

ANNUAL REPORT.

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

SIR,—

Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, 18th July, 1912.

I have the honour to submit herewith the annual report of the Department for the year ended 31st March, 1912.

I have, &c.,

JOHN STRAUCHON,

The Hon. the Minister of Lands.

Under-Secretary for Lands

REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND SURVEY, 1911-12.

IN submitting the report for the year ended 31st March, 1912, I have to state that, as my duties as Under-Secretary only commenced with the current financial year, the transactions recorded herein deal with the work and operations carried out under the direction and supervision of my predecessor, Mr. William C. Kensington.

CROWN LANDS OPENED FOR SELECTION.

The work of settlement of our Crown lands has been prosecuted with vigour, and shows satisfactory results. The area opened for selection during the year aggregated under all tenures 965,993 acres. Of this amount, an area of 143,045 acres was available for selection under the optional system, being 20,200 acres greater than in the previous year. Under the renewable-lease system the area advertised was 182,799 acres, an increase of 108,869 acres over that in the previous year.

The following table gives information regarding the area opened under each system and also for the several land districts:—

TABLE A.—LAND OPENED DURING THE YEAR 1911-12.

District.	Optional System.	Renewable Lease.			Cash by Auction.	Lease by Auction and Application.	Village Allotments.	Small Grazing-runs.		Pastoral Runs.		Improved Farm Settlements.	Total.
		Ordinary Crown Land.	National-endowment Land.	Land for Settlements.				Ordinary Crown Land.	National-endowment Land.	Ordinary Crown Land.	National-endowment Land.		
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Auckland ..	93,752	12,378	44,142	7,230	345	4,109*	12†	..	..	..	..	..	164,968
Hawke's Bay ..	2,073	..	..	2,576	4	104	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,757
Taranaki ..	7,402	..	7,243	..	371	302	..	..	..	..	..	..	15,318
Wellington ..	24,440	124	913	..	265	1	385	2,505	..	..	..	1,220	29,853
Nelson ..	139	7,198	2,368	..	6	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,719
Marlborough ..	2,885	203	14,279	15	15	1,419	..	13,210	..	296	..	..	32,322
Westland ..	..	603	4,529	..	27	..	..	..	..	279,942	47,710	..	332,811
Canterbury ..	..	..	..	66,152	21†	47	..	..	92,222	..	33,600	..	192,042
Otago ..	4,472	..	147	10,413	18	..	..	..	35,629	52,024	6,487	..	109,190
Southland ..	4,882	2,185	100	1	233	..	1	..	..	67,611	..	..	75,013
Totals ..	143,045	22,691	73,721	86,387	1,305	5,990	398	15,715	127,851	399,873	87,797	1,220	965,993

* Includes 191 acres land for settlements.

† Land for settlements.

‡ Includes 6 acres, Cheviot Estate.

LANDS SELECTED UNDER ALL TENURES.

The number of selections during the year was 2,459, and the area taken up 2,635,329 acres. Excluding pastoral-run holdings and miscellaneous leases (which concern lands leased for short periods) from the above figures, the lands taken up on settlement conditions amounted to 472,090 acres by 1,503 selectors.

The Crown tenants now on the books of the Department number 28,466, in possession of an area of 19,391,231 acres.

For the purposes of comparison I subjoin a statement showing the area of Crown land selected each year during the last five years under all tenures, the gross revenue received by the Department from all sources, the total number of selectors, and the net area of Crown land held at the close of each year:—