

The following group settlements under Part II of the Land Laws Amendment Act, 1928, were allotted during the year :—

Land District.	Name of Settlement.	Number of Holdings.	Area.
			Acres.
North Auckland	Otarao	3	596
North Auckland	Whakata	6	508
Auckland	Bushmere	2	424
Auckland	Nolan	5	443
Auckland	Tahuna	3	440
Auckland	Nelson	3	159
Auckland	Morgan	4	415
Hawke's Bay	Woodlands	9	138
Hawke's Bay	Pukahu	2	30
Gisborne	Ruangarehu	2	142
Otago	The Downs	8	4,792
Totals	47	8,087

The total of 368,809 acres selected during the year includes lands taken up under both permanent and temporary tenures, and also town and suburban lands. The *permanent* selections of *rural lands only* were as follow :—

Class of Land.	Number of Rural Sections selected.	Total Area selected.
		Acres.
Crown and national-endowment land	450	107,531
Settlement land	146	43,932
Education reserves, &c.	32	5,858
Grand totals	628	157,321

The lands dealt with above comprise both areas offered for the first time and areas which became available for reoffering through various reasons. The figures for *entirely new* rural areas selected during the year are as follows :—

Class of Land.	Number of New Rural Sections selected.	Total Area selected for the First Time.
		Acres.
Crown and national-endowment land	227	42,064
Settlement land	125	39,265
Education reserves, &c.	9	2,038
Grand totals	361	83,367

The demand for certain classes of land has been seriously affected by the fall in the prices of primary products ; but the system of advances for development purposes is becoming more widely known, and is proving a powerful factor in maintaining a steady demand on the part of prospective settlers for moderately-priced unimproved or partly improved land, the selection of which affords a reasonable opportunity of building up a valuable asset by the personal efforts of successful applicants.

RECEIPTS.

The receipts for the year from all sources (excluding, of course, Discharged Soldiers Settlement Account receipts) total £1,005,700, a decrease of £269,406 on last year's figures. The sum of £265,625 was derived from ordinary Crown lands, £456,174 from lands held under the Land for Settlements Act (including Hutt Valley Settlement and Cheviot Estate), £112,608 from the national endowment and £109,775 from the education endowment.

Cash received on the conversion of leaseholds to freehold tenures has shown a decrease of approximately £48,000.