

1894.

NEW ZEALAND.

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND SURVEY

(ANNUAL REPORT ON).

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

The SECRETARY of CROWN LANDS and SURVEYOR-GENERAL to the Hon. the
MINISTER of LANDS.

SIR,— Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, 23rd June, 1894.
I have the honour to transmit herewith the annual reports on the operation of the Lands
and Survey Department for the twelve months ending the 31st March, 1894.

I have, &c.,

S. PERCY SMITH,

Secretary for Crown Lands and Surveyor-General.

The Hon. John McKenzie, Minister of Lands.

LANDS.

DURING the year which ended on the 31st March last the lands have been administered under "The Land Act, 1892," and regulations made under the powers therein contained. In the session of 1893 an Amendment Act was passed, the principal object of which was to correct some technical defects in the main Act, but the opportunity was taken to make an alteration in the system which had previously obtained in respect to deposits with applications. The amending Act did away with the necessity for money deposits, and substituted an obligation to pay the requisite deposits so soon as the successful applicant became known. The effect has been to do away with unnecessary book- and account-keeping, which in many cases entailed serious delays in the return of deposits, and constant friction with the depositors. On the other hand, the new system no doubt encourages a larger number of applications, up to the limits allowed; but it nevertheless is a distinct improvement on the old system.

Whilst the Act of 1892 is that under which the majority of transactions take place, there is a provision in that Act (section 114) which keeps alive a class of transactions that otherwise find no place in the present land-laws. Hence, the tables appended continue to show selections under the otherwise obsolete headings of deferred-payment and perpetual-lease systems. The transactions during the year, however, have been few, and, from the circumstances of the case, must be a gradually diminishing quantity.

To afford a comprehensive view of the year's operations relating to the ordinary Crown lands, to the Cheviot Estate, and to lands acquired under the Land for Settlements Act, the following table has been compiled:—

	No. of Purchasers or Selectors.	Area.			Cash received on Past and Current Transactions.						
		A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.				
Town lands	142	75	2	23	}	20,000	2	11			
Suburban lands	67	358	2	5							
Rural lands	249	33,200	0	25							
Deferred payments	96	12,668	2	5					48,225	10	3
Perpetual lease and small areas	17	3,854	0	9					39,834	0	8
Lease in perpetuity	447	151,324	0	12					4,262	2	1
Occupation with right of purchase	461	108,133	0	28					4,230	9	9
Agricultural lease	5	364	3	35					400	1	5
Village settlement, cash	3	2	0	24					30	0	0
" deferred payment					1,982	17	11
" perpetual lease	886	4	9				
" occupation with right of purchase	5	1	1	0	0	16	0				
" lease in perpetuity	208	3,953	0	6	495	3	2				
Village homestead special settlement (lease in perpetuity)	53	1,021	0	5	2,382	11	2				
Special-settlement associations	290	68,852	0	0	10,594	19	3				
Small grazing-runs	124	226,669	3	17	20,483	5	3				
Pastoral runs	85	646,253	0	4	104,452	14	11				
Cheviot Estate—											
Town lands, cash	31	7	1	22	776	0	0				
Rural lands	8	1,357	0	25	3,955	5	8				
Lease in perpetuity	95	23,251	2	36	3,047	5	11				
Village homestead special settlement (lease in per- petuity)	65	1,528	2	6	302	3	9				
Grazing-farms	18	26,023	0	0	1,842	10	1				
Land for Settlements Act—											
Lease in perpetuity	70	5,417	3	0	770	17	3				