

The small grazing-runs and grazing-farms of Cheviot do not call for any special remark. The particulars of the selections are: Small grazing-runs selected, 48; area, 100,240 acres. Grazing-farms, 12; area, 17,605 acres.

## ARREARS.

The total amount of arrears due to the Crown on all classes of land shows this year an increase of £3,788 5s. 11d., but it is not common to the whole of the colony. In Auckland, Taranaki, and Southland they have been decreased by a sum of £3,547 0s. 8d., and increased in the rest of the districts by £7,335 5s. 7d. The following summary will show at a glance how the arrears stood on the 31st March of each of the years quoted:—

				£		
31st March, 1889	...	...	...	3,862	selectors, owing	44,533
" 1890	...	...	...	3,755	" "	52,891
" 1891	...	...	...	3,548	" "	37,341
" 1892	...	...	...	2,612	" "	25,256
" 1893	...	...	...	3,382	" "	28,875
" 1894	...	...	...	3,104	" "	32,205
" 1895	...	...	...	3,594	" "	37,514

In the figures for 1895 all classes of arrears are shown, whilst in the previous year the miscellaneous and temporary leases or licenses were excluded. This tends to make the last year's arrears appear greater when compared with the previous years. When compared with the amounts owing in some of the other colonies these figures show favourably. There can be little doubt that the low prices ruling for most of our staple products derived from the land are the principal causes of the increase of arrears this year. But there is also another factor which influences them—namely, the fact that the operations of "The Selectors' Lands Revaluation Act, 1892," under which payments to date of revaluation were credited to the selectors as so much rent in advance, is gradually working out, and fresh payments are becoming due again. It is also a well-known fact that many selectors do not consider themselves in arrear if their rents are paid within the six months after they become due, which—in the greater number of tenures—terminates three months after the returns are made up.

## REVALUATIONS.

The operations under "The Selectors' Land Revaluation Act, 1892," have practically ceased; the few cases shown in the table below were some standing over from the previous year. The table explains itself.

District.	Deferred Payment.			Perpetual Lease.			Agricultural Lease.			Small Grazing-run.		
	No.	Area.	Loss in Capital Value.	No.	Area.	Loss in Rent.	No.	Area.	Loss in Rent.	No.	Area.	Loss in Rent.
Previous years ..	1,384	Acres. 215,784	£ 155,890	582	Acres. 73,043	£ 1,838 0 0	15	Acres. 2,096	£ 117	17	Acres. 32,128	£ 266
1894-95.												
Marlborough ..	1	10	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland ..	..	..	..	1	40	2 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago ..	8	1,640	408	6	542	15 0 0	5	416	17	10	24,406	192
Totals ..	1,393	217,434	156,302	589	73,625	1,855 0 0	20	2,512	134	27	56,534	458
Endowments, from last year's report	51	13,179	13,195	33	7,477	228 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total to date ..	1,444	230,613	169,497	622	81,102	2,083 0 0	20	2,512	134	27	56,534	458
Total loss in capital value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£169,497	...
Total loss in rentals value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,558	...

## STATE FORESTS.

Including all classes of timber—climatic, plantation, and other—reserves, there were 1,141,778 acres set aside for those purposes on the 31st March, 1894. Up to the 31st March last some timbered country in Southland had been resumed for settlement amounting to 3,589 acres, and during the same period 6,900 acres had been reserved in Taranaki, and 5,829 acres in other parts, so that at the end of the period the total area under forest reserve stood at 1,150,918 acres. The reserves made in Taranaki are on top of the Matemateonge Range, and at the White Cliffs, the first to preserve the sources of many streams rising in those ranges, the other to preserve some pretty woodland scenery. The rest of the area consists of small reserves in various parts. Since the 31st March a further reservation of 8,300 acres has been made along the shores of Lake Waikaremoana, to preserve the beautiful scenery to be found there, for this lake, though seldom visited, is by far the most lovely of any in the North Island.

No fires have been reported during the year. Mention was made in last year's report that a good deal of kauri timber had been burnt in the Tairua State Forest some years ago. This was submitted to auction during the past year, and 21,710,000ft., as estimated, was sold for £6,047, half of which amount appears in this year's accounts. Nothing has yet been done with respect to the burnt timber in the Puhupuhi Forest, and until the railway has advanced further it is little use trying to dispose of it. The recent advance in the price of timber should cause our settlers to preserve as much as possible the valuable timber growing on their lands, which in many cases is