

The selections made by discharged soldiers are also included in the figures quoted, but as these last-mentioned lands are dealt with in a separate report prepared and laid before Parliament in accordance with the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, 1915, there is no necessity to repeat the information in this report. The usual table giving separate figures under each tenure appears in the appendix as No. 3.

FREEHOLDS ACQUIRED.

During the year the following lands were purchased outright for cash :—

	Number.	Area, Acres.	Price £
Town lands	114	81	6,246
Suburban lands	21	100	3,518
Rural lands	178	5,233	11,699
Totals	313	5,414	21,463

The leaseholds and deferred-payment holdings converted to freeholds during the year covered an area of 179,034 acres, in 758 holdings, the total purchase price being £224,460.

The holdings converted to freehold under the Land Laws Amendment Acts of 1912, 1913, and 1914, and included in the gross total given before, comprised an area of 76,119 acres, in 401 holdings, the purchase price being £131,109. This now brings the total freeholds acquired under these enactments to 379,092 acres, in 1,947 holdings; purchase price, £648,281.

RECEIPTS.

During the year the revenue received was as under :—

	£
Auckland	237,301
Hawke's Bay	185,992
Taranaki	72,531
Wellington	171,604
Nelson	41,425
Marlborough	51,338
Westland	19,010
Canterbury	246,077
Otago	151,685
Southland	64,403
Total	£1,241,366

The following analysis shows the sources from which the revenue was derived :—

	£
Cash sales and purchase of freeholds	222,211
Deferred-payment instalments	63,537
Perpetual-lease rents	2,033
Occupation-with-right-of-purchase rents	116,161
Lease-in-perpetuity rents	216,514
Renewable-lease rents	184,377
Pastoral licenses in mining districts under special regulations: Rents	2,825
Small-grazing-run rents	87,735
Mining districts land-occupation leases: Rents	1,574
Pastoral-run rents	78,670
Educational and other endowments	131,235
Other leases and licenses and miscellaneous receipts	134,494
Total	£1,241,366

This total shows a diminution of £45,158 on the previous year's figures, which is more than accounted for by cash sales and purchase of freeholds having decreased. It must be borne in mind that the above amount does not include the statutory deductions, such as rebates of rent granted to tenants who pay their half-yearly rent within a month of its due date; reductions of rent consequent on revaluation, &c.; whilst lessened rent is now accruing in consequence of the former acquisition of the fee-simple of Crown leaseholds.

EXPENDITURE.

The statement of expenditure discloses that under the various appropriations £278,952 was voted, and that the net expenditure was £193,166, or £85,786 less than the estimated requirements.

Salaries and general departmental expenditure were £25,782 less than the appropriations. This reduction is due to the fact that a considerable portion of the staff is now serving with the Forces, and their places have either been filled with smaller-paid temporary men or cadets. In some cases positions have not been filled owing to reduction in survey operations through the war. The curtailment of surveys is reflected in the amount of wages, &c., paid to Survey labourers and in payment to contract surveyors, the amount being approximately £16,500 less than estimated.