

PROMOTIONS.

Owing to the vacancies caused by the retirements mentioned both in last year's report and in the preceding paragraph, the following principal officers have been promoted: To the position of Surveyor-General (rendered vacant by the retirement of Mr. Thomas Humphries), Mr. John Strauchon, Mr. Eric Gold Smith being transferred from Canterbury to Auckland as Commissioner of Crown Lands and Chief Surveyor in Mr. Strauchon's stead. Owing to Mr. David Barron's retirement, Mr. E. H. Wilmot was transferred from Southland to Otago; Mr. F. W. Flanagan was transferred from Nelson to Canterbury; Mr. T. N. Brodrick was promoted from being Inspecting Surveyor and Land Officer at Gisborne to the position of Commissioner of Crown Lands and Chief Surveyor for the Hawke's Bay District; Mr. R. T. Sadd was promoted from being Chief Draughtsman and Surveyor, Nelson, to be Commissioner of Crown Lands and Chief Surveyor for that district; Mr. H. M. Skeet was promoted from the position of Chief Draughtsman and Surveyor, Westland, to Commissioner of Crown Lands and Chief Surveyor, Southland; whilst Mr. G. H. M. McClure, Chief Draughtsman and Surveyor, Christchurch, was promoted to the position of Commissioner of Crown Lands and Chief Surveyor, Westland, in place of Mr. G. J. Roberts.

EXPENDITURE OF THE DEPARTMENT.

The following is a summary of the expenditure of the Department for the year ended 31st March, 1910:—

Vote No.	Name of Vote or Account.	Amount voted (Net).	Expenditure (Gross).	Recoveries.	Expenditure (Net).
		£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
73	Lands and Survey	170,887	177,125 11 1	17,027 0 9	160,098 10 4
74	Lands and Survey, Miscellaneous	84,887	52,865 11 11	7,426 1 9	45,439 10 2
106	Immigration	10,000	30,702 19 3	13,700 10 5	17,002 8 10
113	Improved-farm Settlements ...	22,800	1,935 18 6	1,030 15 2	905 3 4
114	Lands, Miscellaneous	4,944	3,569 19 9	...	3,569 19 9
115	Irrigation and Water.. ...	5,000	224 14 6	1 1 4	223 13 2
116	Purchase of Native Lands ...	30,000	31,454 9 8	887 18 9	30,566 10 11
117	State Forests	23,335	22,266 17 7	79 17 1	22,187 0 6
119	Scenery Preservation... ..	10,425	5,828 17 1	53 3 7	5,775 13 6
	Totals	362,278	325,974 19 4	40,206 8 10	285,768 10 6
	Consolidated Fund, Unauthorised Account		6,527 5 0	6,157 5 0	370 0 0
	Special Acts Deposit Accounts, &c. ...		47,398 6 7	19 0 0	47,379 6 7
	Land for Settlements Account (including Votes Nos. 120 and 121)		514,046 2 0	...	514,046 2 0
	Cheviot Estate Account		8,951 9 8	...	8,951 9 8
	Maori Land Settlement Act Account (including Vote No. 122)		437 11 8	...	437 11 8
	Totals		577,360 14 11	6,176 5 0	571,184 9 11
	Grand totals		903,335 14 3	46,382 13 10	856,953 0 5

CONCLUSION.

Before bringing this report to a close, I would like to place on record my warm appreciation of the manner in which the several Commissioners of Crown Lands and Chief Surveyors, and the officers working under them, have carried out their duties. Again I can say that the discipline of the whole Department has been good, and that the survey staff, from the Surveyor-General downwards, have used their utmost efforts to assist the several Commissioners in opening the lands for selection. Most of our Crown lands in the North Island—and for the most part also in the South Island—are in broken forest country difficult of access, and where progress must necessarily be slow. Experience has also proved that to throw the land open for immediate application before survey only leads to endless trouble and irritation. In the Head Office I have been assisted by a willing staff, who, under the direction of the Chief Clerk, have carried out their duties in a manner worthy of all praise. Much of the time of Mr. R. A. Paterson, the Chief Accountant, has been occupied with the purchase of Maori lands, and his assistant, Mr. Sinel, has displayed a promptitude and an aptitude for work which is greatly to his credit.