1	40	619	34	1,512	29	5,761	30	4,032	45	113,925	1,602	425,824
1904†	10	8	1	..	21	514	23	272	4	729	106	19,436	58	144,786	2,053	534,679
1905†	2	1	1	0½	14	208	8	111	2	223	14	1,459	45	67,271	1,581	402,412
1906†	39	40	2	0½	55	1,936	49	287	..	..	3	547	34	68,587	1,536	399,342
1907†	15	20	..	41	32	1,012	17	173	1	4	46	5,622	51	114,854	1,644	512,853
1908†	3	3	3	3	87½	2,410½	..	..	..	..	3	410	64	226,757	1,589	617,934

* "Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894."
† Inclusive of renewable-lease lands.

† Inclusive of Cheviot Estate, and lands disposed of under the Land for Settlements Acts.

Table 36.—REBATES of RENT granted under "The Crown Tenants' Rent Rebate Act, 1900," and "The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900," during the Year ended 31st March, 1908.

Land District.	Number of Tenants who have been granted Rebate.	Area held.	Amount of Rebate granted.
ORDINARY CROWN LANDS.			
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland	2,338	618,959 0 0	1,599 10 7
Hawke's Bay	521	246,694 0 0	1,110 6 10
Taranaki	800	204,082 1 20	985 2 4
Wellington	2,107	398,903 0 0	2,299 9 3
Nelson	217	64,206 1 21	53 18 8
Marlborough	300	140,398 2 34	289 3 10
Westland	318	80,985 3 35	49 10 0
Canterbury	477	89,941 1 16	493 4 3
Otago	1,138	253,647 1 7	639 13 4
Southland	644	120,000 0 0	300 18 2
Totals	8,855	2,167,768 0 13	7,820 17 3
LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS.			
Auckland	449	106,061 0 0	1,230 9 1
Hawke's Bay	426	238,254 0 0	3,880 12 1
Taranaki	32	3,521 0 34	250 18 2
Wellington	265	37,922 0 0	602 13 3
Nelson	6	1,271 0 9	16 13 11
Marlborough	312	108,214 3 9	1,841 3 4
Westland	24	4,348 3 4	81 18 5
Canterbury	1,141	249,873 1 24	6,976 17 11
Otago	531	112,472 2 24	2,990 8 5
Southland	181	37,000 0 0	764 10 1
Totals	3,367	888,938 3 24	18,575 19 8
CHEVIOT ESTATE.			
Canterbury	195	25,739 0 4	712 1 3
Grand totals	12,417	3,082,446 0 1	27,108 18 2

Table 37.—CROWN LANDS PROCLAIMED under the Local Bodies' Loans Acts, the AMOUNT BORROWED, and the AMOUNT REPAID to the Public Account up to 31st March, 1908.

Land District.	Area proclaimed.	Amount borrowed.	Amount repaid to Public Account at 31st March, 1907.
	Acres.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland	965,344	176,071 0 0	45,226 3 9
Hawke's Bay	328,563	55,050 0 0	18,823 10 3
Taranaki	539,197	127,596 0 0	57,501 18 6
Wellington	650,205	166,692 0 0	98,714 0 6
Nelson	319,518	35,592 0 0	474 18 9
Marlborough	161,552	21,829 0 0	14,409 10 11
Westland	7,864	1,691 0 0	599 18 8
Canterbury	2,154	456 0 0	485 18 1
Otago	176,066	21,539 0 0	22,011 10 5
Southland	112,577	23,842 0 0	11,522 14 8
Totals	3,263,060	630,358 0 0	269,770 4 6

Table 38.—STATEMENT showing the BLOCKS of LAND which have been proclaimed under "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 Act.

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, 1907.	From April 1, 1907, to March 31, 1908.	Total to March 31, 1908.
AUCKLAND LAND DISTRICT.										
	Acres.				£		£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ahuroa	4,000	23	479	18 Mar., 1892	2,500	Road-works	500	497	..	497 2 5
Akaaka Swamp	2,935	72	1273	15 Sept., 1892	2,093	Drainage ..	920	917	..	916 12 1
Auckland Special Settlement	8,995	78	1665	24 Oct., 1895	3,698	Road-works	899	898	..	898 0 1
Avoca	3,668	24	482	29 Mar., 1894	1,834	"	458	458	..	458 0 0
Awakino	1,210	97	2995	22 Nov., 1906	985	"	482	..	300 10 10	300 10 10
Awaroa No. 2	3,767	20	495	24 Mar., 1898	2,185	"	400	400	..	400 0 0
Hauturu	63,186	1	1	5 Jan., 1899	29,585	"	10,469	10,432	Cr 153 16 6	10,278 1 8
Huehue	4,134	59	1620	23 July, 1903	2,911	"	827	827	..	827 0 0
Kaikokopu	7,397	16	435	23 Feb., 1899	2,774	"	739	739	..	738 18 2
Kaimarama	3,179	71	1372	21 Sept., 1893	1,560	"	318	318	..	318 0 0
Karioi-Alexandra	12,912	10	269	13 Feb., 1896	4,837	"	1,662	1,662	..	1,661 14 6
Karioi Parish	550	20	495	24 Mar., 1898	206	"	55	55	..	55 0 0
Kauaeranga	3,556	91	2021	20 Dec., 1898	1,770	"	445	389	55 14 10	444 18 3
Kawaka	3,420	34	1152	28 April, 1904	1,332	"	584	630	53 7 11	683 17 3
Kawhia	4,927	70	1498	22 Sept., 1898	2,819	"	616	616	..	615 18 1
Kenana	773	50	1755	22 June, 1906	425	"	155	7	102 15 5	110 1 0
Ketetangariki	1,070	16	529	23 Feb., 1905	663	"	263	129	138 12 8	268 0 0
Kinohaku West	60,311	100	2198	1 Dec., 1899	51,306	"	14,990	13,331	545 19 6	13,877 1 8
Kinohaku West No. 2	23,004	72	1572	1 Aug., 1901	7,589	"	5,753	4,301	1,374 13 10	5,676 0 10
Kioikio	4,349	66	1726	21 Aug., 1902	3,812	"	545	545	..	545 0 0
Kohumaru	4,880	83	1846	17 Nov., 1898	1,700	"	600	200	..	199 17 1
Kopua	4,263	73	2109	1 Sept., 1904	2,264	"	894	309	584 15 10	894 0 0
Kowaunui	3,464	63	2034	26 July, 1906	1,595	"	520	135	380 9 9	515 18 1
Mahoenui	6,471	73	1602	8 Aug., 1901	5,366	"	990	990	..	989 19 5
Maioro Swamp	722	80	1365	13 Oct., 1892	476	Drainage ..	225	225	..	225 0 0
Maire	2,659	81	2343	6 Oct., 1904	931	Road-works	399	277	119 19 8	397 6 0
Mamaku	7,684	24	564	7 April, 1898	3,842	"	700	700	..	700 0 0
Manawake	43,248	83	2221	14 Sept., 1905	25,909	"	6,190	1,519	1,494 19 9	3,014 5 7
Mangakahia	10,190	20	495	24 Mar., 1898	4,548	"	2,000	1,395	75 2 6	1,469 14 1
Mangakahia No. 2	1,109	91	2032	2 Nov., 1899	671	"	111	111	..	111 0 0
Mangamahoe	344	56	1447	15 June, 1905	356	"	112	..	..	..
Manganuiowae	4,599	23	479	18 Mar., 1892	1,745	"	500	500	..	500 0 0
Mangaokahu	3,525	77	2113	1 Oct., 1903	1,743	"	424	232	..	232 0 0
Mangawhara	9,669	73	2109	1 Sept., 1904	6,073	"	2,416	1,806	457 13 10	2,264 0 6
Mangorewa-Kaharoa	23,987	91	2032	2 Nov., 1899	9,997	"	3,552	2,670	130 1 1	2,800 0 0
Mareikura No. 1	950	77	1716	27 Oct., 1898	493	"	120	120	..	120 0 0
Mareikura No. 2	584	79	1773	3 Nov., 1898	292	"	70	70	..	70 0 0
Mareretu	5,060	23	479	18 Mar., 1892	1,976	"	395	395	..	395 0 0
Marlborough	4,670	46	939	21 June, 1894	2,043	"	467	467	..	467 0 0
Maropiu	5,343	24	667	11 Mar., 1897	2,712	"	656	642	10 19 4	653 9 10
Maukoro	9,978	54	1517	2 July, 1903	5,729	"	1,496	1,496	..	1,495 19 7
Maungaru	4,368	20	494	24 Mar., 1898	2,184	"	460	460	..	460 0 0
Maungataniwha	4,000	23	479	18 Mar., 1892	1,500	"	500	499	..	499 1 6
Maungataniwha No. 2	1,220	47	955	18 June, 1896	487	"	120	120	..	119 19 9
Maungataniwha No. 3	470	84	2270	21 Sept., 1905	235	"	94	27	66 9 8	93 7 2
Moeatua	2,930	68	1959	18 Aug., 1904	2,322	"	733	121	585 17 8	707 5 2
Motatau	5,803	23	479	18 Mar., 1892	2,349	"	600	599	..	598 10 7
Ngarna	3,461	97	2879	8 Dec., 1904	2,153	"	849	849	..	848 19 11
Ngunguru	6,216	46	973	20 June, 1895	3,417	"	772	772	..	772 0 0
Ngutunui	1,657	54	1518	2 July, 1903	1,053	"	210	9	90 8 8	99 4 8
Oamaru No. 1	15,027	17	648	1 Mar., 1906	9,821	"	3,734	1,061	1,447 13 6	2,508 11 11
Oamaru No. 2	3,243	49	1735	6 June, 1907	2,587	"	1,293	..	90 14 9	90 14 9
Okohiriki	13,277	91	2021	20 Dec., 1898	5,094	"	1,550	1,547	..	1,547 8 1
Okohiriki No. 1a	2,626	70	1858	4 Sept., 1902	1,050	"	260	259	..	259 2 8
Omanawa	3,880	90	2694	10 Nov., 1904	2,047	"	845	844	..	844 0 0
Omawhake	5,094	75	2154	8 Sept., 1904	2,135	"	637	..	..	..
Opanake	2,508	24	563	7 April, 1898	1,254	"	100	99	..	99 1 0
Opouteke	12,240	1	29	8 Jan., 1903	7,991	"	3,248	..	298 8 3	298 8 3
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	1,000	..	1,000 0 0
Opuatea No. 3	4,337	83	1846	17 Nov., 1898	1,976	"	600	600	..	600 0 0
Opuawhanga No. 1	4,815	23	412	30 Mar., 1893	1,917	"	500	500	..	500 0 0
Opuawhanga-Whangarei No. 1	5,140	77	2114	1 Oct., 1903	2,300	"	500	500	..	500 0 0
		34	571	1 May, 1893						
		16	528	23 Feb., 1905						
Carried forward	486,304	..	..	..	264,210	..	83,485	62,335	8,251 12 9	70,388 2 0

* The figures give the totals to the nearest pound for the year ending 31st March, 1907.

STATEMENT showing the BLOCKS of LAND which have been proclaimed under "The Local Bodies' Loans Act, 1901," &c.
—continued.

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, 1907.	From April 1, 1907, to March 31, 1908.	Total to March 31, 1908.
AUCKLAND LAND DISTRICT—continued.										
Brought forward	Acres. 486,304	..	..	..	£ 264,240	..	£ 83,485	£ 62,335	£ s. d. 8,251 12 9	£ s. d. 70,388 2 0
Otaenga	1,630	81	2343	6 Oct., 1904	1,019	Road-works	326	..	..	..
Otanake Special Settlement	7,253	62	1727	6 Aug., 1903	5,440	"	1,813	1,131	30 2 0	1,160 19 1
Otau	18,510	71	1255	8 Sept., 1892	6,941	"	2,350	2,350	..	2,350 0 0
Otepo	463	16	528	23 Feb., 1905	232	"	115	..	..	..
Otukai	8,946	83	1845	17 Nov., 1898	5,014	"	1,059	696	..	696 3 11
		70	1856	4 Sept., 1902		"				
Oumauku	9,770	77	2114	1 Oct., 1903	2,931	"	1,465	1,463	..	1,463 6 0
Ouruwhero	2,615	49	1433	25 June, 1903	2,347	"	680	666	13 11 0	679 15 7
Owai	3,378	73	1602	8 Aug., 1901	1,008	"	340	340	..	340 0 0
Paekotare	752	20	494	24 Mar., 1898	296	"	80	76	..	75 14 6
Pakanae	992	73	1601	8 Aug., 1901	291	"	124	97	14 16 9	112 6 9
Pakeho	9,613	91	2032	2 Nov., 1899	5,720	"	1,800	1,794	6 8 0	1,799 18 9
Pakiri	4,125	85	2335	5 Nov., 1903	1,607	"	369	369	..	369 0 0
Papamoa No. 2	1,443	7	273	1 Feb., 1906	719	"	180	177	..	177 5 1
Parahaki	1,933	73	1601	8 Aug., 1901	568	"	193	11	..	10 15 0
Pareokawa	7,645	96	2148	7 Nov., 1901	3,557	"	950	944	..	944 8 7
Pirongia West	16,960	14	361	15 Feb., 1900	10,874	"	2,121	2,091	27 0 1	2,118 0 9
Pukemiro	1,111	68	1959	18 Aug., 1904	450	"	167	..	..	..
Pukenui	1,600	77	2113	1 Oct., 1903	1,200	"	240	201	38 19 0	239 19 4
Puketarata	5,347	1	1	4 Jan., 1900	2,177	"	535	533	..	532 11 7
Puketarata No. 2	3,027	104	2261	14 Dec., 1899	1,487	"	378	378	..	377 19 4
Puketarata No. 3	2,370	65	1702	14 Aug., 1902	2,371	"	296	296	..	295 19 4
Puketiti	603	17	680	1 Mar., 1906	737	"	151	..	..	..
Puriri	1,856	91	2022	20 Dec., 1898	791	"	186	185	..	185 6 0
Raetea	686	5	152	21 Jan., 1904	349	"	137	..	5 14 11	5 14 11
Rotokakahi	4,022	99	2638	16 Nov., 1905	3,571	"	1,207	406	111 4 0	516 15 9
Roto Ngaro	14,841	112	2949	21 Dec., 1905	4,655	"	2,225	18	179 5 11	197 10 11
Ruapekapeka	10,355	77	1345	6 Oct., 1892	3,982	"	500	495	..	494 13 4
Taeore	340	55	1428	8 June, 1905	136	"	68	..	..	..
Tahora No. 2 North	18378 of 62,699	24	522	28 Feb., 1901	15,052	"	5,190	..	517 0 3	517 0 3
Takahue	1,993	23	479	18 Mar., 1892	946	"	300	300	..	300 0 0
Takahue and Whangape	12,200	89	1864	5 Dec., 1895	4,270	"	1,800	1,800	..	1,800 0 0
Tangihua	4,660	104	2261	14 Dec., 1899	2,106	"	466	466	..	466 0 0
Tauhoa	4,069	15	336	18 Feb., 1892	1,675	"	449	449	..	449 0 0
Tauhoa-Komokoriki	2,585	35	573	4 May, 1893	949	"	325	325	..	325 0 0
Taumata	3,423	20	495	24 Mar., 1898	2,188	"	428	428	..	428 0 0
Taumata-Whakauma	3,269	62	1727	6 Aug., 1903	2,100	"	817	815	..	815 6 2
Taupiri	7,442	45	860	8 June, 1893	3,755	"	920	920	..	919 18 10
Te Kauri	3,570	14	544	18 Feb., 1904	2,616	Roads and bridges	916	669	247 6 10	916 0 0
Te Kuiti	3,506	70	1498	25 July, 1901	2,927	Road-works	777	776	..	776 7 0
Te Pahu	3,228	3	80	18 Jan., 1906	1,711	"	491	443	37 12 6	480 14 4
Te Puhi	4,505	73	2109	1 Sept., 1904	4,352	"	1,689	1,067	397 0 2	1,464 3 2
Te Puroa	8,600	83	1846	17 Nov., 1898	3,440	"	1,000	1,000	..	1,000 0 0
Te Rerenga	7,991	97	2880	8 Dec., 1904	4,730	"	1,599	1,553	45 11 6	1,598 13 9
Tokatoka	11,653	38	911	26 May, 1898	20,712	Drains and roads	10,273	10,260	13 8 4	10,272 18 8
Tokatoka	4,090 of 11,653	38	911	26 May, 1898	10,226	Tramway and road-works	1,474	1,474	..	1,473 19 4
Tokatoka No. 2	1,733	73	1601	8 Aug., 1901	3,934	Road-works	448	448	..	448 0 0
Tokatoka No. 3	448	14	544	18 Feb., 1904	896	Roads and drains	1,275	1,274	..	1,274 7 7
Tumu-Kaituna	3,187	12	495	19 Feb., 1903	2,550	Drainage-works and bridges over drains	539	22	184 8 6	206 8 6
Turoto	1,783	97	2879	8 Dec., 1904	1,689	Road-works	480	479	..	478 14 11
Umurua	4,866	24	564	7 April, 1898	2,433	"	3,268	2,500	..	2,499 19 0
Waiawa	16,870	5	94	27 Jan., 1896	8,439	"	318	180	137 14 8	317 19 7
Waiharakeke	2,116	27	758	23 Mar., 1905	1,979	"	2,000	2,000	..	2,000 0 0
Waimana	14,292	46	973	20 June, 1895	5,402	"	4,258	2,996	626 4 4	3,622 5 3
Waimatanui	15,723	20	496	24 Mar., 1898	10,847	"	756	751	..	750 13 9
Waiotahi	6,050	71	2073	25 Aug., 1904	2,273	"	322	27	135 0 10	161 16 8
Waiotira	3,226	62	1214	10 Aug., 1893	1,613	"	5,800	5,799	..	5,799 5 5
Waipoua	58,200	74	1419	5 Oct., 1893	29,100	"	790	790	..	790 0 0
Waipu	6,257	65	1398	1 Sept., 1898	1,570	"	483	269	210 17 10	479 19 6
Wairere	1,930	79	2299	29 Sept., 1904	1,641	"	3,830	..	..	..
Waitoa	5,108	75	2287	30 Aug., 1906	9,332	"	2,000	..	..	..
Waoku	20,000	74	1298	22 Sept., 1892	10,000	"	395	2,240	70 4 2	2,310 4 2
	2,543	17	301	9 Mar., 1893	1,462	"	170	..	..	..
Whangaingatakupu	975	73	1602	8 Aug., 1901	439	"	3,075	1,866	429 19 8	1,796 4 6
Whareorino	16,600	73	1602	8 Aug., 1901	14,525	"	2,828	..	1,063 3 7	1,603 3 7
Wharepuhunga	31,700	18	335	7 Feb., 1901	8,907	"	844	843	..	843 6 2
Whititiri No. 1	5,628	51	1113	14 June, 1900	4,830	"	4,567	..	..	..
Whitikau	12,457	49	1736	6 June, 1907	10,859	"	..	..	..	..
Totals	965,344	..	..	..	553,185	..	176,071	121,951	12,794 7 7	134,547 14 11

* The figures give the totals to the nearest pound for the year ending 31st March, 1907.

STATEMENT showing the BLOCKS of LAND which have been proclaimed under "The Local Bodies' Loans Act, 1901," &c
—continued.

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, 1907.	From April 1, 1907, to March 31, 1908.	Total to March 31, 1908.

TARANAKI LAND DISTRICT.										
	Acres.				£		£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Aorangi	3,807	75	2153	8 Sept., 1904	2,681	Road-works	1,160	431	605 11 8	1,036 16 10
Autawa	4,725	21	393	23 Mar., 1893	4,276	"	1,153	1,153	..	1,153 0 0
Eao	17,218	77	2191	2 Oct., 1902	13,890	"	6,361	5,725	615 8 4	6,340 18 1
Egmont, Block VI ..	1,683	57	1163	26 July, 1894	1,721	"	421	421	..	421 0 0
Eltham	3,200	19	340	16 Mar., 1893	3,150	"	800	800	..	800 0 0
Gatton	3,800	19	340	16 Mar., 1893	3,860	"	950	950	..	950 0 0
Huiroa	6,433	72	1273	15 Sept., 1892	5,318	"	2,093	2,093	..	2,093 0 0
Hurimoana	3,190	79	1774	3 Nov., 1898	2,981	"	797	797	..	797 0 0
Kaimanuka	9,987	72	1273	15 Sept., 1892	5,350	"	2,665	2,665	..	2,665 0 0
Kaipikari	4,273	79	1775	3 Nov., 1898	2,136	"	582	582	..	582 0 0
Kaitangiwhenua No. 2	33,430	27	510	5 April, 1894	15,667	"	6,393	6,393	..	6,393 0 0
Kaitangiwhenua Special Settlement	7,747	1	4	7 Jan., 1904	4,209	"	1,491	1,452	..	1,452 8 4
Kaupokonui	230	62	1215	10 Aug., 1893	230	"	58	58	..	58 0 0
Kohuratahi	3,548	79	1774	3 Nov., 1898	3,019	"	738	738	..	738 0 0
Kuraiti	4,465	14	360	15 Feb., 1900	1,855	"	617	617	..	617 0 0
Kuri	13,989	75	2153	8 Sept., 1904	4,921	"	1,985	1,923	60 19 0	1,984 2 0
Kururau	11,808	86	2323	28 Sept., 1905	7,568	"	3,490	1,523	1,921 0 10	3,444 5 9
Lepperton	2,775	83	1383	20 Oct., 1892	2,998	"	966	966	..	966 0 0
Llewellyn	4,594	15	397	9 Mar., 1896	3,445	"	862	862	..	862 0 0
Maben	4,650	65	1871	4 Aug., 1904	2,341	"	900	900	..	900 0 0
Makahu	6,551	66	1361	27 Aug., 1896	6,180	"	1,468	1,468	..	1,468 0 0
Makino	8,608	24	521	28 Feb., 1901	3,787	"	1,860	73	121 1 3	194 1 7
Mangaehu	492	72	1278	15 Sept., 1892	604	"	301	301	..	301 0 0
Mangaere	7,432	30	526	27 April, 1893	9,485	"	4,144	4,144	..	4,144 0 0
Mangamingi	6,629	15	336	18 Feb., 1892	9,040	"	4,286	4,286	..	4,286 0 0
Manganui-Egmont ..	2,833	72	1510	4 Oct., 1894	3,597	"	894	894	..	894 0 0
Mangaowata	10,501	77	2191	2 Oct., 1902	6,577	"	2,140	1,812	304 2 9	2,116 2 10
Mangaroa	4,969	77	2192	2 Oct., 1902	4,560	Roads and bridges	1,225	1,204	7 8 0	1,211 0 2
Mangatawa	6,804	2	3	9 Jan., 1902	3,796	Road-works	1,270	1,270	..	1,269 19 8
Marco	6,467	13	382	16 Feb., 1899	4,040	"	1,027	1,027	..	1,027 0 0
Mataro	1,486	42	953	18 May, 1899	668	"	260	260	..	260 0 0
Mauku	1,893	91	2031	2 Nov., 1899	1,136	"	284	284	..	284 0 0
Milsom	6,686	21	374	23 Mar., 1893	6,238	"	1,750	1,750	..	1,750 0 0
Mokau-Ohura	41,475	30	1007	14 April, 1904	27,175	"	12,595	12,033	558 9 10	12,591 9 8
Moki	8,734	99	2178	6 Dec., 1900	4,708	"	1,822	1,822	..	1,822 0 0
Ngatimaru, Blocks V, IX	4,565	23	412	30 Mar., 1893	4,745	"	1,940	1,940	..	1,940 0 0
Okoke	13,893	51	1049	5 July, 1894	9,275	"	2,369	2,367	..	2,366 11 1
Opaku-Kapara	18,620	4	26	12 Jan., 1893	10,455	"	2,793	2,793	..	2,793 0 0
Oxford	4,000	4	23	12 Jan., 1893	3,550	"	1,200	1,200	..	1,200 0 0
Patua	9,692	24	667	11 Mar., 1897	6,542	"	1,636	1,636	..	1,635 19 10
Patupuremu	17,966	77	2190-1	2 Oct., 1902	8,160	"	3,580	3,566	14 1 4	3,580 0 0
Piko	10,276	43	1009	25 May, 1899	6,928	"	1,784	1,782	..	1,782 7 9
Poarangi	3,835	14	361	15 Feb., 1900	2,419	"	550	550	..	550 0 0
Puniwhakau	10,641	19	340	16 Mar., 1893	7,615	"	1,926	1,926	..	1,926 0 0
Putiki	6,595	64	1358	27 July, 1899	3,620	"	1,144	1,143	..	1,143 7 2
Putikituna	4,229	14	360	15 Feb., 1900	2,664	"	789	789	..	789 0 0
Rangiwhakaoma	10,005	72	1501	4 Oct., 1894	4,428	"	1,421	1,421	..	1,421 0 0
Rawhitiroa	736 of 32,746	1	5	7 Jan., 1897	3,680	"	46	46	Cr. 42 8 1	3 11 11
Rerekapa-Moanatairi	21,375	77	2189	2 Oct., 1902	12,182	Roads and bridges	5,835	5,157	553 5 4	5,710 0 0
Rimuputa	5,609	77	1715	27 Oct., 1898	3,229	Road-works	799	799	..	799 0 0
Ross	1,912	34	760	9 May, 1895	2,564	"	478	476	..	476 2 6
Tahora	2,311	90	1977	17 Oct., 1901	1,422	"	471	471	..	471 0 0
Tangitu	11,805	90	1977	17 Oct., 1901	7,463	"	2,140	2,140	..	2,140 0 0
Tanner	5,200	78	1361	10 Oct., 1892	5,950	"	1,780	1,780	..	1,780 0 0
Taumata	8,223	84	2261	21 Sept., 1905	3,812	"	1,616	60	931 18 1	992 6 0
Taurangi	21,500	77	2191	2 Oct., 1902	12,976	{ Roads and bridges }	5,865	5,752	111 19 9	5,863 15 10
Terrace End	11,118	60	1245	15 Aug., 1895	8,950	Road-works	2,173	2,173	..	2,173 0 0
Tirangi	8,098	77	2192	2 Oct., 1902	3,563	"	1,620	1,613	5 0 0	1,618 6 6
Upper Waitara	840	13	240	23 Feb., 1893	1,914	"	126	126	..	126 0 0
Vera	2,575	77	2189	2 Oct., 1902	1,573	"	320	320	..	320 0 0
Waiarara	16,797	81	2343	6 Oct., 1904	9,163	"	4,010	3,995	14 17 4	4,010 0 0
Waikaka	4,016	77	2190	2 Oct., 1902	3,254	Roads and bridges	960	621	288 0 5	908 11 8
Waiekeheho	590	72	1522	16 Aug., 1900	1,178	Road-works	419	419	..	418 16 9
Waikiekie	600	78	1698	15 Oct., 1896	788	"	150	150	..	150 0 0
Waingarara	1,634	78	1666	6 Sept., 1900	1,111	"	373	373	..	372 16 4
Waitangata	10,628	77	2190	2 Oct., 1902	6,683	"	2,575	2,441	52 6 9	2,493 2 8
Waro	11,244	52	1620	23 July, 1903	6,678	"	3,210	3,206	3 11 5	3,210 0 0
Whenuakura	10,927	19	340	16 Mar., 1893	5,652	"	1,690	1,690	..	1,690 0 0
	4	57		10 Jan., 1901						
Totals	539,197	..	..	..	359,343	..	127,596	118,598	6,126 14 0	123,725 19 8

* The figures give the totals to the nearest pound for the year ending 31st March, 1907.

STATEMENT showing the BLOCKS of LAND which have been proclaimed under "The Local Bodies' Loans Act, 1901," &c.
—continued.

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, 1907.	From April 1, 1907, to March 31, 1908.	Total to March 31, 1908.

HAWKE'S BAY LAND DISTRICT.										
	Acres.				£		£	£	s. d.	£ s. d.
Hikurangi No. 2 ..	4,115	82	1663	16 Nov., 1894	3,217	Road-works	520	497	..	497 5 5
Huiarua ..	7,750	90	1901	21 Oct., 1897	2,695	"	1,000	737	..	736 10 7
Koranga ..	17,422	58	1991	4 July, 1907	13,649	"	2,613	..	..	..
Liberal ..	2,800	83	1388	20 Oct., 1892	2,500	"	400	400	..	400 0 0
Mangapoike ..	14,627	24	521	28 Feb., 1901	8,260	"	1,834	1,834	..	1,833 18 2
Mangatoro, Block I ..	1,700	38	857	3 May, 1900	1,329	"	425	425	..	424 19 5
Mangatoro 1A No. 1 ..	5,017	60	1537	29 June, 1905	32,104	"	1,848	726	622 6 3	1,347 19 8
Moanui ..	24,865	59	1620	23 July, 1903	14,000	"	3,108	1,845	952 4 2	2,797 5 0
Motu ..	33,045	23	479	18 Mar., 1892	16,773	"	2,475	2,475	..	2,475 0 0
Ngapaeruru ..	44,816	86	1914	1 Dec., 1898	26,370	"	11,000	11,000	..	11,000 0 0
Ngapaeruru No. 2 ..	9,549	80	548	15 Mar., 1900	4,632	"	568	568	..	568 0 0
Nuhaka North ..	777	68	1324	7 Sept., 1893	486	"	58	58	..	58 0 0
Nuhaka No. 2 ..	4,138	24	522	28 Feb., 1901	5,351	"	1,034	1,031	..	1,030 18 5
Nuhaka No. 3 ..	4,306	90	1521	11 Nov., 1892	3,655	"	538	538	..	538 0 0
Pohui ..	4,800	61	1291	16 Aug., 1894	2,225	"	840	824	..	824 1 9
Ruahine ..	4,855	46	939	21 June, 1894	4,575	"	364	364	..	364 0 0
Ruakituri ..	43,037	24	522	28 Feb., 1901	16,139	"	4,804	..	..	..
Tahora No. 2 South ..	3,443	41	1042	4 May, 1905	48,345	"	3,440	3,340	..	3,340 0 0
Tamaki ..	3,043	83	2222	14 Sept., 1905	21,877	Roads and Bridges	3,043	..	1,228 16 0	1,228 16 0
Tamaki No. 1 ..	9,404	68	1324	7 Sept., 1893	4,796	Road-works	1,175	1,169	..	1,169 0 0
Tauwharetoi ..	16,759	67	1859	27 Aug., 1903	6,288	"	2,352	2,286	64 2 3	2,350 7 5
Tuahu ..	3,073	58	1992	4 July, 1907	5,378	"	1,536	..	323 11 4	323 11 4
Tutamoe ..	1,461	49	939	22 June, 1893	958	"	100	100	..	100 0 0
Umutoaroa ..	8,961	23	412	30 Mar., 1893	4,215	"	1,405	1,183	..	1,182 14 6
Waiau ..	10,878	67	2305	1 Aug., 1907	9,339	Roads and Bridges	3,279	..	359 10 5	359 10 5
Waitahaia ..	14,380	52	1619	23 July, 1903	8,462	Road-works	2,990	2,139	795 15 4	2,934 19 8
Whakapaupakihi ..	14,379	52	1619	23 July, 1903	12,498	"	1,798	1,798	..	1,797 18 8
Whakarara, Section 14, Block XIII	508	16	342	1 Mar., 1894	406	"	38	38	..	38 0 0
Wharekopae-Tahora No. 2 ..	14,401	24	522	28 Feb., 1901	11,869	"	1,440	1,432	..	1,431 18 0
Woodville ..	254	49	939	22 June, 1893	286	"	25	25	..	25 0 0
Totals ..	328,563	..	..	..	292,675	..	55,050	36,832	4,346 5 9	41,177 14 5

WELLINGTON LAND DISTRICT.										
Ahuahu ..	28,999	61	1682	30 Aug., 1903	15,115	Roads and Bridges	7,250	..	2,344 0 4	2,344 0 4
Awarua 1B ..	18,291	104	2723	23 Nov., 1905	16,132	Ditto ..	6,610	768	2,072 15 8	2,840 15 0
Clifton No. 1 ..	4,650	28	539	31 Mar., 1892	4,081	Road-works	1,163	1,163	..	1,163 0 0
Dannevirke Centennial ..	11,022	19	340	16 Mar., 1893	5,233	"	2,494	2,494	..	2,493 19 10
East Puketoi ..	83,500	23	479	18 Mar., 1892	83,500	"	19,375	19,375	..	19,375 0 0
Gladstone ..	7,597	24	482	28 Mar., 1894	5,822	"	1,899	1,898	..	1,898 8 3
Hall ..	3,175	19	340	16 Mar., 1893	4,871	"	794	794	..	794 0 0
Hautapu, Blocks XI, XIV, XV	6,188	92	1567	24 Nov., 1892	5,469	"	1,573	1,567	..	1,567 0 0
Hautapu No. 2 ..	6,895	65	1272	24 Aug., 1894	7,207	"	1,714	1,714	..	1,713 15 10
Hautapu-Ruahine ..	19,804	74	1297	22 Sept., 1892	22,154	"	6,931	6,932	..	6,931 12 3
Hautapu-Ruahine No. 2 ..	16,771	87	1841	28 Nov., 1895	11,152	"	4,192	4,192	..	4,192 0 0
Hikimutu ..	16,290	49	1735	6 June, 1907	21,126	"	4,072	..	104 13 0	104 13 0
Horopito ..	400	72	1505	2 Oct., 1894	350	"	100	..	..	..
Kaiparoro ..	9,409	60	1245	15 Aug., 1895	6,414	"	1,174	1,174	..	1,174 0 0
Kaiparoro No. 2 ..	400	30	773	1 April, 1897	150	"	50	50	..	50 0 0
Kaitangata ..	7,105	89	1863	5 Dec., 1895	4,215	"	884	884	..	884 0 0
Kaitieke ..	45,500	12	283	14 Feb., 1895	41,700	"	11,375	10,893	471 8 4	11,364 14 2
Kaiwaka, Blocks IV, VIII, XI	4,789	4	56	10 Jan., 1901	1,768	"	598	598	..	598 0 0
Kakariki ..	5,000	23	413	30 Mar., 1893	5,786	"	1,562	1,562	..	1,562 0 0
Kawautahi ..	7,677	49	1736	6 June, 1907	10,814	"	1,919	..	97 1 4	97 1 4
Kawhata ..	5,644	94	1951	21 Dec., 1894	6,625	"	1,425	1,425	..	1,425 0 0
Kirikau ..	13,642	49	1736	6 June, 1907	18,584	"	3,410	..	242 3 2	242 3 2
Makotuku, Block III	1,608	1	4	7 Jan., 1904	1,860	"	402	402	..	402 0 0
Malton Farm Homestead ..	1,208	80	1637	8 Oct., 1894	944	"	302	302	..	302 0 0
Manganui and Ruapehu ..	7,350	46	958	21 June, 1894	6,337	"	1,838	1,838	..	1,838 0 0
Mangoira-Coal Creek ..	6,500	74	1297	22 Sept., 1892	8,204	"	2,031	2,030	..	2,030 0 0
Marton No. 3 ..	9,078	79	2162	8 Oct., 1903	8,050	"	2,270	2,270	..	2,270 0 0
Maungakaretu ..	508	7	273	1 Feb., 1906	571	"	254	192	61 12 4	254 0 0
Mecalickstone ..	6,011	19	339	16 Mar., 1893	4,834	"	1,503	1,503	..	1,503 0 0
Moumahaki ..	526	72	1274	15 Sept., 1892	440	"	156	156	..	156 0 0
Moumahaki Village Settlement	824	7	131	25 Jan., 1894	6,311	"	1,860	1,360	..	1,360 0 0
Mount Baker ..	8,291	15	336	18 Feb., 1892	8,710	"	2,487	2,487	..	2,487 0 0
Mowbanau Village Settlement	380	7	255	29 Jan., 1903	5,320	"	380	378	..	378 7 9
Ngamatea-Maungakaretu ..	8,315	4	55	10 Jan., 1901	6,491	"	2,078	2,078	..	2,078 0 0
Ngaurukehu ..	1,092	4	55	10 Jan., 1901	1,092	"	409	409	..	408 19 2
Nireaha Village Settlement	552	74	2619	22 Aug., 1907	5,648	Roads and Drains	250	..	249 18 4	249 18 4
North-east Puketoi ..	13,300	15	336	18 Feb., 1892	16,455	Road-works	3,990	3,990	..	3,990 0 0
Ohinewairua ..	7,462	11	242	28 Jan., 1897	7,491	"	1,865	1,864	..	1,864 1 3
Ohinewairua, Block XIII	876	4	55-6	10 Jan., 1901	2,734	"	481	481	..	481 0 0
Carried forward ..	396,629	..	..	..	389,760	..	102,620	79,223	5,643 12 6	84,867 9 8

* The figures give the totals to the nearest pound for the year ending 31st March, 1907.

STATEMENT showing the BLOCKS of LAND which have been proclaimed under "The Local Bodies' Loans Act, 1901," &c.
—continued.

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, 1907.	From April 1, 1907, to March 31, 1908.	Total to March 31, 1908.

WELLINGTON LAND DISTRICT—continued.										
Brought forward	Acres.				£		£	£	s. d.	£ s. d.
Ohinewairua-Pukeokahu	896,629	..	..	10 Jan., 1901	389,760	Road-works	102,620	79,223	5,643 12 6	84,867 9 8
Omahine, Block I	9,785	4	56	2 Feb., 1893	9,330	"	2,935	2,926	9 4 7	2,935 0 0
Onslow	455	8	152	28 April, 1892	341	"	114	114	..	114 0 0
Oraukura	2,405	34	640	21 Sept. 1899	1,327	"	601	600	..	600 0 0
Oroua-Coal Creek	4,456	78	1803	18 Feb., 1892	6,691	"	1,114	1,114	..	1,114 0 0
Palmerston North Knights of Labour	5,630	15	336	31 Mar., 1892	6,178	"	1,050	1,050	..	1,050 0 0
Pohangina	10,995	28	539	31 Mar., 1892	12,222	"	2,749	2,749	..	2,749 0 0
Pohouitane	4,722	28	539	31 Mar., 1892	4,250	"	1,181	1,181	..	1,181 0 0
Pukeokahu	27,754	19	340	16 Mar., 1893	26,476	"	6,959	6,958	..	6,958 6 0
Puketoi-Aohanga	11,379	87	1841	28 Nov., 1895	11,957	"	2,844	2,844	..	2,844 0 0
Raupiu	1,277	10	283	13 Feb., 1896	1,027	"	319	319	..	319 0 0
Retaruke	3,080	92	1938	19 Dec., 1895	2,457	"	385	385	..	385 0 0
Ruatiti	16,055	49	1736	6 June, 1907	20,386	"	4,014	..	257 16 5	257 16 5
Salisbury and Delaware	18,500	85	2649	11 Oct., 1906	13,875	"	4,625	..	649 16 8	649 16 8
Sommerville	13,392	28	539	31 Mar., 1892	14,257	"	3,348	3,348	..	3,348 0 0
South Kaitieke	8,566	28	539	31 Mar., 1892	9,085	"	2,142	2,142	..	2,142 0 0
Stirling	9,612	62	1738	6 Aug., 1903	5,357	"	2,403	..	164 8 5	164 8 5
Taihape Village Settlement	4,770	28	539	31 Mar., 1892	6,678	"	1,193	1,192	..	1,192 0 0
Taonui-Maraetaua-Pukewhaka	117	1	3, 4	7 Jan., 1904	278	"	117	117	..	117 0 0
Tapui Settlement	9,799	49	1186	25 May, 1905	8,893	"	2,450	..	332 18 3	332 18 3
Tararua	1,267	85	2486	27 Oct., 1904	1,724	"	474	..	474 0 0	474 0 0
Tauakira	3,993	15	560	14 Feb., 1907	4,592	"	998	998	..	998 0 0
Te Mara	20,736	17	677	21 Feb., 1907	16,551	"	2,592	2,592	..	2,592 0 0
Te Ngaue	3,549 of 18,700	56	1092	13 July, 1893	2,384	"	486	428	..	427 16 3
Te Ruanui	1,470	54	1106	16 July, 1896	1,286	"	367	367	..	367 0 0
Tiriraukawa-Hautapu	1,545	4	55	10 Jan., 1901	4,256	"	386	386	..	386 0 0
Tupapanui	5,622	4	56	10 Jan., 1901	5,250	"	1,686	1,686	..	1,686 0 0
Umutoi	2,614	65	2090	2 Aug., 1906	2,614	"	653	..	174 14 11	174 14 11
Upper Makohine	2,200	28	539	31 Mar., 1892	1,675	"	550	550	..	550 0 0
Waimarino	14,201	24	564	7 April, 1898	15,851	"	3,230	3,230	..	3,229 19 11
Waiwera	20,900	15	336	18 Feb., 1892	16,880	"	7,837	7,836	..	7,835 10 6
Wanganui	3,900	23	413	30 Mar., 1893	4,101	"	1,460	1,460	..	1,460 0 0
Wellington Fruit-growers' Association	6,222	19	340	16 Mar., 1893	6,046	"	1,556	1,556	..	1,556 0 0
Totals	2,608	72	1274	15 Sept., 1892	8,543	"	1,304	1,313	Cr. 9 0 0	1,304 0 0

NELSON LAND DISTRICT.										
Big Bush	14,309	73	2229	23 Aug., 1906	4,469	Road-works	715	..	580 6 0	580 6 0
Brewerton	3,757	107	2815	7 Dec., 1905	939	"	197	158	30 6 0	188 1 7
Brighton	1,507	86	2323	28 Sept., 1905	1,168	"	188	..	13 9 6	13 9 6
Dart	7,931	12	611-12	20 Feb., 1908	2,758	"	594	..	..	..
Glenroy	13,127	58	2010	4 July, 1907	4,489	"	984	..	5 8 8	5 8 8
Heaphy	13,030	109	2862	14 Dec., 1905	4,029	"	1,344	..	..	..
Hope	3,311	99	2638	16 Nov., 1905	828	"	248	122	..	121 11 6
Inangahua	3,184	90	2423	19 Oct., 1905	1,658	"	781	472	221 14 7	693 16 6
Inangahua Junction	4,220	1	5	9 Jan., 1908	2,303	"	1,055	..	..	..
Kongahu	15,794	90	2424	19 Oct., 1905	6,152	"	2,735	..	..	..
Lee River	2,516	84	2276	21 Sept., 1905	629	Roads and Bridges	314	..	..	..
Maruia	22,554	90	2422	19 Oct., 1905	7,652	Road-works	3,152	892	813 5 10	1,705 8 0
Maruia North	19,311	60	1946	19 July, 1906	6,220	"	3,110	12	1,806 14 10	1,818 13 10
Matiri	11,711	90	2423	19 Oct., 1905	4,420	"	1,547	506	579 10 2	1,085 14 0
Matiri East	9,361	3	80	13 Jan., 1906	2,819	(Roads and Bridges)	701	259	343 19 0	608 3 3
Maungatapu	2,632	17	649	1 Mar., 1906	1,135	"	197	..	168 12 4	168 12 4
Mid Maruia	21,750	47	1673	30 May, 1907	9,663	Road-works	2,175	..	12 11 2	12 11 2
Mokihinui	8,013	90	2425	19 Oct., 1905	2,951	"	1,133	..	70 12 9	70 12 9
Mount Arthur	4,350	90	2423	19 Oct., 1905	1,087	"	326	109	216 19 7	326 0 0
Mount Arthur No. 2	14,484	90	1523	11 Nov., 1892	4,345	"	1,086	..	199 8 11	199 8 11
Murchison Village Settlement	31	2	12, 13	10 Jan., 1907	249	"	62	..	..	..
Oparara	19,635	99	2638	16 Nov., 1905	7,076	"	2,699	..	..	..
Orikaka	20,052	95	2528	2 Nov., 1905	5,184	"	2,506	..	..	..
Otumahana	20,824	90	2424	19 Oct., 1905	6,069	"	2,603	..	..	..
Owen	5,233	95	2528	2 Nov., 1905	1,538	"	623	417	144 9 9	561 7 4
Owen East	7,707	109	2862	14 Dec., 1905	2,473	"	549	251	295 16 2	546 19 3
Rainy River	9,685	95	2528	2 Nov., 1905	2,700	"	726	12	528 13 11	540 15 11
Rappahannock	7,109	47	1674	30 May, 1907	2,658	"	711	..	..	..
Spooner Range	3,841	75	2257	30 Aug., 1906	1,106	"	96	..	53 10 7	53 10 7
Tadmor	2,109	14	592	22 Feb., 1906	537	"	116	108	7 10 5	116 0 0
Totaranui	7,546	99	2639	16 Nov., 1905	2,037	"	566	..	14 3 4	14 3 4
Totaranui No. 3	1,990	17	649	1 Mar., 1906	497	"	100	..	..	..
Wairoa Forks	7,978	104	3150	13 Dec., 1906	1,995	"	576	..	..	..
Wareatea	829	26	958	9 April, 1903	326	"	163	..	..	..
Warwick	5,821	112	2950	21 Dec., 1905	2,338	Roads and Bridges	582	..	..	..
Westport	2,276	47	1673	30 May, 1907	791	Road-works	332	229	92 3 2	320 15 2
Totals	319,518	..	..	..	107,288	..	35,592	3,547	6,149 6 8	9,696 9 7

* The figures give the totals to the nearest pound for the year ending 31st March, 1907.

STATEMENT showing the BLOCKS of LAND which have been proclaimed under "The Local Bodies' Loans Act, 1901," &c
—continued.

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, 1907.	From April 1, 1907, to March 31, 1908.	Total to March 31, 1908.

MARLBOROUGH LAND DISTRICT.										
	Acres.				£		£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bartlett's Creek	4,481	46	1357	11 June, 1903	1,617	Road-works	404	69	334 10 4	408 19 5
Hundalee	38,329	30	773	1 April, 1897	24,540	"	7,500	7,500	..	7,500 0 0
Kaitao	9,436	97	2081	18 Nov., 1897	5,676	"	2,500	2,000	499 17 5	2,499 17 5
Pine Valley	19,744	30	729	6 April, 1899	7,452	"	1,863	1,189	255 9 11	1,444 5 6
Puhipuhi	24,800	68	1477	10 Aug., 1899	16,675	"	4,169	4,169	..	4,169 0 0
Rimu Gully	1,456	91	2022	20 Dec., 1898	1,918	"	639	..	92 13 2	92 13 2
Stag and Spey	12,246	58	1991	4 July, 1907	11,148	"	2,787	2,787	..	2,787 0 0
Tinline	1,650	34	821	4 April, 1901	805	"	201	201	..	200 18 6
Waipapa	49,410	18	527	6 Mar., 1902	17,662	"	1,766	1,764	..	1,764 0 0
Totals	161,552	2	4	9 Jan., 1902	87,493	..	21,829	19,679	1,182 10 10	20,861 14 0

WESTLAND LAND DISTRICT.										
Mount Bonar	747	73	2226	23 Aug., 1906	250	Road-works	100	..	..	..
Waitaha	4,270	52	1160	23 May, 1901	5,862	"	1,341	1,342	..	1,341 10 6
Wataroa	2,847	89	3025	10 Oct., 1907	1,300	"	250	..	..	..
Totals	7,864	..	..	..	6,912	..	1,691	1,342	..	1,341 10 6

CANTERBURY LAND DISTRICT.										
Ruapuna	847	80	1640	8 Nov., 1894	1,270	Road-works	106	75	..	75 0 0
Waimate Reserve No. 1126 ..	634	72	1273	15 Sept., 1892	6,269	"	300	300	..	300 0 0
Waimate Reserve No. 1128 ..	516	72	1273	15 Sept., 1892	7,268	"	25	25	..	25 0 0
Waimate Reserve No. 1178 ..	157	72	1273	15 Sept., 1892	2,193	"	25	25	..	25 0 0
Totals	2,154	..	..	..	17,000	..	456	425	..	425 0 0

OTAGO LAND DISTRICT.										
Blackstone	22,535	10	233	7 Feb., 1895	24,748	Road-works	500	500	..	500 0 0
Catlin's (Blocks IV, V, VI, VII)	8,580	16	530	23 Feb., 1905	3,828	"	1,057	1,057	..	1,056 17 9
Catlin's, Block II	196	13	246	23 Feb., 1893	196	"	50	50	..	50 0 0
Gimmerburn	8,682	24	481	29 Mar., 1894	6,152	"	1,032	1,032	..	1,032 0 0
Glenomaru, Blocks III, IV, V, VII, IX, X	1,495	95	1606	8 Dec., 1892	946	"	237	237	Cr.58 0 0	179 0 0
Glenomaru, Block VI	25	62	1211	10 Aug., 1893	80	"	25	25	..	25 0 0
Lauder-Blackstone	3,809	24	481	29 Mar., 1894	3,608	"	476	476	..	476 0 0
Lauder-Tiger Hill	28,823	24	481	29 Mar., 1894	22,112	"	1,000	1,000	..	1,000 0 0
Lower Wanaka	3,368	34	714	10 May, 1894	1,250	"	101	101	..	101 0 0
Maniototo	277	24	481	29 Mar., 1894	245	"	104	100	..	100 0 0
Maniototo No. 2	6,916	10	233	7 Feb., 1895	5,911	"	907	600	..	600 0 0
Maniototo No. 3	6,295	12	284	14 Feb., 1895	6,001	"	300	300	..	300 0 0
Maruenua	49,116	15	336	18 Feb., 1892	72,246	"	7,000	7,000	..	7,000 0 0
Naseby, No. 2	2,444	10	234	7 Feb., 1895	2,038	"	313	313	..	313 0 0
Naseby, Maniototo, and Gimmerburn	5,277	79	1774	3 Nov., 1898	3,677	"	910	910	..	910 0 0
Rankleburn, Block VI	544	102	1744	29 Dec., 1892	194	"	136	136	..	136 0 0
Rimu	1,609	13	246	23 Feb., 1893	525	"	249	..	..	..
Swinburn	1,790	28	740	25 Mar., 1897	1,610	"	288	288	..	288 0 0
Tahaukupu	2,817	40	656	18 May, 1893	2,256	"	675	675	..	675 0 0
Tautuku, Block I	3,850	13	245	23 Feb., 1893	2,800	"	555	555	..	555 0 0
Tuapeka West, Blocks I, II, III, IV, VII, VIII	2,545	77	1346	6 Oct., 1892	1,681	"	367	367	..	367 0 0
Woodlands, Blocks II, V, VI, VII	13,400	102	1742	29 Dec., 1892	11,225	"	4,950	4,950	..	4,950 0 0
Woodlands, Blocks VII, X, XI	1,693	102	1745	29 Dec., 1892	1,384	"	307	307	..	307 0 0
Totals	176,086	13	246	23 Feb., 1893	174,713	..	21,589	20,979	Cr.58 0 0	20,920 17 9

SOUTHLAND LAND DISTRICT.										
Ackers	351	68	1327	7 Sept., 1893	702	Road-works	220	217	..	216 16 3
Alton No. 2	2,722	21	831	22 Mar., 1906	1,269	"	317	..	..	..
Hillend	856	112	2950	21 Dec., 1905	433	"	108	..	108 0 0	108 0 0
Hokonui	404	7	149	30 Jan., 1896	253	"	95	85	..	85 7 10
Hokonui No. 2	1,181	39	1021	27 April, 1905	714	"	152	152	..	151 17 2
Invercargill Hundred, Block XXIII	1,403	81	2182	7 Sept., 1905	1,840	"	400	400	..	400 0 0
Lillburn, Monowai, and Alton	30,745	72	1273	15 Sept., 1892	23,059	"	8,000	8,000	..	8,000 0 0
Longwood	2,830	16	529	23 Feb., 1905	1,322	"	380	..	64 18 2	64 18 2
Carried forward	40,492	..	..	..	29,592	..	9,622	8,854	172 18 2	9,026 19 5

* The figures give the totals to the nearest pound for the year ending 31st March, 1907.

STATEMENT showing the BLOCKS of LAND which have been proclaimed under "The Local Bodies' Loans Act, 1901," &c.
—continued.

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, 1907. *	From April 1, 1907, to March 31, 1908.	Total to March 31, 1908.
SOUTHLAND LAND DISTRICT—continued.										
Brought forward ..	Acres. 40,492	..	..	..	£ 29,592	..	£ 9,622	£ 8,854	£ s. d. 172 18 2	£ s. d. 9,026 19 5
Longwood, Blocks XVI and I ..	5,659	90	1529	11 Nov., 1892	2,830	Road-works	1,400	1,400	..	1,400 0 0
Lora	2,913	73	1884	3 Aug., 1905	1,330	"	332	..	267 8 4	267 8 4
Mabel	343	73	1883	3 Aug., 1905	231	"	58	58	..	58 0 0
Mokoreta	7,400	23	411	30 Mar., 1893	3,700	"	492	493	Cr290 13 9	201 19 5
Otapiri	616	73	1883	3 Aug., 1905	313	"	78	69	6 8 0	75 14 10
Oteramika	6,253	71	1377	21 Sept., 1893	2,006	"	625	266	..	265 16 1
Paterson, Block I ..	633	23	411	30 Mar., 1893	256	"	158	158	..	158 0 0
Waiau (Blocks XIII and XIV, Waiau Survey District)	5,472	83	2221	14 Sept., 1905	2,070	"	732	732	..	732 0 11
Waikawa	6,000	23	412	30 Mar., 1893	3,000	"	1,500	1,500	..	1,500 0 0
Waikawa No. 1	1,194	84	2260	21 Sept., 1905	663	"	331	107	17 1 2	124 1 6
Waikawa, Block II ..	307	90	1901	21 Oct., 1897	643	"	186	57	5 0 0	62 4 8
Waikawa-Otara	31,625	23	411	30 Mar., 1893	15,500	"	7,750	7,750	..	7,749 12 5
Waikawa-Otara Extension ..	1,647	67	1919	11 Aug., 1904	664	"	199	..	107 4 0	107 4 0
Winton	2,023	77	2019	24 Aug., 1905	1,515	"	379	379	..	379 0 0
Totals	112,577	..	..	..	64,313	..	23,842	21,823	285 5 11	22,108 1 7

SUMMARY.

Auckland Land District ..	965,344	..	..	..	553,185	..	176,071	121,951	12,794 7 7	134,547 14 11
Taranaki ..	539,197	..	..	..	359,343	..	127,596	118,598	6,126 14 0	123,725 19 8
Hawke's Bay ..	328,563	..	..	..	292,675	..	55,050	36,832	4,346 5 9	41,177 14 5
Wellington ..	650,205	..	..	..	642,578	..	166,692	128,664	7,697 11 9	136,361 17 0
Nelson ..	319,518	..	..	..	107,288	..	35,592	3,547	6,149 6 8	9,696 9 7
Marlborough ..	161,552	..	..	..	87,493	..	21,829	19,679	1,182 10 10	20,861 14 0
Westland ..	7,864	..	..	..	6,912	..	1,691	1,342	..	1,341 10 6
Canterbury ..	2,154	..	..	..	17,000	..	456	425	..	425 0 0
Otago ..	176,086	..	..	..	174,713	..	21,539	20,979	Cr. 58 0 0	20,920 17 9
Southland ..	112,577	..	..	..	64,313	..	23,842	21,823	285 5 11	22,108 1 7
Totals ..	3,263,060	..	..	..	2,305,500	..	630,358	473,840	38,524 2 6	511,166 19 5

* The figures give the totals to the nearest pound for the year ending 31st March, 1907.

Table 39.—SUMMARY of WORK DONE for other DEPARTMENTS and for LOCAL BODIES during the Year ended 31st March, 1908.

District in which Work was executed.	Cost.	District in which Work was executed.	Cost.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Auckland	2,934 12 8	Brought forward ..	15,786 16 1
Hawke's Bay	850 3 0	Westland	635 16 5
Taranaki	3,021 16 5	Canterbury	2,380 11 1
Wellington	6,811 9 5	Otago	467 2 10
Nelson	1,881 15 5	Southland	347 12 2
Marlborough	286 19 2		
Carried forward ..	15,786 16 1	Total	19,617 18 7

Table 40.—CROWN GRANTS, CERTIFICATES of TITLE, LEASES, and other INSTRUMENTS of TITLE from the CROWN prepared from 1st April, 1907, to 31st March, 1908.

District.	Number.					Cost.
	Singly.	In Duplicate.	In Triplicate.	In Quadruplicate	Total Copies.	
Auckland	199	172	380	348	3,075	£ 109 18 0
Hawke's Bay .. .. .	..	6	16	70	340	21 5 0
Taranaki	8	1	60	76	494	10 15 5
Wellington	2	29	438	77	1,682	168 4 0
Nelson .. .. .	..	60	72	78	648	48 12 0
Marlborough	1	9	21	40	242	15 15 6
Westland	20	19	13	69	373	75 1 0
Canterbury	4	70	24	24	312	23 8 0
Otago .. .. .	..	78	271	..	969	48 9 0
Southland	2	47	17	43	319	40 0 0
Totals	236	491	1,312	825	8,454	561 7 11

Table 41.—SUMMARY showing PAYMENTS to LOCAL BODIES during the Twelve Months ended 31st March, 1908, from "Thirds" of Deferred-payment, Perpetual-lease, Occupation-with-right-of-purchase, and Lease-in-perpetuity Lands, "Fourths" of Small Grazing-runs, and "Halves" of Timber and Flax Royalties.

District.	"Thirds," Deferred-payment, Perpetual-lease, Occupation-with- right-of-purchase, and Lease-in- perpetuity Lands.	"Fourths," Small Grazing-runs.	"Halves," Timber and Flax.	Total Payments.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland	6,921 16 5	88 6 11	8,699 5 4	15,709 8 8
Hawke's Bay	3,101 0 1	337 18 7	201 9 9	3,640 8 5
Taranaki	2,270 17 11	22 8 5	..	2,293 6 4
Wellington	9,253 13 9	43 4 7	..	9,296 18 4
Nelson	618 1 1	14 19 8	606 10 1	1,239 10 10
Marlborough	578 10 8	234 14 2	446 16 1	1,260 0 11
Westland	804 6 3	..	4,436 5 9	5,240 12 0
Canterbury	499 11 10	615 10 5	63 17 2	1,178 19 5
Otago	1,657 14 6	1,879 13 7	26 0 4	3,563 8 5
Southland	1,570 19 7	197 0 5	954 2 3	2,722 2 3
Totals	27,276 12 1	3,433 16 9	15,434 6 9	46,144 15 7

SOUTH ISLAND
(TE WAI-POUNAMU)
NEW ZEALAND

Showing Land Transactions, 1907-08.

Scale of English Miles

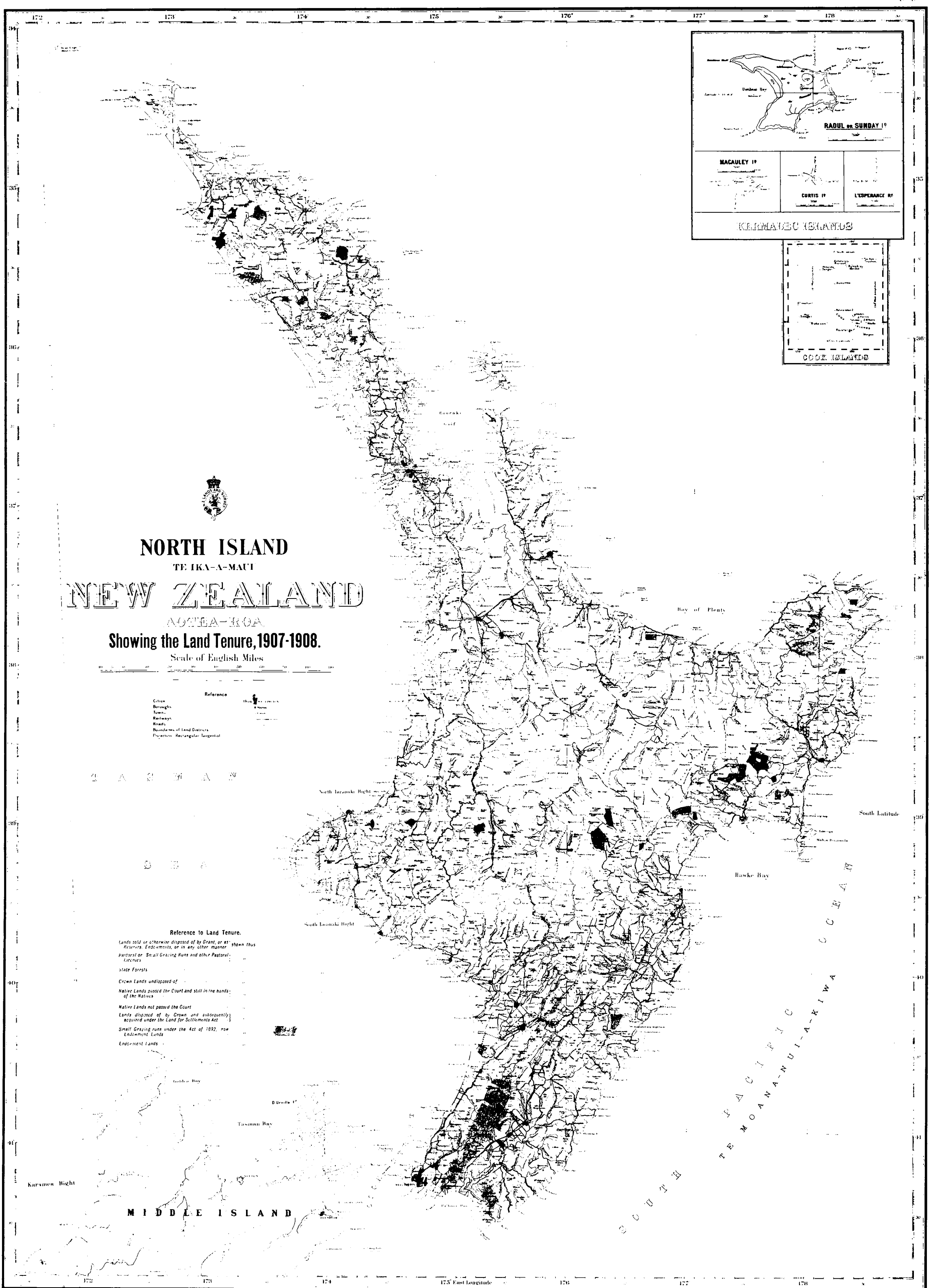
Reference
Lands taken up during the year
Lands available for settlement
Under Land for Settlements Act

ESTATES PURCHASED UNDER THE LAND FOR
SETTLEMENTS ACTS UP TO 31st MARCH 1908

INDEX TO SETTLEMENTS SOUTH ISLAND

No.	Settlement	Date	No.	Settlement	Date
1	1st	1st	101	101st	101st
2	2nd	2nd	102	102nd	102nd
3	3rd	3rd	103	103rd	103rd
4	4th	4th	104	104th	104th
5	5th	5th	105	105th	105th
6	6th	6th	106	106th	106th
7	7th	7th	107	107th	107th
8	8th	8th	108	108th	108th
9	9th	9th	109	109th	109th
10	10th	10th	110	110th	110th
11	11th	11th	111	111th	111th
12	12th	12th	112	112th	112th
13	13th	13th	113	113th	113th
14	14th	14th	114	114th	114th
15	15th	15th	115	115th	115th
16	16th	16th	116	116th	116th
17	17th	17th	117	117th	117th
18	18th	18th	118	118th	118th
19	19th	19th	119	119th	119th
20	20th	20th	120	120th	120th
21	21st	21st	121	121st	121st
22	22nd	22nd	122	122nd	122nd
23	23rd	23rd	123	123rd	123rd
24	24th	24th	124	124th	124th
25	25th	25th	125	125th	125th
26	26th	26th	126	126th	126th
27	27th	27th	127	127th	127th
28	28th	28th	128	128th	128th
29	29th	29th	129	129th	129th
30	30th	30th	130	130th	130th
31	31st	31st	131	131st	131st
32	32nd	32nd	132	132nd	132nd
33	33rd	33rd	133	133rd	133rd
34	34th	34th	134	134th	134th
35	35th	35th	135	135th	135th
36	36th	36th	136	136th	136th
37	37th	37th	137	137th	137th
38	38th	38th	138	138th	138th
39	39th	39th	139	139th	139th
40	40th	40th	140	140th	140th
41	41st	41st	141	141st	141st
42	42nd	42nd	142	142nd	142nd
43	43rd	43rd	143	143rd	143rd
44	44th	44th	144	144th	144th
45	45th	45th	145	145th	145th
46	46th	46th	146	146th	146th
47	47th	47th	147	147th	147th
48	48th	48th	148	148th	148th
49	49th	49th	149	149th	149th
50	50th	50th	150	150th	150th
51	51st	51st	151	151st	151st
52	52nd	52nd	152	152nd	152nd
53	53rd	53rd	153	153rd	153rd
54	54th	54th	154	154th	154th
55	55th	55th	155	155th	155th
56	56th	56th	156	156th	156th
57	57th	57th	157	157th	157th
58	58th	58th	158	158th	158th
59	59th	59th	159	159th	159th
60	60th	60th	160	160th	160th
61	61st	61st	161	161st	161st
62	62nd	62nd	162	162nd	162nd
63	63rd	63rd	163	163rd	163rd
64	64th	64th	164	164th	164th
65	65th	65th	165	165th	165th
66	66th	66th	166	166th	166th
67	67th	67th	167	167th	167th
68	68th	68th	168	168th	168th
69	69th	69th	169	169th	169th
70	70th	70th	170	170th	170th
71	71st	71st	171	171st	171st
72	72nd	72nd	172	172nd	172nd
73	73rd	73rd	173	173rd	173rd
74	74th	74th	174	174th	174th
75	75th	75th	175	175th	175th
76	76th	76th	176	176th	176th
77	77th	77th	177	177th	177th
78	78th	78th	178	178th	178th
79	79th	79th	179	179th	179th
80	80th	80th	180	180th	180th
81	81st	81st	181	181st	181st
82	82nd	82nd	182	182nd	182nd
83	83rd	83rd	183	183rd	183rd
84	84th	84th	184	184th	184th
85	85th	85th	185	185th	185th
86	86th	86th	186	186th	186th
87	87th	87th	187	187th	187th
88	88th	88th	188	188th	188th
89	89th	89th	189	189th	189th
90	90th	90th	190	190th	190th
91	91st	91st	191	191st	191st
92	92nd	92nd	192	192nd	192nd
93	93rd	93rd	193	193rd	193rd
94	94th	94th	194	194th	194th
95	95th	95th	195	195th	195th
96	96th	96th	196	196th	196th
97	97th	97th	197	197th	197th
98	98th	98th	198	198th	198th
99	99th	99th	199	199th	199th
100	100th	100th	200	200th	200th

The numbers in red correspond with those on the map



NORTH ISLAND

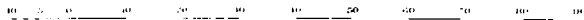
TE IKA-A-MAUI

NEW ZEALAND

AOTEA-ROA

Showing the Land Tenure, 1907-1908.

Scale of English Miles



- Reference
- Cities
 - Boroughs
 - Towns
 - Railways
 - Roads
 - Boundaries of Land Districts
 - Projection: Rectangular Tangential

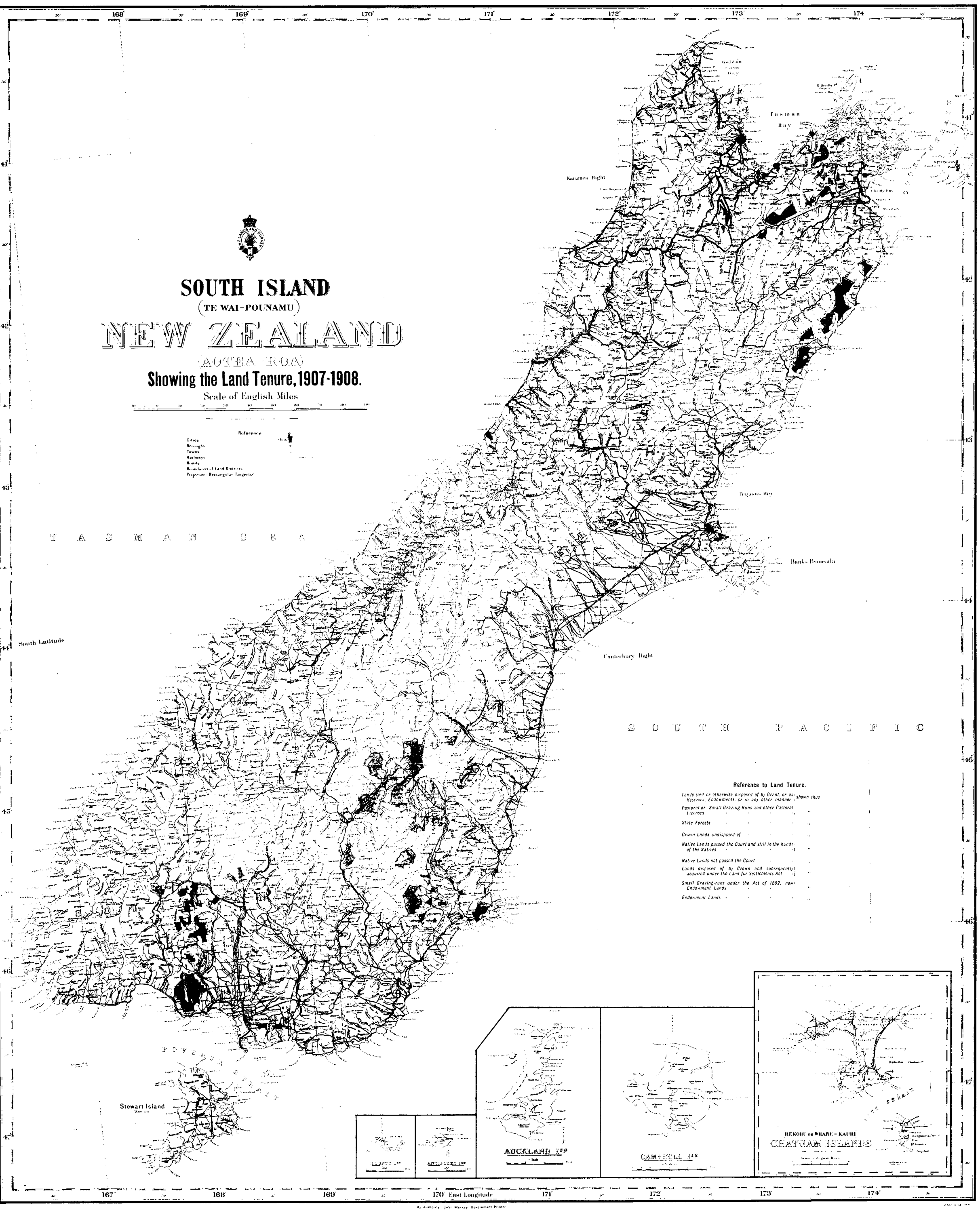
T A S M A N

D E A

Reference to Land Tenure.

- Lands sold or otherwise disposed of by Grant, or as Reserves, Endowments, or in any other manner
- Pastoral or Small Grazing Runs and other Pastoral Licences
- State Forests
- Crown Lands undisposed of
- Native Lands passed the Court and still in the hands of the Natives
- Native Lands not passed the Court
- Lands disposed of by Crown, and subsequently acquired under the Land for Settlements Act
- Small Grazing runs under the Act of 1892, now Endowment Lands
- Endowment Lands

MIDDLE ISLAND



SOUTH ISLAND
(TE WAI-POUNAMU)
NEW ZEALAND

(AOTEA ROA)
Showing the Land Tenure, 1907-1908.
Scale of English Miles

Reference
Cities
Boroughs
Towns
Railways
Roads
Boundaries of Land Districts
Projections: Rectangular, Tangential

T A S M A N B A Y

South Latitude

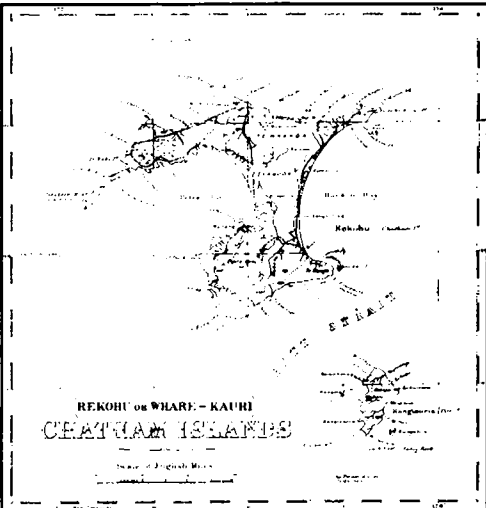
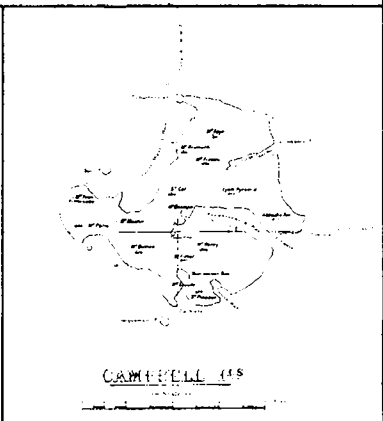
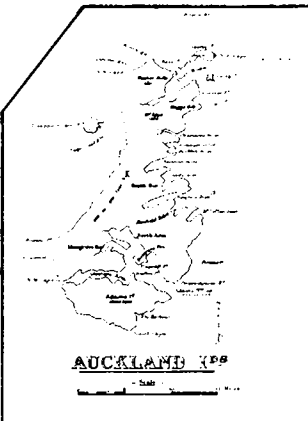
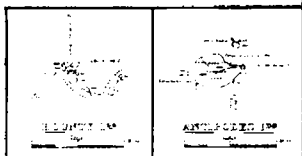
Canterbury Bight

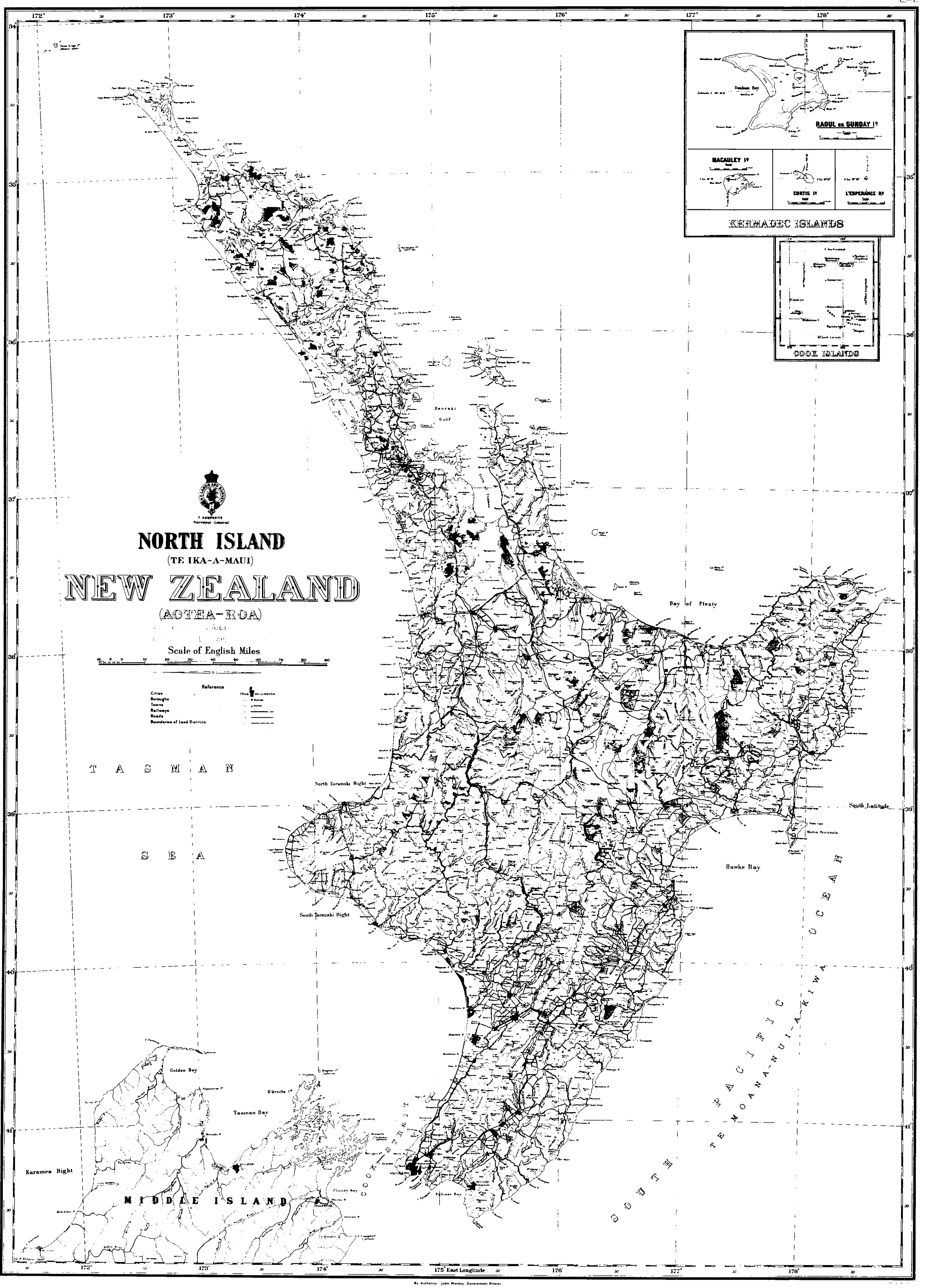
S O U T H P A C I F I C

Reference to Land Tenure.

- Lands sold or otherwise disposed of by Grant, or as Reserves, Endowments, or in any other manner
- Pastoral or Small Grazing Runs and other Pastoral Licenses
- State Forests
- Crown Lands undisposed of
- Native Lands passed the Court and still in the hands of the Natives
- Native Lands not passed the Court
- Lands disposed of by Crown and subsequently acquired under the Land for Settlements Act
- Small Grazing runs under the Act of 1892, now Endowment Lands
- Endowment Lands

Stewart Island

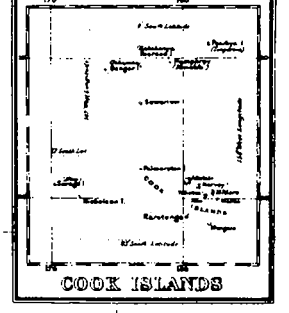
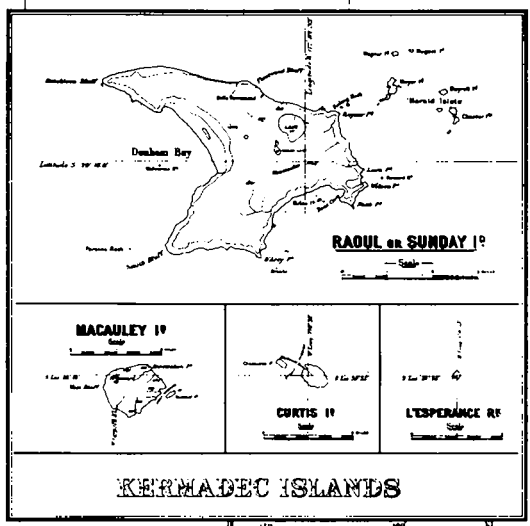


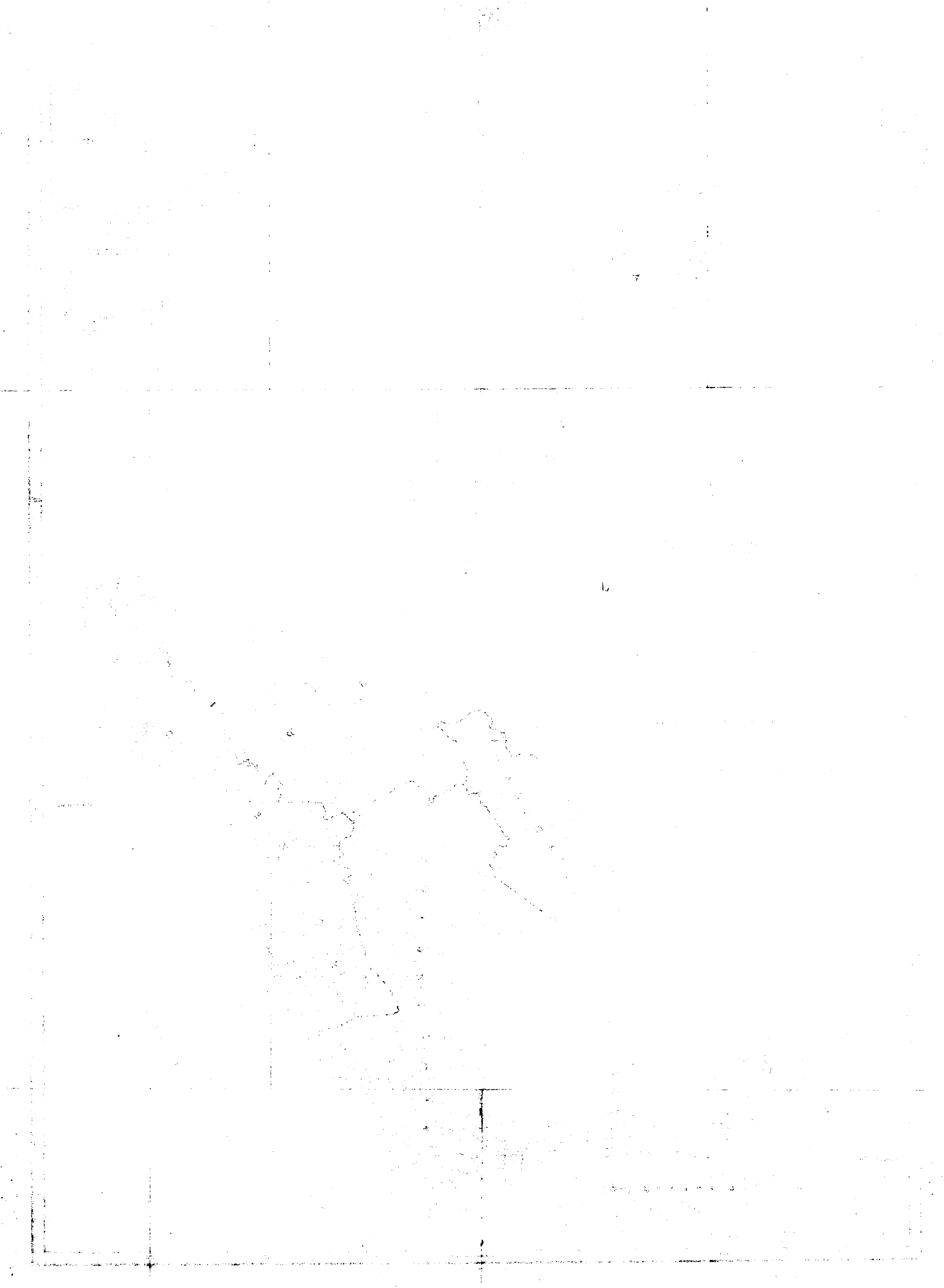


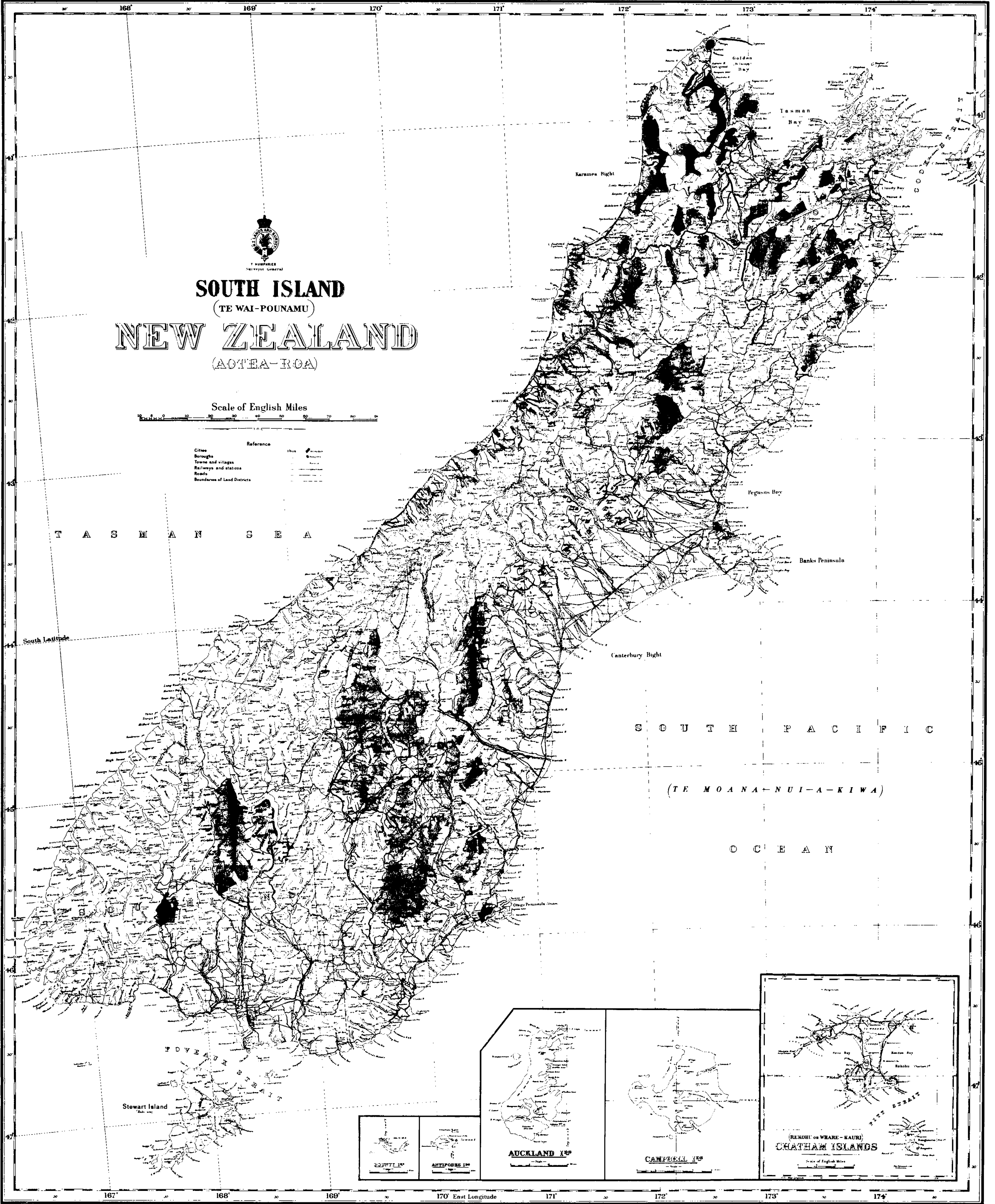
NORTH ISLAND
(TE IKA-A-MAUI)
NEW ZEALAND
(AOTEA-ROA)

Scale of English Miles

- Reference
- Cities
 - Towns
 - Railways
 - Roads
 - Boundaries of Land Districts



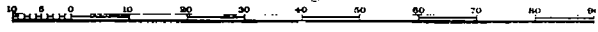




SOUTH ISLAND
(TE WAI-POUNAMU)

NEW ZEALAND
(AOTEA-ROA)

Scale of English Miles



- Reference
- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cities | Thick black dot |
| Boroughs | Thin black dot |
| Towns and villages | Small circle |
| Railways and stations | Line with cross-ticks |
| Roads | Thin solid line |
| Boundaries of Land Districts | Dashed line |

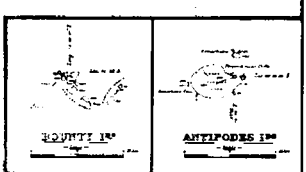
T A S M A N S E A

S O U T H P A C I F I C

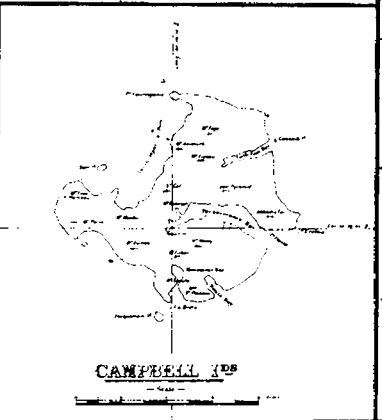
(TE MOANA-NUI-A-KIWA)

O C E A N

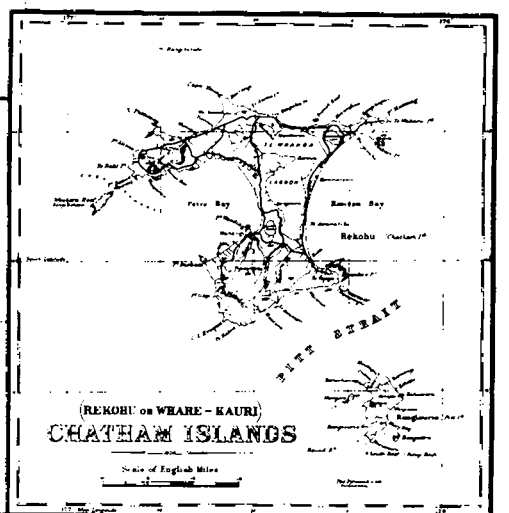
Stewart Island



AUCKLAND ISLANDS



CAMPBELL ISLANDS



(REKOHU or WEARE-KAURI)
CHATHAM ISLANDS

