

1917.
NEW ZEALAND.

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND SURVEY
(ANNUAL REPORT ON).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

CONTENTS.

GENERAL REPORT—	Page	APPENDIX I—continued.	Page
Conditions of Settlement	3	Nelson	14
Recent Legislation	3	Marlborough	14
Lands opened	4	Westland	15
Lands to be opened	4	Canterbury	15
Lands selected	4	Otago	16
Lands made Freehold	4	Southland	16
Receipts	5	APPENDIX II—	
Expenditure	5	Land for Settlements—	
Postponements of Rent	6	Statements showing Estates opened during	
Remissions of Rent	7	Year, and Position of all Settlements at 31st	
Revaluation of Crown Leaseholds	7	March, 1917	18-22
National Endowment	7	Extracts from Reports of Commissioners of	
Inspections by Crown Lands Rangers	7	Crown Lands—	
Inspection of Offices	7	Auckland	22
Sand-dune Reclamation	7	Hawke's Bay	22
Staff of the Department	7	Taranaki	23
Departmental Changes	8	Wellington	23
Expeditionary Force, Officers joining, &c.	9	Nelson	23
Reports on Cognate Subjects	9	Marlborough	23
Head Office	10	Westland	23
APPENDIX I—		Canterbury	23
Settlement of Crown Lands—		Otago	24
Auckland	11	Southland	24
Hawke's Bay	12	APPENDIX III—	
Taranaki	12	Land-drainage Operations	25
Wellington	13		

CONTENTS—*continued*.

TABLES—		Page	TABLES— <i>continued</i> .		Page
Table 1.—	Lands of the Dominion, Position of (approximately) ..	27	Table 19.—	Rebates of Rent granted during the Year ..	42
" 2.—	Lands opened for Sale and Selection during the Year..	28	" 20.—	Arrears of Rent ..	42
" 3.—	Lands taken up during the Year ..	29	" 21.—	Payments to Local Bodies from "Thirds," "Fourths," and "Halves" ..	43
" 4.—	Comparative Statement of Lands selected for Ten Years ..	30	" 22.—	Payments of Capital Value under Section 191 of the Land Act, 1908 ..	43
" 5.—	Lands sold for Cash during the Year ..	31	" 23.—	Forfeitures and Surrenders during the Year ..	44
" 6.—	Deferred-payment Lands (Land Acts, 1877 and 1885) ..	31	" 24.—	Selectors, Number of, Area held, and Area made Freehold ..	45
" 7.—	Deferred-payment Lands (Land Laws Amendment Acts, 1912 and 1913) ..	32	" 25.—	Return of Educational Endowments ..	46
" 8.—	Perpetual-lease Lands ..	33	" 26.—	Village Settlements ..	47
" 9.—	Occupation with right of purchase Lands ..	33	" 27.—	Special settlement Associations ..	47
" 10.—	Lease-in-perpetuity Lands..	34	" 28.—	Improved-farm Settlements ..	47
" 11.—	Renewable-lease Lands ..	35	" 29.—	Land for Settlements Acts, Land acquired and leased under ..	48
" 12.—	Agricultural-lease Lands ..	36	" 30.—	Transactions in Bush, Swamp, and Scrub Lands under Section 127 of the Land Act ..	49
" 13.—	Mining Districts Land Occupation Leases ..	36	" 31.—	Rangers' Inspections ..	49
" 14.—	Pastoral Licenses in Mining Districts ..	36	" 32.—	Advances obtained for the Purpose of roading Crown Lands, showing the Amount borrowed and the Amount repaid ..	49
" 15.—	Small Grazing-runs ..	37			
" 16.—	Pastoral Runs ..	38			
" 17.—	Miscellaneous Leases and Licenses..	39			
" 18.—	Gross Revenue received during the Year ..	40			

ANNUAL REPORT.

The UNDER-SECRETARY FOR LANDS to the Right Hon. the MINISTER OF LANDS.

SIR,—

Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, 1st June, 1917.

I have the honour to submit herewith the report on the operations of the Department of Lands and Survey for the year ended 31st March, 1917.

I have, &c.,

T. N. BRODRICK, Under-Secretary.

The Right Hon. W. F. Massey, P.C., Minister of Lands.

REPORT.

THE operations of the Department have been to a certain extent restricted by the unusual conditions produced by the existing war, but every endeavour has been made to meet the altered circumstances. Naturally, the settlement of returned soldiers on the land has been the chief object in view, and the separate report (C.-9) on the operations under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act indicates what has been and is being done to meet the requirements of the situation. The other work of the Department in connection with general settlement still continues, however, and is dealt with hereunder.

CONDITIONS OF SETTLEMENT.

Weather conditions over the whole of the Dominion have been somewhat exceptional, the summer especially being remarkable for its dryness, except in the northern portion of the North Island, where the rainfall was much above the average. On the whole, however, the conditions have been very favourable to the growth of grass, the moist spring producing a luxuriant growth which the succeeding dry season was not of sufficient duration to check. As a result those farmers who devoted their attention mainly to grazing, and were well established before the war, have had a very successful year, and the high prices ruling for stock have returned them very handsome profits. The demands for mutton and beef for export purposes and the prices offering have tended to induce graziers to dispose of their young stock more freely than usual, and a shortage of stock in the coming season is not improbable.

In the dairying districts the returns produced have been highly satisfactory. The lot of the agriculturist has not been very encouraging, as the dry summer was not conducive to heavy yields, especially of grain crops; on the lighter land these crops were far from good. The prospects of the root crops in their early stages were decidedly promising, but the development of the crops was somewhat marred by the dry summer, particularly on the lighter classes of land. The development of the fruitgrowing lands is progressing steadily. A fair area of new land has been broken in and planted, and a considerable number of new orchards have come into profit during the year. The yield of fruit was very satisfactory.

While the existing commercial conditions have been particularly favourable to improved lands, they have operated as a serious obstacle to the development of new lands. With the scarcity of labour and high prices demanded for material for fencing, &c., the cost of effecting improvements has so increased as to overburden those settlers who are endeavouring to bring new holdings to a state of profit. An appreciable reduction in the value of new improvements as compared with previous years is noticeable.

RECENT LEGISLATION.

During the session of 1916 legislation was passed affecting the operations of this Department, and the following is a summary of the principal provisions:—

Appropriation Act.—Section 29 appropriated £20,000 for the formation of roads for the purposes of the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act.

Discharged Soldiers Settlement Amendment Act amended the Act of 1915 by extending its provisions to residents of New Zealand who have served with other Expeditionary Forces in the present war. It also enables financial assistance to be given to any discharged soldier who already is, or may hereafter become, a holder of a lease of Crown land or any land administered by Land Board, whilst it authorizes the taking of freehold land under the Public Works Act for discharged soldiers settlement, and furthermore gives authority to raise a sum of £500,000 for the acquisition of land under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act. At the same time the sum of £50,000 previously authorized to be raised for general purposes was increased to £100,000.

Expiring Laws Continuance Act extended until the 31st August, 1917, the provisions of sections 42, 43, and 44 of the Land Laws Amendment Act, 1914, which authorized the exemption of lessees of Crown land, &c., from cropping and other conditions; enabled the postponement of rent to be extended to tenants of pastoral runs; and also to holders of small grazing-runs of settlement land.

Finance Act.—Section 50 authorized a loan of £50,000 for the purpose of afforestation. This supplements the revenues derived from the sale of timber in State forests.

Reserves and other Lands Disposal, &c., Act contained a number of provisions relating to specific lands, and also amended the provisions of the Wanganui River Trust Act, 1891, the Swamp Drainage Act, 1915, the Hauraki Plains Act, 1908, and other enactments that concern the operations of this Department.

War Legislation Act.—Part II extended the provisions of section 24 of the Land Laws Amendment Act, 1915 (relating to applications for land by agents on behalf of members of the Expeditionary Force), fixed the age-limit of applicants for settlement land who are or have been engaged on military service at a minimum of seventeen years instead of twenty-one, and also gave power to postpone the dates of payment of instalments of principal and interest by deferred-payment licensees of Crown land who are members of the Expeditionary Force.

LANDS OFFERED FOR SELECTION

During the year an area of 425,119 acres of land was offered for selection under the various tenures provided by the Land Act, Land for Settlements Act, and Education Reserves Acts. In addition the Crown also dealt with an area of 2,709 acres comprised in endowments other than education and national endowments, the administration of which is carried out by the Department acting under special statutory authority.

Under the optional system an area of 32,110 acres was advertised, and practically all selected.

Under renewable lease an area of 39,657 acres was offered, 9,374 acres being settlement land, of which the lessees have the right to acquire the freehold; 26,344 acres national endowment; 2,543 acres ordinary Crown land supposed to contain metals or minerals; and 1,396 acres of Cheviot Estate. Pastoral runs offered comprised 311,803 acres, and an area of 12,033 acres was offered as small grazing-runs.

In addition to the above, a total area of 276,290 acres of Crown, settlement, national-endowment, and Cheviot Estate lands, comprising 529 holdings, was set apart for selection by discharged soldiers under the ordinary tenures of the Land Act and the Land for Settlements Act, and the special tenures of the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act. Full particulars regarding these lands will be found in the report on the operation of the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, 1915.

LANDS TO BE OPENED.

It is estimated that a total area of 547,359 acres, comprising 1,796 holdings, will be available for selection during the coming year. The following table shows the distribution of this area :—

Land District.	Town.		Suburban.		Rural.		Total.	
	Number of Holdings.	Area.	Number of Holdings.	Area.	Number of Holdings.	Area.	Number of Holdings.	Area
		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.
Auckland	120	30	20	20	450	90,000	590	90,050
Hawke's Bay .. ..	..	..	..	..	123	73,963	123	73,963
Taranaki	12	13	29	43	72	29,942	113	29,998
Wellington	90	41	4	37	174	5,371	268	5,449
Marlborough	50	50	..	..	8	4,758	58	4,808
Nelson	160	40	..	..	106	71,151	266	71,191
Westland .. ..	..	..	..	..	80	12,567	80	12,567
Canterbury .. ..	..	..	7	7	72	192,600	79	192,607
Otago	45	12	10	6	82	52,200	137	52,218
Southland .. ..	..	..	6	8	76	14,500	82	14,508
Totals	477	186	76	121	1,243	547,052	1,796	547,359

Of this area all lands which are considered suitable for settlement by discharged soldiers will be set apart accordingly.

LANDS SELECTED.

The total selections during the year under all tenures covered a gross area of 1,010,152 acres by 2,059 selectors. These figures include, however, 135 purchases of small town and suburban sections aggregating 181 acres, offered for sale at auction.

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.

Under the heading "Lands and Survey, Miscellaneous," the net expenditure is shown as £23,400 less than estimated. To a large extent this is due to the fact that expenditure upon such works as improvements to recreation-grounds out of Government subsidies have been discouraged during the war, but the amounts hitherto voted will appear in the estimates and be held available until conditions become normal. Also, votes for roads provided for out of the Consolidated Fund have not been extensively drawn upon, the cause being attributed largely to the difficulty in obtaining adequate labour.

A new account recording expenditure under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act appears for the first time in this report. A complete system has been set up in connection with the transactions under this Act, which is more fully reported upon in parliamentary paper C.—9.

Taking the operations under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act into consideration, the gross expenditure passed for payment by the Department is £19,000 less than in the previous year, but it is anticipated that during the year operations under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act will show a substantial increase, incidentally increasing the gross financial transactions of the Department.

Rates are to be levied during the year on the Hauraki Plains settlers to provide money to carry out maintenance of the completed works hitherto provided out of Consolidated Fund, and the Rangitaiki land-drainage ratepayers will be requested to pay rates extending over a period of forty years to recoup the expenditure, together with interest and administration charges. Fresh valuations of the Hauraki Plains area and the Rangitaiki Land Drainage District have been provided by the Valuer-General.

Summary of Expenditure approved during the Year ended 31st March, 1917.

Vote No.	Name of Vote or Account.	Net Amount voted.	Gross Expenditure.	Recoveries.	Net Expenditure.
	<i>Consolidated Fund.</i>	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
69	Lands and Survey	160,050	176,422 16 5	44,187 13 2	132,235 3 3
70	Lands and Survey, Miscellaneous ..	53,942	32,935 12 4	2,394 3 10	30,541 8 6
118	State Forests Account	32,643	28,143 11 8	334 1 0	27,809 10 8
120	Scenery Preservation Account ..	10,826	1,554 19 3	..	1,554 19 3
121	Land for Settlement Expenses ..	6,491	3,865 18 11	109 19 3	3,755 19 8
	<i>Public Works Fund.</i>				
114	Improved Farm Settlements ..	6,000	546 6 10	3,553 8 9	Cr. 3,007 1 11
115	Lands, Miscellaneous	9,000	1,093 19 2	817 7 5	276 11 9
	Totals	278,952	244,563 4 7	51,396 13 5	193,166 11 2
	Permanent charges under special Acts (section 19, Appropriation Act, 1916—war bonus)		8,145 11 9	..	8,145 11 9
	Hauraki Plains Settlement Account (section 93, Reserves, &c., Act, 1916)		13,936 19 6	0 5 0	13,936 14 6
	Rangitaiki Land Drainage Account		19,245 0 0	1,037 0 6	18,207 19 6
	National Endowment Account		6,040 6 6	..	6,040 6 6
	Native Land Settlement Account		34,390 13 4	..	34,390 13 4
	Swamp Land Drainage Account (section 95, Reserve, &c., Act, 1916)—				
	Kaitaia	3,843 7 3			
	Poukawa	1,538 4 6			
	Waihi	1,182 14 7			
			6,564 6 4	..	6,564 6 4
	Discharged Soldiers Settlement Account ..		32,324 4 3	2,956 17 1	29,367 7 2
	Land for Settlements Account		12,121 11 0	..	12,121 11 0
	Special Acts (Deposits Accounts, refunds of revenue, &c.)		12,999 4 6	..	12,999 4 6
	Totals		145,767 17 2	3,994 2 7	141,773 14 7
	Grand totals		390,331 1 9	55,390 16 0	334,940 5 9

POSTPONEMENTS OF RENT.

The statutes under which postponements of rent may be granted to Crown tenants are the Land Laws Amendment Act, 1912 (section 13), Land Laws Amendment Act, 1914 (sections 43 and 44), Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, 1915 (section 7), and the War Legislation Amendment Act, 1916 (section 13). Under these enactments an amount of £21,151, comprising rent and other payments which fell due during the year, was postponed, the number of tenants affected being 398. At the 31st March, 1917, the amount still postponed was £25,478.

REMISSIONS OF RENT.

The rental remitted for the year amounted to £9,043, an amount of £757 being granted to ordinary tenants. The balance of the amount is made up of remissions granted to members of the Expeditionary Force and discharged soldiers, particulars of which are given in the Discharged Soldiers Settlement report.

REVALUATION OF CROWN LEASEHOLDS.

During the year forty properties were revalued under section 15 of the Land Laws Amendment Act, 1915. The capital values were reduced from £70,186 to £58,007, and the annual rentals from £3,229 to £2,667. At the close of the year there were still six applications lodged but not yet dealt with.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT.

The area of national-endowment land in the Dominion at the 31st March, 1917, was 8,769,055 acres. Of this area, 6,620,441 acres was held under lease or license, providing an annual rental of £113,031. The gross amount received from this endowment during the year was £120,319.

INSPECTIONS BY CROWN LANDS RANGERS.

The Crown Lands Rangers made inspections during the year of 6,379 holdings, aggregating 2,491,449 acres. Particulars as to the value of the improvements effected as against those required by law, also number of defaulters for deficient improvements, non-residence, &c., are given in Table 31 published in the appendix.

INSPECTION OF OFFICES.

Owing to the Inspector of Offices having joined the Expeditionary Force his inspections have consequently ceased. As, however, he had completed the inspection of every District Office of the Department prior to his going on leave, and had submitted full reports on their staffing, methods, and work, it was decided to let the matter of further inspections stand in abeyance until it could be seen whether it was necessary to continue the inspections in the immediate future. In the meantime every care is being taken to ensure that the work of each office is carried on under satisfactory conditions, and special inspections of any particular office can readily be made if required.

SAND-DUNE RECLAMATION.

The continuation of the war having made it necessary to limit expenditure on public works, funds were available only for maintenance-work in connection with sand-dune reclamation on the coast at the mouth of the Rangitikei River. Arrangements are being made to have the experimental work temporarily looked after by a resident in the neighbourhood.

No operations were carried out at the Waikato Heads.

At Sugarloaf Hill (near Cromwell, in Central Otago) the Vincent County Council, with departmental assistance and advice, planted with marram-grass a small area from which drifting sand was becoming a great nuisance to neighbouring settlers.

At the conclusion of the war it is hoped to be able to undertake sand-dune reclamation on a larger scale.

STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT.

The calls made upon the Public Service generally in connection with the present war have naturally been felt to a large extent by this Department. At the outbreak of war the staff of this Department totalled 572, comprising 506 permanent and 66 temporary officers. Since that date to the 31st March last 119 officers have joined the Expeditionary Force, 17 of whom have given up their lives in defence of the liberties of the Empire. Eight other officers died during that period, while 62 have retired from the Department and left the Service, and 17 have been transferred to other Departments. To cope with this serious abatement 68 new appointments have been made to the permanent staff, and 38 officers who were formerly on the temporary staff have been permanently appointed, whilst 62 temporary appointments have been made, and 9 officers have been transferred from other Departments; so that the staff at the end of the last financial year comprised 418 permanent officers and 74 temporary, or a total of 492, thus showing a diminution of 80 officers from the previous strength of the Department.

With a view to economizing as much as possible, and to enable the present staff to cope with the abnormal position occasioned by the war, the work of the Department, wherever possible, has been curtailed. Triangulation has been stopped, no inspections of surveys have been made that could temporarily be dispensed with, and the travelling of officers and the attendant expenses have been reduced to a minimum. In every office the substitution of new maps for old and dilapidated ones, the arrears of mapping, and preparation of plans dealing with compilation of surveys has also been postponed as much as possible. All work that is not deemed of first importance or immediately required for settlement or current operations has been allowed to stand over, leaving only the absolutely essential work to be carried out by the reduced staff till the end of the war, when better conditions will enable such work to be once more undertaken. The settlement of discharged soldiers on the land has added new work to the Department, and in every direction demands are constantly being made upon the services of the staff. The utmost willingness has been displayed by all officers to keep the work up to date and have it promptly

attended to, whilst, where necessary, officers have been permitted to take up duties outside the Department (such as on Military Service Boards, &c.) to deal with war work and new problems.

In every possible way the Department has co-operated with other branches of the Public Service in carrying out its respective duties satisfactorily notwithstanding a curtailment of staff, and I can conscientiously say that the officers of the Department are only too eager to respond to all necessary calls in a most loyal and efficient manner.

DEPARTMENTAL CHANGES.

The principal changes during the past year comprised :—

Death.

Mr. F. W. S. Bronte, who joined the Department as a draughtsman on the 16th May, 1898, and whose whole period of service was in the Head Office, died very suddenly on the 15th January last. His assiduity in attending to the duties entrusted to him and his obliging disposition gained him the confidence and respect of his superior officers and members of the Department, and universal sympathy was extended to his widow and family.

Retirements.

Mr. Charles R. Pollen, Commissioner of Crown Lands and Chief Surveyor at Christchurch, retired on the 30th June, 1916, after a period of continuous service of 45½ years, being the last remaining officer of the Department who was appointed under the Civil Service Act, 1866, prior to the abolition of provinces. Mr. Pollen, after long service in the Auckland Office, became Chief Draughtsman at Blenheim in 1899, after which he occupied similar positions in New Plymouth and Auckland. In 1910 he was promoted to be Commissioner of Crown Lands and Chief Surveyor at Napier, proceeding from there to Christchurch in 1912. In Mr. Pollen's retirement the Department loses the services of a loyal, hardworking, and conscientious officer.

Mr. W. Deverell, draughtsman, Invercargill, retired on superannuation on the 28th February, 1917. Mr. Deverell was a draughtsman of recognized ability. As well as performing the ordinary work of a draughtsman he was of assistance as a black-and-white artist in connection with the half-tone process and in illustrating Tourist Guides and other publications. His continuous service amounted to upwards of forty-one years.

Mr. John Hugh Boscawen retired on compensation on the 31st March, 1917. He joined the Railway Department originally in 1877, and was afterwards in the Land-tax Department. After a short break in service he was appointed to the Lands and Survey Department in 1879, in which he served continuously till his retirement through reaching the age-limit. He had acted as Chief Clerk in the Head Office and subsequently in the Auckland Office, but in 1911 he was appointed Inspector of Forests and Reserves, in which capacity he did much useful service. In addition to his departmental duties Mr. Boscawen was honorary Aide-de-camp to His Excellency the Governor for many years, and held the rank of Hon. Lieut.-Colonel in the Defence Forces.

Mr. Thomas G. Waitt, Receiver of Land Revenue, Wellington, retired voluntarily on the 31st March, 1917. His service extended to almost forty-five years, practically the whole of which was in the Lands and Survey Department, principally in the New Plymouth, Napier, and Wellington offices. His retirement on superannuation is a well-merited reward for many years of efficient service.

Mr. J. W. Shannon, Crown Lands Ranger, Auckland, found it necessary to relinquish work on account of ill health, and was retired on superannuation. Mr. Shannon has to his credit twelve years of useful and faithful service.

Promotions and Transfers.

Position to which appointed.	Officers promoted and Previous Position.	Date.
Commissioner of Crown Lands, Christchurch	W. H. Skinner, Commissioner of Crown Lands, Napier	3 April, 1916.
Commissioner of Crown Lands, Napier	W. F. Marsh, Commissioner of Crown Lands, Hokitika	8 May, „
Commissioner of Crown Lands, Hokitika	Thomas Brook, Land Officer, Gisborne ..	25 July, „
Land Officer, Gisborne	W. J. Wheeler, Inspector of Surveys, Auckland	25 „ „
Chief Clerk and Receiver of Land Revenue, Hokitika	F. A. Cullen, Receiver of Land Revenue, Auckland	10 Feb., 1917.
Senior Clerk, Auckland	William Robertson, Clerk, Head Office ..	13 „ „
Cashier, Auckland	H. R. Robinson, Accounts Clerk, Kauri-gum Superintendent's Office	1 „ „
Clerk, Head Office	F. T. Sandford, Chief Clerk and Receiver of Land Revenue, Hokitika	16 „ „
Land Drainage Engineer	J. H. Treseder, District Surveyor, Invercargill	1 July, 1916.
Crown Lands Ranger, Canterbury ..	C. F. Williams, Assistant Crown Lands Ranger, Canterbury	1 Sept., „
Crown Lands Ranger, Auckland ..	E. C. Clarke, Surveyor's Assistant, Auckland	11 Oct., „

EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

In addition to those officers mentioned in previous reports, the following have joined the Expeditionary Force:—

Surveyors.—O. N. Campbell (Thames), J. J. Carroll (cadet, Auckland), A. W. Craig (Auckland), P. C. Gannaway (Thames), H. E. Girdlestone (Head Office), R. G. Macmorran (Thames), P. V. Norman (Auckland), O. D. Pearce (cadet, Auckland), H. G. Shannon (Auckland), J. R. H. Thorp (cadet, Auckland).

Draughtsmen.—A. E. R. Bagnall (cadet, Auckland), C. H. Baigent (Nelson), P. G. Barton (Auckland), H. B. Black (Nelson), J. L. Climie (Wellington), H. R. Cochrane (cadet, Auckland), H. F. Edgecumbe (Land Transfer Draughtsman, Dunedin), J. Fitzsimmons (Hokitika), W. J. Gallen (Nelson), K. F. Haszard (Auckland), A. W. Knapp (cadet, Auckland), P. S. Lawson (New Plymouth), G. J. Logan (Blenheim), L. E. Martin (Napier), E. M. Morilleau (cadet, Auckland), W. A. Nicholson (Wellington), W. A. Nimon (cadet, Napier), E. C. O'Brien (Auckland), W. R. Palmer (Auckland), E. Pfankuch (New Plymouth), C. E. Pfeifer (Napier), R. A. Watkin (cadet, New Plymouth), N. W. Wilson (cadet, Hokitika), P. B. Wright (Auckland).

Clerks.—R. H. Bell (Nelson), J. A. Chesney (Hokitika), F. R. Jameson (Auckland), H. A. Joyce (Thames), B. King (cadet, Christchurch), J. P. Lane (Wellington), H. M. Lawrey (Auckland), A. D. McGavock (Chief Clerk, Invercargill), G. H. McKenzie (cadet, Auckland).

Forestry.—J. T. Kenny (Tapanui), R. MacRae (Whakarewarewa), P. M. Page (Whakarewarewa), J. J. Rogerson (Whakarewarewa), T. O. Screen (Tapanui).

Honours awarded.

It may be mentioned that 2nd Lieutenant S. T. Seddon (Nelson) has been awarded the Military Cross, and Corporal F. W. Watson (Auckland) gained the D.C.M. Both have since been promoted.

Casualties.

Died in Greytown Hospital.—Private J. C. Thomson (Invercargill).

Killed in Action.—2nd Lieutenant S. O. Esam (Auckland), 2nd Lieutenant F. W. Watson (Auckland), Lance-Sergeant R. C. Calman (Wellington), Sergeant W. M. Gray (Napier), Sergeant R. V. Parker (Dunedin).

Believed to be killed.—Private D. J. Lowry (Tapanui), Corporal W. H. Ellis (Auckland).

Died of Disease.—Gunner G. A. Harvey (Invercargill), Corporal T. H. Hudson (New Plymouth).

The deaths of these officers, who were assisting the Empire in the maintenance of its fight for freedom, are keenly felt by their fellow-officers and all those who were privileged to be associated with them, and the respectful sympathy of the Department is tendered to their relatives. Though comparatively young in service, they had all shown evidence of ability, integrity, and a desire to perform their duties in a conscientious and thorough manner, and the untimely ending of promising careers of such gallant young men is a distinct loss to the Department and the Public Service of the Dominion.

Wounded.—Corporal S. Parkinson (Nelson), Sergeant J. H. Robertson (Auckland), Private T. G. Phillips (Invercargill), 2nd Lieutenant M. H. B. Burrell (Auckland), Corporal R. W. Cooper (Head Office), Private J. M. Hemphill (Dunedin), Private H. K. Kenrick (Gisborne), Private J. Pegram (Napier), Corporal W. Paora (New Plymouth), Private T. R. Hancock (New Plymouth), Temp.-Corporal H. N. F. Burry (Head Office).

REPORTS ON COGNATE SUBJECTS.

As in former years, separate reports are required to be laid before Parliament in connection with many of the operations carried out by the Department. They comprise—

Surveys.—The report by the Surveyor-General on the work of the survey (or technical) branch of the Department is submitted in parliamentary paper C.—1A.

State Nurseries and Plantations.—Particulars of the tree-planting carried on in the Rotorua district in the North Island, and in the Otago, Southland, and Hanmer districts in the South Island, are fully detailed in parliamentary paper C.—3.

Swamp-drainage.—The report required by the Swamp Drainage Act, 1915, is contained in parliamentary paper C.—4.

Scenery-preservation.—A comparatively small area was reserved under the Scenery Preservation Act during the past year. Details and statement of accounts are included in parliamentary paper C.—6.

Advances for Roading of Crown Lands.—The necessary report submitted in accordance with section 63 of the Land Laws Amendment Act, 1913, appears in parliamentary paper C.—7.

Drainage Operations in Hauraki Plains.—A full report by the Chief Drainage Engineer on this subject is included in parliamentary paper C.—8. As usual, the works have progressed satisfactorily.

Discharged Soldiers Settlement.—The second annual report under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, 1915, is furnished by the Department in parliamentary paper C.—9.

Public Domains.—The usual statement regarding the condition of the domains in New Zealand is comprised in parliamentary paper C.—10.

Rangitaiki Land Drainage.—The annual report on the operations in the Rangitaiki Plains is given in parliamentary paper C.—11, which contains full particulars of the works in progress.

Aggregation of Land.—A report under section 65 of the Land Laws Amendment Act, 1913, appears in parliamentary paper C.—13.

HEAD OFFICE.

The work of the office has steadily increased, as will be seen by a comparison of figures.

Correspondence.—During the year 33,761 letters, telegrams, &c., were received, and 33,409 despatched, making a total of 67,170, as against 57,004 for the preceding year, and 35,403 ten years ago (1906–7). A new series of files opened in connection with the settlement of discharged soldiers, financial assistance, &c., contains upwards of 1,400.

Cemeteries.—At the beginning of the year there were 525 public cemeteries under the control of the Department. Five new ones were added during the year, and three were vested in local authorities. There were therefore 527 on the books of the Department at the close of the year.

Public Domains.—The public domains on the books of the Department now number 576. There were 567 at the commencement of the year. Ten new ones were made and two were amalgamated.

Land Guide.—Three issues of the Crown Lands Guide were published during the year, a total of 5,400 copies being printed for distribution.

Land-sale Posters.—119 sale posters were published during the year, totalling altogether 128,350 copies; and twelve editions of the monthly poster giving a summary of the lands advertised from time to time were issued. The total number of copies printed amounted to 33,500.

Summary showing the Number of Proclamations, Orders in Council, Warrants, and Notices prepared and issued during the Year ended 31st March, 1917.

	Proclama- tions.	Orders in Council.	Warrants and Notices.	Total.
Under the Land Act and the Land for Settlements Act	94	2	384	480
Under the Public Reserves and Domains Act ..	..	70	95	165
Under the Scenery Preservation Acts	9	2	12	23
Under the Native Land Act	9	6	..	15
Under the Education Reserves Acts and Public Bodies' Leases Act	..	..	20	20
Under the State Forests Act	3	1	..	4
Under the Reserves and other Lands Disposal and Public Bodies Empowering Acts	12	4	10	26
Under the Cemeteries Act .. ..	..	6	42	48
Under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, 1915 ..	85	..	33	118
Miscellaneous .. ..	..	5	37	42
Totals	212	96	633	941

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.—SETTLEMENT OF CROWN LANDS.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CROWN LANDS ON SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS DURING THE TWELVE MONTHS WHICH ENDED ON THE 31st MARCH, 1917.

AUCKLAND.

(H. M. SKEET, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

General Conditions affecting Settlement.—The past season throughout the Auckland District has been abnormally wet, severe floods being experienced on several occasions even in the middle of summer. The unusual rainfall produced an abundance of pasture, though not of the best quality, and the season has not been favourable to root crops or the laying-down of fresh pastures. Nevertheless the dairy industry, on which a large proportion of the farmers depend, has had a successful year, and exceedingly high prices have been realized for all classes of stock, especially dairy cows and heifers. Home separation is being practised to an increasing extent, and in some cases creameries have been abolished in favour of the system of treatment at central factories. Two new factories have been established south of Auckland for the manufacture of milk products, which are able to guarantee very high payment for butter-fat.

Owing to the nature of the season, as well as to the scarcity of labour and the high prices of grass-seed and fencing-material, the areas cleared and brought into pasture have been limited, and new improvements generally are restricted to absolute necessities. The departure of so many settlers to the war without having been able to make satisfactory arrangements for the working and stocking of their farms will involve serious depreciation of the condition of many country areas, where fern quickly takes control of grassed lands that are not systematically worked and fully stocked. An element of danger also lies in the excessive slaughtering of young stock, which should have been kept to replenish and strengthen herds. It is, however, satisfactory to note that more attention is being paid to the quality of the stock kept, especially in the case of milking-herds.

The position of the established landholder, whether of freehold or Crown leasehold, whose holding had already been sufficiently developed to be reproductive, has therefore been very profitable, but conditions have pressed hardly upon the new selector whose means would not permit of the development of his holding under present heavy costs, and the bringing-in of new country is therefore very largely at a standstill. The number of cases of default disclosed by the Ranger's reports, both in respect of residence and improvement conditions (the former in the case of new selections being also affected by the cost of material), has consequently been unusually large, but the Land Board recognizes that under the circumstances strict fulfilment of conditions can hardly be expected, and all cases are being dealt with accordingly.

Notwithstanding the difficulty of carrying out surveys of land for disposal, the area opened during the year (including 14,832 acres for discharged soldiers only) has totalled 53,306 acres, slightly in excess of the figures for the preceding year. Competition for the lands offered has, of course, been limited, but the total selections have been very satisfactory under the circumstances.

The prosperity of the fully developed Crown leaseholds is probably reflected by the fact that 332 lessees, holding a total area of 80,522 acres, acquired the freehold of their sections during the year, these being in excess of the totals for the previous year. In addition, forty-eight others, holding 9,187 acres, commenced the purchase of their sections by deferred payments, these latter figures being, however, considerably less than those of the preceding year. The gross revenue for the year, £237,301, is again a record for the district, and the number of Crown tenants of all classes at the end of the year was 7,917, occupying an area of 1,903,985 acres, the total annual instalments or rental payable being £112,624.

Education Endowments.—The total area of primary and secondary education endowments under the control of the Land Board is 126,358 acres, out of which 78,944 acres are occupied by 701 tenants, paying a rental of £6,222 per annum. Although reports obtained from time to time on these holdings show that in many cases they are being well farmed and improved, still there are a sufficient number of cases in which the land is not being used to the best advantage to make it a subject for consideration whether it would not be to the interests of the endowment, as well as advantageous to the development of the country, to impose compulsory improvement conditions.

HAWKE'S BAY.

(W. F. MARSH, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

The past season has been a particularly favourable one for all classes of the farming community, and the effect has been noticed by the ready compliance by Crown tenants with the conditions of their leases.

To those engaged in dairying the last mild winter, followed by abundance of rain in the spring, ensured such a growth of feed that stock never went back, and suppliers were able to take advantage to the utmost of the high price ruling for butter-fat, and also to considerably augment their profits by the sale, at very remunerative prices, of their young stock—rather an unusual experience with dairymen.

In the Gisborne portion of the district late rains unfortunately played havoc with much of the hay crop, but with the cattle in such good condition it is expected that what was saved will be sufficient for winter requirements.

Pastoralists and graziers have had little to complain at, their principal trouble being that the grass got away from the sheep, and it was almost impossible to acquire sufficient cattle to effectually clean up the ground. It is now well recognized in Hawke's Bay that the nibbling sheep must be accompanied by the grazing cow, and that much of the potential wealth of the land is wrapped up in the latter's ability to be constantly improving the sward.

The luxuriance of the last year has not altogether been to the liking of those immediately concerned in the fattening of stock, and in some parts of the district the rankness of the growth not only made it almost impossible to turn out stock—especially lambs—in tip-top freezing condition, but caused rather a heavy mortality among young sheep. However, these disadvantages have been more than counterbalanced by the phenomenal prices realized for products—prices which expert judges consider will be maintained with little variation for some time yet.

New freezing-works have been established at Wairoa. The necessity for one has been long felt in this district, and its completion has given great satisfaction to the farmers.

Education endowments do not form a very large portion of the lands administered by this office, and, as at present held, are not standing in the way of settlement. One case of proposed resumption is, however, now before the Minister.

A considerable diminution in the number of applications to transfer is noticeable in the records of the past year, due in a great measure to the shortage of transferees capable of making the necessary declarations. Of those approved, a fair proportion was by men who had volunteered for the front and were anxious to settle their personal affairs before leaving the Dominion, and every facility was afforded to such applicants. A greater number preferred to apply for exemption from personal residence while serving with the Forces, and sixty-eight permits so to do were granted to Crown tenants.

A satisfactory feature in the district is the steady subdivision that is going on of larger holdings, and although there is always some cry about aggregation it is more probable that segregation is taking place more rapidly.

TARANAKI.

(G. H. BULLARD, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

A retrospect of the past year indicates that, notwithstanding set-backs in some respects, the district as a whole is still prospering.

While on the one hand there has been a serious shortage of labour, arising mainly from the exodus of young men for military service, coupled with the abnormally increased cost of building and fencing-material, grass-seed, manures, &c., as a set-off, the farming community has benefited by unprecedented returns for most classes of stock and all primary products.

The abundant rainfall during the spring favoured the dairying industry, and, although the later dry summer months caused a considerable shrinkage, the total returns will be well ahead of previous years, notwithstanding the fact that many of the settlers, tempted by the high prices prevailing for dairy stock in the early part of the season, parted with their herds.

Towards the end of last autumn a considerable mortality was experienced amongst lambs in the northern part of the district, otherwise losses among stock generally were very light, and the winter was an exceptionally mild one.

The ruling prices for stock during the year have been as follows: Fat bullocks, £14 to £18; fat cows, £11 to £14; two-year steers, £10 to £13; one year to eighteen months steers, £5 to £10; dairy cows, £10 to £14; dairy heifers, £8 to £11; calves, £2 10s. to £6; fat sheep, £1 16s. to £2 for wethers, £1 5s. to £1 15s. for ewes; lambs, to £1 5s.; store wethers and ewes, £1 5s. to £1 15s.; breeding-ewes, £1 to £2 4s.; store lambs, 5s. to £1 3s.

Owing to the rather wet spring, cropping operations were generally a failure compared with the previous season. Root crops, with some exceptions, had a splendid start, and were doing well until the dry months of February and March gave them a severe set-back. Potato-blight was very prevalent amongst the earlier crops, and, although later plantings are comparatively free, the percentage of small tubers is high, and generally speaking the potato crops cannot be regarded as very successful this year.

In several localities there may occur some shortage in winter feed, as, owing to the exceptionally dry summer and a consequent scarcity of feed, stockowners have in many instances been obliged to make big inroads on their turnips and feed which had been provided for winter use.

Crown tenants generally are continuing to develop their holdings as well as present circumstances permit. The Crown Lands Rangers' reports go to show that on some of the rougher sections where the tenants are absent on service fern is encroaching on the grassed land.

The statutory reports received from the Crown Lands Rangers for the year show as follows: Value of improvements required, £96,231; value of improvements effected, £236,733.

Though in more recent years single men have been largely excluded from Crown-land ballots through the operations of the preference clauses of the Land Acts, over 150 of our tenants, mainly single men of military age, have voluntarily enlisted for service; and where circumstances warrant it every consideration has been shown these men by the Land Board in the abatement of residence and improvement conditions, also exemption from payment of rent whilst on active service.

Bushfelling has been practically at a standstill during the year both on Crown lands and lands held under freehold title. Private owners have paid up to £2 5s. per acre for felling. Such a heavy initial cost added to the high price for grass-seed, labour, fencing-wire, &c., renders bushfelling, especially in the case of poorer and rougher classes of bush land, almost prohibitive.

Revenue.—There has been a shrinkage of £2,572 in the revenue of the year compared with the previous year's figures, which is accounted for mainly by the falling-off in the number of conversions to fee-simple. On the other hand, the position of tenants with regard to rental arrears has improved, there being forty-six defaulters less, representing £585 less, than the figures at the 31st March, 1916.

West Coast Settlement Reserves.—During the past six months the Crown has acquired by purchase from the Native owners over 14,600 acres in the Opunake, Waimate, and Kaupokonui Survey Districts, known as the West Coast Settlement Reserves, most of which is already held by tenants under the provisions of the West Coast Settlement Reserves Acts. As the Native Land Amendment Act, 1913, confers on the tenants a right of acquisition of reversion from the Crown either in fee-simple or under renewable lease, it is anticipated that the majority of them will in the near future avail themselves of securing a title under either tenure direct from the Crown.

New Lands.—The proposals for dealing with new lands during the coming year include the offering, chiefly for discharged soldiers, of an area approximating 20,000 acres partly in the Waro Survey District and in other localities in the northern end of the district. In the south part of the district about 600 acres, recently acquired from the Native owners, will also be offered for selection in suitable areas.

WELLINGTON.

(G. H. M. McCURE, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

The year has been profitable for all classes of farm-produce, prices for butter-fat, wool, and stock still keeping up, though the exceptionally dry summer affected the dairying returns. White crops were good, but turnip and rape did not turn out well. On light lands pasture was badly burnt up, but on papa soils feed was not much affected. Settlers have learnt a lesson from this, and will in future pay more attention to conservation of water. The burns of felled bush were generally successful, and the grass-seed has taken well. The necessity for growing more wheat and oats has impressed itself on the farmers, and more attention will no doubt be given to this in view of the conditions prevailing in the United Kingdom. In newly settled districts the roads are gradually improving, lending themselves to the use of motor transport, enabling farmers to attend to their business with an economy in time. The shortage of labour caused by men serving with the Expeditionary Force, coupled with the high prices ruling for fencing and other materials, has retarded improvements on newly settled farms. It is estimated that 150 Crown tenants are serving the Empire in the Force, and the sons of many have given their services and lives in the great national struggle.

The area notified open for application was 57,684 acres, of which 49,198 acres were for selection by discharged soldiers. In addition an area of 19,387 acres was dealt with under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, and of these areas 34,937 acres remained open for application at the close of the year.

The Land Board held sixteen meetings, of which four were special meetings to deal with lands set apart for settlement by discharged soldiers. At the ordinary meetings 287 transfers were consented to, showing a falling-off of nine on last year's dealings.

The North Waimarino Improved Farm Settlement may now be regarded as part of the ordinary tenures, as most of the eighty holdings are well improved, and only nineteen settlers have not taken up their licenses, principally because sawmilling operations are not quite completed.

It is satisfactory to report that arrears of rent are gradually being reduced, and the amount owing is £1,014 less than it was last year.

During the year four leases of education-endowment lands expired, and the lessees were granted renewals, the aggregate rental being increased from £19 7s. 10d. to £75 18s. per annum.

Inspections made by the Rangers show that the conditions of occupation as to cultivation, noxious weeds, &c., are in the main being satisfactorily complied with.

NELSON.

(F. A. THOMPSON, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

Owing mainly to stress of the war, progress in the district during the year has not been very marked, with the exception of dairying and the fruit industry. Some ninety Crown tenants have joined the various Reinforcements, and in addition a more numerous body of their connections and assistants in the same branch of industry have likewise enlisted. Thus the great demands of active service abroad have of necessity restricted the operations of pioneer development such as bushfelling, grassing, fencing, and roadmaking. Full advantage could not therefore be taken of the exceptionally dry summer so favourable to bush-burning.

In the more settled and older established parts of the district, both in respect of leasehold and freehold land, stock-raising and grain-growing have been in good evidence, whilst the high prices realized and the increasing success of the various agricultural and pastoral shows testify to the flourishing conditions of farming operations. Dairying especially has advanced, all parts of the district considered, at an estimated rate of some 40 per cent. during the past year.

The timber industry, although still considerable, shows an appreciable falling-off, due undoubtedly in part to labour exigencies, but in greater degree more probably to the increased difficulty of working remote areas.

Very considerable development continues to be manifest in the fruit industry, both in the extent of new ground broken in and the improved appliances for assembly and despatch now being installed.

The necessity of reserving reasonable areas of land specially for discharged soldiers and Expeditionary Force men has to some considerable extent curtailed the areas available for general selectors, but on the whole the wants of the latter have been fairly well satisfied, though the difficulties of developing backblock land at the present juncture have indeed precluded the immediate offering of some good land which is bound to be keenly sought after at no distant date.

The Land Board held twelve regular meetings at the principal office, and paid a visit to the West Coast, holding special meetings at Westport and Reefton. Messrs. Walker and Bell, whose term as nominated members had expired, were reappointed. The Board has in all practicable cases endeavoured to extend very sympathetic treatment to soldiers on active service as well as to settlers seriously hampered by prevailing war circumstances affecting the initial stages of land-settlement.

Numerous reports by the Rangers show that the improvements in most cases are well above statutory requirements, and that the number of defaulters in this respect is not considerable.

MARLBOROUGH.

(H. D. McKELLAR, Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

The past year has been a more favourable one from a climatic point of view than the two preceding ones, consequently the farmers have benefited accordingly, and, generally speaking, have had a successful year, although the crops have not been so heavy as was expected, the average for the district being about 30 bushels wheat, 40 bushels oats, and 35 bushels barley per acre. The dairying industry is steadily increasing throughout the district, and for a farmer in a small way is one of the most remunerative. The lucerne and pea crops have been satisfactory. Stock have brought a good price, although the mortality among the sheep has been heavier than usual, the fly having been very troublesome.

Education Endowments.—The total area of education endowments administered by the Board is 1,381 acres, consisting of forty-three leases. No leases have expired during the year, but steps have been taken to revalue those expiring this and next year, when no doubt a considerable increase in rent will be received.

Land Board.—The Land Board held twelve ordinary meetings and two special meetings. Mr. Weld retired through effluxion of time, and Mr. J. Boyd, of Kaikoura, succeeded him. Mr. Fulton, the elective member, was again appointed, there being no other candidate.

Expeditionary Force.—Thirteen Crown tenants joined the Expeditionary Force, and in most instances partial remission of rent has been granted.

Lands to be opened.—There will be only a small area of about 5,100 acres in the Rai and Opouri Valleys likely to be available for selection, most of which is in State forest that has been milled out and from which the reservation requires to be uplifted.

Flax Industry.—There has been more activity in this industry owing to the high prices ruling.

Fruit Industry.—Further areas are being planted with fruit-trees, and I anticipate it being a profitable industry as the orchards become matured, the climatic conditions being favourable.

Sawmilling Industry.—This industry is diminishing as the timber becomes cut out, and it will be only a matter of a few years when it will be practically finished in this district. The Marlborough Timber Company is installing a box-mill, which will be the means of utilizing for fruit and butter boxes a good deal of the timber at present wasted.

Lime Industry.—There are two lime-works in the district, one at Flaxbourne and one at Kaikoura; but with the exception of supplying local requirements in a moderate degree they are unable to compete outside the district on account of the high freights. The quality of the lime is good.

WESTLAND.

(THOS. BROOK, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

Weather conditions during the past year have been exceptionally favourable to farming operations, and excellent results have been obtained in all parts of the district. Dairy-farming is making steady progress, the output increasing year by year as the holdings are being developed. The number of fat cattle disposed of in the Christchurch market far exceeds that of any previous year, and the prices realized—up to £26 10s. per head—prove that under present conditions they can be delivered in Christchurch in prime condition.

Two education reserves in South Westland, containing 843 acres, were leased by public auction, and another of 851 acres in the vicinity of the Wataroa Dairy Factory was subdivided into four sections and disposed of on renewable lease. As showing the keen demand that exists for land of good quality, it is worth noting that 204 persons applied for these four sections.

The Department of Agriculture has under consideration the establishment of an experimental farm in Westland, and farmers are taking a keen interest in the matter. Owners of suitable properties have been invited to place them under offer to the Government, but up to the present the selection of a site has not been made. Another project that is receiving considerable attention is the establishment of a plant for the production of agricultural lime in quantities sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the whole of Westland. A representative committee has the matter in hand, and the relative values of several deposits of limestone are now being investigated.

The sawmilling industry has been greatly hampered by a shortage of suitable labour and shipping. The output of sawn timber for the year is slightly over fifty million superficial feet, a very satisfactory result in the circumstances. Sawmillers have difficulty in obtaining white-pine in sufficient quantities to meet the keen demand that exists for it within the Dominion and for export to Australia.

One hundred and seven Crown tenants are known to be serving with the Expeditionary Force and there are doubtless many others of whom we have no knowledge.

CANTERBURY.

(W. H. SKINNER, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

Semi-pastoral and agricultural farms situate along the foothills and adjacent thereto had a good season. The rain did not fail them in the spring, as they benefited both from the north-west as well as from the south-west showers. The wheat, oats, and other crops were normal, and the turnips and rape were satisfactory. The rainfall was 39 in. along the belt from Oxford to Peel Forest, whilst on the lower plains only 24 in. fell during the year, mostly during the months of April, May, and July. During October, November, and December, when the crops required rain, there were only rare and light showers of little value; consequently all cereal crops were light. To make matters worse, an unexpected frost early in January caught the wheat on the lowlands between Ashburton and Ashley Rivers, reducing the value of this cereal to quite one-half of what otherwise it would have been. Large fields in the Ellesmere district, which previous to the frost had promised a return of 40 bushels and more to the acre, were so seriously affected that the owners of threshing-mills would not work on the usual basis of a sum per bushel, but insisted that if they threshed at all they should be paid by the hour; and the results did not exceed 12 bushels an acre. South of the Rangitata River the wheat was not frosted, and the yields of grain were good. The dry weather in the spring months was also responsible for a large area all over Canterbury of the light arable lands being devastated by the grass-grub *Mamestra composita*, those pastures consisting of rye-grass being the worse affected. Turnips were a failure except along the foothills, the diamond-back moth destroying where the turnips had grown, but in most places in the South the turnip-seed did not strike at all.

Pastoral Country.—The licenses of sixteen pastoral runs expired on the 28th February, 1917, comprising over half a million acres, which were dealt with as follows: Eleven were renewed at enhanced rentals to the old licensees, under the provisions of section 56 of the Land Laws Amendment Act, 1913, and two were subdivided into nine parts, seven of these being offered as small grazing-runs and renewable leases under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, 1915. Of the remaining runs one was a temporary license, and two have been subdivided into four holdings. The Land Board is now dealing with twelve pastoral runs, comprising 325,722 acres, the licenses expiring on the 28th February, 1918. These have been referred to the Classification Commissioners.

There has been ample feed during the season for all the flocks depastured on this back country. The losses during the winter were a little above the normal average. Lambing was satisfactory. The shortage of experienced musterers (nearly all the old hands have gone to the front) was sharply felt, and the mustering left a lot of sheep on the land and consequently unshorn. The shortage in quantity was more than compensated for by the exceptional high prices received for the wool, and the extra market prices secured for the culls of sheep flocks. Forward store cattle further increased the pastoral licensees' profits.

Education Endowments.—Forty-one leases, comprising 9,344 acres, which expired during the year were dealt with. Further leases, numbering forty-one, with an aggregate area of 13,360 acres, will expire in March, 1918. These will be dealt with during the coming year. Some trouble

has been experienced in getting the lessees to pay attention to the spreading of gorse from the hedges, there being a difficulty now in obtaining labour. The reserves containing agricultural land are being farmed in accordance with the conditions. The pastoral holdings are now very profitable to the lessees. The endowment will benefit to a considerable amount when the leases, soon about to expire, are relet.

Cheviot Estate.—The rainfall on the estate during the past year was 28·97 in., half of which fell in the months of March, May, and July. The growing months received a moderate fall until November and December, when a dry period was experienced. However, the wheat and oat crops on the agricultural lands turned out to be moderate, about 1,000 acres of wheat averaging 25 bushels per acre, oats 29 bushels (not all yet threshed owing to scarcity of mills), on, say, 400 acres which was threshed, and 750 acres that will produce $1\frac{1}{4}$ tons of chaff per acre.

There is a desire amongst farmers to put in as much wheat as possible, but owing to various causes a less area of wheat will be grown in the coming year. Owing to the ravages of the diamond moth, settlers have had to put in a quantity of green feed for wintering stock. Between sixty and seventy thousand fat sheep were sent to market last season, an average of one fat sheep per acre of the estate, in addition to numerous cattle sold. The population remains as in previous years, a lot of young men having enlisted. The improvements are well maintained and added to from time to time. Twenty-eight grazing-farm leases, aggregating 37,520 acres, were renewed to the original lessees, and three, representing 3,306 acres, are temporarily leased pending decision as to future disposal.

Land Board.—During the year there were twelve ordinary and one special meeting of the Land Board, at which 248 applications to transfer leases were dealt with; 221 were approved and 27 declined.

OTAGO.

(ROBERT T. SADD, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

The principal land-settlement during the year has taken place upon the subdivisions of pastoral runs.

The Puketoi Run was cut up into eight subdivisions, of which six consisted wholly of high summer country, and were disposed of readily to those holding sufficient low country to work in conjunction therewith.

The Galloway Runs were subdivided into five runs, which were all taken up, and an area of 900 acres at Little Valley was set apart under the provisions of the Water-supply Amendment Act, 1913, to be worked by the Alexandra Development Company. In addition an area of about 3,000 acres was kept out of the runs for close settlement and afforestation. The Hawkdun Runs were also subdivided into five runs, and four were selected by soldiers on active service. A mild winter and good spring promised better results in North and Central Otago, but later the weather was very dry and the crops were only moderate.

In Central Otago the best rainfall for eight or nine years has been experienced recently, and in consequence the prospects are good.

At Alexandra rabbit canning and freezing works have been established, and are making a great addition to the prosperity of the district.

The fruit yield in Central Otago both for stone and pip fruits has been excellent. In this district the growing of lucerne is now engaging much attention. The soil is well adapted to its growth where water for irrigation is available, and it will probably prove a more profitable crop than fruit.

Generally, in spite of the dry season, in North and Central Otago the settlers have, with a few exceptions, done fairly well, owing to the high prices realized for all farm-produce.

There is nothing particular to report with regard to education endowments. A number of leases have been renewed at an increased rental, and generally the position is satisfactory. There are a few areas of indifferent quality and some town sections of little value unlet.

As far as can be ascertained, nineteen Crown tenants in this district have joined the Expeditionary Force. These have all been granted exemption from rent during their absence.

SOUTHLAND.

(H. D. M. HASZARD, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

It is pleasing to be able to report that the district has again experienced a most successful year—probably a record one. December and January were two of the driest months experienced here for many seasons, but from February on the weather was most conducive to the growth of grass and turnips. The luxuriance of the pastures throughout the district at time of writing has been described as nothing short of remarkable. There is an abundance of grass, and some magnificent crops of turnips may be seen, so winter feed for Southland is more than assured.

Owing to the remarkable growth during the autumn—a season which has never been excelled in Southland—and the high price prevailing for “stores,” most of the lands are considerably understocked, and it is difficult to keep the grass down. On account of existing war conditions prices of all products have increased—fat bullocks readily bring up to £25, fat wethers £2, and fat lambs £1 10s.

The lambing is equal to last year, but it is considered that there are less ewes in the district. The wool-clip having been commandeered, the price has been fixed by the Government. The dairying industry in Southland is making rapid progress, and several new factories—both butter and cheese—have commenced operations. The price of cheese (also commandeered by the Government) shows a marked increase, and notwithstanding the tax on butter the dairy-farmers are doing remarkably well.

A report on the grain prospects cannot be so reassuring. Owing, probably, to the scarcity of labour, the quantity of grain grown is considerably less than in previous years. The crops are light and the grain not well filled. This followed as the result of the dry spell at the New Year, the ears ripening fully a month earlier than usual. It is anticipated that the crops will show a decrease of about 20 bushels per acre from those of the previous year.

The number of tenants on the books at the close of the financial year, principally through conversions to freehold, is nine less than the figures for the previous period, but the annual rentals payable show an increase of over £3,300. The gross revenue received, while a little short of last year's total, is much above the average, and exceeded the estimate.

The land opened for sale and selection during the year amounted to 42,800 acres, and is about double that for the preceding year; but this is accounted for by the fact that two pastoral runs were offered, so that the number of selections does not show a corresponding increase. As all lands suitable will probably be opened for discharged soldiers, there will be naturally less land placed on the market for the general public during the coming year.

To some extent the arrears of rent may be taken as an index of the prosperity of the tenants, and it is again satisfactory to note that the outstanding amount is comparatively a small one. A larger number of lessees and a greater amount of money, in comparison with last year, are shown in rebates for prompt payment of rent.

The desire to convert holdings into freeholds is still maintained, and the number of conversions during the year show a slight increase, but the amount received was considerably less than last year.

The work in connection with the administration of education endowments in this district is considerable, but all transactions are up to date. Over eighty expiries of leases were dealt with during the year, and the result is that the revenue payable shows a similar increase to that of last year—viz., nearly £600 per annum. The policy of the Land Board is to grant renewals where the lessee has no other land, or where the other land, together with the endowment, is just sufficient as a holding. In the other cases the leases are submitted at auction and the highest bidder is the purchaser. In some few cases the endowments have been dealt with under the provisions of the Land Act. This enables the Board to settle suitable and deserving applicants, but on the other hand the revenue may suffer through the leases not being auctioned. However, subdivision in many cases would be futile if such divisions were put to the hammer.

There are nearly eight hundred education-endowment tenants, and out of an annual rental payable of over £16,600 only £16 is shown as arrears on this return. This is sufficient indication of the class of tenant and of the prosperity enjoyed. Since 1911-12, during which time the administration has been in the hands of the Land Board, the annual rentals payable on these leases have increased by nearly £4,000.

The season generally has again been a most prosperous one, and last year's general remarks might be reiterated concerning the prosperity of the province and the conditions prevailing amongst the farming community.

APPENDIX II.—LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS.

The following tables show the land-for-settlement estates opened for selection during the year and the present position of all settlements disposed of :—

ESTATES OPENED FOR SELECTION DURING THE YEAR.

Land District.	Name of Estate.	Number of Holdings opened for Selection.	Area opened for Selection.
			Acres.
Auckland	Reynolds	25	1,486
	Pakarau	23	2,128
	Taniwha	10	613
	Tiraumea	21	10,138
Wellington	Greystoke	14	1,046
	Makowai	25	1,450
	Fairfield	8	1,020
Marlborough	Erina	12	6,968
	Seaforth	9	516
Canterbury	Lees Valley	8	26,196
	Clayton	5	11,603
	Cricklewood	8	1,915
Otago	Clifton	22	5,149
	Hilderthorpe	22	681
Southland	Lamont	5	745
Totals .. ..	.. ..	217	71,654

NOTE.—The whole of these settlements, with the exception of Hilderthorpe, eleven sections in Reynolds Settlement, and three sections in Taniwha Settlement, were proclaimed under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, 1915, for selection by discharged soldiers.

SUMMARY OF THE SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED UPON ESTATES ACQUIRED AND DEALT WITH UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACT UP TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1917.

Name of Estate.	Lease-holds.	Free-holds.	Principal Purpose for which Holdings are utilized.	Remarks as to Present Position.
<i>Auckland—</i>				
Balachraggan	24	2	Dairying	Good.
Bickerstaffe	46	1	Grazing	Good.
Cadman .. ..	..	..	Not offered.	
Carroll .. ..	..	1	Not offered.	
Clifford	8	..	Dairying	Fair.
Craddock	7	7	Homes and orchards	Good.
Ecclestone No. 2	4	1	Homes	Good.
Fencourt	33	11	Dairying	Very good.
Gorton	10	..	Dairying	Fair.
Hetana	36	53	Homes and orchards	Good.
Karapiro	16	2	Dairying	Good.
Kitchener	8	4	Homes	Good.
Lawry .. ..	..	..	Homes	Good.
Mangapouri	11	3	Dairying	Good.
Mangawhero	20	6	Dairying	Good.
Matamata	164	106	Dairying	Very good.
Methuen	11	19	Homes and orchards	Good.
Ohauti	12	..	Mixed farming	Fair.
Okauia	11	6	Dairying	Good.
Opouriao	77	30	Dairying	Very good.
Otway	15	2	Dairying	Good.
Pakarau	21	..	Dairying	New estate (discharged soldiers).
Parahi	9	..	Dairying and grazing	Good.
Plumer	6	15	Homes and orchards	Good.
Prescott	1	1	Grazing; lease only.	
Rangiatea	16	4	Dairying	Very good.
Rewi	9	1	Dairying	Good.
Reynolds	23	..	Dairying	New estate (part discharged soldiers).
Selwyn	108	55	Dairying and grazing	Good.
Taniwha	7	..	Dairying	New estate (part discharged soldiers).
Tautari	43	2	Dairying	Fair.
Teasdale	56	47	Business and residence sites	Good.
Waari	19	16	Homes and orchards	Good.
Waimana	23	12	Dairying	Good.
Waitakaruru	14	..	Dairying and grazing	Fair.
Whitehall	11	8	Dairying	Good.
Totals	879	415		

SUMMARY OF THE SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED UPON ESTATES ACQUIRED AND DEALT WITH UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACT UP TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1917—*continued*.

Name of Estate.	Leaseholds.	Freeholds.	Principal Purpose for which Holdings are utilized.	Remarks as to Present Position.
<i>Hawke's Bay—</i>				
Argyll ..	60	2	Agricultural and pastoral ..	Very good.
Clydebank ..	21	2	Pastoral ..	Very good.
Elsthorpe ..	47	5	Pastoral ..	Very good.
Forest Gate ..	23	6	Agricultural and pastoral ..	Good.
Gwavas ..	12	..	Agricultural and pastoral ..	Very promising.
Hatuma ..	72	7	Agricultural and pastoral ..	Very good.
Kanakanaia ..	7	..	Pastoral ..	Very good.
Kumeroa ..	14	2	Agricultural, pastoral, and dairying ..	Very good.
Lindsay ..	64	5	Agricultural, pastoral, and dairying ..	Good.
Mahora ..	31	2	Agricultural, fruit-culture, and dairying ..	Very good.
Mangatahi ..	23	..	Agricultural and pastoral ..	Very fair.
Mangatoro ..	23	3	Agricultural and pastoral ..	Good.
Ngatapa ..	29	3	Pastoral ..	Very good.
Otamauri ..	16	..	Pastoral ..	Good.
Pouparae ..	6	3	Agricultural and dairying ..	Very good.
Pouerere ..	6	..	Agricultural and pastoral ..	Very fair.
Raukati ..	30	2	Pastoral and dairying ..	Very fair.
Raureka ..	15	4	Dairying and fruit-culture ..	Very good.
Sherenden ..	21	..	Mostly pastoral ..	Good.
Springhill ..	17	..	Mostly pastoral ..	Very good.
Te Arai ..	52	7	Agricultural, pastoral, and dairying ..	Very good.
Te Mata ..	9	..	Fruit-culture ..	Good.
Tomoana ..	11	3	Fruit-culture and dairying ..	Very good.
Tongoio ..	12	..	Mostly pastoral ..	Very fair.
Waihau ..	22	..	Mostly pastoral ..	Very fair.
Waimarie ..	18	..	Agricultural and dairying ..	Very good.
Waipuka ..	1	..	Mostly pastoral ..	Good.
Wigan ..	13	5	Pastoral ..	Excellent.
Willows ..	22	..	Agricultural and dairying ..	Very good.
Totals ..	697	61		
<i>Taranaki—</i>				
Clandon ..	7	..	Dairying ..	Good.
Huinga ..	10	..	Dairying ..	Fair.
Spotswood ..	41	4	Homestead ..	Good.
Tariki ..	8	..	Dairying and grazing ..	Very good.
Tokaora ..	9	7	Dairying ..	Excellent.
Totals ..	75	11		
<i>Wellington—</i>				
Aorangi ..	31	6	Dairying and fruitgrowing ..	Excellent.
Bartholomew ..	6	..	Dairying ..	Good.
Carrington ..	34	1	Dairying ..	Fair.
Dyer ..	37	2	Grazing and cropping ..	Excellent.
Epuni Hamlet ..	36	6	Market-gardening, &c. ..	Very good.
Fairfield ..	1	..	Grazing and cropping ..	Satisfactory.
Falloon ..	6	..	Grazing and cropping ..	Very fair.
Greystoke ..	7	..	Dairying, cropping, &c. ..	Satisfactory.
Hall-Jones ..	5	..	Grazing, gardening, &c. ..	Satisfactory.
Hawtrey ..	35	5	Residential ..	Fair.
Heatherlea ..	26	1	Dairying, poultry, bees ..	Good.
Langdale ..	29	2	Grazing ..	Good.
Linton ..	5	..	Dairying and cropping ..	Good.
Longbush and Mahupuku ..	18	3	Grazing, dairying, &c. ..	Excellent.
Makowai ..	..	..	Dairying and cropping ..	Satisfactory.
Mangawhata ..	1	6	Grazing and dairying ..	Excellent.
Maungaraki ..	20	..	Grazing, pigs, and poultry ..	Good.
Normandale ..	30	2	Grazing, pigs, and poultry ..	Fair.
Ohakea ..	8	8	Dairying, cropping, &c. ..	Excellent.
Paparangi ..	31	3	Residential, pig-farming, &c. ..	Good.
Pitt ..	2	..		
Poroporo ..	16	1	Grazing, cropping, &c. ..	Fair.
Tablelands and Hikawera ..	17	..	Grazing ..	Very good.
Tawaha ..	24	1	Grazing and dairying ..	Good.
Te Matua ..	12	1	Dairying and grazing ..	Satisfactory.
Tiraumea ..	2	..	Dairying and grazing ..	Satisfactory.
Waddington ..	1	..	Let for grazing only.	
Wilford ..	7	3	Residential, gardening, &c. ..	Satisfactory.
Totals ..	447	51		
<i>Nelson—</i>				
Braeburn ..	22	1	Dairying and grazing ..	Good.
Lake ..	3	..	Dairying and grazing ..	Improving.
Wangapeka ..	14	3	Dairying and grazing ..	Very good.
Totals ..	39	4		

SUMMARY OF THE SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED UPON ESTATES ACQUIRED AND DEALT WITH UNDER THE
PROVISIONS OF THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACT UP TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1917—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	Lease-holds.	Free-holds.	Principal Purpose for which Holdings are utilized.	Remarks as to Present Position.
<i>Marlborough—</i>				
Blind River ..	18	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Fair.
Erina ..	4	2	Sheep-farming.	..
Flaxbourne ..	126	6	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Fair.
Hillersden ..	54	5	Sheep-farming ..	Satisfactory.
Hillersden Bush ..	3	..	Procuring fencing-timber.	..
Lynton Downs ..	11	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Doubtful.
North Bank ..	11	..	Sheep-farming ..	Satisfactory.
Omaka ..	13	..	Sheep-farming and light cropping ..	Sound.
Puhipuhi ..	2	..	Grazing ..	Satisfactory.
Rainford ..	11	..	Dairying ..	Good.
Richmond Brook ..	12	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Fair.
Starborough ..	185	4	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Fair.
Waipapa ..	4	..	Grazing ..	Fair.
Wither ..	15	2	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Satisfactory.
Totals ..	469	19		
<i>Westland—</i>				
Kokatahi ..	8	..	Dairying and grazing ..	Highly satisfactory.
Poerua ..	23	..	Dairying and grazing ..	Highly satisfactory.
Totals ..	31	..		
<i>Canterbury—</i>				
Albury ..	78	1	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Established and prosperous.
Allanholme ..	8	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Good.
Annan ..	42	2	Mixed farming and grazing ..	Established and prosperous.
Ashley Gorge ..	8	2	Dairy-farming and grazing ..	Well established.
Ashwick ..	8	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Good.
Avenel ..	17	..	Mixed farming ..	Very fair.
Avenel Extension ..	11	..	Mixed farming ..	Fair.
Aylesbury ..	6	..	Mixed farming ..	Fair.
Bourndale ..	7	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Very fair.
Braco ..	9	5	Market-gardening ..	Well established.
Buddo ..	13	..	Workers' dwellings ..	Fair.
Burke's Homestead ..	..	..	Homestead-site.	..
Chamberlain ..	21	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Established and prosperous.
Clandebye ..	10	..	Dairy-farming and grain-growing ..	Fair.
Clandebye No. 2 ..	6	..	Dairy-farming and grain-growing ..	Fair.
Claremont ..	11	..	Sheep and dairy farming and grain-growing ..	Fair.
Clayton ..	5	..	Sheep-grazing ..	Just selected.
Copland ..	2	..	Sheep and dairy farming and grain-growing ..	Good.
Cricklewood ..	2	..	Mixed farming ..	Just selected.
Culvorden ..	58	..	Mixed farming and grazing ..	Good.
Douglas ..	32	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Fair.
Drayton ..	20	..	Agricultural ..	Indifferent.
Eccleston ..	4	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Well established and prosperous.
Epworth ..	..	2	..	Now freehold.
Finlay Downs ..	5	..	Dairy-farming and grain-growing ..	Very good.
Four Peaks ..	8	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Good.
Fyvie ..	4	1	Mixed farming ..	Bad.
Glenmark ..	28	1	Mixed farming and grazing ..	Improving.
Glentanner ..	..	..	Homestead-sites.	..
Hekeao ..	13	3	Mixed farming ..	Well established and prosperous.
Highbank ..	74	6	Mixed farming ..	Well established and prosperous.
Hillboro ..	3	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Good.
Hornby ..	21	..	Agricultural and gardening ..	Fair.
Horsley Down ..	19	8	Mixed farming ..	Well established and prosperous.
Kaimahi ..	11	2	Workers' homes and gardening ..	Satisfactory.
Kapua ..	12	..	Small farming and dairying ..	Good.
Kaputohe ..	13	1	Workers' homes and gardening ..	Satisfactory.
Kereta ..	4	..	Dairying ..	Well established.
Kinloch ..	32	..	Dairy-farming and grazing ..	Very good.
Kohika ..	17	..	Mixed farming ..	Well established and prosperous.
Kohika No. 2 ..	4	..	Mixed farming ..	Very good.
Kowhatu ..	4	..	Mixed farming and grazing ..	Uncertain yet.
Ladbrook's ..	14	..	Dairying and mixed farming ..	Moderate.
Lansdown ..	10	1	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Good.
Lees Valley ..	7	..	Sheep-grazing ..	Just selected.
Lyndon ..	9	..	Mixed farming ..	Well established and prosperous.
Lyndon No. 2 ..	9	..	Mixed farming and grazing ..	Well established and prosperous.
Marawiti ..	13	..	Mixed farming and grazing ..	Well established and prosperous.
Maytown ..	11	..	Sheep-farming and dairying ..	Good.
Mead ..	22	..	Mixed farming and grazing ..	Well established and prosperous.
Meadows ..	14	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Very fair.
Mills ..	21	..	Small farming and dairying ..	Well established.
Morice ..	30	1	Dairy-farming and grass-seed growing ..	Satisfactory.
Mount Nessing ..	11	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Very good.
Omihi Valley ..	..	..	Stock-accommodation.	..
Orakipaea ..	27	..	Dairy-farming, grain-growing, and gardening	Well established.

SUMMARY OF THE SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED UPON ESTATES ACQUIRED AND DEALT WITH UNDER THE
PROVISIONS OF THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACT UP TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1917—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	Lease-holds.	Free-holds.	Principal Purpose for which Holdings are utilized.	Remarks as to Present Position.
<i>Canterbury—continued.</i>				
Otaio ..	9	..	Small farming and dairying ..	Well established.
Otarakaro ..	5	2	Market-gardening ..	Well established ; satisfactory
Papaka ..	9	..	Mixed farming ..	Well established and prosperous.
Pareora ..	28	..	Sheep-farming and dairying ..	Good.
Pareora No. 2 ..	30	3	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Well established and prosperous.
Patoa ..	2	2	Grazing and small farming ..	Satisfactory. was
Pawaho ..	18	7	Market-gardening ..	Satisfactory.
Peaks ..	10	2	Mixed farming ..	Satisfactory.
Puhuka ..	9	1	Workers' homes ..	Well established.
Punaroa ..	16	1	Dairy and sheep farming and grain-growing	Well established and prosperous.
Raincliff ..	1	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Well established.
Rakitairi ..	22	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Good.
Rapuawai ..	5	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Well established.
Rautawiri ..	6	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Well established. ;
Roimata ..	21	8	Workers' homes ..	Satisfactory.
Rosebrook ..	14	..	Small farming and dairying ..	Good.
Rosewill ..	155	6	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Well established and prosperous.
Ruapuna No. 2 ..	15	..	Mixed farming ..	Good.
Seargill ..	8	..	Mixed farming and grazing ..	Moderate.
Seaforth ..	..	..	Not yet selected.	
Sherwood Downs ..	26	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Very fair ; improving.
Stoke ..	7	..	Mixed farming ..	Good.
Strathmore ..	3	..	Mixed farming ..	Fair.
Studholme Junction	4	..	Small farming and dairying ..	Good.
Takitu ..	5	..	Sheep-farming ..	Well established and prosperous
Tamai ..	34	6	Workers' homes ..	Satisfactory
Tara ..	8	1	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Very good.
Tarawahi ..	22	7	Workers' homes ..	Satisfactory.
Teschemaker ..	12	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Very good.
Timaunga ..	17	..	Mixed farming ..	Fair ; improving.
Timaunga Extension	7	..	Mixed farming ..	Good.
Tripp ..	24	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Fair.
Valverde ..	11	..	Mixed farming ..	Indifferent.
Waiapi ..	13	2	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Good.
Waikakahi ..	195	1	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Well established and prosperous.
Waimate ..	34	..	Sheep-farming, grain and fruit growing	Good.
Wharenui ..	23	3	Workers' homes ..	Well established
Winchester ..	10	..	Sheep-farming, grain-growing, and dairying	Fair.
Homestead-sites ..	11	..		
Totals ..	1,697	88		
<i>Otago—</i>				
Airedale ..	12	..	Dairying and general farming ..	Fair.
Ardgowan ..	65	3	Dairying and general farming ..	Fair.
Aviemore ..	1	..	Grazing ..	Good.
Barnego ..	24	..	Dairying and general farming ..	Good.
Bellamy ..	15	..	Grazing ..	Fair.
Clareview ..	5	..	Dairying and general farming ..	Fair.
Clifton ..	2	..	General farming ..	No inspection made.
Conical Hills ..	46	1	Grazing and general farming ..	Fair.
Duncan ..	5	2	Dairying ..	Fair.
Earnsclough ..	15	..	Fruitgrowing ..	Very fair.
Elderslie ..	35	..	General farming ..	Good.
Elderslie No. 2 ..	16	..	General farming ..	Fair.
Galloway ..	5	..	Homestead-sites for pastoral runs	No inspection made.
Greenfield ..	42	2	Homestead-sites for pastoral runs	Good.
Hilderthorpe ..	10	..	General farming and workers' homes	Poor.
Janefield ..	20	1	Dairying, fruitgrowing, &c. ..	Good.
Kauroo Hill ..	42	3	General farming ..	Very fair.
Kurov ..	13	1	General farming and dairying ..	Good.
Maerowhenua ..	76	..	General farming ..	Good.
Makareao ..	33	..	General farming ..	Good.
Makareao Extension	3	..	General farming ..	Good.
Maraeweka ..	7	..	General farming ..	Fair.
Matakanui ..	3	..	General and grazing ..	Fair.
Meadowbank ..	11	..	General farming ..	Very fair.
Momona ..	12	2	Dairying ..	Good.
Otanomomo ..	25	1	Dairying ..	Good.
Otekaike ..	64	1	General and mixed farming ..	Fair.
Plunket ..	18	1	General and mixed farming ..	Fair.
Pomahaka Downs ..	27	1	General and mixed farming ..	Very fair.
Puketapu ..	11	..	Dairying ..	Good.
Rugged Ridges ..	1	..	Grazing ..	Good.
Steward ..	51	2	General and mixed farming ..	Fair.
Spottis Creek ..	1	..	Grazing ..	Fair.
St. Helens ..	3	..	General farming ..	Good.
Tahawai ..	7	1	Dairying ..	Good.
Taumata ..	9	..	Mixed farming ..	Good.
Te Aneraki ..	23	..	Dairying ..	Fair.
Te Puko ..	4	..	General farming ..	Very poor

SUMMARY OF THE SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED UPON ESTATES ACQUIRED AND DEALT WITH UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACT UP TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1917—continued.

Name of Estate.	Lease-holds.	Free-holds.	Principal Purpose for which Holdings are utilized.	Remarks as to Present Position.
<i>Otago—continued.</i>				
Tokarahi	79	..	General and mixed farming	Good.
Totara	26	..	General and mixed farming	Fair.
Waitahuna No. 1 ..	1	1	General and mixed farming	Very poor.
Waitahuna No. 2 ..	5	1	General and mixed farming	Very poor.
Windsor Park No. 1	37	1	General and mixed farming	Good.
Windsor Park No. 2	10	..	General and mixed farming	Good.
Totals	920	25		
<i>Southland—</i>				
Ardlussa	4	..	Pastoral	Poor.
Beaumont	10	2	Agricultural and pastoral	Fair.
Edendale	125	25	Agricultural, pastoral, and dairying ..	Excellent.
Ermodale	13	1	Pastoral and dairying	Good.
Fortification Hill ..	6	..	Pastoral	Good.
Glenham	42	4	Agricultural, pastoral, and dairying ..	Good.
Knowsley Park	9	..	Pastoral	Doubtful.
Lamont	4	..	Agricultural and dairying	Good.
Maori Hill	14	..	Dairying and pastoral	Good.
Merrivale	47	8	Agricultural, pastoral, and dairying ..	Very good.
Merrivale No. 1 ..	9	..	Agricultural, pastoral, and dairying ..	Fair.
Merrivale No. 2 ..	6	..	Agricultural, pastoral, and dairying ..	Fair.
Otahu	7	..	Agricultural and pastoral	Good.
Ringway	6	2	Agricultural and pastoral	Good.
Waiariki	6	..	Pastoral	Doubtful.
Totals	308	42		
Grand totals ..	5,562	716		

EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS OF CROWN LANDS.

AUCKLAND.

(H. M. SKEET, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

The total number of occupied settlements is now thirty-two, on which there are 879 tenants, occupying 157,119 acres and paying a rental of £27,162 per annum, in addition to which 415 tenants have acquired the freehold of 61,958 acres, at a purchase price of £109,710.

Three new settlements were opened during the year, namely: Reynolds Settlement, near Cambridge, containing 1,512 acres, of which part was offered for discharged soldiers only and part for ordinary ballot; Taniwha Settlement, of 615 acres, near Te Kauwhata, and Pakarau Settlement, of 2,755 acres, near Morrinsville. The two latter settlements, with the exception of two sections in Taniwha, were offered for discharged soldiers only. The greater part of these settlements are already being successfully occupied, and very good progress is being made by the settlers.

The Rangers' reports show that in the majority of cases the older settlements are in a prosperous condition, especially as dairying is the staple industry of most of the settlers. A few of the more recently established settlements which need development or improvement of pastures are being retarded by the high price of necessities, but there is every prospect of satisfactory progress being made as circumstances permit. The small settlements near Auckland are now very largely freehold, and further subdivision has been in progress, as they are favourably situated for workers' homes.

HAWKE'S BAY.

(W. F. MARSH, Commisisoner of Crown Lands.)

Land-for-settlement estates cause very little trouble indeed, those older ones that are still subject to inspection for improvements showing a marked surplus over requirements, the motorshed being much in evidence. The recent settlements of Gwavas and Otamauri bid fair to be as prosperous.

TARANAKI.

(G. H. BULLARD, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

The only acquisition by the Crown in this district during the year was the Tututawa Settlement, comprising 726 acres in three sections, situated about four miles from the Douglas Railway-station on the Stratford Branch line. As, however, the purchase was only completed on the 29th March last, the land will not be on the market until the 22nd May, 1917. It is to be made available for discharged soldiers only.

The old settlements, five in number, are all now well established and in a prosperous condition, the tenants' interests exceeding those of the Crown in most instances. Twenty-two of these holdings, aggregating 2,724 acres, are still under the lease-in-perpetuity tenure, and the tenants' rights to acquire the fee-simple thereto will expire in November, 1918.

WELLINGTON.

(G. H. M. McCURE, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

On lands which were purchased during previous years two allotments, in Tablelands and Hikawera, 1,231 acres, were disposed of under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, 1915, as were also five sections in Longbush and Mahupuku, 2,317 acres; one section in Normandale, 857 acres; and three allotments in Hall-Jones, 7 acres. An area of 29 acres 3 roods 17 perches in Bartholomew was taken over by the Agricultural Department for use temporarily as an adjunct to the Weraroa State Farm.

The new settlements disposed of during the year were as under: Greystoke, fourteen sections, 1,046 acres; Fairfield, eight sections, 1,020 acres; Makowai, twenty-five sections, 1,450 acres; Tiraumea, twenty-one sections, 10,138 acres. Of these areas, fifty-two sections have been allotted to discharged soldiers, those in Greystoke and Makowai being used as dairy farms; Fairfield, mixed farming and agriculture; and Tiraumea, for sheep and cattle farms. The prospects of all these settlers may be considered as satisfactory.

NELSON.

(F. A. THOMPSON, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

Only three estates have been purchased in this district—namely, Braeburn, Lake, and Wangapeka. In all three settlements the principal sources of income of the settlers are dairying and grazing.

In the Braeburn and Wangapeka Settlements very satisfactory progress has been made during the year, and large areas of bush have been cleared and brought into profit. Some of the settlers are supplying milk to factories, and these are well satisfied with their prospects. Generally speaking, the settlers are in a very prosperous condition.

In the Lake Settlement there are three selectors, one of whom is on active service. Two selections were made during the year, and it is likely that, taking into consideration the access to, locality, and quality of the land, the remaining sections will be readily disposed of. It is considered that in a few years this settlement will compare favourably with the others in this district.

MARLBOROUGH.

(H. D. McKELLAR, Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

There are fourteen settlements in the district, comprising 214,903 acres, held by 469 lessees. No new settlements have been acquired during the year. The settlers on the more recently acquired ones, excepting Lynton Downs and a few isolated cases on the others, are satisfied with their holdings. The crops having been good and the stock fetching high prices, most of the settlers should have had a fairly good year.

WESTLAND.

(THOMAS BROOK, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

The two settlements in this district (Kokatahi and Poerua) have been in the occupation of settlers for many years, and the conditions of residence and improvements are being fully complied with. The settlers are engaged almost wholly in dairy-farming, and their holdings being well developed they were in the fortunate position of being able to take full advantage of the favourable season and the high prices realized for produce.

CANTERBURY.

(W. H. SKINNER, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

Of the forty-six estates purchased and disposed of in North and Mid Canterbury, nineteen are well established, ten are progressing, eleven comprise suburban workers' homes and market-garden areas and are in a satisfactory position, and six are not yet considered as satisfactory. Most of the last-mentioned settlements are lately settled and have not yet recovered from the recent

adverse seasons. The high cost of fencing and building material and other calls upon the settlers' resources have retarded complete compliance with the improvement conditions. The dry spring and late frosts affected the cereal crops except on those settlements especially favoured by position, and the diamond-back moth again made ravages with the turnip crops. The rape was only a partial success, but showers in January and February improved it so that a good percentage of lambs was made fit for market. The enhanced values for wool and stock more than balanced losses sustained in cropping. Oats, Emerald rye, &c., as winter and early spring feed, will have to be largely provided, reducing land-cultivation for cereal crops. Autumn rains have improved the outlook.

There are forty estates in South Canterbury, four of which have not reached a satisfactory position.

The season just passed has been the most successful for some years, and even the poorest settlements in the district show a marked improvement. This, of course, is to be accounted for by the abnormal prices ruling for wool, stock, and cereals of all descriptions. Unfortunately the outlook for the successful wintering of stock is not good, as the district has been suffering from want of rain to keep pasture land in good heart and bring on the rape and turnip crops. At the time of writing, however, we are experiencing rain at last, and if the frosts keep off, the situation, as far as grass goes, may yet be saved, although I am afraid it is too late to benefit the rape and turnips. The large amount of improvements over statutory requirements is sufficient evidence of the continued prosperity of the district as a whole. The plantations throughout the whole district are looking exceedingly well.

OTAGO.

(ROBERT T. SADD, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

Two new settlements were opened during the year—viz., Hilderthorpe, in North Otago, divided into two farms and a number of small sections for workers' homes. The farms were selected, but most of the small sections were not taken up. Clifton Settlement, out from Balclutha, was opened for discharged soldiers only. Five applicants were examined by the Board, but only three sections out of twenty-two were allotted. The older-established settlements are doing fairly well, with the exception of Waitahuna Nos. 1 and 2, near Havelock; two of the settlers on these settlements have abandoned their holdings, not being able to make a living.

Revaluations were made of the three sections forming Te Puke Settlement, near Oamaru, and two on Otanomomo. In both cases a substantial reduction was made in the values, it being considered that the rents were too high.

As the values of the Committee are reckoned on a 5-per-cent. rental basis and the tenants pay only a 4½-per-cent. rental with the right to a 10-per-cent. rebate of rent for prompt payment, any reduction made by the Committee means a considerable loss to the Crown.

SOUTHLAND.

(H. D. M. HASZARD, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

Including Lamont Settlement, which is being administered under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, there are now fifteen settlements in this district, being an increase of three during the year. Aided by the excellent conditions at present prevailing, the majority are in a prosperous condition. Waiarikiki, Knowsley Park, and Ardlussa are the exceptions. With regard to the first-mentioned two settlements, the tenants were handicapped at the outset on account of difficulty in arranging financial matters, and insufficient farming experience added to their troubles. The three settlements added during the year are Lamont, Merrivale No. 1, and Merrivale No. 2. Lamont is very conveniently situated within two miles from railway-station, school, dairy factory, &c., and is only thirteen miles from Invercargill. It was subdivided into five holdings, four of which have been selected by discharged soldiers. These selectors are competent and industrious men, and as the land is capable of being highly improved there is every prospect of success ahead.

Merrivale Nos. 1 and 2 were originally held under the conditions of the Land Settlement Finance Act, and during the first two years the settlers made no headway, the principal handicap being the unfavourable climatic conditions. Pursuant to legislation enacted these settlements were taken over by the Government, and are now administered under the Land for Settlements Act. The result has been that prospective failure for the settlers has been changed to a fair chance of success, and already the majority have passed the critical stage. Three are dairying and the others are sheep-farming. Only sufficient grain for their own requirements is grown on these settlements. When the Orawia Railway is completed the value of these lands will be enhanced, and the proximity of the railway to the settlements will be a decided advantage to the settlers.

Edendale still holds pride of place amongst Southland settlements, and it is worthy of mention that it supplies six dairy factories.

Taken as a whole, the position of the settlements in this district must be regarded as satisfactory.

APPENDIX III.—LAND DRAINAGE OPERATIONS.

(J. B. THOMPSON, Chief Drainage Engineer.)

During the past year the Land Drainage Branch has been actively engaged in attending to matters pertaining to land-drainage and river-protective works generally. The passing of the Swamp Drainage Act, 1915, has further increased the scope of this branch. A separate report on works carried out under this Act is being forwarded.

Special inspections and reports were made in connection with the following: Ashley River—Oxford East water-supply; Steward Settlement protective works; Lees Valley drainage; Waipaoa River; Moutoa Estate drainage; Takapuna water-supply; Waikanae River improvement; Waipa River improvement; Rangitikei River improvement; Omapere Lake drainage; Hook River; Ody's Swamp; Taieri—Waipori Rivers engineering surveys, &c.; Mamaku water-supply; Raupo drainage-works; flood damage between Otorohanga and Te Kuiti; Waikato River Board works; Waikato River and tributaries; Seaward Moss Swamp; and also on other minor works.

Work done by local bodies out of Government grants and subsidies was inspected and certified to, plans and specifications for such works being examined for approval or otherwise. Vouchers in this connection, totalling £2,559 10s. 9d., were prepared and certified to for payment to the local bodies through Treasury.

Hereunder is a short report on works that have been carried out in connection with various grants expended by this branch:—

Hauraki Plains: Orchard East Road Extension.—This work connects the Orchard Road with the Turua—Netherton Road, and is the direct outlet for the Piako River bridge at Ngatea (Orchard), now in course of erection. The sum of £56 was spent in clearing and road-formation.

Hauraki Plains: Waikaka Tramway Road.—The work on this line has all been maintenance, workmen being employed continually throughout the year keeping it in good repair. Expenditure for the year was £268 15s. 6d.

Hauraki Plains, Metalling Roads in.—This work has been enumerated in the Hauraki Plains Report. Some 5 miles 5 chains was metalled during the year, spread over the following roads: Kerepehi—Kopuarahi, Orchard East, Te Hopai, Patetonga access road, Orchard Wharf approach, Pipiroa—Waitakaruru, and access to wharf, Waitakaruru. The cost of work done during the year amounted to £4,893 9s. 2d.

Hauraki Plains: Maintenance existing Drains, &c.—This vote is for maintaining drainage-works on settled portions of the Hauraki Plains. The expenditure during the year was £2,094 11s. The expenditure was greater this year, due to some of the drains requiring two cleanings instead of one, on account of abnormal growth of vegetation consequent upon a very wet season.

Opouriao Protective Works.—As last year, the chief work has been repairs and maintenance of existing works. The proposed cut at Section 6, Block XII, Whakatane, referred to in last year's report, has been completed, and a boom groyne erected across the old channel. At the back of Section 10 the river showed signs of changing its course, and as this would give a better line steps were taken to protect the new channel, and the old one is gradually silting up. Below the Tanetua Bridge, at the junction of the Waimana and Opouriao Rivers, important works are being carried on. A portion only can be done each year, as it takes time for the work to become consolidated and the willows firmly established. An increasing amount of driftwood is noticeable in the more recent floods, and this trouble will probably increase as the bush is felled above the Waimana Settlement. The expenditure during the year amounted to £639 17s. 1d.

Waimana River Protective Works.—The chief work has been the cutting of the diversion channel through Woolfield's Section 19, Block III, Waimana Survey District. Work was commenced with four scoop teams, but on account of the high state of the river, the hard nature of the country, and the scarcity of drivers the channel was not made as deep as was intended. A permanent stream now flows through the channel, and recent floods considerably enlarged it. The project is a great success, and is giving immense relief. At Section 2 four groynes have been erected and the bank protected by establishing willows. Maintenance of existing works, and works generally, have been impeded by excessive rainfall and poor quality of work offering; but notwithstanding, no complaints have been received as during former years before the works were started. The expenditure during the year was £1,004 19s. 5d.

Otway Settlement.—The work done on this block consisted in forming 1 mile 11 chains of road and cleaning 28 chains of drains, at an expenditure of £105 13s. 6d.

Waipori and Taieri Rivers Engineering Surveys.—The work done last year was continued as follows:—

Waipori River: The proposed deviations were pegged and levelled and cross-sections taken. A set of soundings was taken across the Waipori Lake, tide-gauges being erected to harmonize soundings. The deviation from Waipori Outlet to Berwick was altered and poled afresh across Waipori Lake.

Taieri River: Cross-sections from Wardell's to Outram were extended over either bank and continued up the river above Outram for two miles. River sections were also taken below Wardell's and Maori Leap for tidal weir purposes. Tide-gauges were erected in the Lower Gorge between Wardell's and the mouth and connecting levels run. The total levels run were fourteen miles, and three miles of traverse, together with about ten miles of continuation of cross-sections. Three

possible flood-water impounding-areas were also contoured, situated respectively at Taieri Lake, Waipiata, and Matarac-Middlemarch. All plans of dam-sites, sections, &c., have been completed. The expenditure during the year amounted to £339 7s. 8d.

Lees Valley Drainage Scheme.—Engineering surveys were continued as follows: Traverse and levelling, 35 chains; traverse and levelling main drains, 1 mile 8 chains. Duck Creek has now been levelled and traversed for six miles. All the plan work with the exception of three drain-lines is completed. Owing to the impossibility of obtaining labour in this locality development-work was not put in hand. The expenditure for the year was £66 14s. 7d.

The following large schemes were carried out by this branch, and, of course, comprise the major proportion of the works: (1) Hauraki Plains drainage-works; (2) Rangitaiki drainage-works. These works are treated in separate reports to comply with the separate Acts governing each.

A separate report on the following drainage-works is also forwarded in accordance with the provisions of the Swamp Drainage Act, 1915: (1) Waihi drainage area; (2) Poukawa drainage area; (3) Kaitia drainage area.

The particulars hereunder show the principal works carried out in various localities during the past year. There are, however, many works of a minor nature that it is impossible to summarize:—

	M.	ch.
Double drain and road formation	0	18½
New drain and road formation	1	5
Deepening and widening road-drains	3	24
Clearing and grubbing roads	1	34
Cleaning road-drains	79	16
Outlets	9	65
Deepening and widening outlets	62	66
Cleaning outlets	68	63
Clearing willows and snagging	10	0
Forming roads	12	18
Shelling roads	0	52
Sanding roads	0	40
Widening roads	1	40
Metalling roads	4	33
Disking roads	4	0
Fencing	4	47
Spoil dredged	544,138 cubic yards.	
Excavation by wheel scoops	58,000 „	
Artesian wells sunk	13 (number).	
Flood-gates built	2 „	
Wharves	2 „	
Bridges built	1 „	
Tram-sleepers laid	1,900 „	
Fascines laid	1,800 „	
Gravel for roads	9,549 cubic yards.	

Office.—The total expenditure certified for payment during the year was £54,277 13s. 11d., vouchers for this amount being prepared in Thames office. Of the above amount, direct Treasury payments amounted to £17,452 5s. 9d., payments through Thames and Whakatane Imprest Accounts £36,493 11s. 5d., and payments through Post Office £331 16s. 9d. Some 113 piecework contracts were in operation. Inward correspondence amounted to 1,840, and outward 2,160, and some 1,320 vouchers were prepared and passed through the books. A considerable number of engineering, road, and other plans were made and tracings for photo-litho purposes prepared. The expenditure quoted represents the amounts actually expended in the various works, but will not necessarily agree with the figures shown in the tables as submitted to Parliament, as portion of the expenditure would not be brought to charge at the end of year.

Table 1.—RETURN SHOWING (APPROXIMATELY) POSITION OF LANDS IN THE DOMINION AT 31ST MARCH, 1917.

District.	Total Area sold and held on Freehold.	Total Area granted under Acts without Money Payment or reserved for Public Purposes from Foundation of Dominion.	Total Area of Crown Lands leased under all Tenures (exclusive of Reserves leased by Crown).	Total Area open for Selection.	Total Area of Native Land.	Estimated Area of Barren and Worn-out Country not already included under any of the other Headings.	Estimated Area occupied by Roads, Rivers, Lakes, &c.	Total Area remaining for Future Disposal, exclusive of Land shown in Preceding Columns.	Total Area in Land District.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Auckland	2,569,300	3,580,663	1,804,863	215,898	3,486,960	..	662,139	1,203,717	13,525,540
Hawke's Bay	2,469,465	436,272	954,474	24,526	1,312,671	..	150,190	161,302	5,508,900
Taranaki	533,209	714,900	595,671	18,745	292,624	..	67,602	181,659	2,404,500
Wellington	3,282,809	897,989	814,339	34,937	1,613,936	36,500	195,232	175,258	7,051,000
Nelson	599,981	329,716	870,405	105,293	30,627	1,573,000	60,093	1,145,885	4,715,000
Marlborough	772,871	222,032	1,489,820	18,196	..	131,447	100,416	33,218	2,768,000
Westland	142,384	308,555	1,785,808	502,603	..	750,000	154,208	220,320	3,863,878
Canterbury	3,611,409	1,352,288	3,717,508	12,500	..	175,000*	445,400	163,940	9,478,045
Otago	1,976,170	610,492	5,552,398	13,144	..	573,600	263,305	105,891	9,095,000
Southland	1,603,880	3,557,588	1,639,170	30,724	..	626,479	140,559	283,969	7,882,369
Totals	17,561,478	12,010,585†	19,224,456	976,566	6,736,818	3,866,026	2,239,144	3,677,159	66,292,232

* Area reduced by excluding land formerly classed as barren and worthless now held under temporary lease. † Total Crown land reserved during the year was 17,928 acres.

Table 2.—LANDS OPENED FOR ORDINARY SALE AND SELECTION DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1917.

District.	SALE AT AUCTION FOR CASH OR ON DEFERRED PAYMENT.			Optional System.	Renewable Lease.	Small Grazing-runs.	Pastoral Runs.	Pastoral Licenses in Mining Districts under Special Regulations.	Lease by Auction and Application, and Miscellaneous.	Totals.
	Town.	Suburban.	Rural.							
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands—</i>	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Auckland	68	77	497	16,112	701	..	..	997	..	18,452
Hawke's Bay	47	8	3	1,701	..	4,812	11,920	..	30	18,521
Taranaki	49	38	44	3,084	..	..	..	..	65	3,280
Wellington	91	66	23	6,387	67	..	..	..	6	6,640
Nelson .. ..	..	..	..	..	1,429	..	..	..	7	1,436
Marlborough	4	..	58	845	..	..	..	..	..	907
Westland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	102,910	363	..	103,273
Canterbury	1	..	45	60	..	..	..	..	3,011	3,117
Otago	11	140	72	670	4	..	113,350	..	3,460	117,707
Southland .. ..	..	57	392	3,251	342	..	21,340	..	50	25,432
Totals	271	386	1,134	32,110	2,543	4,812	249,520	1,360	6,629	298,765
Cheviot Estate, Canterbury .. ..	..	..	..	..	1,396	..	..	..	..	1,396
<i>Land for Settlements—</i>										
Auckland	10	14	2	..	528	..	..	..	..	554
Hawke's Bay .. ..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Taranaki .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington	3	..	43	..	542	..	..	..	..	588
Nelson .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Westland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury	24	..	..	..	426	..	..	..	..	450
Otago .. ..	..	..	..	..	681	..	195	..	..	876
Southland .. ..	..	..	14	..	7,197	..	..	..	..	7,211
Totals	44	14	67	..	9,374	..	195	..	..	9,694
<i>National-endowment Lands—</i>										
Auckland .. ..	..	..	..	..	15,067	..	..	..	..	15,067
Hawke's Bay .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	3,236	..	..	..	3,236
Taranaki .. ..	..	..	..	..	2,540	..	..	..	..	2,540
Wellington .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson .. ..	..	..	..	..	2,259	..	..	..	..	2,259
Marlborough .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland .. ..	..	..	..	..	3,719	..	3,250	..	..	6,969
Canterbury .. ..	..	..	..	..	1,840	..	..	..	..	1,840
Otago .. ..	..	..	..	..	690	3,985	58,838	..	..	63,513
Southland .. ..	..	..	..	..	229	..	..	..	..	229
Totals .. ..	..	..	..	..	26,344	7,221	62,088	..	..	95,653
Thermal springs districts leases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	12
Education endowments .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*19,599
Grand totals	315	400	1,201	32,110	39,657	12,033	311,803	1,360	6,641	425,119
Other endowments .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,657	..	52	2,709

* The following shows the Land Districts in which these lands were situated: Auckland, 4,389 acres; Hawke's Bay, 237 acres; Taranaki, 759 acres; Wellington, 1,258 acres; Nelson, 2,167 acres; Westland, 1,694 acres; Canterbury, 1,359 acres; Otago, 453 acres; Southland, 7,283 acres.

In addition to the area given in Table 2, the following summary shows the lands which have been proclaimed for selection by discharged soldiers under the provisions of the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act. Further particulars regarding soldiers' lands are given in the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Report, parliamentary paper C.—9.

Lands proclaimed during the Year ended 31st March, 1917, under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, 1915.

Land District.	Area. Acres.
Auckland	43,289
Hawke's Bay	6,915
Taranaki	8,340
Wellington	68,354
Nelson	15,169
Marlborough	7,452
Westland	6,506
Canterbury	62,447
Otago	56,582
Southland	1,236
Total	276,290

Table 3.—RETURN OF LANDS SELECTED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1917.

Tenure.	Number of Selectors.	Average Holdings of Selectors.						Total Area selected during Year.
		Number of Selectors, under 1 Acre.	Number of Selectors, 1 to 50 Acres.	Number of Selectors, 51 to 250 Acres.	Number of Selectors, 251 to 500 Acres.	Number of Selectors, 501 to 1,000 Acres.	Number of Selectors, 1,001 Acres and over.	
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands—</i>								Acres.
Cash lands	296	107	168	20	..	..	1	5,387
Deferred payment	13	1	10	1	1	..	..	626
Occupation with right of purchase	176	..	62	68	24	17	5	37,791
Renewable lease	162	1	10	79	32	26	14	60,500
Mining districts land occupation leases	29	..	24	5	..	..	..	800
Pastoral licenses in mining districts under special regulations	45	..	4	25	11	5	..	12,282
Small grazing-runs	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	2,280
Pastoral runs	21	..	..	1	1	..	19	305,856
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	706	175	310	128	44	14	35	190,478
Totals	1,449	284	588	327	113	62	75	616,000
<i>Cheviot Estate—</i>								
Renewable lease	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1,396
Miscellaneous leases	4	..	3	..	..	..	1	2,145
Totals	5	..	3	..	..	..	2	3,541
<i>Land for Settlements—</i>								
Cash lands	15	5	10	..	..	..	..	20
Deferred payment	24	15	9	..	..	..	..	54
Renewable lease	143	2	23	69	21	14	14	61,906
Pastoral runs	4	..	1	3	..	..	..	256
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	37	4	22	10	..	1	..	2,363
Totals	223	26	65	82	21	15	14	64,599
<i>National-endowment Lands—</i>								
Renewable lease	146	9	57	42	27	6	5	33,424
Pastoral licenses in mining districts under special regulations	28	4	5	10	9	..	..	7,328
Small grazing-runs	15	..	..	..	..	..	15	133,411
Pastoral runs	13	..	..	1	1	..	11	61,674
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	31	1	4	15	4	1	6	74,115
Totals	233	14	66	68	41	7	37	309,952
Thermal springs districts leases	9	9	..	..	..	..	..	3
<i>Educational-endowment Lands—</i>								
Primary	123	37	46	29	8	1	2	16,005
Secondary	15	9	6	..	..	..	..	45
Cash sales (primary)	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	7
Totals	140	46	54	29	8	1	2	16,057
Grand totals	2,059	379	776	506	183	85	130	1,010,152
<i>Other Endowment Lands—</i>								
Westport Harbour Board	19	2	8	6	3	..	..	1,688
Lake Ellesmere	4	2	1	1	..	..	..	109
Otago University	11	..	..	..	..	..	11	91,431
Bluff Harbour Board	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	2,657
Total (other endowment lands)	35	4	9	7	3	..	12	95,885

Table 4.—COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF SELECTORS AND LANDS SELECTED UNDER SETTLEMENT CONDITIONS FOR THE TEN YEARS ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1917.

Year ending 31st March,	Cash.		Deferred Payment.		Lease in Perpetuity.		Renewable Lease.		Occupation with Right of Purchase.		Agricultural Lease.		Mining Districts Land Occupation Leases.		Small Grazing-runs.		Education Endowments.		Pastoral Licenses in Mining Districts under Special Regulations.		Totals.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
1908	407	Acres. 28,522	..	Acres. ..	499	100,669	183	70,643	360	188,212	3	84	73	3,047	64	226,757	..	Acres. ..	57	7,876	1,646	Acres. 625,810
1909	382	42,194	..	..	193	106,184	860	219,172	382	123,116	..	..	36	1,490	10	28,989	..	..	83	14,743	1,946	535,888
1910	381	8,886	..	..	4	1,011	694	184,904	528	141,757	..	..	60	2,068	45	298,494	..	..	71	11,946	1,783	649,066
1911	274	9,547	..	..	15	1,877	612	124,268	498	136,007	..	..	73	2,687	22	128,764	..	..	106	27,421	1,600	430,571
1912	409	6,096	..	..	..	..	628	187,082	388	132,869	..	..	55	1,426	23	144,617	18	5,061	192	53,114	1,713	530,265
1913	352	4,625	..	..	..	..	585	207,606	362	104,935	..	..	36	773	10	37,749	142	6,847	121	28,606	1,608	391,141
1914	312	5,948	..	..	..	..	539	213,402	489	117,366	..	..	61	2,398	4	14,691	59	3,340	145	28,037	1,609	385,182
1915	288	5,742	18	27	..	..	325	88,400	428	110,729	..	..	29	1,285	6	14,803	102	20,948	114	36,951	1,310	278,885
1916	319	7,097	11	486	..	..	359	139,533	265	59,234	..	..	43	977	12	150,514	103	15,037	114	37,041	1,226	409,919
1917	313	5,414	37	680	..	..	452	157,226	176	37,791	..	..	29	800	16	135,691	138	16,050	73	19,610	1,234	373,262

Table 5.—LANDS SOLD FOR CASH DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1917.

District.	Town.			Suburban.			Rural.			Totals.		
	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Total Price realized.	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Total Price realized.	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Total Price realized.	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Total Price realized.
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands—</i>												
Auckland	15	Acres. 11	£ 441	3	Acres. 16	252	82	Acres. 1,671	£ 6,131	100	Acres. 1,698	£ 6,824
Hawke's Bay	6	7	172	..	..	..	2	8	145	8	15	317
Taranaki	29	18	1,096	8	21	201	11	132	672	48	171	1,969
Wellington	56	36	4,219	6	31	780	8	164	841	70	231	5,840
Nelson .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	7	17	2	7	17
Marlborough .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	58	545	9	58	545
Westland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	40	1	4	40
Canterbury	1	1	150	..	..	..	11	91	747	12	92	897
Otago	4	4	63	..	..	..	15	2,378	962	19	2,382	1,025
Southland	1	1	50	3	26	185	23	702	1,427	27	729	1,662
Totals	112	78	6,191	20	94	1,418	164	5,215	11,527	296	5,387	19,136
<i>Land for Settlements—</i>												
Auckland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	9	78	7	9	78
Wellington .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	16	1	1	16
Marlborough	2	3	55	..	..	..	2	3	19	4	6	74
Canterbury .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	15	1	1	15
Otago .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	42	2	3	42
Totals	2	3	55	..	..	..	13	17	170	15	20	225
<i>Educational Endowments (Pri- mary)—</i>												
Auckland .. ..	..	..	..	1	6	2,100	..	..	..	1	6	2,100
Southland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	1	1	2
Grand totals	114	81	6,246	21	100	3,518	178	5,233	11,699	313	5,414	21,463

Table 6.—RETURN OF DEFERRED-PAYMENT LANDS, UNDER THE LAND ACTS, 1877 and 1885 AT 31st MARCH, 1917.

District.	Net Area held on 31st March, 1917, including Capitalized Holdings.			Amount received during the Year ended 31st March, 1917.	Freehold acquired during the Year.		Made Freehold from Commencement of System to 31st March, 1917.		Selectors in Arrear on 31st March, 1917.	
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Yearly Instalments and Interest payable.		Number of Purchasers	Area.	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Number of Selectors.	Amount.
Auckland .. ..	..	Acres. ..	£ ..	£ ..	..	Acres. ..	333	Acres. 46,003	..	£ ..
Hawke's Bay .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	972	91,324	..	..
Taranaki .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,424	159,479	..	..
Wellington .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,579	219,491	..	..
Nelson .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,592	150,467	..	..
Marlborough .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	55	4,682	..	..
Westland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	4,572	..	..
Canterbury	7	132	17	14	..	..	643	30,278	..	..
Otago	3	650	15	48	1	50	1,238	193,205	..	..
Southland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,586	196,916	..	..
Totals	10	782	32	62	1	50	9,522	1,096,417	..	..

NOTE.—This table includes village-settlement and special-settlement lands.

Table 7.—RETURN OF DEFERRED-PAYMENT LANDS HELD UNDER THE LAND LAWS AMENDMENT ACTS, 1912 AND 1913, AT 31ST MARCH, 1917.

District.	Selections during the Year.			Conversions from other Tenures during the Year.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1917.		
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Instalment.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Instalment.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Instalment.
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands—</i>									
Auckland..	3	Acres. 487	£ 36	21	Acres. 4,171	287	94	Acres. 22,682	£ 832
Hawke's Bay ..	1	16	12	2	413	100	9	8,107	573
Taranaki ..	..	..	..	2	493	78	14	3,322	318
Wellington ..	1	6	8	15	5,036	692	85	24,763	2,931
Nelson ..	..	..	..	18	2,928	104	37	9,453	394
Marlborough ..	..	..	..	1	6	4	1	6	4
Westland..	..	..	..	1	335	17	10	2,832	79
Canterbury ..	..	..	..	5	243	41	11	429	66
Otago ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	275	27
Southland ..	8	117	75	3	480	39	41	3,421	289
Totals ..	13	626	131	68	14,105	1,362	306	75,290	5,513
<i>Land for Settlements—</i>									
Auckland..	4	5	61	27	5,016	621	173	15,892	2,742
Hawke's Bay ..	1	8	32	14	6,054	2,158	47	16,878	6,092
Taranaki ..	..	..	..	4	78	111	24	701	794
Wellington ..	9	16	44	9	847	351	29	4,205	1,481
Nelson ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1,779	183
Marlborough ..	3	4	4	..	..	..	12	11,514	2,280
Westland..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury ..	4	8	16	13	1,030	313	43	3,491	1,285
Otago ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	2,875	561
Southland ..	3	13	24	3	723	94	10	1,161	210
Totals ..	24	54	181	70	13,748	3,648	347	58,496	15,628
Grand totals	37	680	312	138	27,853	5,010	653	133,786	21,141

District.	Amount received during the Year ended 31st March, 1917.	Freeholds acquired during the Year.		Made Freehold from Commencement of System to 31st March, 1917.			Selectors in Arrear on 31st March, 1917.	
		Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Total Amount realized, exclusive of Interest.	Number of Selectors.	Amount.
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands—</i>								
Auckland..	£ 4,969	16	Acres. 7,522	29	Acres. 11,164	£ 8,098	3	£ 29
Hawke's Bay ..	1,182	..	..	5	4,279	6,935	..	..
Taranaki ..	584	..	..	4	797	960	..	..
Wellington ..	11,570	12	2,659	26	6,996	12,295	6	32
Nelson ..	392	1	100	6	2,614	1,072	3	163
Marlborough ..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland ..	148	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Canterbury ..	115	..	..	1	2	125	..	..
Otago ..	51	..	..	4	549	738	..	..
Southland ..	891	3	100	15	633	1,041	2	4
Totals ..	19,908	32	10,381	90	27,034	31,264	15	229
<i>Land for Settlements—</i>								
Auckland..	15,851	20	4,760	84	10,934	24,692	6	132
Hawke's Bay ..	11,978	2	22	8	1,333	9,925	..	..
Taranaki ..	2,583	..	..	2	175	3,209	..	..
Wellington ..	3,805	4	30	6	161	2,235	..	..
Nelson ..	116	1	37	1	37	78	..	..
Marlborough ..	5,275	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury ..	2,127	2	6	5	12	762	..	..
Otago ..	1,336	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Southland..	496	1	10	4	351	2,249	..	..
Totals ..	43,567	30	4,865	110	13,003	43,150	6	132
Grand totals	63,475	62	15,246	200	40,037	74,414	21	361

Table 8.—RETURN OF PERPETUAL-LEASE LANDS AT 31ST MARCH, 1917.

District.	Exchanges to other Tenures during the Year.			Forfeitures during the Year.			Expiries during the Year.			Freeholds acquired during the Year.		
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Amount realized.
		Acres.	£		Acres	£		Acres.	£		Acres.	£
Auckland .. .. .		..	..		..	..		..	..	26	3,801	1,990
Hawke's Bay .. ..		..	..		..	..		..	..	..	..	..
Taranaki .. .. .		..	..		..	..		..	..	1	885	771
Wellington .. .. .		..	..		..	..		..	..	2	972	728
Nelson .. .. .		..	..		..	..		..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough	1	6	1		..	..		..	..	..	..	..
Westland .. .. .		..	..		..	..		..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury	3	143	15		..	..		..	..	5	114	375
Otago	1	95	4	3	206	6	6	451	15	18	1,889	1,410
Southland	3	65	11		..	..	6	28	11	14	897	1,017
Totals	8	309	31	3	206	6	12	479	26	66	8,558	6,291

District.	Made Freehold from Commencement of System to 31st March, 1917.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1917.			Amount received during the Year ended 31st March, 1917 (exclusive of Amount from Perpetual Leases made Freehold).	Selectors in Arrear, 31st March, 1917.	
	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Total Amount realized, exclusive of Interest.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.		Number of Selectors.	Amount.
		Acres.	£		Acres.	£	£		£
Auckland	626	176,542	83,750	111	15,878	409	412	11	25
Hawke's Bay	314	136,450	104,570	2	399	23	28	..	..
Taranaki	408	102,858	95,627	6	2,127	107	110	..	..
Wellington	833	312,421	279,462	30	1,081	79	96	1	10
Nelson	32	10,137	3,499	5	666	14	13	1	2
Marlborough	11	1,824	880	12	334	20	21	..	..
Westland	9	682	685	4	381	19	17	..	..
Canterbury	151	17,538	27,521	77	2,248	256	293	3	11
Otago	262	41,610	33,900	149	16,745	675	669	..	..
Southland	206	27,009	23,151	102	6,426	374	374	1	1
Totals	2,852	827,071	653,045	498	46,285	1,976	2,033	17	49

NOTE.—This table includes village-settlement and special-settlement lands.

Table 9.—RETURN OF OCCUPATION-WITH-RIGHT-OF-PURCHASE LANDS AT 31ST MARCH, 1917.

District.	Taken up during the Year.			Forfeitures during the Year.			Surrenders during the Year.			Freeholds acquired during the Year.		
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Amount realized.
		Acres.	£		Acres.	£		Acres	£		Acres.	£
Auckland	94	19,994	1,406	48	15,291	877	..	..	..	152	40,163	35,388
Hawke's Bay	4	405	52	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	15,555	13,390
Taranaki	10	4,437	372	7	5,659	303	..	..	..	14	9,027	7,421
Wellington	40	8,571	830	4	872	90	..	..	..	67	20,917	27,026
Nelson	1	1,047	68	3	1,134	33	..	..	..	5	1,030	319
Marlborough	4	824	52	1	730	44	..	..	..	2	544	238
Westland .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	100	75
Canterbury	4	74	35	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	498	622
Otago	8	922	62	7	1,584	43	..	..	..	5	917	412
Southland	11	1,517	161	8	1,122	40	..	..	..	24	5,818	2,794
Totals	176	37,791	3,038	78	26,392	1,430	..	..	..	300	94,569	87,685

District.	Freeholds acquired from Commencement of System to 31st March, 1917.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1917.			Amount received during the Year ended 31st March, 1917 (exclusive of Amount paid for acquiring Freehold).	Selectors in Arrear, 31st March, 1917.	
	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Total Amount realized.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.		Number of Selectors.	Amount.
		Acres.	£		Acres.	£	£		£
Auckland	1,280	299,529	184,526	2,800	736,206	48,175	45,298	201	3,672
Hawke's Bay	197	100,725	92,127	332	123,189	22,243	20,288	6	163
Taranaki	164	68,631	61,377	695	301,043	19,671	17,636	27	904
Wellington	637	190,664	224,415	801	305,319	24,679	24,857	28	826
Nelson	93	16,366	6,488	209	66,379	1,436	1,215	10	65
Marlborough	26	7,079	6,344	85	24,937	1,703	1,382	1	15
Westland	25	4,610	2,823	85	14,294	468	382	4	26
Canterbury	26	4,017	4,816	26	3,133	441	426	..	..
Otago	63	9,815	5,288	295	51,755	1,611	1,515	4	21
Southland	175	36,748	20,134	432	87,474	3,620	3,162	8	44
Totals	2,686	738,184	608,338	5,760	1,713,729	123,947	116,161	289	5,736

NOTE.—This table includes village-settlement and improved-farm-settlement lands.

Table 10.—RETURN OF LEASE-IN-PERPETUITY LANDS AT 31st MARCH, 1917.

District.	Forfeitures during the Year.			Surrenders during the Year.			Conversions to Deferred Payment during the Year.			Freeholds acquired during the Year.		
	Number of Se-lectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Se-lectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Se-lectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Pur-chasers.	Area.	Amount realized.
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands—</i>												
Auckland .. ..	..	Acres.	£	..	Acres.	£	1	975	41	61	13,569	10,198
Hawke's Bay .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	413	70	20	5,469	4,881
Taranaki .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	493	47	19	4,506	7,055
Wellington .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	880	51	64	8,560	16,867
Nelson	2	1,475	34	..	..	..	1	166	2	1	220	74
Marlborough .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1,627	1,481
Westland .. ..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	4	838	320
Canterbury .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	100	11	9	951	2,002
Otago	1	342	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	2,067	1,979
Southland	1	155	3	..	..	..	1	415	12	14	1,215	1,326
Totals	4	1,972	44	1	1	1	18	3,442	234	200	39,022	46,183
<i>Land for Settlements—</i>												
Auckland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	1,191	343	41	8,284	16,909
Hawke's Bay .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1,398	433	7	2,323	11,514
Taranaki .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	57	75	2	61	1,728
Wellington .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	831	296	7	247	4,027
Nelson .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	13	116
Marlborough .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	40
Westland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	22	74	14	1,582	12,301
Otago .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1,330	3,293
Southland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	723	94	..	..	..
Totals .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36	4,222	1,315	76	13,840½	49,928
Grand totals	4	1,972	44	1	1	1	54	7,664	1,549	276	52,862½	96,111½

District.	Freeholds acquired from Commencement of System to 31st March, 1917.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1917.			Amount of Rent received during the Year ended 31st March, 1917.	Selectors in Arrear, 31st March, 1917.	
	Number of Pur-chasers.	Area.	Total Amount realized.	Number of Se-lectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.		Number of Se-lectors.	Amount.
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands—</i>									
Auckland	354	Acres.	£	977	Acres.	£	£	36	£
Hawke's Bay	84	25,524	31,520	255	80,882	5,036	4,721	1	5
Taranaki	86	21,184	32,054	733	199,526	9,199	8,670	12	96
Wellington	415	63,253	102,876	1,174	174,035	10,237	9,824	21	95
Nelson	104	36,960	17,175	403	141,918	2,536	2,219	27	198
Marlborough	35	11,611	8,295	316	135,323	3,230	2,986	5	85
Westland	77	18,223	9,040	377	43,329	1,149	946	24	71
Canterbury	66	8,955	15,352	405	75,407	4,663	4,339	8	29
Otago	64	12,120	10,461	849	189,880	5,721	5,286	..	..
Southland	184	28,641	22,985	465	73,819	2,203	2,085	3	7
Totals	1,469	306,148	312,797	5,954	1,337,906	50,528	47,216	137	814½
<i>Land for Settlements—</i>									
Auckland	167	25,871	56,044	386	76,897	13,182	12,800	18	519
Hawke's Bay	33	8,814	49,285	386	106,614	34,579	32,042	5	50
Taranaki	7	515	12,415	22	2,724	1,865	1,996	..	..
Wellington	31	2,409	31,357	253	34,693	12,388	11,799	5	122
Nelson	1	13	116	12	4,084	817	738	..	..
Marlborough	1	4	40	281	52,998	11,875	10,848	9	224
Westland .. ..	..	..	..	28	4,988	538	476	..	..
Canterbury	75	6,215	45,240	1,009	158,836	55,995	51,301	23	472
Otago	8	1,676	7,712	552	104,691	33,600	31,656	..	..
Southland	26	4,582	13,660	203	42,156	9,616	9,040	1	26
Totals	349	50,095½	215,869	3,132	587,681	174,455	162,696	61	1,413
Cheviot Estate, Canterbury .. ..	..	..	..	210	26,866	7,294	6,602	..	..
Grand totals	1,818	356,242½	528,666	9,296	1,952,453	232,277	216,514	198	2,227½

NOTE.—This table includes village-settlement, special-settlement, and improved-farm-settlement lands.

Table 11.—RETURN OF RENEWABLE-LEASE LANDS AT 31ST MARCH, 1917.

District.	Taken up during the Year.			Exchanges from other Tenures during the Year.			Forfeitures during the Year.			Surrenders during the Year.			Conversions to Deferred Payment during the Year.			Freeholds acquired during the Year.			Freeholds acquired to 31st March, 1917.			Amount of Rent received during the Year ended 31st March, 1917.	Number of Selectors in Arrear, 31st March, 1917.	
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Price realized.	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Total Amount realized.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.			
<i>National Endowment—</i>																								
Auckland ..	55	9,166	471	2	7,220	848	204,478	296	2	297	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	659	170,904	8,225	6,734	79	1,365
Hawke's Bay ..	10	4,049	291	..	..	..	35	7	33,213	155	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	64	27,908	4,925	3,912	2	99
Taranaki ..	1	59	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	151	57,919	4,362	3,912	..	..
Wellington ..	24	13,496	368	3	886	20	114,992	100	3	990	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84	23,491	2,368	2,594	4	167
Nelson ..	8	2,392	104	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	471	206,035	4,747	1,770	43	340
Marlborough ..	12	821	30	6	1,010	35	1	529	4	555	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	111	21,768	781	646	3	13
Westland ..	3	1,854	92	1	1,539	154	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	364	47,255	1,400	942	38	152
Canterbury ..	17	1,154	59	7	377	15	..	..	1	11	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	8,129	640	483	1	1
Otago ..	3	1,554	59	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	264	35,108	1,354	1,238	4	1
Southland ..	16	433	73	..	..	..	121,102	51	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	180	21,470	989	855	3	27
Totals ..	146	33,424	1,494	19	11,032	1,072	451,136	465	13	5,066	201	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,368	619,987	29,791	23,783	177	2,165
<i>Chertol Estate—</i>																								
Canterbury ..	1	1,396	325	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	2,051	831	846	2	39
<i>Land for Settlements—</i>																								
Auckland ..	57	4,977	3,628	..	..	..	4	326	2	152	131	15	3,825	198	2,522	80	19,990	20,948	273	43,882	10,775	9,764	26	510
Hawke's Bay ..	2	63	47	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	4,656	1,506	771	3	85	809	235	88,557	30,861	28,959	2	243
Taranaki ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	21	32	..	2	4	234	28	1,148	944	953	1	4
Wellington ..	24	6,437	3,558	..	..	..	1	4	1	14	14	5	16	30	150	4	245	2,060	146	23,361	10,080	8,972	8	223
Nelson ..	2	2,681	233	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	21,921	1,505	2,066	5	275
Marlborough ..	5	1,767	420	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1,209	7,421	91	104,040	12,007	10,438	..	..
Westland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	554	296,542	69,107	59,671	51	3,602
Canterbury ..	21	39,773	4,708	..	..	..	41,096	526	..	..	..	1	3	7	1,121	3	260	1,211	243	99,867	22,007	20,351	3	67
Otago ..	12	1,088	522	..	..	..	2,757	219	..	..	99	..	..	..	662	4	1,278	5,612	243	99,867	22,007	20,351	3	67
Southland ..	20	5,120	2,010	..	..	..	21,036	261	1	265	..	..	..	..	..	3	385	793	80	30,646	7,246	8,451	7	293
Totals ..	143	61,906	15,126	..	..	..	133,215	1,140	4	431	244	33	8,521	1,773	5,226	101	23,456	39,088	1,675	709,964	164,532	149,625	103	5,217
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands—</i>																								
Auckland ..	29	6,570	701	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	8,492	1,053	846	2	10
Hawke's Bay ..	56	18,982	6,404	..	..	..	823	352	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	92	30,247	9,657	6,312	2	62
Taranaki ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	314	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	883	61	578	..	..
Wellington ..	52	16,909	2,158	..	..	..	1	9	1	4	2	2	12	9	83	8	22	387	295	23,051	2,853	1,953	29	97
Nelson ..	1	865	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	865	27	14	..	..
Marlborough ..	2	485	56	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	485	56	38	..	..
Otago ..	13	15,466	523	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	17,707	583	265	..	..
Southland ..	9	1,223	192	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	1,223	192	117	..	..
Totals ..	162	60,500	10,061	..	..	..	6	824	361	2	314	8	2	12	9	8	22	387	461	82,953	14,482	10,123	33	169
Grand totals ..	452	157,226	27,006	19	11,032	1,072	641,517	1,966	19	5,811	453	35	8,533	1,782	5,309	109	23,478	39,475	4,514	1,414,955	209,636	184,377	315	7,590

NOTE.—This table includes village-settlement and improved-farm-settlement lands; special tenure-renewable lands under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, 1915, are also included.

Table 12.—RETURN OF AGRICULTURAL-LEASE LANDS AT 31ST MARCH, 1917.

District.	Expiries during the Year.			Renewals during the Year.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1917.			Amount received during the Year ended 31st March, 1917.	Made Freehold from Commencement of System to 31st March, 1917.			Selectors in Arrear on 31st March, 1917.	
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.		Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Total Price realized.	Number of Selectors.	Amount.
		Acres.	£		Acres.	£		Acres.	£	£		Acres.	£		£
Auckland	67	2,750	590	..	..
Westland	32	279	489	..	..
Otago	16	541	23	15	1,326	131,297	131,581	..	..
Southland	50	6,570	6,570	..	..
Totals	16	541	23	15	1,475	140,896	139,230	..	..

Table 13.—RETURN OF MINING DISTRICTS LAND OCCUPATION LEASES UNDER PART VIII OF THE LAND ACT, 1908, AT 31ST MARCH, 1917.

District.	Taken up during the Year.			Expiries during the Year.			Renewals during the Year.			Forfeitures during the Year.			Surrenders during the Year.		
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.
		Acres.	£		Acres.	£		Acres.	£		Acres.	£		Acres.	£
Auckland ..	10	215	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	88	5	..	..	..
Nelson ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland ..	3	8	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago ..	15	567	45	23	697	29	20	644	60	..	..	..	1	96	7
Southland ..	1	10	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	29	800	64	23	697	29	20	644	60	2	88	5	1	96	7

District.	Exchanges to other Tenures during the Year.			Freeholds acquired during the Year.			Freeholds acquired from Commencement of System to 31st March, 1917.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1917.			Amount of Rent received during the Year.	Selectors in arrear on 31st March, 1917.	
	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Amount realized.	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Total Amount realized.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.		Number of Selectors.	Amount.
		Acres.	£		Acres.	£		Acres.	£		Acres.	£	£		£
Auckland ..	12	618	39	2	14	40	2	14	40	218	10,137	514	549	28	116
Nelson ..	2	130	4	1	70	35	1	70	35	27*	963	44	37†	4	4
Marlborough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	200	8	12	1	1
Westland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	89	769	131	118	9	14
Otago ..	6	282	11	16	723	1,377	18	732	1,417	313	10,084	600	677	..	..
Southland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	58	1,934	187	182	..	..
Totals ..	20	1,030	54	19	807	1,452	21	816	1,492	707	24,087	1,484	1,575	42	135

* Includes two selectors, area 13 acres, annual rental £2, national-endowment land. † Includes £1 national endowment.

Table 14.—RETURN OF PASTORAL LICENSES IN MINING DISTRICTS UNDER SPECIAL REGULATIONS, AT 31ST MARCH, 1917.

District.	Taken up during the Year.			Exchanges to other Tenures during the Year.		Forfeitures during the Year.		Surrenders during the Year.		Freeholds acquired to 31st March, 1917.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1917.			Rent paid during the Year.	Selectors in Arrear on 31st March, 1917.	
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Total Amount realized.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Total Annual Rental.		Number of Selectors.	Amount.
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands—</i>		Acres.	£		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.	£		Acres.	£	£		£
Auckland ..	29	9,103	288	8	2,578	3	200	4	323	9	1,879	1,321	310	100,268	2,649	683	53	529
Nelson ..	8	2,513	58	15	2,640	6	1,539	1	35	11	1,547	1,147	108	20,334	446	405	19	148
Westland ..	8	666	34	2	505	..	..	2	134	..	..	..	93	13,771	349	257	5	14
Totals ..	45	12,282	380	25	5,723	9	1,739	7	492	20	3,426	2,468	511	134,373	3,444	1,345	77	691
<i>National-endowment Lands—</i>																		
Auckland ..	1	174	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	6,143	131	105	4	11
Nelson ..	13	3,597	88	3	886	7	1,884	..	..	..	..	..	144	27,246	600	659	31	259
Westland ..	14	3,557	100	5	840	2	803	2	210	..	..	..	224	45,406	1,077	716	25	107
Totals ..	28	7,328	192	8	1,726	9	2,687	2	210	..	..	..	396	78,795	1,808	1,480	60	377
Grand totals ..	73	19,610	572	33	7,449	18	4,426	9	702	20	3,426	2,468	907	213,168	5,252	2,825	137	1,068

Table 15.—RETURN OF SMALL GRAZING-RUNS AT 31ST MARCH, 1917.

District.	Taken up during the Year.			Expiries during the Year.			Renewal of Leases during the Year.			Forfeitures during the Year.			Surrenders during the Year.		
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands—</i>		Acres.	£		Acres.	£		Acres.	£		Acres.	£		Acres.	£
Hawke's Bay	1	2,280	137	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Cheviot Estate—</i>															
Canterbury .. ..	..	..	..	3	2,543	311	28	37,520	9,033	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Lands for Settlement—</i>															
Canterbury .. ..	..	..	..	..	313	31	..	313	47	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago .. ..	..	..	..	1	1,215	129	1	1,215	157	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals .. ..	..	..	..	1	1,528	160	1	1,528	204	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>National-endowment Lands—</i>															
Hawke's Bay	1	3,236	249	1	2,868	77	1	2,868	488	1	2,746	220	..	..	..
Marlborough .. ..	..	..	..	3	998	12	3	998	29	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury .. ..	..	..	..	1	1,012	101	1	1,012	153	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago	14	130,175	1,915	6	14,268	346	6	14,268	468	..	..	..	1	3,985	100
Totals	15	133,411	2,164	11	19,146	536	11	19,146	1,138	1	2,746	220	1	3,985	100
Grand totals	16	135,691	2,301	15	23,217	1,007	40	58,194	10,375	1	2,746	220	1	3,985	100

District.	Exchanges to other Tenures during the Year.			Freeholds acquired during the Year			Freeholds acquired from Commencement of System to 31st March, 1917.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1917.			Amount of Rent received during the Year.	Selectors in arrear on 31st March, 1917.	
	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Amount realized.	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Total Amount realized.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.		Number of Selectors.	Amount.
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands—</i>		Acres.	£		Acres.	£		Acres.	£		Acres.	£	£		£
Auckland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3,990	2,756	2	17,374	639	708	..	..
Hawke's Bay .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1,301	3,885	49	117,212	8,169	8,599	1	18
Taranaki .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	5,750	123	82	..	..
Wellington	4	4,144	234	4	2,561	5,183	15	10,555	24,049	32	35,403	2,049	2,251	3	126
Marlborough .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	244	270	9	4,928	113	117	..	..
Canterbury .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	22,541	1,524	1,595	..	..
Otago .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	5,129	5,604	82	192,068	5,370	5,643	..	..
Southland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	4	4,144	234	4	2,561	5,183	22	21,219	36,564	190	395,276	17,987	18,995	4	144
<i>Cheviot Estate—</i>															
Canterbury .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33	40,328	9,858	4,594	2	194
<i>Land for Settlements—</i>															
Auckland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4,997	1,479	4	18,588	167	130	1	46
Hawke's Bay .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1,200	8,046	12	14,083	3,323	3,211	..	..
Wellington .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	6,280	1,176	747	..	..
Marlborough .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2,748	4,999	28	41,950	5,996	5,073	1	149
Canterbury	1	1,005	170	..	..	..	1	916	5,849	41	79,531	10,561	10,273	3	465
Otago .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	10,953	1,643	1,564	..	..
Southland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1,658	2,582	1	1,150	77	77	..	..
Totals	1	1,005	170	..	..	..	6	11,519	22,955	100	172,535	22,943	21,075	5	660
<i>National-endowment Lands—</i>															
Auckland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	47,899	406	307	1	1
Hawke's Bay	2	7,220	45	..	..	..	..	..	..	50	166,238	4,560	4,207	4	458
Taranaki .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	4,906	75	95	2	62
Wellington .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	12,656	737	480	1	95
Nelson .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	16,758	109	80	1	12
Marlborough .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	79	250,216	3,644	3,669	8	236
Canterbury	1	1,539	140	..	..	..	..	..	..	56	212,505	8,944	10,014	3	330
Otago .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	306	1,234,454	23,294	23,203	..	..
Southland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	66,531	1,033	1,016	1	15
Totals	3	8,759	185	..	..	..	..	..	..	548	2,012,163	42,802	43,071	21	1,209
Grand totals	8	13,908	589	4	2,561	5,183	28	32,738	59,519	871	2,620,302	93,590	87,735	32	2,207

Table 16.—RETURN OF PASTORAL RUNS AT 31ST MARCH, 1917.

District.	Taken up during the Year.			Exchanges to other Tenures during the Year.		Forfeitures during the Year.		Expiries during the Year.		Renewals during the Year.	
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Number of Selectors.	Area.
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands—</i>											
Auckland .. ..	..	Acres.	£	..	Acres.	..	Acres.	..	Acres.	..	Acres.
Hawke's Bay	2	11,716	173	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Taranaki .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson	1	14,800	50	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	36,000
Marlborough .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland	5	104,560	38	..	..	3	54,010	1	13,000	..	..
Canterbury	2	5,530	103	..	..	..	..	9	307,736	7	199,234
Otago	8	146,590	1,113	1	221	..	..	15	537,991	13	217,493
Southland	3	22,660	187	..	..	..	..	16	196,195	13	98,134
Totals	21	305,856	1,664	1	221	3	54,010	41	1,054,922	34	550,861
<i>Land for Settlements—</i>											
Canterbury	1	61	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago	3	195	107	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	4	256	124	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>National-endowment Lands—</i>											
Auckland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hawke's Bay .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Taranaki .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	8,250	..	..	..	..
Canterbury	2	2,418	143	..	..	..	..	7	217,995	8	141,355
Otago	10	58,838	700	..	..	..	..	2	69,000	2	17,545
Southland	1	418	5	..	..	..	..	6	59,483	4	35,025
Totals	13	61,674	843	..	..	1	8,250	15	346,478	14	193,925
Grand totals	38	367,786	2,636	1	221	4	62,260	56	1,401,400	48	744,786

District.	Surrenders during the Year.		Net Area held on 31st March, 1917.				Rent paid during the Year.	Selectors in Arrear on 31st March, 1917.		
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Number of Selectors.	Area (approximately).	Average Holdings.	Annual Rental.		Number.	Amount.	
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands—</i>										
Auckland	Acres.	15	Acres.	Acres.	£	£	2	£	
Hawke's Bay	14	75,733	5,049	221	113	..	13	
Taranaki	75,118	5,365	1,054	1,054	..	..
Wellington	4	100,813	25,203	1,815	1,124	..	..
Nelson	4	225,529	56,382	520	701	..	..
Marlborough	34	552,846	16,260	3,451	3,026	1	193	
Westland	67	1,100,452	16,424	753	741	3	18	
Canterbury	68	1,688,018	24,823	14,692	16,046	..	..
Otago	173	2,185,547	12,633	14,731	15,267	1	1	
Southland	61	600,114	9,838	3,333	3,098	1	3	
Totals	440	6,604,170	15,009	40,570	41,170	8	228	
<i>Land for Settlements—</i>										
Canterbury	1	786	786	59	60	..	..
Otago	12	3,483	290	516	536	..	..
Totals	13	4,269	328	575	596	..	..
<i>National-endowment Lands—</i>										
Auckland	8	84,216	10,527	138	163	1	1	
Hawke's Bay	1	186	186	12	12	..	..
Taranaki	
Wellington	14	28,115	2,008	765	1,092	..	..
Nelson	1	10,000	10,000	34	40	..	..
Marlborough	14	276,640	19,760	830	810	..	..
Westland	21	272,530	12,977	297	280	2	28	
Canterbury	59	1,143,348	19,378	22,121	22,049	..	..
Otago	65	1,219,859	18,767	10,138	10,181	..	..
Southland	26	645,780	24,837	2,351	2,277	..	..
Totals	209	3,680,674	17,610	36,686	36,904	3	29	
Grand totals	662	10,289,113	15,542	77,831	78,670	11	257	

Table 17.—RETURN OF MISCELLANEOUS LEASES AND LICENSES NOT OTHERWISE ENUMERATED AT 31st MARCH, 1917.

District.	Transactions during Year ended 31st March, 1917.										Total Amount received during the Year.*	Total Area in Occupation on 31st March, 1917.			Lessees in Arrear on 31st March, 1917.		
	Coal and Mineral.		Timber-cutting, &c.		Flax-cutting.		Miscellaneous.		Total Area leased during the Year.	Area.		Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Amount.
	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	Total Amount received.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.									
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands—</i>																	
Auckland	4	Acres. 2,422	£ 113	..	..	..	191	Acres. 14,182	£ 1,463	16,604	701	Acres. 129,468	£ 6,926	90	£ 515
Hawke's Bay	39	26,424	4,341	26,424	173	73,974	7,046	6	141		
Taranaki	2	702	429	118	13,642	1,886	14,344	279	16,277	2,313	4	22		
Wellington	89	1,258	330	1,258	588	71,351	3,502	42	100		
Nelson	46	11,580	119	11,580	353	107,593	630	20	60		
Marlborough	13	1,265	178	1,465	200	41,467	1,214	2	6		
Westland	1	200	21	28	25,478	33	25,478	593	144,693	984	57	105		
Canterbury	36	35,302	441	35,302	709	212,909	4,414	46	73		
Otago	101	52,916	876	52,916	1,082	150,053	2,122	2	45		
Southland	38	5,107	60	5,107	467	38,657	1,375	2	18		
Totals	4	2,422	113	3	902	450	699	187,154	9,727	190,478	5,145	986,442	30,526	271	1,085		
<i>Cheviot Estate—</i>																	
Canterbury	4	2,145	428	2,145	57	5,218	920	6	6		
<i>Land for Settlements—</i>																	
Auckland	7	1,282	111	1,282	43	1,860	296	3	9		
Hawke's Bay	2	19	18	19	17	295	154	..	..
Taranaki	1	3	3	..	..
Wellington	15	640	592	5	34		
Nelson		
Marlborough	1	200	..	7	35	7	235	57	4,401	394	1	1		
Westland	3	39	3	..	..
Canterbury	9	185	108	185	49	1,196	478	2	2		
Otago	9	641	214	641	96	2,752	887	..	..
Southland	2	1	7	1	14	75	24	..	..
Totals	1	200	..	36	2,163	465	2,363	295	11,261	2,831	11	46		
<i>National-endowment Lands—</i>																	
Auckland	15	11,301	163	1	5		
Hawke's Bay	2	29,021	23	..	..
Taranaki	1,015	4	1,039	5	..	..
Wellington	5	1,989	256	..	..
Nelson	4	8,101	18	8,101	131	38,762	561	8	17		
Marlborough		
Westland	23	36,962	55	36,962	316	100,838	653	36	112		
Canterbury	1	242	5	..	..
Otago	2	3,997	101	3,997	24	21,558	235	..	..
Southland	1	24,040	40	24,040	3	24,059	41	..	..
Totals	1	1,015	40	30	73,100	214	74,115	501	228,809	1,942	45	134		
Grand totals	4	2,422	113	4	1,917	490	1	200	10,834	269,101	5,998	1,231,730	36,219	333	1,271		

* Includes coal and timber royalties and receipts from State forests.

Table 18.—RETURN OF GROSS REVENUE RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1917.

Tenure.	Auckland.	Hawke's Bay.	Taranaki.	Wellington.	Nelson.	Marlborough.	Westland.	Canterbury.	Otago.	Southland.	Totals.
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands, &c.</i>	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash lands	6,850	446	1,628	5,713	159	545	40	897	1,021	1,617	18,916
Perpetual lease made freehold (Land Act, 1885)	1,862	..	771	..	..	..	..	130	1,355	714	4,832
Perpetual lease made freehold (Land Laws Amendment Acts, 1913 and 1914)	97	..	..	900	..	..	..	245	50	303	1,595
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	35,405	13,390	7,182	26,587	455	238	74	623	412	2,794	87,160
Lease in perpetuity made freehold	10,154	4,881	6,675	16,593	75	1,478	325	2,002	1,978	1,326	45,487
Renewable lease made freehold .. .. .	..	..	..	83	..	..	..	..	..	..	83
Mining districts land occupation leases made freehold	40	..	..	..	35	..	..	..	1,368	..	1,443
Pastoral licenses in mining districts made freehold	689	..	..	..	1,134	..	..	..	..	..	1,823
Small grazing-runs made freehold .. .. .	..	..	..	5,182	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,182
Deferred payment (Land Acts, 1877 and 1885)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	48	..	62
Deferred payment (Land Laws Amendment Acts, 1912, 1913, &c.)	4,969	1,182	584	11,570	392	6	148	115	51	891	19,908
Perpetual lease	412	28	110	96	13	21	17	293	669	374	2,033
Occupation with right of purchase	45,298	20,288	17,636	24,857	1,215	1,382	382	426	1,515	3,162	116,161
Lease in perpetuity	6,140	4,721	8,670	9,824	2,219	2,986	946	4,339	5,286	2,085	47,216
Renewable lease	846	6,312	578	1,953	14	38	..	..	265	117	10,123
Agricultural lease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	..	15
Mining districts land occupation leases	549	..	..	..	36	12	118	..	677	182	1,574
Pastoral licenses in mining districts under special regulations	683	..	..	..	405	..	257	..	..	..	1,345
Small grazing-runs	708	8,599	82	2,251	..	117	..	1,595	5,643	..	18,995
Pastoral runs	113	1,054	..	1,124	701	3,026	741	16,046	15,267	3,098	41,170
Coal and mineral leases and royalties	558	..	2	..	141	28	33	43	597	400	1,802
Timber licenses and sale of timber	2,161	18	448	7,225	940	269	24	..	375	1,357	12,817
Flax-cutting	1,038	..	..	717	41	9	22	..	65	67	1,959
State forests	4,993	..	7	..	..	1,751	..	485	140	1,828	9,204
Other miscellaneous leases and licenses	6,497	9,833	963	1,758	774	1,117	862	3,900	2,489	1,296	29,489
Payments of capital value under section 191 of the Land Act, 1908	..	..	111	422	..	..	..	..	..	..	533
Miscellaneous	*2,339	..	†1,239	574	..	..	..	125	..	113	4,390
Totals	132,401	70,752	46,686	117,429	8,749	13,023	3,989	31,278	39,286	21,724	485,317
<i>Land for Settlements.</i>											
Cash lands	78	..	..	215	..	74	..	16	42	..	425
Lease in perpetuity made freehold	17,171	11,514	1,728	4,031	116	40	..	12,144	3,205	..	49,949
Renewable lease made freehold	2,518	771	..	151	..	..	..	1,121	750	..	5,311
Small grazing-runs made freehold .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deferred payments	15,851	11,978	2,583	3,805	116	5,275	..	2,127	1,336	496	43,567
Lease in perpetuity	12,800	32,042	1,996	11,799	738	10,848	476	51,301	31,656	9,040	162,696
Renewable lease	9,764	28,959	953	8,972	2,066	10,438	..	59,671	20,351	8,451	149,625
Small grazing-runs	130	3,211	..	747	..	5,073	..	10,273	1,564	77	21,075
Pastoral runs .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60	536	..	596
Coal and mineral leases and royalties	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	..	2	27
Timber licenses and sale of timber .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Flax-cutting .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	15	16
Other miscellaneous leases and licenses	247	152	2	1,318	..	348	3	1,458	887	145	4,560
Payments of capital value under section 191 of the Land Act, 1908	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	34	35	..	17	..	30	..	10	..	7	133
Totals	58,593	88,662	7,262	31,055	3,036	32,126	479	138,207	60,327	18,233	437,980
<i>Cheviot Estate.</i>											
Cash lands .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	4
Lease in perpetuity .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,602	..	..	6,602
Renewable lease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	846	..	..	846
Grazing-farms .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,594	..	..	4,594
Pastoral runs .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Coal and mineral leases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Timber licenses and sale of timber .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Flax-cutting .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other miscellaneous leases and licenses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,153	..	..	5,153
Payments of capital value under section 191 of the Land Act, 1908	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,199	..	..	17,199
<i>National-endowment Lands.</i>											
Cash lands .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Renewable leases	6,734	4,609	3,912	2,594	1,770	646	942	483	1,238	855	23,783
Small grazing-runs	307	4,207	95	480	80	3,669	..	10,014	23,203	1,016	43,071
Carried forward	7,041	8,816	4,007	3,074	1,850	4,315	942	10,497	24,442	1,871	66,855

* Includes £429, Native-land-settlement lease made freehold.

† Includes £1,239, West Coast Settlement lease made freehold.

Table 18.—RETURN OF GROSS REVENUE RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1917—*continued.*

Tenure.	Auckland.	Hawke's Bay.	Taranaki.	Wellington.	Nelson.	Marlborough.	Westland.	Canterbury.	Otago.	Southland.	Totals.
<i>National-endowment Lands—continued.</i>	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	7,041	8,816	4,007	3,074	1,850	4,315	942	10,497	24,442	1,871	66,855
Pastoral licenses in mining districts under special regulations	105	..	..	..	659	..	716	..	..	..	1,480
Pastoral runs	163	12	..	1,092	40	810	280	22,049	10,181	2,277	36,904
Coal and mineral leases .. ..	..	..	..	244	288	..	73	..	..	3	608
Timber licenses and sale of timber	2,319	..	40	..	611	..	9,575	..	..	..	12,545
Flax-cutting .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	..	..	..	40
Other miscellaneous leases and licenses	62	23	..	71	168	..	425	765	..	48	1,562
Payments of capital value under section 191 of the Land Act, 1908 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	44	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	281	..	325
Totals	9,734	8,851	4,047	4,481	3,616	5,125	12,051	33,311	34,904	4,199	120,319
<i>Educational-endowment Lands.</i>											
Primary	8,898	10,824	6,587	10,748	424	442	440	23,165	4,776	17,061	83,365
Secondary	1,475	1,943	964	2,694	133	92	100	270	843	282	8,796
Totals	10,373	12,767	7,551	13,442	557	534	540	23,435	5,619	17,343	92,161
<i>Other Endowment Lands.</i>											
Cash lands .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Perpetual lease made freehold .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46	..	46
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deferred payments	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Perpetual lease	8	..	..	..	18	..	..	..	300	..	326
Occupation with right of purchase	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Lease in perpetuity	14	..	..	..	86	..	..	1,560	72	..	1,732
Renewable lease	5	..	..	..	123	..	..	..	..	..	128
Mining districts land occupation leases .. ..	..	..	..	..	70	..	..	..	..	..	70
Small grazing-runs .. ..	..	..	..	335	..	..	..	..	1,627	360	2,322
Pastoral licenses in mining districts under special regulations	43	..	..	..	131	..	..	..	..	..	174
Pastoral runs .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,482	1,693	7,175
Coal and mineral leases .. ..	..	..	..	..	23,066	..	1,693	..	..	..	24,759
Timber licenses and sale of timber .. ..	..	..	..	..	204	..	15	..	..	4	223
Flax-cutting .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other miscellaneous leases and licenses .. ..	..	2	841	39	1,000	..	9	73	33	88	2,085
Miscellaneous .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	104	2	841	374	24,698	..	1,717	1,633	7,560	2,145	39,074
Thermal springs districts leases	2,035	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,035
Survey liens on Native land	16,647	3,341	2,341	2,223	2	13	..	..	..	..	24,567
Miscellaneous	7,414	1,617	3,803	2,600	767	517	234	1,014	3,989	759	22,714
Grand totals	237,301	185,992	72,531	171,604	41,425	51,338	19,010	246,077	151,685	64,403	1,241,366

Table 19.—REBATES OF RENT GRANTED UNDER SECTION 116 OF THE LAND ACT, 1908, AND SECTION 55 OF THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACT, 1908, DURING THE YEAR ENDED THE 31ST MARCH, 1917.

District.	Number of Tenants who have been granted Rebate.	Amount of Rebate granted.	District.	Number of Tenants who have been granted Rebate.	Amount of Rebate granted.
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands—</i>			<i>Land for Settlements—contd.</i>		
Auckland.. ..	5,715	£ 4,365	Otago	724	5,463
Hawke's Bay	597	3,030	Southland	249	1,205
Taranaki	1,186	2,256	Totals	4,879	31,927
Wellington	2,020	3,233	<i>National-endowment Lands—</i>		
Nelson	450	199	Auckland	817	491
Marlborough	387	432	Hawke's Bay	60	436
Westland	337	130	Taranaki	116	383
Canterbury	373	576	Wellington	80	217
Otago	1,019	724	Nelson	132	62
Southland	761	455	Marlborough	93	58
Totals	12,845	15,400	Westland	184	78
<i>Cheviot Estate—</i>			Canterbury	21	46
Canterbury	132	768	Otago	170	103
<i>Land for Settlements—</i>			Southland	145	78
Auckland.. ..	1,019	1,804	Totals	1,818	1,952
Hawke's Bay	622	6,734	Grand totals	19,674	50,047
Taranaki	45	262	<i>Other Endowment Lands—</i>		
Wellington	310	1,932	Nelson	29	8
Nelson	27	148	Canterbury	72	155
Marlborough	375	2,615	Totals	101	163
Westland	25	51			
Canterbury	1,483	11,713			

Table 20.—ARREARS OF RENT DUE TO THE CROWN AT 31ST MARCH, 1917.

District.	Number of Selectors.	Amount in Arrear, exclusive of current Half-year's Payment.	District.	Number of Selectors.	Amount in Arrear, exclusive of current Half-year's Payment.
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands—</i>			<i>National-endowment Lands—</i>		
Auckland.. ..	427	£ 5,144	Auckland	86	1,383
Hawke's Bay	16	384	Hawke's Bay	6	557
Taranaki	43	1,022	Taranaki	2	62
Wellington	130	1,286	Wellington	5	262
Nelson	84	640	Nelson	83	628
Marlborough	10	300	Marlborough	11	249
Westland	103	249	Westland	101	399
Canterbury	57	113	Canterbury	4	331
Otago	7	67	Otago	4	1
Southland	17	77	Southland	4	42
Totals	894	9,282	Totals	306	3,914
<i>Cheviot Estate—</i>			<i>Thermal springs (Rotorua) ..</i>		
Canterbury	15	263		30	178
<i>Land for Settlements—</i>			<i>Education Endowments—</i>		
Auckland.. ..	54	1,216	Primary	125	1,547
Hawke's Bay	7	293	Secondary	33	163
Taranaki	1	4	Totals	158	1,710
Wellington	18	379	Grand totals	1,589	22,815
Nelson	5	275	<i>Other endowment lands ..</i>		
Marlborough	11	374		78	204
Westland .. ..	..	..	
Canterbury	79	4,541			
Otago	3	67			
Southland	8	319			
Totals	186	7,468			

Table 21.—STATEMENT SHOWING PAYMENTS TO LOCAL BODIES DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1917, FROM "THIRDS" OF DEFERRED-PAYMENT, PERPETUAL-LEASE, OCCUPATION-WITH-RIGHT-OF-PURCHASE, RENEWABLE-LEASE, AND LEASE-IN-PERPETUITY LANDS, "FOURTHS" OF SMALL GRAZING-RUNS, AND "HALVES" OF TIMBER AND FLAX ROYALTIES.

District.	"Thirds," Deferred-payment, Perpetual-lease, Occupation-with- right-of-purchase, Renewable-lease, and Lease-in- perpetuity Lands.	"Fourths," Small Grazing-runs.	"Halves," Timber and Flax.	Total Payments.
	£	£	£	£
Auckland	13,972	75	45	14,092
Hawke's Bay	9,191	543	..	9,734
Taranaki	4,550	2	4	4,556
Wellington	12,318	224	..	12,542
Nelson	2,415	21	537	2,973
Marlborough	3,002	598	155	3,755
Westland	752	..	3,884	4,636
Canterbury	105	1,184	..	1,289
Otago	857	3,732	127	4,716
Southland	1,282	3	586	1,871
Totals	48,444	6,382	5,338	60,164

Table 22.—RETURN SHOWING PAYMENTS OF CAPITAL VALUE UNDER SECTION 191 OF THE LAND ACT, 1908, AT 31ST MARCH, 1917.

System and Tenure.	Amount deposited during the Year.			Total Payments at 31st March, 1917.				
	Number of Selectors.	Area held.	Amount deposited.	Number of Selectors.	Area held.	Original Annual Rental payable.	Total Payments made on Account of Capital Value.	Annual Rental now payable as reduced by such Payments.
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands—</i>		Acres.	£		Acres.	£	£	£
Lease in perpetuity	11	1,117	533	38	6,169	347	3,110	221
Renewable lease .. .. .	..	..	..	2	1	5	52	3
Totals	11	1,117	533	40	6,170	352	3,162	224
<i>Cheviot Estate—</i>								
Lease in perpetuity .. .. .	..	..	..	1	107	56	999	6
<i>Land for Settlements—</i>								
Lease in perpetuity .. .. .	..	..	..	3	363	265	3,466	92
Grand totals	11	1,117	533	44	6,640	673	7,627	322

Withdrawals during Year.—Lease in perpetuity, ordinary Crown lands, one selector, area 500 acres, amount £50.

Table 23.—RETURN OF FORFEITURES AND SURRENDERS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1917, SHOWING UNDER EACH TENURE THE NUMBER OF SELECTORS WHO HAVE FORFEITED AND SURRENDERED THEIR HOLDINGS, AND THE AREA AND RENTAL OF SUCH HOLDINGS.

Tenure.	Forfeitures.			Surrenders.		
	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands—</i>		Acres.	£		Acres.	£
Perpetual lease	3	206	6	..	..	..
Occupation with right of purchase	78	26,392	1,430	..	..	..
Lease in perpetuity	4	1,972	44	1	1	1
Renewable lease	6	824	361	2	314½	8
Mining districts land occupation leases	2	88	5	1	96	7
Pastoral licenses in mining districts under special regulations	9	1,739	38	7	492	14
Small grazing-runs .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pastoral runs	3	54,010	22	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	166	14,618	891	52	30,947	2,186
Totals	271	99,849	2,797	63	31,850½	2,216
<i>Land for Settlements—</i>						
Lease in perpetuity .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Renewable lease	13	3,215½	1,140	4	431	244
Miscellaneous	8	363	66	5	1,505	82
Totals	21	3,578½	1,206	9	1,936	326
<i>National-endowment Lands—</i>						
Renewable lease	45	11,136	465	13	5,066	201
Pastoral licenses in mining districts under special regulations	9	2,687	67	2	210	13
Small grazing-runs	1	2,746	220	1	3,985	100
Pastoral runs	1	8,250	8	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	16	2,831	39	8	31,930	26
Totals	72	27,650	799	24	41,191	340
<i>Education Endowments—</i>						
Primary	29	3,323	207	9	6½	99
Secondary	2	8	25	1	55	3
Totals	31	3,331	232	10	61½	102
Grand totals	395	134,408½	5,034	106	75,038½	2,984

Table 24.—RETURN SHOWING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SELECTORS, WITH AREA OF CROWN LAND SELECTED OR HELD, THE YEARLY RENT PAYABLE, AND THE AREA MADE FREEHOLD AT THE 31ST MARCH, 1917.

Tenure.	Total Number of Selectors.	Total Area held.	Total Yearly Rental or Instalment payable.	Total Area made Freehold.	
				Number of Purchasers.	Area.
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands—</i>		Acres.	£		Acres.
Cash .. .. .	..	..	..	..	13,177,095
Deferred payment (Land Acts, 1877 and 1885)	10	782	32	9,522	1,096,417
Deferred payment (Land Laws Amendment Acts, 1912 and 1913, &c.)	306	75,290	5,513	90	27,034
Perpetual lease	498	46,285	1,976	2,852	827,071
Occupation with right of purchase	5,760	1,713,729	123,947	2,686	738,184
Lease in perpetuity	5,954	1,337,906	50,528	1,469	306,148
Renewable lease	461	82,953	14,482	8	22
Agricultural lease	16	541	23	1,475	140,896
Mining districts land occupation leases	705	24,074	1,482	21	816
Homestead .. .. .	..	..	..	525	80,453
Pastoral licenses in mining districts under special regulations	511	134,373	3,444	20	3,426
Small grazing-runs	190	395,276	17,987	22	21,219
Pastoral runs	440	6,604,170	40,570	..	..
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	5,145	986,442	30,526	..	..
Totals	19,996	11,401,821	290,510	..	16,418,781
<i>Cheviot Estate—</i>					
Cash .. .. .	..	..	..	..	6,855
Lease in perpetuity	210	26,866	7,294	..	..
Renewable lease	15	2,051	831	..	..
Grazing-farms	33	40,328	9,858	..	..
Pastoral runs .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	57	5,218	920	..	..
Totals	315	74,463	18,903	..	6,855
<i>Land for Settlements—</i>					
Cash .. .. .	..	..	..	..	605
Deferred payment (Land Laws Amendment Acts, 1912 and 1913)	347	58,496	15,628	110	13,003
Lease in perpetuity	3,132	587,681	174,455	349	50,095
Renewable lease	1,675	709,964	164,532	101	23,456
Small grazing-runs	100	172,535	22,943	6	11,519
Pastoral runs	13	4,269	575	..	..
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	295	11,261	2,831	..	..
Totals	5,562	1,544,206	380,964	..	98,678
<i>National-endowment Lands—</i>					
Renewable lease	2,368	619,987	29,791	..	..
Mining districts land occupation leases	2	13	2	..	..
Pastoral licenses in mining districts under special regulations	396	78,795	1,808	..	..
Small grazing-runs	548	2,012,163	42,802	..	..
Pastoral runs	209	3,680,674	36,686	..	..
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	501	228,809	1,942	..	..
Totals	4,024	6,620,441	113,031	..	..
Thermal springs district leases	327	3,653	2,115	..	..
<i>Educational-endowment Lands—</i>					
Primary	3,188	767,170	77,563	..	..
Secondary	390	38,463	8,731	..	..
Totals	3,578	805,633	86,294	..	..
Grand totals	33,802	20,450,217	891,817	..	16,524,314
Other endowment lands	840	361,884	17,866	..	..

SUMMARY SHOWING TOTAL LAND HELD IN EACH LAND DISTRICT.

District.	Number of Selectors.	Area held.	Annual Rental.
		Acres.	£
Auckland	7,897	1,900,204	112,534
Hawke's Bay	1,984	1,045,867	149,683
Taranaki	2,386	648,010	46,944
Wellington	4,095	977,762	91,577
Nelson	2,067	907,666	15,205
Marlborough	1,377	1,525,434	48,146
Westland	2,363	1,808,618	8,460
Canterbury	3,684	4,055,035	238,583
Otago	4,985	5,595,510	130,972
Southland	2,964	1,986,111	49,713
Totals	33,802	20,450,217	891,817

Table 25.—RETURN OF EDUCATION ENDOWMENTS AT 31st MARCH, 1917.

District.	Total Area set apart.	Area opened for Se- lection during the Year.	Taken up during the Year.			Expiries during the Year.			Renewal of Leases during the Year.			
			Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	
Primary Education.												
Auckland	Acres. 116,023	Acres. 4,370	17	Acres. 1,329	£ 308	19	Acres. 2,302	£ 93	15	Acres. 1,911	£ 269	
Hawke's Bay	80,185	237	6	483	138	6	87	131	3	1	62	
Taranaki	51,115	738	8	13	36	9	221	68	10	220	248	
Wellington	94,674	1,258	13	1,252	378	4	1,125	19	4	1,125	76	
Nelson	10,717	2,167	1	241	3	3	1	4	3	1	4	
Marlborough	1,120	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland	14,613	1,694	8	1,881	150	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury	70,125	1,359	9	1,359	1,031	41	9,344	3,807	34	7,974	4,573	
Otago	45,439	452	20	453	211	44	2,027	405	31	1,575	496	
Southland	348,197	7,283	40	8,993	498	42	9,956	485	24	3,194	599	
Totals	832,208	19,558	123	16,005	2,755	168	25,063	5,012	124	16,001½	6,327	
Secondary Education.												
Auckland	10,335	19	2	11	55	5	343	15	5	343	29	
Hawke's Bay	7,484	..	2	5	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Taranaki	2,354	21	6	28	123	1	1	1	1	1	2	
Wellington	12,178	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson	802	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough	284	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland	4,448	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury	1,024	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago	2,100	1	5	1	5	12	357	56	8	356	68	
Southland	579	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	41,588	41	15	45	186	18	701	72	14	700	99	
Grand totals	873,796	19,599	138	16,050	2,941	186	25,764	5,084	138	16,701½	6,426	
District.	Forfeitures during the Year.			Surrenders during the Year.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1917.			Gross Amount received during the Year.	Selectors in Arrear on 31st March, 1917.	
	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.		Number.	Amount.
Primary Education.												
Auckland	5	Acres. 35	£ 66	2	Acres. 1	£ 41	536	Acres. 70,296	£ 4,783	£ 8,898	38	£ 364
Hawke's Bay	1	1	1	..	..	..	215	80,481	9,461	10,824	14	238
Taranaki	3	1,972	47	6	5	52	360	48,325	6,072	6,587	10	230
Wellington	3	6	8	..	..	..	512	94,339	10,896	10,748	18	214
Nelson .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	94	6,564	473	424	15	54
Marlborough .. ..	..	..	..	1	½	6	39	1,119	451	442	4	5
Westland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	59	13,832	451	440	7	80
Canterbury .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	223	70,125	24,142	23,165	7	333
Otago	5	1	3	..	..	..	379	42,653	4,428	4,776	5	10
Southland	12	1,308	82	..	..	..	771	339,436	16,406	17,061	7	19
Totals	29	3,323	207	9	6½	99	3,188	767,170	77,563	83,365	125	1,547
Secondary Education.												
Auckland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	165	8,648	1,439	1,475	20	131
Hawke's Bay .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	7,478	1,892	1,943	2	1
Taranaki	1	7	24	..	..	..	51	2,317	1,032	964	1	6
Wellington .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	12,177	2,693	2,694	..	..
Nelson	1	1	1	1	55	3	31	817	129	133	7	10
Marlborough .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	262	89	92	..	..
Westland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	3,209	109	100	3	15
Canterbury .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,024	270	270	..	..
Otago .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	47	1,952	831	843	..	..
Southland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	579	247	282	..	..
Totals	2	8	25	1	55	3	390	38,463	8,731	8,796	33	163
Grand totals	31	3,331	232	10	61½	102	3,578	805,633	86,294	92,161	158	1,710

Table 26.—RETURN SHOWING THE AREA OF LAND SETTLED UNDER VILLAGE-SETTLEMENT CONDITIONS TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1917.

District.	Number of Settlements.	Area held at 31st March, 1917.*			Area made Freehold to Date.		Total Amount advanced to Selectors for Improvements up to 31st March, 1917.	Amount of Advances which have been repaid to 31st March, 1917.
		Number of Selectors.	Area held.	Annual Rental or Instalment payable, including Interest on Advances.	Number of Purchasers.	Area acquired.		
			Acres.	£		Acres.	£	£
Auckland	5	83	3,241	281	86	488	2,312	2,333
Hawke's Bay .. .	14	123	3,687	1,966	414	2,438	877	429
Taranaki	3	14	55	10	441	3,170	..	..
Wellington	57	678	10,989	2,542	652	4,286	6,893	5,742
Nelson	1	5	11	6	..	..	..	..
Marlborough .. .	3	46	389	76	17	142	104	15
Westland	2	15	89	18	21	125	..	..
Canterbury	42	333	9,709	1,748	774	5,864	2,580	1,530
Otago	2	209	3,233	598	260	2,976	..	..
Southland	39	297	4,507	578	1,047	9,668	1,106	591
Totals	168	1,803	35,910	7,823	3,712	29,157	13,872	10,640

* Includes holdings converted to deferred-payment license.

Table 27.—RETURN SHOWING THE AREA OF LAND SETTLED UNDER SPECIAL-SETTLEMENT-ASSOCIATION CONDITIONS TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1917.

District.	Number of Settlements.	Area held at 31st March, 1917.*			Area made Freehold to Date.	
		Number of Selectors.	Area held.	Annual Rental or Instalment.	Number of Purchasers.	Area acquired.
			Acres.	£		Acres.
Auckland	6	54	8,830	256	66	7,436
Hawke's Bay .. .	2	10	2,000	80	56	5,610
Taranaki	9	87	15,604	844	3	600
Wellington	50	361	64,701	3,842	904	96,403
Canterbury	4	37	4,132	271	4	518
Otago	1	14	2,765	121	..	..
Totals	72	563	98,032	5,414	1,033	110,567

* Includes holdings converted to deferred-payment license.

Table 28.—RETURN SHOWING THE AREA OF LAND SETTLED UNDER IMPROVED-FARM-SETTLEMENT CONDITIONS TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1917.

District.	Number of Settlements.	Area held at 31st March, 1917.*			Area made Freehold to Date.		Total Amount advanced to Selectors for Improvements.
		Number of Selectors.	Area held.	Annual Rental or Instalment.	Number of Purchasers.	Area acquired.	
			Acres.	£		Acres.	£
Auckland	12	117	15,958	1,936	8	799	26,696
Hawke's Bay .. .	2	15	1,692	219	2	219	2,020
Taranaki	19	338	47,207	5,227	22	2,408	44,913
Wellington	19	207	25,689	3,851	138	15,500	33,661
Southland	4	35	3,885	234	10	846	12,058
Totals	56	712	94,431	11,467	180	19,772	119,348

* Includes holdings converted to deferred-payment license.

Table 29.—LANDS DISPOSED OF UNDER THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACTS TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1917.

District.	Net Area acquired, including ascertained Surplus.	Area occupied by Roads and Reserves unlet.	Area of Land unlet, including Land forfeited, surrendered, or resumed and not relet, also Land not yet offered for Selection.	Total Area purchased for Cash or made Freehold to Date.			Total Lands leased at Date.		
				Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Price realized.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.		Acres.	£		Acres.	£
Auckland ..	295,867	6,699	70,091	415	61,958	109,710	879	157,119	27,162
Hawke's Bay ..	239,109	2,211	3	61	11,465	68,573	697	225,427	75,009
Taranaki ..	5,331	61	..	11	694	15,858	75	4,576	3,606
Wellington ..	85,719	890	12,819	51	2,831	36,677	447	69,179	25,717
Nelson ..	34,501	770	5,891	4	56	221	39	27,784	2,505
Marlborough ..	228,226	2,673	6,480	19	3,982	13,025	469	214,903	32,552
Westland ..	5,125	99	..	..	..	..	31	5,026	541
Canterbury ..	557,544	3,975	5,694	88	7,493	53,467	1,697	540,382	137,485
Otago ..	237,610	2,774	7,024	25	3,191	14,690	920	224,621	59,214
Southland ..	91,049	950	7,902	42	7,008	20,017	308	75,189	17,173
Totals ..	1,780,081	21,102	115,904	716	98,678	332,238	5,562	1,544,206	380,964

District.	Yearly Value of Unlet Land at 31st March, 1917.	Total Amount advanced to Selectors for Improvements.	Rent and other Payments received during the Year.	Total Receipts from Inception to 31st March, 1917.	Selectors in Arrear on 31st March, 1917.		Holdings inspected during Year ended 31st March, 1917.			
					No.	Amount.	Number of Properties visited.	Area.	Value of Improvements.	
									Required.	Actually made.
	£	£	£	£		£		Acres.	£	£
Auckland ..	2,869	4,487	58,593	414,734	54	1,216	242	31,708	31,866	23,187
Hawke's Bay ..	2	162	88,662	885,742	7	293	527	191,790	678,793	526,467
Taranaki ..	..	337	7,262	70,244	1	4	47	3,265	8,499	19,232
Wellington ..	4,744	3,821	31,055	313,285	18	379	60	17,779	21,078	44,678
Nelson ..	278	850	3,036	18,853	5	275	34	22,510	17,827	36,726
Marlborough ..	1,641	..	32,126	330,973	11	374	230	152,870	62,658	159,584
Westland ..	..	..	479	8,690	..	..	28	5,023	3,320	22,000
Canterbury ..	2,290	2,786	138,207	1,460,877	79	4,541	1,001	378,242	334,321	461,830
Otago ..	3,251	..	60,327	685,348	3	67	401	140,024	168,965	245,361
Southland ..	699	76	18,233	190,933	8	319	300	75,000	83,045	162,250
Totals ..	15,774	12,519	437,980	4,379,679	186	7,468	2,870	1,018,211	1,410,372	1,701,315
Payments of capital value under section 191 of the Land Act, 1908				3,466						
				4,383,145						

Table 30.—TRANSACTIONS IN BUSH, SWAMP, AND SCRUB LANDS UNDER SECTION 127 OF THE LAND ACT, 1908, DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1917.

District.	Area opened during Year.				Selections during the Year.											
					Heavy-bush Land.			Light-bush Land.			Scrub Land.			Totals.		
	Heavy-bush Land.	Light-bush Land.	Scrub Land.	Totals.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount of Rental remitted per Annum.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount of Rental remitted per Annum.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount of Rental remitted per Annum.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount of Rental remitted per Annum.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.		Acres.	£		Acres.	£		Acres.	£		Acres.	£
Auckland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Taranaki	..	382	..	382	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington	..	..	..	..	3	4,448	288	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	4,448	288
Nelson	3,977	4,954	2,789	11,720	7	6,135	220	1	159	6	1	1,047	68	9	7,341	294
Westland	..	5,511	..	5,511	..	..	..	9	4,612	94	..	..	..	9	4,612	94
Totals	3,977	10,847	2,789	17,613	10	10,583	508	10	4,771	100	1	1,047	68	21	16,401	676

District.	Total Area held at 31st March, 1917.											
	Heavy-bush Land.			Light-bush Land.			Scrub Land.			Totals.		
	Number of Selectors.	Area held.	Annual Rental (re-mitted).	Number of Selectors.	Area held.	Annual Rental (re-mitted).	Number of Selectors.	Area held.	Annual Rental (re-mitted).	Number of Selectors.	Area held.	Annual Rental (re-mitted).
		Acres.	£		Acres.	£		Acres.	£		Acres.	£
Auckland ..	16	7,498	1,098	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	7,498	1,098
Taranaki ..	24	16,649	1,150	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	16,649	1,150
Wellington ..	16	17,365	1,480	2	968	65	..	..	..	18	18,333	1,545
Nelson ..	160	81,668	2,209	62	37,192	803	32	14,352	396	254	133,212	3,408
Westland ..	..	..	..	9	4,612	94	..	..	..	9	4,612	94
Totals ..	216	123,180	5,937	73	42,772	962	32	14,352	396	321	180,304	7,295

Table 31.—INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE RANGERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1917.

District.	Number of Properties visited.	Area.	Value of Improvements.		Number of Defaulters.				
			Required.	Actually made.	For Deficient Improvements only.	For Non-residence only.	For Non-residence and Improvements.	For other Reasons.	Total.
		Acres.	£	£					
Auckland ..	633	135,344	66,465	112,180	28	117	56	9	210
Hawke's Bay ..	719	330,579	774,408	865,841	46	55	6	..	107
Taranaki ..	377	134,540	95,559	235,703	15	12	6	..	33
Wellington ..	476	171,173	50,675	161,395	5	12	6	1	24
Nelson ..	938	334,919	109,221	320,695	65	50	50	..	165
Marlborough ..	301	342,780	73,505	249,461	24	15	3	..	42
Westland ..	383	78,303	33,809	90,903	24	7	12	..	43
Canterbury ..	1,172	518,275	339,957	467,823	177	11	5	..	193
Otago ..	475	210,836	177,546	267,815	49	18	..	1	68
Southland ..	905	234,700	107,685	222,330	76	14	28	..	118
Totals ..	6,379	2,491,449	1,828,830	2,994,146	509	311	172	11	1,003

In addition numerous inspections were made by the Rangers in connection with educational endowment leases and miscellaneous applications.

Table 32.—ADVANCES OBTAINED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ROADING CROWN LANDS, SHOWING THE AMOUNT BORROWED AND THE AMOUNT REPAID UP TO 31ST MARCH, 1917.

District.				Area.	Amount borrowed.	Amount repaid.
				Acres.	£	£
Auckland ..	..	..	..	1,391,521	343,791	162,819
Hawke's Bay ..	..	..	..	498,846	150,323	72,828
Taranaki ..	..	..	..	708,531	232,964	167,802
Wellington ..	..	..	..	820,969	301,697	215,473
Nelson ..	..	..	..	415,517	48,046	10,069
Marlborough ..	..	..	..	217,971	29,943	30,940
Westland ..	..	..	..	59,717	8,006	2,424
Canterbury ..	..	..	..	3,552	1,821	1,036
Otago ..	..	..	..	267,516	23,975	25,095
Southland ..	..	..	..	181,247	43,676	25,666
Totals ..	..	..	..	4,565,387	1,184,242	713,652

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (1,075 copies), £60.

