## 1896. NEW ZEALAND.

## LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACT, 1894"

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly in compliance with Section 39 of "The Land for Settlements Act, 1894."

The LAND PURCHASE INSPECTOR to the Hon. the Minister of Lands.

Department of Land for Settlements, Wellington, 27th June, 1896. I have the honour to report on the transactions under "The Land for Settlements Act, Sir,— 1894," for the twelve months ending the 31st March, 1896.

By the Amendment Act of 1895 the number of the members of the Land Purchase Board was increased from three to five. The Board as now constituted consists of the Land Purchase Inspector as Chairman, the Surveyor-General, the Commissioner of Taxes—these for the whole colony; with the Commissioner of Crown Lands, and a member of the Land Board in each land district, who are members only for the business arising within their respective districts. This came into operation on the 1st November, 1895, and has removed the deadlock which formerly existed whenever any one of the three members could not attend to form a quorum of that number.

There were twenty meetings of the Board held during the year for business in the following land districts: Auckland, 2; Hawke's Bay, 2; Wellington, 2; Marlborough, 1; Westland, 4;

Canterbury, 6; and Otago, 3 meetings.

Estates of a total area of 541,966 acres were offered during the year. Of that area more than onehalf was found on inspection to be more suitable for pastoral than agricultural occupation, and, not being adapted for close settlement, was declined. Of the remainder, the Board recommended the purchase of estates of an aggregate area of 71,877 acres, at certain prices, which, being approved by Government, were submitted to the owners and accepted for fifteen estates, containing 43,195 acres, at a total price of £214,627, or an average price per acre of very nearly £5. In this is included the Ardgowan Estate, of 4,241 acres, taken compulsorily in terms of the Act of 1894. The award fixed by Compensation Court, held in September, 1895, was £34,600, or £8 3s. per acre.

Since the commencement of the system of purchase of land for settlements, in October, 1892, to 31st March, 1896, 28 estates of a total area of 86,919 acres have been bought, for £377,553 6s.

The cost of roading, surveying, and administration was £11,761 11s. 7d. additional.

The land acquired has been of two classes—namely, rural arable land for farms, and suburban land for garden-cultivation in 1- to 5-acre lots. A large number of small areas around Christchurch have been offered from time to time, but the prices asked, in most cases, have been more on the scale of building-lots than of garden or small-farm lots, and practically prohibitive for the latter purpose. Four areas, comprising in all 190 acres, have been purchased within from a mile and a half to three miles from the Christchurch Post-office. Two have been settled on, in lots of 1 to 3 acres, and the other two areas, having only been recently acquired, are now in process of preparation for

Nearly all the lands purchased under "The Land for Settlements Act, 1894," have been much improved, and are in excellent heart and condition. Unless they are kept up in this state by skilful husbandry, and by settlers who have the means to do so, they will deteriorate and fall in value. It therefore becomes imperative in the public interest that in the administration of such valuable lands the conditions of the leases in respect of rotation and limitation of cropping, upkeep of fences, and so on, should be strictly enforced. In the eagerness to obtain such lands artful combinations of families and friends lend themselves as applicants for some favourite section, so as to obtain as many chances of a successful draw at the ballot as possible. This acts most unfairly to those who do not resort to that practice. Some power of check should be given the Land Boards to prevent the scramble.

During the year considerable attention has been given to the question of dealing with the pastoral country of Nelson and Marlborough Land Districts, the leases of which run out in the latter half of 1896, but are carried on to 28th February, 1897, as a more convenient time of the year for shifting stock should there be any change of tenants. In nearly all the runs the lower slopes and valleys have been made freehold, thereby either shutting off the higher-lying Crown lands from access, or, by spotting, rendering the adjacent Crown lands practically worthless. Section 4 of "The Land for Settlements Act, 1894," gives power to deal with this either by purchase or exchange of lands. A large number of adjustments will require to be made if all the Crown lands are to be available for future occupation. A beginning has been made in this important work, but very much more remains to be done.

I have, &c.,

James McKerrow. During the year considerable attention has been given to the question of dealing with the

JAMES McKerrow,

Land Purchase Inspector.

The Hon. the Minister of Lands.

Auckland			Acre.	without going to Board.	recommended by Board.	recommended by Board.	or rejected by Owner.	Remarks.	
:::::		A. B. P.	£ s. d.	A. B. P.	. A. R. P.	A. B. P.		:	
:::::	:	<b>-</b>		0	:	:	:	Not considered suitable.	
::::	:	2,924 0 0	0 0 0 0		:	:	:		
:::	: :	0		0		: :	: :	: :	
:	: :			300 0 0	•	: :	::	Not suitable,	
	:	12,066 0 0	1 0 0		:		:		
:	:	0	0	•	•	3,546 0 0	:	Owner would not accept offer.	
Total	:	31,912 0 0	:	28,366 0 0	:	3,546 0 0	;		
Hawke's Bay	:	0	က	•	:		:	Under consideration.	
:	:	0	0	:	•	427 0 0	Accepted	Land suitable for settlement.	
:	:		000	•	907 0	:	:	Not suitable.	
:	:	<b>-</b>	>	•	>	<	Rejected	man and and account offer made	
: :	: :	0	: :	•	: :	5,500 0 0	·· paparat	Owner would not accorded oner made	
: :	: :	0	: :		:		:	Land not suitable.	
:	:	0	:	0	:	:	:		
:	:	0	:	19,000 0 0	:	:	:		
:	:	4,539 0 0 8 485 0 0	:	)	8 485 0 0	:	:	" "	
:	:	0	•	: :		: :	• •	Inder consideration	
	:				:	:	:	Land not suitable.	-
:	:	0 (	0 ;	0	:	:	:		
:	:		T	119 669 0 0		:	:	" "	
•	: :	0	9	0	: :	: :	: :	;	
: :	: :	0	3 0 0	:	:	::	::	Under consideration.	
:	:		0	:	:	•	:		
Total	:	243,704 0 0	:	212,250 0 0	10,283 0 0	10,487 0 0	:	Under consideration, 10,684 acres.	
Taranaki	:	2,140 0 0	8 10 0	:	;	:	:	Under consideration.	
Total	:	2,140 0 0	:	:	:	:	:	Under consideration, 2,140 acres.	
Wollington		1	12			0 0 980 7		Withdraw her wandow	
	: :	0	15 0 0	138 0 0	: :	>	: :	Not suitable.	
:	:	0	:	:	:		: 7	Under consideration.	
	: :	6.513 0 0	. 0	6.513 0 0	: :	0 0 601,0	rejected	Land suitable.	
	:	0	40 0 0	•	375 0 0	:	•		
Carried forward	rd.	27.027 0 0		6.651 0 0	375 0 0	11.001 0 0	•	Under consideration, 9 000 acres	
		,		,	,	, [	,		

RETURN of all LANDS OFFERED to GOVERNMENT under "The Land for Settlements Act, 1894," and how dealt with, from 1st April, 1895, to 31st March, 1896...

	Remarks.	Not suitable. Under consideration.	Under consideration, 9,100 acres.	Land suitable.  Not suitable.  " Land suitable.  Not suitable; pastoral country.  Under consideration.	Under consideration, 14,000 acres.	Under consideration. Land suitable; still under consideration. Land suitable.	Under consideration, 450 acres.	Too high priced. Unsuitable. Land suitable.  Land not suitable.  Land not suitable.  Land suitable.  Land suitable.  No further action taken; land sold privately.  Not suitable.  Land suitable.  Not suitable.  Loo high priced.  Too high priced.  Not suitable.  Land suitable.  Land suitable.  Land suitable.  Too high priced.  Not suitable.
	Offer accepted or rejected by Owner.	:::		Accepted	:	Declined	:	Rejected Accepted Accepted Rejected
	Area recommended by Board.	A. B. P. 11,001 0 0	11,001 0 0	3,898 0 0 .: .: 6,500 0 0	10,398 0 0	4,865 0 0 3,230 0 0	8,095 0 0	360 0 0 200 0 0 125 0 0  386 0 0  712 0 0
construct.	Area not recommended by Board.	A. B. P. 375 0 0	375 0 0	1,000 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	2,182 0 0	:::	:	43,979 0 0 40 0 0 40 0 0 10 0 10 0 10 0 10 0 1
	Area declined without going to Board.	4. R. P. 6,651 0 0 304 0 0	6,955 0 0	2,550 0 0 2,082 0 0 13,104 0 0 14,188 0 0	31,924 0 0	: : :	:	29 0 0 104 0 0 54 0 0 480 0 0 22 0 0 727 0 0 591 0 0 636 0 0 111 0 0 75,295 0 0
	Price asked per Acre.	£ s. d. 9 10 0		3 4 0 3 0 0 3 0 0 4 18 0 1 10 0 6 10 0 1 0 0 4 10 0	•	3 0 0 2 15 0 1 5 0	•	58 98 98 14 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10
	Area offered.	A. B. P. 27,027 0 0 304 0 0 100 0 0	27,431 0 0	3,898 0 0 1,182 0 0 1,000 0 0 2,550 0 0 2,082 0 0 6,500 0 0 13,104 0 0 14,188 0 0	58,504 0 0	450 0 0 4,865 0 0 3,230 0 0	8,545 0 0	29 0 0 104 0 0 360 0 0 200 0 0 43,979 0 0 48 0 0 40 0 0 384 0 0 386 0 0 727 0 0 591 0 0 636 0 0 111 0 0 138 0 0 113 0 0 138 0 0
	vhere	rward	:	::::::::	:	:::	:	
	Land District where Land situated.	Brought forward Wellington	Total .	Marlborough	Total .	Westland	Total .	Canterbury

Land for Settlements Act, 1894," and how dealt with, from 1st April, 1895, to 31st March, 1896-	
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	Remarks.		Under consideration. Not suitable.	No further action taken.	Owner would not dispose of land.	Under consideration.	Land suitable, Too high priced	Under consideration.	Not amitable	Index consideration	Outer consideration. Not suitable.	Under consideration.					2		2 2			Under consideration, 9,476 acres.	Land suitable.	Not suitable; mostly pastoral.	not suitable.		Land suitable.	Not sultable; mostly pastoral. Under consideration	· Trace construction of the contraction of the cont	NT = t === 1.1.	Under consideration.	Under consideration, 11,940 acres.		Under consideration.	Inot suitable. Under consideration.	Under consideration, 9,334 acres.	Under consideration, 67,124 acres.
80	Oner accepted or rejected by Owner.		::	 Rejected	··· nanadan		Accepted	::	:	•	::	:	:	: :	: :	:	:	:	: :	:	:	:	Accepted	:	:	: :	Accepted	rejected	: :	:	::	;	•	:	::	.:	:
A	recommended by Board.	A. B. P. 1,783 0 0	::	990 0 0	>	,	9,120 0 0	::	:	:	::	:	:	: :	: :	•	:	:	::	•	:	11,733 0 0	514 0 0	:	:	: :	2,367 0 0		::	:	: :	16.617 0 0	,	;	::	:	71,877 0 0
Company of the Compan	recommended by Board.	A. B. P. 45,443 0 0	::	:	::	:	: :	: :	:	:	: :	:	:	: :	: :	:	:	:	::	:	•	45,443 0 0	:	0	360 0 0	337 0 0		:	: :		0 0 *02,62	50.286 0 0	,	:	• •		108,569 0 0
A second second	without going to Board.	A. R. P. 5,295 0 0	61 0 0	:	50 0 0	:	160 0 0	<b>,</b>	0 0 950	>	5,191 0 0	:	:	: :	: :	:	:	:	::	:	:	11,613 0 0	:	:	0 0 311	>	:	:	::	:	::	115 0 0	,	: 2	>	3,173 0 0	294,396 0 0
-	Price asked per Acre.	£ s. d.	. 0	6 5 0 95 0	٠.	30 0 0		0	_	90	0	0	0 0	_		0	0		62 0 0		40 0 0	•	_	<b>[</b> (	16 U U		80 e	o C	70		::			4 5 0	4 10 0		
	Area offered.	A. B. P. 52,521 0 0	7,000 0 0 61 0 0	390 0 0	0	0	9,120 0 0	0	880 0 0	0	0	0	35 0 0	0	0	0	0	0 0 96	0	18 0 0	75 0 0	78,265 0 0	0	0	-	0	0		0	14 0 0	258 0	78.958 0 0	,	8,057 0 0		12,507 0 0	541,966 0 0
	Land District where Land situated.	Brought forward	Canterbury	:		:			:			:	:			:	:	:		:	:	Total	Otago	:		: : :	:			:		Total	:	land	: :	Total	Grand Totals for the Colony

"THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACT, 1894."

TABLE B.—Return of Lands recommended for Purchase by the Board of Land Purchase Commissioners under the above Act up to 31st March, 1896. [Note.—Wherever the land-tax value is absent, the tax value of the property offered cannot be separated from the rest of the estate.]

				oud our to on	before the control of the second of the seco	one and an active	a rroun pine lese	or one estate.	
Name of Seller and Locality.	Area offered by	Price asked.	Tax Value.	Price offered for Land.	Total Price	Cost of Roading, Administra-	Total Cost to	Date of Deed.	Romanka
5	venuor.	Per Acre.	· Per Acre.	Per Acre.		&c., to Date.	Dane.		1012 17 17 01
New Zealand and Australian Land Company. "Pareora," Canterbury	A. R. P. 620 2 13	£ s. d. From £10 16s. to	્ય જ :	£ s. d.	£ s. d. 7,198 14 10	£ s. d. 38 10 10	£ s. d.	29/9/98	See report attached.
Studholme's Trustees, "Studholme Junction,"	107 2 17	12 0 0	•	12 0 0	1,291 5 6	47 18 4	1,339 3 10	3/11/93	
Studholme's Trustees, "Kapua," Canter- bury	574 1 5	0 0 6	:	0 0 8	4,594 5 0	215 13 6	4,809 18 6	2/2/94	
Meek, W., "Teaneraki," Otago Douglas, J., "Pomahaka," Otago	ကက	15 0 0 3 10 0	2 2 6	14 10 0 2 10 0	5,044 0 6 18,656 17 10	496 16 8	5,540 17 2	17/11/93	
Auckland	4,738 0 0 1,357 3 21	4 10 0 6 12 6	::	: :		!		selotlot	Owner refused price offered.
Auckland Fell, C. Y., "Blind River," Marlborough	00	10	::	3.00	14,678 10 5	1,533 6 11	16,211 17 4	2/8/94	", vendor
	4,868 0 0 21 2 0 100 0 0	15 15 23	10 0 0	2 10 0 12 0 0 17 0 0	252 4 6	9.15.1	261 19 7	22/10/95	attached.  Owner refused price offered.  See report attached.
Fringle, W., "Rosebrook," Canterbury		12 10	0	0	5,984 4 8	73 11 1	6,057 15 9	6/5/95	Office accepted by vendor; pur-
Canterbury Canterbury	00,0	11 0 0 14 0 0	::		::	::	::	::	
Copland, A., "Otaio," Canterbury	376 2 30	13 0 0	7 10 0	11 0 0	4,143 11 3	53 2 4	4,196 13 7	2/4/95	Negotiations fell through. Offer accepted by vendor: pur-
Stringer, G., "Tahawai," Otago Borton, J., "Maerewhenua," Otago Elder, Smith, and Co., "Merrivale," Southland	69 0 19 11,358 0 0 9,998 0 0	11 0 0 8 0 0 4 0 0	6 11 0 3 0 0	9 0 0 6 0 0 2 10 0	622 1 4 66,905 17 0 24,995 0 0	10 19 4 2,583 5 8 1,182 12 1	633 0 8 69,489 2 8 26,177 12 1	9/5/95 8/8/95 5/4/95	
Southland Tonks, Norton, and Co., "Roimata," Canterbury	1,907  0  0 $47  2  0$	$\begin{array}{ccc} 4 & 15 & 0 \\ 50 & 0 & 0 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{cccc} 2 & 10 & 0 \\ 47 & 9 & 6 \end{array}$	2 5 0 45 0 0	2,200 6 7	228 7 6	2,428 14 1	21/8/95	Owner refused price offered. Offer accepted by vendor: nur.
Canterbury Canterbury M. R. Co., "Patoa," Canterbury Hawke's Bay	75 0 0 448 0 0 7,347 0 38 6 964 0 0	75 0 0 8 17 6 1 0 0	0 15 0	50 0 0 6 0 0 0 18 0	6,612 10 3	80	6,692 13 9	13/3/96	te. price offered. "
Gould, J., "Opouriao," Auckland	0		ာ တ	> <del>4</del> 4	24,261 3 3	668 5 9	24,929 9 0	: :	See report attached. Owner could not complete title. See report attached. 7,504 acres
Murray, Roberts, and Co., "Elsthorpe," Hawke's Bay	10,073 0 0	0 0 9	0	4 10 0	45,328 10 0 (To be paid.)	:	·	•	purchassed; atte to 100 acres not complete. Owner accepted offer: purchase not quite complete.

"THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACT, 1894"-continued.

-continued.	bed. Remarks.		See report attached.	Withdrawn by vandor.	Owner declined offer made. Purchase not quite complete; see	report attached. See report attached.	Owner refused price offered. Purchase not outle complete	Ournes refused union offices	Cwart tetused price offered.	See report attached.	Owner refused price offered.	36 See report attached.	See report attached.		35 See report attached.	See report attached.	Court. £34.600.	Purchase not quite complete.	Owner declined offer made.	*	Owner refused price offered.			
SIONERS-	Date of Deed.		:	:	: :	•	: :		: :	:	:	23/3/96	8/10/95	6/9/61	16/11/95	- F3	:	•	:	:	::	:		:
HASE COMMIS	Total Cost to		£ s. d. 10,272 12 1	:	::	3,743 12 9	. 86	•	: :	7,744 18 11	:	247 9 8		n .	5,080 6 3	3,484 15 2	>	22 10 2	:	:	::	232,133 17 10		:
LAND PURCE	Cost of Roading, Administra-	&c., to Date	£ s. d. 12 12 1	:	::	109 11 3	. 88 . 9 . 9	1	: :	61 1 5	:	7.98	31 7 0	n •	224 6 9	176 0 4	>	22 10 2	:	:	::	11,751 11 7		:
ED for PURCHASE by the BOARD of LAND PURCHASE COMMISSIONERS—continued	Total Price		£ s. d. 10,260 0 0	:	10,865 13 6	(To be paid.) 3,634 1 6	59.209.12 7	P	: :	7,683 17 6	:	240 0 0	1,584 0 0	<b>)</b>	4,855 19 6	34 600 0 0	paid	7,168 3 8	(mind an ar)	:	::	220,382 6 3		157,171 19 9
CHASE by th	Price offered for Land.	Per Acre.	£ s. d. 24 0 0	10	2 15 9	1 2 6	13 0 0		2000	0	91 25 0	0	15 0 0			6 10 0	•	3 1 0	13	٥	2 17 0	1 0	sellers to 51st March, 1896	Total amount to be paid to sellers at 31st March,
ED for PUR	Tax Value.	Per Acre.	£ s. d. 23 1 5	:	::	•	6.50		: :	13 0 0	:	::	9 11 0		: :	8 3 0	:	:	:		) : :	Total amount	sellers to	Total amour to sellers a
ECOMMEND	Price ssked.	Per Acre.	£ s. d. 27 0 0		2 15 9	1 5 0	14 0 0 6 17 6		: :		6 10 0	15 0 0	20 0 0	۰ :	: :	8 10 0	:	:	:	٠.	2 3 4 4 10 0	:		:
N of LANDS I	Area offered by	vendor.	A. R. P. 427 2 0	0	3,898 0 0	3,230 1 6	200 0 0		0		<b>&gt;</b> 0	0	105 2 16	N C	0	514 1 20	>	2,367 3 31	0	0	4,950 0 0	138,299 3 6		86,919 1 21
TABLE B.—BETURN of LANDS RECOMMENDE	Name of Seller and Locality.		Williams, J. H., "Raureka," Hawke's	Bay Wellington	Mariborougn Gmaka," Mariborough	Clark, C., "Poerua," Westland	Canterbury Brown M. L. "Highbank" Canterbury	Contorbury	Canterbury	Quinn and Rooney, "Orakipaoa"	Canterbury	Moore, G. H., Omihi Stock Reserve, Canter.	bury R. Hoare, "Kereta," Canterbury	W. Boag, " Braco, Canterouty	Gould, Beaumont, and Co., "Ashley Gorge"	Cochrane, J., "Puketapu," Otago	A. Z. and A. Dand Co., Alugowan, Coago	Kitchener, A. B., "Makareao," Otago	Auckland	Hawke's Bay	Hawke's Day	Total area recommended to 31st March, 138,299	1890	Total area purchased and arranged to be purchased at 31st March, 1896

## "THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACT, 1894."

STATEMENT of LANDS acquired to 31st March, 1896, prepared in Terms of Subsection 2 of Section 39 of the said Act.

		STATEMENT OF LANDS &	equired to 31st M	<u> </u>	ed in Terms	Price to be paid	Z OI Section 39 of the said Act.  Report and Valuation of Board.		<u>.</u>
Name of Settlement.	Area of each Block of Land as purchased.	Locality of Land.	Quality of Land.	Name of Porson or Company from whom it was bought or acquired.	Price paid to Seiler to 31st March, 1896.	where Transaction	Report of Board.	Valuation of Board.	Report on Conditions and Settlement of the Land.
·	·			ands acquired prio	r to 1st Apri	l, 1894.	<u></u>	<del></del> .,	····································
Равкова	620 2 13	Block XII., Otaio, and Block IV., Patiti, Canterbury Land District	Open level agricul- tural land, of good quality	and Australian Land Company		£ s. d.	The quality and position of the land are excellent, and, from inquiries made, the Board believes there is a demand for small farms in the district, and		See Report attached.
STUDHOLME	107 2 17	Blocks XV. and XVI., Wai- mate, Canterbury Land		(Limited) Trustees of the late M. Studholme	1,291 5 6		therefore recommends the purchase of the block. Ditto	12 0 0	See Report attached.
Кариа	574 1 5	District Blocks I. and II., Waitaki, Canterbury Land District	quality All first-class land; partly reclaimed	Ditto	4,594 5 0		Ditto	7 16 9	See Report attached.
Tranaraki	347 3 18	Block XII., Oamaru, and Block VIII., Awamoko,	swamp All rich agricultural land	Meek, W	5,044 0 6		We recommend purchase at a price of £14 per acre, and, in the event of this offer not being accepted,		See Report attached.
Романака	7,462 3 1	Otago Land District  Blocks X., XI., XIII., and		Douglas, J	18,656 17 10		we are of opinion that £15 an acre would not be too high a price to pay for such land. We have ascertained the value and suitableness for		See Report
Total acquired to 31st March, 1894	9,113 0 14	XIV., Pomahaka, Otago Land District	land	Total price paid to 31st March, 1894	36,785 3 8	•	sottlement of the lands, and respectfully recom- mend the purchase of the same at a price not exceeding £2 10s. an acre.		attached.
			1	ired from 1st Apri	il, 1894, to 3	1st March, 18	95.		
BLIND RIVER		Blocks XII. and XIV., Clif- ford Bay Survey District, Marlborough Land District	pastoral lands		14,678 10 5	l	In the belief that a demand exists in the district, the Board recommends the purchase, at a price not exceeding £3 5s. an acre.		See Report attached.
Rosebroo	600 1 8	Block XVI., Pareora, Canter- bury Land District	Open, flat, and undu- lating down lands	Pringle, W	5,984 4 8		The land is suitable for farms of about 50 acres each. That there is a demand for such land in the district; that the Board recommends the purchase		See Report attached.
Отато	376 2 30	Blocks XII. and XVI., Otaio Survey District, Canter-	Open, flat land	Copland, A	4,143 11 3		at a price not exceeding £10 10s. an acre. That the block is very suitable for subdivision into small farms; that there is an unsatisfied demand	1	See Report attached.
Tahawai	69 0 19	bury Land District  Block I., Kurow Survey District, Otago Land District	Open, level ground,	Stringer, G	622 1 4		for land in the district; that the Board recommends the purchase at a price not exceeding £12 per acre That the character of the land is such as to render it suitable for settlement in small lots; that	9 0 0	See Report
W	11,150 3 36	Block III. and part of Block	deep rich alluvial silt Low-lying downs	Borton, J	66,905 17 0	•	there is a demand for land in the district; that the Board recommends the purchase at £9 per acre. That the land is good and suitable for settlement;		See Report
Maerewhenua	11,150 3 36	II., Awamoko, and Block III. and part of Block IV., Maerewhenua Survey Dis- tricts, Otago Land District	and flats	Borton, J.	00,503 17 0	••	that the offering of such a property to the public would create a demand from outside in addition to a limited demand in the district. The Board recommends purchase at a price not greater than		attached.
Merrivale	9,998 0 0	Waiau Survey District, Southland Land District	Mixed agricultural and pastoral; deep, rich, free soil	Elder, Smith, and Co.	24,995 0 0	•••	£6 an acre  That the land is good and suitable for settlement;  that the Board believes there is a demand for this  class of land in the district; that the Board recom- mends purchase at a price not exceeding £2 10s. an	3 0 0	See Report attached.
ROIMATA	48 3 37	Blocks XV. and XVI., Christ- church Survey District, Canterbury Land District	Good flat land, dark, rich, alluvial soil	Trustees of estate of late Sir H. Parkes	2,200 6 7		acre The land is good level agricultural land suitable for small allotments. That the Board believes there is a demand for this class of settlement in the district. The Board recommends the purchase at a price	45 0 0	See Report attached.
Ратоа	7,347 0 38	Waipara and Waitohi Survey Districts, Canterbury Land	Pastoral country	New Zealand Mid- land Railway Com-	6,612 10 3		not exceeding £45 an acrc.  That part of the land is fairly suitable for settlement; that a demand exists for this block on the part of	0 18 0	See Report attached.
		District		pany (Limited)			the Hurunui special settlers and others. The Board recommends Government to arrange the ac- quisition of the block at a price not greater than 18	s. an acre.	The Board is als
Total acquired from 1st	34,611 1 8			Total price paid	126,142 1 6	••	of opinion that there is a prospect of some part of the other than pastoral purposes, or, perhaps, not at necessity that exists for providing extensions to	all; but in the holding	view of the greats of the Hurung
April, 1894, to 31st March, 1895				from 1st April, 1894, to 31st March, 1895			settlers, without which—they inform members of the must be abandoned, the Board thinks Government loss (if any) rather than that an industrious class	should be pr	epared to face thi
	1 1		Lands acqui	ired from 1st Apri	l, 1895, to 31	st March, 189	obliged to abandon their homes.		
Opouriao	7,604 0 0	Blocks V., IX., XIII., Wha- katane, and Block II., Waimana Survey District, Auckland Land District	good quality	Gould, J. (Gould's Trustees)	24,261 3 3	••	The land is excellent in quality, and suitable for sub- division into farms of from 100 to 400 acres. That, from inquiries made, there is a considerable demand in the Bay of Plenty District and the Government		See Report attached.
Elsthorpe	10,073 0 0	Blocks III., VII., and XII., Oero Survey District,	Soil and situation good, suitable for	Buchanan's Trustees		45,328 10 0	is therefore recommended to purchase the land The Board believes the land could be profitably oc- cupied in mixed farms; that there is a fair demand	4 10 0	
Raureka	427 2 0	Hawke's Bay Land Dis- trict Block III., Te Mata Survey District, Hawke's Bay Land District	mixed farms Rich alluvial soil	Williams, Joseph Heathcote	10,260 0 0		in the district for such class of holdings, and the purchase is therefore recommended The land is good and suitable for settlement in small farms. The Board believes there is a demand for such land in the district; that the Board recom-	24 0 0	See Report attached.
Омака	3,898 0 0	Block VI., Aron Survey Dis- trict, and Block I., Taylor	Good agricultural	Goulter, Charles		10,865 13 6	mends the purchase at £24 an acre The land is good and suitable for settlement; there is a demand for such land in the district. The Board	2 15 9	
Poerua	3,230 1 6	Pass Survey District Marl- borough Land District Blocks X. and XIV., Te Kinga	Mica schist silt on	Clark, Charles	3,634 1 6	••	recommends the purchase at £2 15s. 9d. an acre To meet the strong desire for land on the part of the	1 2 6	See Report
		Survey District, Westland Land District	shingle				people residing in the district, that Mr. Clark be offered £1 2s. 6d. an acre as a final price, and that the proposed road and other expenditure on the land be such that the total expenditure on which rental will be charged does not exceed £2 an acre		attached.
HIGHBANK	9,119 3 2	Blocks I. and II., Corwar Survey District, Blocks IV.	All flat land, soil	Brown, M. Ingle	••	59,209 12 7	on an average The land is good and suitable for settlement in various sized farms. There is a demand for this land in	6 10 0	
		and VIII., Spaxton Survey District, Canterbury Land District	0				the district. The Board recommends the acquisition of this land at £6 10s, an acre		
Orakipaoa	384 0 31	Blocks III. and VII., Aro- whenua Survey District, Canterbury Land District	Rich alluvial soil	Quinn and Rooney	7,683 17 6	••	The land is good and suitable for settlement in 8 or 10 allotments of from 5 to 10 acres each, and the rest of the estate, approximately, as at present fenced. There is a demand in the district. The Board recommends the acquisition of the property	20 0 0	See Report attached.
Omihi Stock Reserve	20 0 0	Block XVIII., Waikari	Arable land	Moore, G. H	240 0 0	••	at £20 an acre, the area on which payment is made to be decided after survey  The Board recommends Government to acquire 20	12 0 0	See Report
02 6700K 112.22		Survey District, Canter- bury Land District					acres out of Mr. Moore's "Glenmark" Estate, situated on Waipara-Cheviot Road, at a price not exceeding £12 an acre		attached.
Kereta	105 2 16	Block IX., Arowhenua Survey District, Canterbury Land District.	Alluvial swamp land	Hoare, Richard	1,584 0 0	••	The land is good and suitable for subdivision into sections from 20 acres upwards. The Board believes there is a demand for a few sections in the neigh-	15 0 0	See Report attached.
							bourhood. The Board recommends the Government to purchase the land at a price not exceeding £15 an acre.		
ASHLEY GORGE	1,166 0 24	Blocks III., IV., and XVI., Ashley Survey District, and Block IV., Oxford Survey	Deep marshy soil on flats; the hill land fair pasture	Gould, Beaumont, and Co. (Ellis's Trustees)	4,855 19 6	••	That the land known as the "Homestead Block" is good and suitable for settlement. There is a demand for land in the district. The Government is	5 10 0	See Report attached.
		District, Canterbury Land District					recommended to purchase this block and 185 acres in addition at a price of £5 10s. an acre. With regard to the 440 acre block near the Ashley Bridge, as	2 0 0	
							this case comes under subsection (3) of section 4 of the Act it is considered advisable to acquire this land, as low-lying country necessary for the work-	•	
Puketapu	509 0 6	Block IV., Moeraki Survey		Cochrane, J	3,308 14 10	••	ing of the high pastoral country behind belonging to the Crown, at a price of £2 an acre  The land is good and suitable for settlement. The	6 10 0	See Report
		District, Otago Land Dis- trict	ploughable				Board believes there is a demand in the district. The Government is recommended to purchase the land at £6 10s. an acre, conditionally on the title		attached.
Ardgowan	4,241 0 0	Blocks I. and II., Oamaru		New Zealand and	••	34,600 0 0	to parts of Sections 4 and 7, Block I., Hawkesbury, being completed The land is good and suitable for settlement. That	7 0 0	
		Survey District, Otago Land District	land, the whole of which may be ploughed	Australian Land Company			there is a demand for land in the district. The Board recommends Government to acquire the land at a price not exceeding £7 an acre. (Taken		
Makareao	2,367 3 31	Blocks VII., IX., XII., XV.,	Limestone hill land	Kitchener, A. B		7,168 3 8	by arbitration — Award of Compensation Court, £34,600, or £8 3s. an acre) The land is good and suitable for settlement. There	3 1 0	See Report
		Moeraki Survey District, and Block IV., Dunback Survey District, Otago	and arable flats along banks of Shag River				is a demand for land in the district; the Board recommends the purchase of 2,368 acres of the land at £3 1s. an acre		attached.
EPWORTH	21 0 3	Land District Block II., Arowhenua Survey District, Canterbury Land	Loamy soil on banks of stream	Meyer, John	252 4 6	••	The land is suitable for subdivision into smaller areas. There is a demand for land in this district. The Board recommends the Government to acquire the	12 0 0	See Report attached.
Braco	27 2 0	District  Block X., Christchurch Survey District. Canterbury	Level land, good soil, suitable for market	Boag, W	1,375 0 0	•	Board recommends the Government to acquire the land at £12 an acre The land is good and suitable for division into small lots of from 1 acre upwards. The Board believes	50 0 0	See Report
Total acquired from 1st April, 1895, to 31st March, 1896	43,194 3 39	Land District	gardens		57,455 1 1	157,171 19 9	there will be a demand for such lands. The Board recommends Government to purchase the land at a price not exceeding £50 an acre		attached.
Grand total area ac-	86,919 1 21			Grand total price	377.554 6 A				
quired to 31st March, 1896	,				,				

## REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR-GENERAL TO THE MINISTER OF LANDS.

Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, 22nd June, 1896.

Sir.—

I have the honour to furnish the following information in order to comply with the latter part of section 39, (2), of "The Land for Settlements Act, 1894":-

The accompanying table shows "the condition and settlement" of the lands acquired under

the Act to the 31st March, 1896:—

Of the twenty-four estates shown in the table, five of them—viz., Raureka in Hawke's Bay, Omihi and Orakipaoa in Canterbury, Makareao in Otago, and Poerua in Westland—had not been offered for selection prior to the 31st March, although the purchases had been completed, and

therefore the details regarding them will not appear until next year's report.

The Commissioners' reports, and those of the Rangers, speak very favourably of the progress of the settlements at the time of last inspection, and that in nearly all cases the conditions were being fully complied with. It will be observed that, at the date of the returns, there were 643 souls residing on the different estates, and that 133 houses had been erected, although in many instances the limit of time within which residence was compulsory had not nearly expired. Out of the whole of the lands purchased, 11,895 acres remain unlet. These cases may be noted as follows: Of the 840 acres in Opouriao, there are some few sections withheld from sale until the title to those particular parts is completed. The Commissioner of Crown Lands, Auckland, anticipates the sections will go off directly they are offered. In Blind River, 1,249 acres remain on hand, but are open for selection; and the reason they have not been taken up hitherto is the want of better access: but, as sections continue to be taken up, the remainder will no doubt shortly be selected. The land in the Patoa Block which remains on hand—viz., 4,139 acres—is inferior in character, and only suited for a small run. In purchasing this block the Land Purchase Commissioners anticipated there would probably be a delay in letting this particular part; but it was necessary to include it to secure the other and better part of the block. The Commissioner of Crown Lands, Canterbury, is about to group the unlet sections and reoffer them, when it is anticipated the land will let. In the Ashley Gorge Estate an area of 123 acres remains unlet; this is more unfavourably situated than the rest, but is expected to let at any time. With regard to the 3,096 acres in Pomahaka as yet unlet, the Commissioner of Crown Lands sets this down to the low prices of produce and to the fact that settlers regard the rentals as too high, to which it is only just to add that the bad name the block acquired unjustly, through causes which are well known, no doubt tends to deter selectors. The only other estate in which any considerable area remains unlet is Merrivale, Southland, where an area of 2,376 acres is still on hand; this is nearly all bush, though the soil is very good. There is amongst the people of those parts a prejudice against bush land not known in the north. The Commissioner reports that the reason the whole of this estate was not selected is because the season was late when the land was offered, and applicants are holding back until the next half year to save paying rent. With better prices for produce, this area will be taken up.

Much information of a detail character regarding these settlements will be found in the Lands

Report for this year.

With regard to the financial result from the estates purchased under the Act, those which have been offered for selection up to 31st March last may be summarised as follows:-

At that date nineteen estates had been offered, and, after deducting forfeitures, the rental at which they were let

£9,987 per ann.

The amount of money sunk in the purchase, roading, surveys, • • •

£209,559.

and administration to that date was ...

4.76 per cent.

This shows a return on the capital of Or, deducting the arrears of rent...

4.56

Since the date of the return several of the forfeited sections have been again selected, which will tend to increase the percentage of return on the capital. The number of forfeitures during the year was twelve, and two of these selections have again been taken up.

The annual interest on the £209,559 expended on the estates, at 4 per cent.—which is the interest paid, I believe—amounts to £8,382; so that, without reckoning the lands still unlet, there is a surplus to the good. I have, &c.,

S. PERCY SMITH, Surveyor-General, and Secretary Crown Lands.

Hon. J. McKenzie, Minister of Lands.

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By Authority: John Mackay, Government Printer, Wellington.—1896.