AUDIT.

Mr. W. G. Runcie, Auditor of Land Revenue, reports :—

The receipts have been as hereunder stated :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Territorial revenue ... ... ... ... ... | 249,619 | 1 | 6 |
| Land for settlements ... ... ... ... ... | 90,053 | 5 | 6 |
| Cheviot Estate ... ... ... ... ... ... | 14,061 | 0 | 8 |
| State forests ... ... ... ... ... .. | 17,188 | 11 | 5 |
| North Island Main Trunk Railway ... ... ... | 6,670 | 14 | 5 |
| Thermal springs ... ... ... ... ... | 414 | 8 | 6 |
| Rotorua Town Council ... ... ... ... ... | 1,094 | 2 | 4 |
| Hanmer Sanatorium ... ... ... ... ... | 1,344 | 1 | 2 |
| Lakes Ellesmere and Forsyth ... ... ... ... | 1,615 | 12 | 2 |
| Mount Cook Hermitage ... ... ... ... ... | 190 | 5 | 6 |
| Crown-grant fees ... ... ... ... ... | 914 | 12 | 5 |
| Lands and Survey vote ... ... ... ... ... | 2,207 | 16 | 1 |
| Native townships ... ... ... ... ... | 310 | 8 | 1 |
| Mining district land occupation ... ... ... ... | 641 | 12 | 4 |
| Miscellaneous ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1,753 | 17 | 3 |
| Government Loans to Local Bodies Act ... ... ... | 21,420 | 15 | 7 |
| Endowments ... ... ... ... ... ... | 17,638 | 9 | 8 |
| Total ... ... ... ... ... ... | £427,138 | 14 | 7 |

The total receipts for the year show a falling-off of £4,199 18s. 8d., and it is greatest in the item of territorial revenue. In my report for the year 1900 I pointed out that with the extinction of deferred-payment holdings and the conversion to freehold of perpetual-lease holdings the territorial revenue was bound to decline, and I beg to state that it may be expected to still further shrink, as the rents for new selections cannot be expected to anything like reach the amount yearly received for the freehold of perpetual leases for years to come.

During the past year the sum of £8,054 11s. 6d. was allowed off rents under the Crown Tenants' Rebate Act and the Land for Settlements Consolidation Act which upon the total of the rents received upon prairie value gives for the year a mean rebate of $2\frac{7}{32}$ per cent.

TABLE No. 1. — *Comparative Statement of Receipts on Account of Territorial Revenue for the Financial Years 1900–1 and 1901–2.*

| District. | 1900–1. | | | 1901–2. | | | Increase, 1901–2. | | | Decrease, 1901–2. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| Auckland ... ... | 41,721 | 14 | 6 | 44,649 | 6 | 2 | 2,927 | 11 | 8 | ... | | |
| Taranaki ... ... | 24,184 | 10 | 11 | 17,194 | 14 | 9 | ... | | | 6,989 | 16 | 2 |
| Hawke's Bay .. | 21,719 | 19 | 10 | 14,478 | 1 | 3 | ... | | | 7,241 | 18 | 7 |
| Wellington ... ... | 35,834 | 3 | 8 | 29,757 | 11 | 9 | ... | | | 6,076 | 11 | 11 |
| Marlborough ... | 15,381 | 7 | 3 | 8,874 | 1 | 9 | .. | | | 6,507 | 5 | 6 |
| Nelson ... ... | 9,580 | 18 | 8 | 8,899 | 14 | 9 | ... | | | 681 | 3 | 11 |
| Westland ... ... | 1,368 | 15 | 8 | 5,614 | 8 | 5 | 4,245 | 12 | 9 | ... | | |
| Canterbury ... ... | 54,022 | 4 | 3 | 53,447 | 6 | 7 | ... | | | 574 | 17 | 8 |
| Otago ... ... | 51,741 | 7 | 6 | 52,567 | 8 | 6 | 826 | 1 | 0 | ... | | |
| Southland ... ... | 14,648 | 3 | 6 | 14,136 | 7 | 7 | ... | | | 511 | 15 | 11 |
| | 270,203 | 5 | 9 | 249,619 | 1 | 6 | 7,999 | 5 | 5 | 28,583 | 9 | 8 |
| | 249,619 | 1 | 6 | | | | | | | 7,999 | 5 | 5 |
| Net decrease ... | 20,584 | 4 | 3 | | | | | | | 20,584 | 4 | 3 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Receipts, 1900–1 ... ... ... ... ... | £270,203 | 5 | 9 |
| Receipts, 1901–2 ... ... ... ... ... | 249,619 | 1 | 6 |
| | £20,584 | 4 | 3 |