

NUMBER of NEW SELECTORS and AREA taken up from 1st April, 1897, to 31st March, 1898,
and Total Amount of Money received during the Year.

Nature and Tenure of Lands selected.	Number of Purchasers or Selectors.			Area.		Cash received on Past and Current Transactions.					
	Selectors.	Area. A. R. P.		A.	R. P.	£	s.	d.			
Town lands sold for cash ..	104	72	3	29	264	22,398	3	11	17,367	5	0
Suburban lands sold for cash ..	39	96	3	9							
Rural lands sold for cash ..	121	22,229	0	13							
Deferred payments	24,150	1	6
Perpetual lease (includes perpetual leases made freehold, £51,371 9s. 9d.)	2	651	1	0	71,966	14	0
Occupation with right of purchase	380	81,414	0	10	12,152	2	8
Lease in perpetuity	299	76,953	0	4	16,912	12	3
Agricultural lease	5	257	3	15	115	6	6
Village settlement, cash	2	1	1	33	17	17	6
.. .. . deferred payment	527	17	4
.. .. . perpetual lease (includes village perpetual leases made freehold, £108 19s. 4d.)	1,059	13	10
.. .. . occupation with right of purchase	2	1	3	24	11	10	4
.. .. . lease in perpetuity	87	1,386	1	35	1,258	12	4
Village-homestead special settlement	7	24	2	38	2,171	13	4
Special-settlement associations	5	442	0	0	8,253	15	2
Improved-farm special settlements (lease in perpetuity and occupation with right of purchase)	77	9,006	2	25	711	2	4
Occupation leases, Mining Act	23	1,284	3	20	227	16	3
Small grazing-runs	52	141,033	1	14	21,667	12	5
Pastoral runs	133	1,990,414	0	16	78,011	19	0
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	327	75,017	0	36	30,759	9	4
Cheviot Estate—											
Cash lands	8	125	3	20	838	12	0
Lease in perpetuity	6	105	2	12	6,455	19	9
Village-homestead special settlements (lease in perpetuity)	2	16	3	3	825	3	11
Grazing-farms	15	811	0	9	6,355	1	7
Pastoral runs	358	15	6
Miscellaneous	10	262	2	21	436	15	3
Land for Settlements Acts—											
Lease in perpetuity	294	40,379	2	18	26,334	14	3
Lease in perpetuity, village settlement	5	39	3	14	340	7	9
Special-settlement associations (lease in perpetuity)	167	4	10
Small grazing-runs	4	7,613	3	23	385	12	8
Miscellaneous	44	919	0	22	529	2	11
Totals	2,058	2,451,062	0	23	330,370	16	6

It will be noticed from the above table that the total results do not differ very materially from those of the previous year, though there are differences in particular items. In the lands thrown open for free selection under the optional system of Part III. of "The Land Act, 1892," the "occupation with right of purchase" preponderates this year over selections under the "lease in perpetuity" system; whereas previously the number of selectors have been nearly the same. Under the obsolete systems of deferred payment and perpetual lease (which, however, are kept alive to a limited extent by section 114 of the Act) the transactions are, with the exception of two new selections under the clause quoted, confined to the completion of payments under previous Acts. Thus, under deferred payments there were 296 selections, covering an area of 41,683 acres 1 rood 11 perches, completed and made freehold during the year, and 205 cases of perpetual lease of an area of 71,293 acres 2 roods 1 perch also made freehold, the payments in the latter case amounting to £51,371 9s. 9d. Both of these tenures will probably run out within a few years, owing largely to the facility of obtaining loans under a freehold system, towards which the Advances to Settlers Act has assisted somewhat. The number of deferred payment selectors still on the books of the department at 31st March last was 1,433, holding 202,761 acres; perpetual lease, 2,078 selectors, holding 543,534 acres. These figures exclude village holdings. Under the optional system the following selections have been made:—

	No.	Area.
Cash	65	6,680 acres.
Occupation with right of purchase	380	81,414 "
Lease in perpetuity	299	76,953 "

This shows a preference for that system which allows of the acquisition of the freehold, notwithstanding that the rent in such cases (until the tenth year, after which the freehold may be acquired) is 5 per cent., as against 4 per cent. under the lease in perpetuity system. The main reason probably is, amongst others, that money may be more freely raised on a tenure where there is a right of purchase.