

	No.	Area.
Selected for cash	114	17,824 acres.
Occupation with right of purchase	458	109,949 "
Lease in perpetuity	362	99,262 "

If from the total number of selectors or purchasers shown in Table B (2,209) are deducted those who took up town, suburban, and pastoral lands, together with the forfeitures and surrenders, we shall get 1,050 selectors who took up what may be called farms, and who are obliged by the conditions to reside and improve their properties.

Under the deferred-payment and perpetual-lease systems of previous Acts, which allow of the acquisition of the freehold, the following transactions took place:—

	No.	Area.
Deferred payments... ..	365	43,818 acres.
Perpetual lease	224	85,492 "

The above figures do not, of course, show so many new settlers, for the selections were made several years ago, but the freehold was only acquired during the past year. On the 31st March last there were still remaining 1,258 selectors holding land on the deferred-payment system, and 1,974 holding under the perpetual-lease system, with the right of purchase; whilst those who hold their lands by lease in perpetuity numbered 5,979.

The selections made under a few special clauses of the Act are as shown in the following table:—

TABLE C.

	Under Section 114.		Under Section 115.		Under Section 117.		Under Section 13 of Act of 1895.	
	Num-ber.	Area.	Num-ber.	Area.	Num-ber.	Area.	Num-ber.	Area.
Cash	4	Acres. 29	6	Acres. 31	14	Acres. 99	..	Acres. ..
Deferred payment	1	13	..	..	..	..	..	..
Occupation with right of purchase	6	786	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lease in perpetuity	18	2,214	4	1,014	..	..	..	..
Village homestead .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	108

The average size of farms taken up last year, excluding town, suburban, pastoral runs, grazing-runs, and miscellaneous, was 196 acres; the average for 1898 being 190 acres; for 1897, 138 acres; and for 1896, 162 acres. Under the optional system, where the size of the farm is—subject to the law—decided by the applicant, the average size was 243 acres; that for 1898 being 222 acres, and for 1897 220 acres.

The following table shows in a compact form the lands of all descriptions taken up during the last few years:—

TABLE D.

Year.	Number of Selectors or Purchasers.	Area taken up during the Year.	Territorial Revenue.	Total Revenue collected.	Number of Tenants on the Books.
		Acres.	£	£	
1888-89	2,529	2,313,611	310,061	Not given.	Not given.
1889-90	2,653	4,155,472	304,842	322,885	12,164
1890-91	2,420	2,154,138	352,417	364,938	11,995
1891-92	2,519	1,453,082	320,483	324,470	12,735
1892-93	3,071	1,663,339	274,399	310,523	14,261
1893-94	2,876	1,393,918	282,067	347,343	15,081
1894-95	2,547	1,015,577	338,166	375,879	15,326
1895-96	2,865	2,662,344	291,673	345,331	15,683
1896-97	2,173	1,600,695	272,954	360,993	15,527
1897-98	2,058	2,451,062	263,296	359,086	16,365
1898-99	2,542	1,357,466	273,799	385,145	16,572

The above are the gross transactions, without any deductions for forfeitures or surrenders, and represent figures which are constantly fluctuating, due to the running-out of leases or the purchase of the freehold, &c.

The amount of land thrown open for selection or purchase in some form or another during the period under consideration was as shown below. The total is somewhat less than for the previous year. It includes the lands surrendered or forfeited and again thrown open, and also endowments, estates acquired, &c.