

*Miscellaneous.*—Twenty-four miscellaneous notices were also prepared on various subjects, as well as a large number of advertisements dealing with land and timber sales generally.

*Land-sale Monthly Poster.*—The usual poster giving summaries of land-sales for the ensuing month was prepared and published each month. Copies of this are posted up in the various Land Offices of the Department and other prominent places for the information of the public.

*Other Work.*—The staff has been kept fully occupied in attending to other important duties, which embrace the issue of Crown grants, Warrants for certificates of title, and miscellaneous leases and licenses. The necessary action has been taken to obtain loans under the New Zealand State-guaranteed Advances Act, 1909, for the roading and opening-up of Crown lands and national endowments preparatory to their being offered for sale or selection. Copious information has been afforded numerous inquirers regarding the available lands of the Dominion, letters being received from all parts of the Dominion and outside world. Bills and regulations have been prepared for Parliament and gazetting; reports have been furnished on numerous and diverse subjects; the constant details of departmental administration have been carefully and promptly attended to; Commissioners of Crown Lands, Chief Surveyors, and Land Boards have been advised regarding the meaning, interpretation, or procedure of the Land and other Acts dealt with by them; the fullest assistance has been afforded all local authorities and persons who require the help of, or information from, the Department; and every possible care has been taken that the administration of the Department has been in the best interests of the State and the great army of settlers who hold lands under the control of the ten Land Boards of the Dominion. This is largely insured by the adoption of modern methods when dealing with the correspondence, the avoidance of all possible delay, having all matters attended to by trained officers, and the most careful supervision to obviate friction, to prevent overlapping of duties, to increase the usefulness of the staff, and to see that a thorough and practical acquaintance of the many Acts and regulations governing the administration and disposal of lands and property of the Crown is, as far as practicable, possessed by all officers.

#### REPORT BY THE CHIEF ACCOUNTANT.

The Chief Accountant reports that during the year the work of his branch has considerably increased. The number of vouchers approved totalled 17,815, an increase of 1,000 over the previous year. During the year a considerable portion of his time has been occupied in and out of the office in negotiating with Native owners with regard to the purchase of Native lands under offer to the Crown, and in effecting payment for Native lands purchased.

Appended is a summary of the expenditure approved by the Department for the year ended the 31st March, 1912:—

Vote No.	Name of Vote or Account.	Amount voted (Net).	Expenditure (Gross).	Recoveries.	Expenditure (Net).
		£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
74	Lands and Survey ...	169,901	191,303 17 10	32,676 5 6	158,627 12 4
75	Lands and Survey, Miscellaneous	113,826	47,124 11 9	7,757 12 3	39,366 19 6
111	Immigration ...	20,000	39,644 7 5	27,963 14 0	11,680 13 5
118	Improved-farm Settlements ...	16,000	20,729 3 10	2,583 5 5	18,145 18 5
119	Lands, Miscellaneous ...	4,000	1,068 14 0	...	1,068 14 0
120	State Forests ...	23,632	22,855 10 9	44 17 1	22,810 13 8
122	Scenery-preservation ...	11,856	5,938 16 5	180 11 1	5,758 5 4
	Totals ...	359,215	328,665 2 0	71,206 5 4	257,458 16 8
	Consolidated Fund, Unauthorized Account		600 17 10	...	600 17 10
	Public Works Fund Unauthorized Account		1,665 9 0	4 10 0	1,660 19 0
	Special Acts Deposit Accounts, &c. ...		9,646 12 8	...	9,646 12 8
	Land for Settlements Account (including Vote 123)		16,060 19 9	124 19 3	15,936 0 6
	Cheviot Estate Account ...		38 17 6	...	38 17 6
	Hauraki Plains Settlement Account ...		37,423 1 2	431 1 1	36,992 0 1
	Rangitaiki Land Drainage Account ...		11,888 2 2	...	11,888 2 2
	National Endowment Account ...		23,660 0 8	...	23,660 0 8
	Native Land Settlement Account ...		85,221 18 7	10,300 16 5	74,921 2 2
	Totals ...		186,205 19 4	10,861 6 9	175,344 12 7
	Grand totals ...		514,871 1 4	82,067 12 1	432,803 9 3