

NELSON.

SUMMARY OF LAND TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1901-2.

System.	Transactions during the Year.			Area under Lease at 31st March, 1902.			Revenue received during the Year.
	Number.	Area.		Number.	Area.		
Cash	52	A.	R. P.	...	A.	R. P.	£ s. d.
Deferred payment ... ..	...	5,282	1 39	312	33,090	2 10	2,250 19 8
Deferred payment made freehold	51	5,702	0 12	...	...	...	...
Perpetual leases ... ..	...	...	...	27	6,268	2 27	108 13 3
Occupation with right of purchase	46	11,801	3 30	192	37,862	0 28	548 19 1
Lease in perpetuity	37	11,956	1 0	166	47,516	1 10	593 0 9
Mining districts land occupation	8	342	0 11	8	342	0 11	34 3 3
Small grazing-runs ... ..	...	...	...	1	1,088	0 0	8 0 0
Pastoral runs	2	1,060	0 0	73	313,960	0 0	673 12 0
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	77	9,454	0 17	258	27,788	0 35	2,189 11 7
Other sources ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	374 16 1
Total	273	45,598	3 29	1,037	467,916	0 1	9,052 14 1
<i>Endowments.</i>							
Village - homestead special settlement	...	...	...	20	100	3 7	17 12 6
Mining district land occupation	7	136	3 29	52	1,119	3 18	40 17 9
Miscellaneous leases ... ..	...	...	...	210	5,457	1 19	2,200 15 6
Royalty on coal and timber ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,731 7 10
Other sources ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	60 9 4
Total	7	136	3 29	282	6,678	0 4	12,051 2 11
Grand totals	280	45,735	3 18	1,319	474,594	0 5	21,103 17 0

During the past year 16,527 acres under the optional system of the Land Act and 6,950 acres under lease in perpetuity were thrown open for selection.

The total number of selectors of all classes during the year was 229, and the area selected 40,033 acres 3 roods 6 perches.

Optional System.—During the year 135 selections were made, distributed amongst the different tenures as follows: Cash, fifty-two, 5,282 acres 1 rood 39 perches; occupation with right of purchase, forty-six, 11,801 acres 3 roods 30 perches; and lease in perpetuity, thirty-seven, 11,956 acres 1 rood. The holdings at the present time under the two last-mentioned tenures number 192, with 37,862 acres and 28 perches, and 166, with 47,516 acres 1 rood 10 perches, respectively.

Deferred Payments.—Fifty-one lessees, holding 5,702 acres and 12 perches, have acquired the freehold during the year, leaving 312 tenants, holding 33,090 acres 2 roods 10 perches, still on the books.

Perpetual Leases.—No freeholds were acquired during the year, twenty-seven leases, with 6,268 acres 2 roods 27 perches, being still held.

Mining Districts Land Occupation Act.—The holdings under this tenure have hitherto been restricted to the Buller Coalfields Reserve, but since the Midland Railway reservation has been removed applications are coming in from different parts of the West Coast and other mining districts. During the year fifteen selections, of 479 acres, have been made, bringing up the number of holdings to sixty, comprising 1,461 acres 3 roods 29 perches.

Village Settlement, Mokihinui.—This settlement is a portion of the Westport Harbour Board's endowment. There are twenty holders of sections, averaging about 5 acres. The value of improvements on the land is £1,226, over £12 an acre. Several of the settlers, who are chiefly coal-miners, have had to leave their holdings in search of work through the closing-down of the New Cardiff Coal-mine; but now that this mine is being reopened by the Government, no doubt many of these will return.

Pastoral Licenses.—Only two small runs, 1,060 acres, of rough hilltops, were taken up during the year; and seven licenses, area 8,608 acres, have been transferred to Westland. The present holdings now number seventy-three, covering 313,960 acres.

Miscellaneous Leases and Licenses.—These number 468, 210 of which are Westport and Nelson Harbour Board endowment lands. The revenue of the latter, including royalty on coal, amounted to over £12,000 for the past year.