

LAND-PURCHASE OFFICERS.

The only purchasing-officer employed continuously throughout the past year has been Mr. W. H. Grace. His work has been completed, and his services are therefore no longer required, and he severs his connection with the Department, after having rendered very valuable service in a whole-hearted manner, for which the Department renders its thanks. Mr. W. H. Grace has submitted his report, which is printed and attached.

STATEMENT OF MAORI LAND SETTLEMENT ACCOUNT.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance in account at 1st April, 1908	4,328	2 5	Salary	365	0 0
Proportion of survey liens repaid	67	7 9	Administration and other expenses	467	6 2
Proportion of purchase-money on account reserves made	1,789	14 5	Purchase-moneys	615	7 1
			Balance at 31st March, 1909	4,737	11 4
Totals	£6,185	4 7	Totals	£6,185	4 7

PURCHASES ON HAND AT THE 31ST MARCH, 1908, COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR.

			A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.
Auckland District,—								
Hurakia B, Section 1	125	1 30	
Kopuarahi No. 1A	545	1 32	
Makumaku No. 3A	37	3 24	
Maraeroa B 3A	947	2 37	
Maraeroa A 3A	3,282	3 17	
Marokopa No. 5A	178	0 28	
Puhanga te Uru 1b	201	0 0	
								5,318 2 8

Auckland District,— NEW PURCHASES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR.

Waitakaruru 5b No. 3 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1,270	0 0	
Total for Auckland District .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	6,588	2 8	
Hawke's Bay District,—								
Manawatu 2b South .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	347	1 0	
Total completed during the year .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	6,935	3 8	

PURCHASE-MONEYS PAID DURING THE YEAR.

	£	s. d.
To completion of purchases on hand, 1st April, 1908	565	19 7
On new purchases completed	3,430	0 0
On purchases incomplete at 31st March, 1909	686	17 5
Total purchase-moneys paid during the year	4,682	17 0

Purchase-money provided.

Out of Maori Land Settlement Account	615	7 1
„ vote, Lands and Survey, Miscellaneous	4,067	9 11
Total	4,682	17 0

PURCHASES ON HAND INCOMPLETED AT 31ST MARCH, 1909.

Auckland District.—Kopua 1s, Section 2b; Moerangi; Puhanga-te-uru 3b; Rangitoto A No. 3b; Rangitoto A 18a, Section 2; Rangitoto A 22; Rangitoto-Tuhua 77e; Taharoa A; Te Akau B and D; Waitakaruru 5c. About 30,000 acres will be completed out of above-mentioned blocks.

APPENDIX.

SIR,—

Department of Lands, Kihikihi, 6th May, 1909.

Re the purchase of Maori lands in my district, I have the honour to report as follows:—

Since my last report sent you and dated 30th May, 1908, I have to state that no further purchases have been made, owing to the vote set apart for the purpose having become exhausted; in consequence of which you advise me to close further operations, and to proceed in the Native Land Court for the cutting-out of all interests in the various blocks acquired by the Crown, with the object of having the same defined, and vested in the name of His Majesty the King. The above was done as set out in my report sent you on the 30th May last, from which it will be seen that at that date 164,403 acres were dealt with in the Native Land Court, and vested in the name of the Crown, there being only a few blocks not dealt with, the names of which I give as follows: Hurakia B; Maraeroa A No. 3; Maraeroa B No. 3; Rangitoto-Tuhua No. 77e; Marokopa No. 5; Taharoa A; Rangitoto A No. 22; Kopua No. 1s, Section 2b. The interests of the Crown in the first three blocks have since been dealt with by the Native Land Court, and vested in the name of His Majesty.