

Table D shows the position of the several areas applied for during the past year under the optional conditions of "The Land Act, 1892," and the preference of tenure, which has been markedly in favour of occupation with right of purchase, except in the Nelson Land District, where the number of selectors and area selected under the occupation-with-right-of-purchase tenure are less than under the lease-in-perpetuity tenure:—

TABLE D.—LANDS SELECTED ON OPTIONAL SYSTEM, showing Preference of Tenure

District.	Occupation with Right of Purchase.		Lease in Perpetuity.		Cash.	
	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.
		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.
Auckland	236	103,813	30	9,969	10	1,392
Hawke's Bay	10	3,499	6	1,994	...	...
Taranaki	90	69,945	18	10,995	3	3,737
Wellington	30	25,674	9	276	2	1,672
Nelson	5	1,665	8	6,725	6	3,375
Marlborough	3	2,646	...	..	...	...
Westland ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Canterbury ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	48
Otago	11	2,745	3	374	5	197
Southland	27	5,543	...	...	4	544
Totals	412	215,530	74	30,333	31	10,965

Table E (which is given below) is interesting, as showing that the barometrical reading of the numbers who have selected land during the past seven years for the purpose of close settlement is once more upon the ascending scale.

TABLE E.—NUMBER OF SELECTORS who have selected Lands under SETTLEMENT CONDITIONS during the past Seven Years.

Year.	Selectors.
1900-1	1,767
1901-2	1,632
1902-3	1,602
1903-4	2,053
1904-5	1,581
1905-6	1,536
1906-7	1,644

REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CROWN LANDS, AND GENERAL PROGRESS OF SETTLEMENT.

Each land district has its own special features, and the several Commissioners have dwelt in detail upon all points of special interest. They one and all draw attention to the great demand for *bona fide* settlement, and to the steady progress made by all classes of settlers. The North Island, generally speaking, has had a prosperous year, barring portions of the Auckland District, which suffered heavily from floods just at the season when the crops were being gathered in. The South Island, and more especially Otago and portions of the Canterbury Land District, suffered, on the contrary, from a prolonged but unusual drought, which has had disastrous effects upon many portions of the districts. Great activity is being shown in the Nelson Land District, under its energetic Commissioner, and the large areas of Crown lands which in the past have remained unopened and untouched are now being brought into notice, with the most satisfactory results, as most of the land opened for selection will carry grass very well when the forest is felled, though not, as a rule, suitable for agricultural purposes.

INSPECTIONS BY RANGERS.

The following table shows the result of the various inspections made by the Crown Lands Rangers, and shows conclusively that the Crown tenants are carrying out the improvement conditions of the Land Act in the spirit as well as in the letter:—