

It will be observed that forfeitures were few in all the systems excepting village homestead, lease in perpetuity, and farm-homestead special settlements. In respect to the former, the bulk of the cancellations comprise lots in Pa Creek, Pongaroa, Rakaunui, Rakatoru, Welford, and other village settlements, most of which proved insufficient in area, or were too remote from markets, for labour to be successfully occupied. In other cases the lessees were unable or neglected to make reasonable effort to comply with the regulations, particularly as to residence.

As regards the 105 forfeitures of farm-homestead special-settlement lots, the explanation is that the rougher and more inaccessible sections were unoccupied, unimproved, or unpaid for, or that selectors having insufficient means, energy, or experience were unable to cope with the difficulties, drawbacks, and hardships with which the backwoods settlers have inevitably to contend. Some of them failed to sign their leases; others wrote in abandoning their sections; whilst a number were reported by the Rangers as being defaulters, and others failed to pay the rents due to the Crown. Insufficient road-access was also probably one of the main causes of some of these holdings being thrown up.

Lands for Future Disposal.—The absorption of Crown lands by the farm-homestead associations during the past few years leaves but little attractive and accessible land for future settlement. The following particulars on this subject are submitted for your information:—

SUMMARY of Crown Lands now open for Selection.

System.	Area.	Block.	Locality.
	Acres.	<i>Surveyed: First Class.</i>	
Perpetual lease ...	1,341	Makuri	Makuri (Revaluation).
Lease in perpetuity	637	Makuri	Makuri.
Village homestead, lease in perpetuity	115	..	Mangamahu, Pongaroa Village Settlement.
Optional... ..	2,547	Gladstone Farm Homestead ...	Waimarino.
"	4,357	Huntermville Nos. 1, 2, and 3 Farm Homesteads	North of Huntermville.
"	520	Palmerston North Knights of La- bour Farm Homesteads	"
"	1,086	Awarua Farm Homestead ...	West of Mangaweka.
"	3,003	Marton Nos. 1 and 2 Farm Home- steads	East of Rangiwahia.
"	850	Pohangina and Umutoi Farm Home- steads	South-east of Rangiwahia.
"	200	Delaware	"
"	1,336	Pahiatua Nos. 1, 2, and 4 Farm Homesteads	North-eastern Wairarapa.
"	1,400	Masterton - Reform Farm Home- stead	"
"	2,000	Christchurch Farm Homestead ...	"
"	2,150	Woodville Farm Homestead ...	"
"	500	Mekalickstone Farm Homestead ...	"
"	200	Waiwera Farm Homestead ...	North-west of Eketahuna.
Total ...	22,242		
		<i>Surveyed: Second Class.</i>	
Perpetual lease ...	640	Makuri	Makuri (Revaluation).
Optional... ..	1,546	Te Ngaue	Waitotara.
"	900	Gladstone Farm Homestead	Waimarino.
"	200	Huntermville No. 2 Farm Homestead	North of Huntermville.
"	200	Sommerville Farm Homestead ...	"
"	11,760	Awarua Farm Homestead ...	North of Kawatau River.
"	600	Marton No. 2 Farm Homestead ...	South of Kawatau River.
"	646	Pohangina Farm Homestead ...	South-east of Rangiwahia.
"	1,605	Onslow Farm Homestead	East of Rangiwahia.
"	6,439	Dannevirke - Centennial Farm Homestead	North-east of Alfredton.
"	2,564	East Puketoi	"
"	238	Mangahao	South-east of Pahiatua.
"	861	Tiraumea-Makuri and Middle Ma- kuri	North of Makuri Township.
"	1,808	Waikanae	Waikanae.
"	1,720	Waiohine	South Wairarapa.
"	2,702	Wainuioru	Wainuioru.
Total ...	34,429		