

1907.
NEW ZEALAND.

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS

(ANNUAL REPORT ON).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

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ANNUAL REPORT.

The UNDER-SECRETARY FOR LANDS to the Hon. the MINISTER OF LANDS.

SIR,—

Department of Lands, Wellington, 1st June, 1907.

I have the honour to submit herewith the annual report upon the operations of the Lands Department for the past year, embracing not only the areas opened for selection and the areas taken up by new selectors, but also touching briefly upon the various branch or cognate matters which have come under its supervision, or which have been intrusted to it to carry out.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM C. KENSINGTON,

The Hon. Robert McNab, Minister of Lands.

Under-Secretary for Lands.

LAND OPENED FOR SELECTION, 1906-7.

The total area under all classes of land-tenure opened during the past year amounted to 640,262 acres, or 871 acres less than last year, and the subjoined table shows the districts in which the land was opened and the several tenures dealt with :—

TABLE A.—LANDS OPENED for SALE and SELECTION during the Year ended 31st March, 1907.

District.	Optional System.	Cash by Auction.	Lease by Auction and Application.	Village Allotments.	Pastoral Runs.	Small Grazing-runs.	S.G. Runs, Land for Settlements.	Lease in Perpetuity only.	Lease in Perpetuity, Land for Settlements.	Native Towns.	Totals.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Auckland ..	87,888	754	243	..	..	2,582	38,122	5,696	30,609	..	165,894
Hawke's Bay ..	3,788	21	55	785	25,326	..	..	..	12,569	42	42,581
Taranaki ..	42,440	74	78	..	..	..	..	4,979	1,918	..	49,489
Wellington ..	2,014	63	400	73	2,884	..	8,097	..	16,406	2	29,889
Nelson ..	18,359	190	..	48	..	..	..	29,441	..	..	48,038
Marlborough ..	2,646	..	458	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,104
Westland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,259	..	..	8,259
Canterbury ..	..	29	2,307	3	11,000	12,268	..	..	631	..	26,238
Otago ..	2,168	175	..	..	60,485	20,009	5,871	419	25,356	..	114,483
Southland ..	2,569	88	4,845	25	136,134	..	..	8,000	626	..	152,287
Totals ..	161,867	1,394	8,386	934	235,779	34,859	52,090	56,794	88,115	44	640,262

The area opened is divided into 287,853 acres in the North Island, and 352,409 acres in the South Island, the area in the South Island (except in the Nelson Land District) being chiefly pastoral runs.

Here it may be interesting to place before you the position of New Zealand this year with regard to Crown lands. In last year's report a total area of 3,489,100 acres was shown as still available for settlement, and the present position is as follows :—

	Acres.
Available for settlement in last year's return	3,489,100
Deduct land selected	958,652
Leaving a balance of	2,530,448
Area being prepared for selection	1,141,191
Making a total of	3,671,639
Deduct area of pastoral runs open for selection	1,382,917
Being a balance of	2,288,722

At first sight the position is not reassuring, but if to the above balance of 2,288,722 acres is added the area of Native lands now being purchased under "The Maori Land Settlement Act, 1905," by the four land-purchase officers (under the supervision of the Under-Secretary for Lands, but subject to the approval of the Hon. J. Carroll, Native Minister), which totals for the whole North Island something over 321,744 acres, it will leave an available balance of 2,610,466 acres. Thus :—

	Acres.
Balance as above	2,288,722
Add Native lands being purchased or under negotiation	321,744
Leaving a balance available of	2,610,466

The lands being prepared for settlement during 1906-7 are set forth in the subjoined table :—

TABLE B.—LANDS being PREPARED for SETTLEMENT at 1st February, 1907.

Land District.	Acres.
Auckland	815,056
Hawke's Bay	135,239
Taranaki	32,086
Wellington	50,000
Nelson	76,650
Westland	32,160
Total	1,141,191

LANDS SELECTED, 1906-7.

The demand for Crown land under the various tenures shows no diminution, the number of selectors and the area selected being larger than the previous year. The new selectors total 2,280, the area taken up being 958,652 acres, or an average of 311 acres for each ordinary selector of settlement lands other than pastoral or miscellaneous leases. The subjoined Table C discloses the tenures under which the several tenants or licensees have been granted their holdings :—

TABLE C.—NUMBER of NEW SELECTORS, and AREA taken up, from 1st April, 1906, to 31st March, 1907, and Total Amount of Revenue received during the Year.

Nature and Tenure of Lands selected.	Number of Selectors.	Area selected.			Average Holding.			Cash received on Past and Current Transactions.		
		A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
Town lands sold for cash	245	255	3	10	1	0	7	18,488	5	11
Suburban lands sold for cash	52	180	3	22	3	1	36			
Rural lands sold for cash	121	19,896	2	35	164	1	29			
Perpetual leases made freehold .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,135	19	1
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25,245	6	6
Deferred-payment instalments .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,566	13	7
Perpetual leases .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,355	2	6
Occupation with right of purchase	412	215,529	2	14	523	0	20	40,858	15	10
Lease in perpetuity	296	73,545	3	13	248	1	34	36,507	6	6
Agricultural lease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	13	4
Village settlement, cash	15	19	2	5	1	1	8	386	10	0
" deferred payment .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45	6	8
" perpetual lease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	410	10	8
" occupation with right of purchase .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	18	9
" occupation with right of purchase made freehold .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	0	0
" perpetual lease made freehold .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	333	13	9
" lease in perpetuity	32	1,012	1	38	31	2	22	1,785	6	..
Village-homestead special settlement	17	173	0	17	10	0	29	3,198	19	10
Special-settlement associations—										
Perpetual lease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	48	7	2
Lease in perpetuity	1	4	1	24	4	1	24	6,104	10	3
Improved-farm special settlements	46	5,621	3	18	122	0	34	4,769	7	11
" made freehold .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	519	10	7
Occupation leases, Mining Districts Land Occupation Act	26	1,043	3	4	40	0	23	946	3	4
Small grazing-runs	33	73,851	1	14	2,237	3	27	27,896	7	8
Pastoral runs	113	370,388	2	34	3,277	3	4	69,617	5	9
Thermal springs, Rotorua	4	1	1	0	0	1	10	47	5	0
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	481	71,706	1	28	149	0	12	46,345	16	11
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32,646	6	6
Cheviot Estate—										
Cash	16	7	0	31	0	1	32	379	19	6
Lease in perpetuity .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,836	7	10
Village-homestead special settlement .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	836	17	11
Grazing-farms .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,209	10	7
Pastoral runs .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	193	3	8
Miscellaneous leases	4	169	2	0	42	1	20	219	6	5
Land for Settlements Acts—										
Cash	13	16	0	15	1	0	38	344	9	11
Lease in perpetuity	301	80,691	2	23	268	0	12	172,883	6	2
(village) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	314	3	0
Special-settlement associations (lease in perpetuity) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	147	1	1
Small grazing-runs	18	41,002	1	6	2,277	3	24	22,643	4	5
Pastoral runs .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	121	13	0
Miscellaneous leases	34	3,533	2	39	103	3	29	9,939	15	3
Totals	2,280	958,652	0	30	420	1	33	547,405	9	0

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:—

TABLE F.—NUMBER of INSPECTIONS made by the RANGERS for the Year ended 31st March, 1907.

District.	Number of Properties visited.	Area.			Value of Improvements				Number of Defaulters					
					Required.		Actually made.		For Improvements.	For Non-residence.	For other Reasons.	Total.		
		A.	B.	P.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.				
Auckland ...	2,070	449,430	3	16	118,626	9	11	272,617	2	10	281	329	...	610
Hawke's Bay	747	402,604	2	1	132,526	7	7	374,498	12	11	43	71	13	127
Taranaki ...	374	165,183	1	32	65,737	0	0	115,375	6	6	74	21	...	95
Wellington	1,828	292,149	2	9	135,068	2	7	307,246	11	6	21	81	3	105
Nelson ...	164	72,708	2	7	10,977	12	7	30,098	12	6	20	37	...	57
Marlborough	391	102,286	0	0	58,083	16	6	101,194	0	0	11	14	...	25
Westland ...	432	24,185	0	0	5,307	15	11	35,926	0	0	89	27	...	116
Canterbury	1,849	562,278	0	1	253,741	6	8	469,897	2	6	31	13	...	44
Otago ...	1,163	283,633	0	0	161,754	2	3	228,379	0	5	77	81	...	158
Southland ...	834	99,974	1	1	37,913	2	4	71,558	5	10	50	28	3	81
Total ...	9,852	2,454,433	0	27	979,735	16	4	2,006,790	15	0	697	702	19	1,418

The properties visited are slightly in excess of last year, being 9,852, as against 9,311 shown in the last report. The area inspected—viz., 2,454,433 acres—is, however, slightly less than that reported upon last year. The improvements required to be made upon the total inspected area was £979,736, whilst the improvements actually made are valued at £2,006,791. The defaulters are in excess of last year, and are classified as follows: For non-fulfilment of improvement conditions, 697; for non-residence, 702; for other reasons, 19: total, 1,418. The work of our Crown Rangers is not only very onerous, but is at best a thankless task. Generally speaking, however, it is carried out in every part of New Zealand in a most praiseworthy manner, and the settlers as a whole realise it is necessary that inspections should be made for their own benefit, and also for the moral support it gives to the *bona fide* and hardworking settler against such as hold the land without seeking to "carry out the improvement conditions.

OPERATIONS OF "THE BUSH AND SWAMP CROWN LANDS SETTLEMENT ACT, 1903."

The area opened for selection during 1906-7 under the provisions of this Act amounted to 196,842 acres, and the number of selectors who availed themselves of its provisions was 504; the area selected (being made up of land previously opened added to that opened this year and shown above) was 246,359 acres, the amount remitted for the year on new selections being £8,345. The total number of selectors now holding areas under the provisions of the Act is 1,372, holding 642,080 acres, the annual rent remitted on the whole being £22,378.

IMPROVED-FARM SETTLEMENTS.

Great interest still centres in these settlements, but the only district which has increased its numbers since last year's return is Taranaki, which heads the list with 43,023 acres set apart, and with an actual area occupied of 33,634 acres by 707 persons, who have felled the forest upon 12,809 acres, have grassed 13,760 acres, and own 7,654 head of cattle. Wellington, which comes next, has decreased both its area held and also its settlers resident, as this year 32,572 acres only are returned as set apart, of which 27,127 acres are occupied by 684 persons. But in the next item there is a great advance, as the forest-area felled is 17,070 acres and the area grassed 17,691 acres, while the cattle owned and upon the sections number 20,398—a most satisfactory result. Auckland has 6,719 acres occupied (out of 12,104 set apart) by 179 persons, who have felled 1,695 acres forest and grassed 2,302 acres. These 179 settlers own 1,258 head of cattle. Hawke's Bay has 1,916 acres occupied out of 2,025 acres set apart. The settlers number seventy, who have felled and grassed 1,915 acres and own 442 head of cattle. In the South Island, only Southland contributes its quota to these settlements, with 5,067 acres set apart, and 5,000 acres occupied by 169 persons, who have felled 3,260 acres of forest and grassed 3,155 acres. The settlers own 806 head of cattle. Very little extension of this class of settlement can be looked for, owing to the scarcity of suitable land. It is hoped, however, that a sufficient area near the North Island Main Trunk line may be purchased under "The Maori Land Settlement Act, 1905," to enable workers who wish to settle to have a further chance of so doing when the railway is approaching completion.

VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS.

These are gradually being converted into other tenures, as the special conditions have in most cases been long since fulfilled, and in most instances the lessees have surrendered their leases in exchange for other tenures. A special report by the Superintendent is printed in Appendix III.

PASTORAL RUNS.

In last year's report a useful return was embodied showing the years in which the leases of the several pastoral runs in Canterbury and Otago will be falling in. Reports in advance are being obtained as to the suitability or otherwise of the areas for close settlement. The subdivision of the Blackstone Hill and Lauder Runs, in Otago, into areas for close settlement and small grazing-runs was attended with great success, there being 1908 applicants, and the whole area opened has been selected.

REVENUE RECEIPTS.

The receipts from all sources give the very satisfactory total of £578,223, or £27,981 in excess of last year's receipts. Divided under the two headings of "Territorial" and "Non-territorial," the results are, from sources scheduled as territorial, £250,900. This embraces cash, deferred payment (almost non-recurring), perpetual lease (under "Land Act, 1885"), occupation with right of purchase, lease in perpetuity, small grazing and pastoral runs (under "Land Act, 1892"); also timber licenses from Crown lands other than State forests. Non-territorial revenue realised £327,323. This is derived from numerous sources not enumerated above, such as rents received from land-for-settlements estates, which reached £206,443; coal and mineral leases, State forests, endowments administered by Land Boards, Cheviot Estate, &c. The principal contributors (given in the order of the gross amount of their receipts) are—Canterbury, £131,514; then Auckland, £95,115; Otago, £89,633; Wellington, £71,969; Hawke's Bay, £61,461; Marlborough, £32,985; Southland, £27,244; Taranaki, £27,046; Nelson, £25,937; and Westland, £15,323.

For the coming year, 1907-8, it is estimated that £256,000 will be received from territorial sources, and £310,200 from non-territorial, or a total estimated revenue of £566,200.

REBATES OF RENT.

The rebates of rent granted under "The Crown Tenants' Rent Rebate Act, 1900," for the past year has been availed of by 8,345 Crown tenants, who have received remissions to the amount of £7,225 17s. 10d.; under "The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900," 3,055 tenants have been granted rebates to the amount of £16,753; whilst the tenants on the Cheviot Estate, to the number of 201, received rebates to the amount of £683 10s. 3d.: the total number of Crown tenants benefited being 11,601, who received a total remission of £24,663 3s.

CROWN PURCHASES UNDER "THE MAORI LAND SETTLEMENT ACT, 1905."

In last year's report was foreshadowed the intention of the Crown to commence purchasing under the powers given by this Act, and it was decided by Government that the several land-purchase officers should engage in the purchase of suitable blocks of Native lands under the supervision of the Under-Secretary for Lands, who would take instructions for this work from the Hon. the Minister for Native Affairs. As a special report upon these operations will be laid before Parliament by the Native Minister, it will suffice to say that in the Auckland District some 205,016 acres are under negotiation; in the Hawke's Bay District, 7,954 acres; and in the Taranaki and Wellington Districts, 107,975 acres. Here it may be useful to state that since 1891 the Crown has purchased 2,800,330 acres of Maori-owned land, distributed as follows:—

	Acres.
Auckland Land District	1,436,607
Hawke's Bay Land District	448,697
Taranaki Land District	344,434
Wellington Land District	570,690

MAORI LAND COMMISSION.

In readiness for the work of the Commission appointed to deal with the question as to the best method of dealing by the Maoris with the lands still held by them, an exhaustive return was compiled dealing with 956 separate blocks, containing a gross area of 4,975,444 acres, giving the description of each block (whether agricultural or pastoral, forest or open) and the present value per acre of the land. No doubt a copy of this return will be attached to the Commissioners' report. In connection not only with the survey necessities disclosed by the published proceedings of the Maori Land Commission, but also in connection with the surplus areas placed in the hands of the Maori Land Boards to deal with by way of lease, is the pressing necessity of pushing on with

NATIVE-LAND SURVEYS.

The general report upon surveys will be dealt with by the Surveyor-General in his annual report, but the question which presses heavily upon the head of the Department is the paramount one of being able to advise both yourself as Minister of Lands and the Hon. the Minister for Native Affairs how to provide the necessary number of surveyors for the urgent work of subdividing the areas dealt with by the Maori Land Boards, and of carrying out the orders of the Native Land Court, so that the dealing with lands may not be blocked. It is quite clear that in order to enable the Maori Boards to place their lands in the market at a reasonable rental the cost of survey must be very moderate. In addition to this it must be remembered that few of the Maori Boards have any accumulated funds from which to pay private surveyors, and, therefore, to carry out the policy of speedily opening Maori lands at the least possible cost, the Native Minister has to enlist the services of the survey staff of the Lands Department, both for the preliminary work of supplying schemes to the Maori Land Boards, and the subsequent carrying-out of the same, because in the cases of the services of Government surveyors the cost can be repaid by instalments, and spread over three or four years. The only drawback hitherto to this policy has been the lack of Government surveyors who could be spared from the vigorous prosecution of the Crown-lands surveys. However, it is hoped that within the next year six or more Government staff surveyors can be liberated from the immediate work of settlement surveys, and take up in lieu thereof the work of Native surveys.

PAYMENT OF "THIRDS" AND "FOURTHS" TO LOCAL BODIES.

The total amount distributed to counties and Road Boards amounted to £29,064, whilst £2,303 was expended by the Chief Engineer of the Roads Department. A return has just been compiled showing that no less than £16,271 which might have been paid over for expenditure by local bodies has not been claimed within the time provided for by law, and will now be placed at the disposal of the Roads Department for road upkeep and formation.

"TIMBER AND FLAX ROYALTIES ACT, 1905."

Under the provisions of the above Act, a sum of no less than £12,569 2s. 11d. has been passed to the Local Bodies' Deposit Account, the two largest contributors being Auckland, £7,571 5s. 4d., and Westland, £3,405 19s.; Nelson and Southland coming in third and fourth, with respectively £574 13s. 6d. and £558 6s. 2d.

LAND-FOR-SETTLEMENTS ESTATES.

The reports by the several Commissioners of Crown Lands give a detailed statement of the progress of the estates in their districts, and, generally speaking, the progress is very marked and the outlook hopeful; but heavy floods in the summer in the Auckland District, and an exceptionally dry season in parts of Canterbury and Otago, somewhat militated against the Crown lessees in those portions of New Zealand. Ten additional estates have been opened for selection during the past year, and a portion of an estate acquired previously, but not then opened, making a total area for selection of 189,633 acres, the number of new selectors for the year being 198, and the area selected 105,239 acres, yielding a rental of £22,513

TABLE G.—ESTATES OFFERED for SELECTION during the Year ending 31st March, 1907, under "The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900," and its Amendments.

Land District, and Name of Estate.	Area acquired.		Number of Selectors.	Area selected, 31st March, 1907.		Annual Rental payable on Lands leased.			Date of Opening.				
	A.	R. P.		A.	R. P.	£	s.	d.					
Auckland—													
Selwyn (northern portion) ..	*107,332	1 3	28	34,743	1 29	1,239	0	4	23rd April, 1906.				
Mangapouri	2,572	1 13							†	†	†	†	25th March, 1907.
Mangawhero	7,987	3 33											
Hawke's Bay—													
Mangatahi	12,290	3 16	22	12,272	0 34	4,245	3	4	5th February, 1907.				
Taranaki—													
Huinga	1,980	1 13	7	1,266	1 0	801	4	0	4th October, 1906.				
Wellington—													
Hikawera	2,615	2 33	5	2,605	0 0	663	13	10	5th June, 1906.				
Mahupuku	7,064	2 25	10	7,027	0 0	1,534	6	0	5th June, 1906.				
Dyer	16,657	0 0	35	16,439	1 10	4,328	19	0	25th June, 1906. 17th Sept., 1906.				
Otago—													
Steward	21,935	2 7	48	21,729	1 28	5,021	12	6	9th April, 1906.				
Plunket	6,136	0 0	18	6,126	0 9	2,165	6	6	5th February, 1907.				
Totara	3,161	0 22	25	3,031	0 23	2,513	15	0	25th March, 1907.				
Totals	189,633	3 5	198	105,239	3 13	22,513	0	4					

* Includes 57,166 acres set aside as a forest reserve.
of the financial year.

† Transactions as to disposal of land not completed before the close

During the two months subsequent to the close of the financial year, the following areas have been allotted: Selwyn Settlement, 1,176½ acres to four selectors; Mangapouri Settlement, 2,371 acres to nine selectors; Mangawhero Settlement, 7,810 acres to seventeen selectors; Huinga Settlement, 588 acres to three selectors; Totara Settlement, 94½ acres to one selector: making an additional area of 11,452 acres allotted to thirty-one additional selectors.

The estates acquired but not opened on the 31st March, but which are now under survey ready for opening for selection, are: In the Hawke's Bay Land District—Otanga, near Dannevirke, of 4,028 acres: Nelson Land District—Wangapeka, of 4,480 acres: Otago Land District—Otekaieke, of 17,767 acres; Ashley Downs, of 3,697 acres; and Airedale, of 2,662 acres.

Up to the present date some 149 estates have been acquired, of a total area of 1,017,588 acres, which are occupied by 3,869 selectors, who, with their families, number over 12,000 persons.

FORESTRY.

Accompanying last year's report was a separate paper on the State forests of the colony. This year I have dealt with "The Timber Industry of New Zealand"; and full details as to the quantity of milling-timber available in the different land districts, together with the number of sawmills in operation, and the annual output and cutting-capacity thereof, are given in a report (C.-4) which is also being laid before Parliament.

I may briefly state that it is estimated that at the present time there remains about 36,000,000,000 superficial feet of milling-timber growing upon Crown, Native, and private lands; that 411 mills are in existence, with an output during the past twelve months of 432,000,000 superficial feet; and that over seven thousand workers are employed in these mills, regarding which full information is supplied.

Full particulars of the operations of the reforestation branch of the Department, under the control of Mr. H. J. Matthews, will be printed separately as a parliamentary paper. A perusal of his report (C.-1B) on the various nurseries and plantations shows the efforts the Government are making to cope with the diminishing supply of indigenous milling-timber. Hampered as they are by a diminishing revenue from State-forest sources, much economy is necessarily being practised, as "The New Zealand State Forests Act, 1885," does not authorise any portion of these expenses being charged against the consolidated revenue.

SCENERY-PRESERVATION.

During the session of 1906 an amending Act was passed by Parliament, and as a consequence the new Scenery Preservation Board, consisting of the Surveyor-General, the General Manager of the Tourist Department, and the Commissioner of Crown Lands for each land district, was duly constituted. Meetings of the Auckland, Wellington, and Otago Boards have been held, and a number of recommendations for the acquisition and reservation of land for scenic purposes submitted to the Governor. Particulars of the year's proceedings, and of the numerous reservations made from time to time for the purposes of scenery-preservation, will be found in the annual report on scenery-preservation (C.-6) laid on the table of both Houses.

During the preceding twelve months 11,237 acres of land was gazetted under the Scenery Preservation Acts, making a total of 25,802 acres since 1904. The expenditure for the year amounted to £9,411 9s. 8d., which includes £8,096 3s. 6d. paid as compensation for land taken; and proposals for the acquisition and proclamation of further areas of land are now under consideration.

"WORKERS' DWELLINGS ACT, 1905."

In accordance with its provisions, the Land Boards of the Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury, and Otago Land Districts were handed over the following completed dwellings, viz. :—

	Dwellings.
Auckland (Ellerslie and Otahuhu)	20
Wellington (Petone)	25
Christchurch (Sydenham)	12
Dunedin (Windle)	14

being a total of seventy-one dwellings, fifty-two of which were let at date of compilation of this report.

All new dwellings are being erected under the direction of the Hon. the Minister of Labour, and when completed pass to the control of the Land Board in whose district they are situated. Mr. J. E. March has been the Inspector to whom was intrusted the work of bringing under the notice of the workers the advantages offered them under the provisions of the Act.

DOMAINS (UNDER ACT OF 1905).

These are dealt with in a separate report, and, as directed by the Domains Act Amendment of 1905, are reported upon by the Minister. It suffices to say that far more interest is now taken by the several Trustees, and the provisions of the Act are being efficiently observed. The total number of domains dealt with is 415.

CEMETERIES.

Cemeteries to the number of 482 are under the charge of this Department, and the gazetting of Trustees to take charge, and the filling-in of vacancies occurring through resignations, and other routine work is carefully attended to. As indicated in last year's report, small grants are made to assist the fencing-in, clearing, and putting-in-order of new cemeteries in outlying country districts.

LANDLESS NATIVES IN SOUTH ISLAND.

By the passing of "The South Island Landless Natives Act, 1906," power has been taken to give effect to the awards made by the Commissioners. As soon as the whole of the surveys are completed, the necessary notices will be issued in the *Kahiti*, specifying the areas allotted and the names of the Maoris participating.

CHATHAM ISLANDS.

In February last, at the request of the Hon. the Native Minister, Mr. C. Brown, of the Wellington District Survey Office (whose duties lie principally with Native Land Court work) was despatched to the Chatham Islands to report upon each block of land, dealing with the area and capital value, the value of the improvements, the unimproved value of each, and also its general character as to soil, &c. His report, which was very complete, dealt with 142 blocks and subdivisions of blocks, the total area being 191,047 acres, the capital value being £123,473; the improvements are valued at £26,720, and the unimproved value is £96,752. The land sold to Europeans amounts to 93,413 acres. The Native land leased to Europeans amounts to 38,692 acres, and unleased 58,918 acres. Crown land, such as school-sites, &c., amounts to 24 acres.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO SETTLERS IN OUTLYING DISTRICTS.

Some sixteen separate districts have availed themselves of the subsidies granted to settlers who form themselves into medical clubs and arrange amongst themselves as to the amounts they can guarantee towards the support of a medical man who will locate himself in their midst. Of these sixteen, eleven are in the North Island and five in the South Island, the subsidies granted for each Island being respectively £605 and £375.

LAND AUDIT.

In accordance with the provisions of section 3 of "The Public Revenues Act, 1906," arrangement was made with the Auditor-General to take over, as from the 1st February, 1907, Mr. Runcie and his assistants, who had hitherto carried on the land audit of the Department in the most able and pains-taking manner. The system of audit hitherto in vogue, as far as this Department is concerned, was a most searching and reliable one, and the "card" system introduced by the Auditor enabled a most complete check to be kept upon the transactions with every Crown lessee or licensee, as well as all timber sales and transactions. I learn with much pleasure that up to the present the Auditor-General has seen fit to make no change in the system of auditing the accounts of the Lands Department, whose income has now reached £578,000 per annum.

DEPARTMENTAL AND GENERAL.

It is some satisfaction to know that though as Minister of Lands you have visited nearly every portion of New Zealand, and have either met with every class of settler and Crown tenant or have been by letter in communication with them, no substantial grievances (which Commissioners and Land Boards could have alleviated) have been brought before you. Though it is in the natural order of things that some twenty-five thousand Crown tenants cannot always be treated in such a manner as to have no just cause of complaint, it may fairly be claimed that the whole of the Land Boards and Commissioners, as well as every officer of the Lands Department, do their very best to avoid all unnecessary friction, and I take this opportunity of stating that personally I feel deeply indebted to the whole staff of Commissioners and their officers for the ready and unremitting attention paid to their onerous duties.

The Chief Clerk (Mr. O'Neill) of the Head Office has attached a statement showing the detail of the work carried on in this office, to which are added the duties in connection with

immigration, of which I am also the Under-Secretary. I consider Mr. O'Neill one of the most efficient Chief Clerks in the Service. He has with him some most able assistants, and of these I may mention Mr. Danby, who acts as Immigration Officer in Wellington, and boards all the Home steamers on arrival, and generally undertakes immigration-work; Mr. Hawthorne, upon whom devolves not only the general supervision of all reserves, but the compilation of all the statistics used for the annual returns; Mr. Jourdain, in addition to his ordinary and special work, is also Secretary to the Scenery Preservation Board, and the duties are performed in a most satisfactory manner; Mr. Hardy (under the Chief Clerk) has the supervision of all domains and cemeteries, and his work is carried out in no perfunctory manner. The other officers of the clerical staff have also been most assiduous in attention to their duties.

ACCOUNTS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

This all-important branch is under the charge of the Accountant (Mr. Paterson), who with only two assistants (Miss Woodhouse and a cadet) carry out all the details required for an expenditure amounting to £752,750. A schedule showing the various headings under which the accounts are kept is herewith appended for general information:—

SUMMARY of EXPENDITURE for Year ended 31st March, 1907.

Vote	Gross.		
	£	s.	d.
66 Lands and Survey	154,224	5	7
67 Lands and Survey, Miscellaneous .. .	35,245	15	11
116 State Forests Account	25,020	7	1
118 Scenery-preservation	9,411	9	8
119 Land-for-settlements expenses	2,470	18	6
120 Workers' dwellings expenses	603	10	5
121 Maori-land settlement expenses	1,604	7	5
Maori Land Settlement Act Account and "Unauthorised" ..	105,621	12	9
Land for Settlements Account and "Unauthorised" ..	380,817	15	6
Cheviot Estate Account	34	2	1
103 Immigration	18,319	7	7
113 Improved-farm settlements	3,415	13	10
114 Lands, Miscellaneous	1,912	1	1
115 Irrigation and water-supply	762	1	4
Unauthorised Account (ordinary)	311	9	2
Miscellaneous accounts, pensions, refunds, Native townships, thermal springs, &c.	12,975	3	0
	£752,750	0	11

I think it is most creditable to Mr. Paterson (and in this I am borne out by the Secretary to the Treasury, Colonel Collins) that he is able to carry on so efficiently the entry and checking of such numerous accounts.

REPORT BY THE CHIEF CLERK.

The year has been an exceptionally busy one, but the officers have carried out their duties with assiduity and promptitude.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The correspondence which has been recorded and despatched during the year amounted to a total of 35,403 letters and telegrams.

LAND-SALES.

The procedure for notifying and opening Crown lands for sale and selection required by the provisions of the Land Act necessitated the issue and gazettal of 142 Warrants under sections 113, 121, and 136 of the Act 7 Proclamations under section 172, 3 Proclamations under section 23, 2 Proclamations under section 162, 9 Proclamations under section 168, and 11 Orders in Council under sec-

tion 169. For the purpose of advertising, 134 separate sale posters were printed. The number of copies for each poster ranged from 350 to 2,000, according to its importance.

Four editions of the Land Guides were published and circulated, the number totalling 12,000 copies.

RESERVES.

The reservation and setting-apart of Crown lands for public purposes and for issuing titles to local authorities required 72 Warrants under sections 235 and 236 of the Land Act. There were also 22 Orders in Council issued vesting reserves in local authorities in trust for the purposes for which the lands had been set apart. Some changes in the purposes of reserves were made which involved the issue of 3 notices of intention to make such change, and 11 Warrants changing the purpose. Exchanges of reserves for other lands were permitted in several instances, and 9 Orders in Council were published giving the necessary authority to carry out these exchanges.

DOMAINS AND RECREATION RESERVES.

Thirty-five Orders in Council were issued bringing recreation-grounds under the provisions of the Public Domains Act. Twenty-five Orders in Council appointing Domain Boards, and 68 instruments appointing members of Domain Boards, were issued. One appointment of a Board was revoked by Order in Council.

Ten domains were visited and inspected by an officer.

CEMETERIES.

The appointment of trustees and the cancellation of other appointments was responsible for the issue of 51 Warrants, which were duly gazetted.

WORKERS' DWELLINGS ACT.

Regulations were prepared and gazetted, and 3 Orders in Council were issued setting land apart for the erection of such dwellings.

SCENERY-PRESERVATION.

Ten Proclamations were issued dealing with this question.

MISCELLANEOUS.

There were 56 miscellaneous Warrants and notifications upon various matters, such as rivers proclaimed under the Timber-floating Act, roads through Native lands, notices laying off roads, &c.

OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

The Department administering this Act referred 169 cases for certificates regarding arrival of persons in the colony, and the ages of the persons when they embarked. Certificates were supplied in the majority of cases from the records preserved in regard to immigration under the Act of 1870.

TITLES.

The following return contains a summary of the number of Crown grants, Warrants, certificates of title, leases, and licenses issued during the year :—

Land District.	Number of Grants.	Area in Grants.	Number of Warrants.	Area in Warrants.	Certificates not included in Warrants.		Number of Certificates.	Area in Grants, Warrants, and Certificates.	Granted to Natives.		Number of Leases or Licenses.	Area in Leases and Licenses.	Corrected Grants.	Duplicate Grants.
					Number.	Area.			Number.	Area.				
Auckland ..	1	40	31	11,000	13	17,000	238	28,040	3	150	79	6,000	7	1
Hawke's Bay ..	3	90	8	20,800	5	5,700	96	26,590	5	4,700	1	23	..	..
Taranaki ..	..	..	8	600	4	20,306	106	20,906	4	21,100	5	64	..	..
Wellington ..	1	63	13	1,900	60	23,300	237	25,263	52	22,000	25	837	1	..
Nelson ..	1	11	4	6,100	..	..	56	6,111	..	..	2	27	..	..
Marlborough ..	..	..	3	33,000	1	173	14	33,173	1	173	6	620	..	..
Canterbury ..	3	1,275	3	1,600	5	300	52	3,175	..	..	24	7,440	..	..
Westland ..	..	..	1	859	..	..	35	859	..	..	9	23,778	..	..
Otago ..	1	3	16	5,500	4	43	95	5,546	1	43	5	56,488	..	..
Southland ..	3	31	5	9,000	2	932	184	9,963	..	..	7	12,442	..	1
Totals ..	13	1,513	97	90,359	94	67,754	1,123	159,626	66	48,166	163	107,719	8	2

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.—SETTLEMENT OF CROWN LANDS.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CROWN LANDS ON SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS DURING THE TWELVE MONTHS WHICH ENDED ON THE 31ST MARCH, 1907.

AUCKLAND.

THE SETTLEMENT OF CROWN LANDS.

IN reporting on the operations of the Department in this land district, a repetition of information which is plainly evident on a perusal of the tables has been avoided, except in such cases as appear to require special notice, or where a general statement may enhance the value of the tabulated details.

The special feature of the following summary is that it shows how far the district has contributed during the year to the settlement of the Crown lands of the colony. Notwithstanding that 497 persons have been allotted 185,424 acres on the various leasehold and occupation tenures, the official records show that there continues a keen demand for land by people who are anxious to become settled on farms of their own.

Summary showing Number of New Selectors and Area taken up from the 1st April, 1906, to the 31st March, 1907, and Total Amount of Revenue received during the Year in the Auckland Land District.

Nature and Tenure of Lands selected.	Number of Selectors.	Area selected.			Cash received on Past and Current Transactions.		
		A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
Town lands sold for cash	59	146	1	9	1,547	7	4
Suburban lands sold for cash	11	46	0	10	224	15	2
Rural lands sold for cash	28	1,878	2	37	1,094	3	10
Perpetual leases made freehold ... ..	...	...	...	...	875	15	0
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	...	...	...	...	4,794	6	6
Deferred-payment instalments ... ..	...	...	...	...	249	0	9
Perpetual leases ... ..	...	...	...	...	834	4	7
Occupation with right of purchase	236	103,812	3	27	13,582	6	5
Lease in perpetuity... ..	41	13,822	3	22	6,663	7	2
Village settlement—							
Cash	8	14	1	0	358	0	0
Perpetual lease (repayment of advances) ... ..	...	...	...	...	170	7	7
Lease in perpetuity	4	18	1	7	102	16	9
Village-homestead special settlements... ..	...	...	...	...	119	16	4
Special-settlement associations (lease in perpetuity)	...	...	...	...	325	12	11
Improved-farm special settlements ... ..	...	...	...	...	312	0	2
Improved-farm special settlements made freehold	...	...	...	...	91	10	0
Occupation leases, Mining Districts Land Occupation Act	2	72	0	32	408	13	4
Small grazing-runs	4	8,551	0	0	526	16	10
Pastoral runs	21	19,109	0	0	517	16	3
Thermal springs, Rotorua	4	1	1	0	47	5	0
Miscellaneous leases and licenses ... ..	...	...	...	...	*20,476	8	1
Miscellaneous ... ..	...	...	...	...	†21,639	7	1
Workers' Dwellings Act ... ..	...	...	...	...	89	8	1
Land for Settlements Acts—							
Cash	7	8	2	36	70	2	6
Lease in perpetuity	67	15,586	0	9	13,525	9	0
Small grazing-runs	5	22,357	0	0	271	0	5
Miscellaneous ... ..	...	...	...	...	3,384	3	4
Totals	497	185,424	2	29	92,302	0	5

* Includes £17,560 7s., timber licenses and sale of timber.

† Includes £17,735 11s. 7d., State forests' revenue.

LANDS OFFERED AND DISPOSED OF DURING THE YEAR.

The survey staff has been busily engaged in subdividing land for settlement purposes (a great deal of which is naturally getting more remote from year to year), resulting in the following area of lands being thrown open for selection :—

	Acres.
North of Auckland City	42,432
South of Auckland City	123,462
Total	165,894

At the beginning of the year the following area was open for selection :—		Acres.
North of Auckland City		143,747
South of Auckland City		682,842
Total		826,589

The area of land already open for selection, together with the area of new land offered, was therefore as follows :—

	Acres.
North of Auckland City	186,179
South of Auckland City	806,304
Total area available for selection during the year	992,483

The following is an estimate of the new lands that will be opened during the coming year :—

	Acres.
North of Auckland	40,000
South of Auckland	105,000
Total	145,000

CONDITIONS AND PROGRESS OF SETTLEMENT.

Generally speaking, the reports from Crown Lands Rangers show that there are signs of progress in almost every direction. In localities that cannot be included amongst the more progressive ones, all that can be said is that they are practically in the same position as when last reported on. The non-progressive districts may have difficulties peculiar to them which have not affected other localities, and yet, whilst not showing signs of progress, have at least held their own.

North of Auckland.

The Rangers report as follows :—

Mongonui County.—Settlement in this county is progressing at a fairly satisfactory rate. The chief industries are mixed farming, dairying, gum-digging, timber and flax milling. There are two co-operative dairy factories and one creamery in full work, another creamery in course of erection, and a third will probably be erected shortly. There are four timber-mills and five flax-mills. The farmers and settlers generally have had a prosperous year, in spite of the heavy losses sustained by the unusually high flood in January last.

Whangaroa County.—There is not much progress in Whangaroa County. It is hoped that the copper-mines will revive trade in the district.

Bay of Islands County.—The bulk of the land in this county is of very poor quality. At Ohaeawai there is a dairy factory, and a creamery at Okaihau. There are also three flax-mills at work in the county, and one sawmill. The chief industry is stock-raising. There is a considerable area of first-class Native land at Kaikohe, which would be readily taken up.

Hokianga County.—The Hokianga River and its tributaries, which have a length of about 250 miles along which oil and steam launches ply, give a special advantage to this county. Large vessels may be taken eighteen miles up the main river. Kohukohu and Rawene are the most important centres. The most progressive Crown settlement is Waimamaku (including Waiotemarama), which supports a cheese factory. The Kauri Timber Company's mill provides plenty of work for those in need of it. Herekino, Motukaraka, Broadwood, and Utukura are the next more advanced settlements. Throughout the whole county there is every indication of progress. The grass sown by the Department on a surrendered section near Broadwood was a great success, and has been the means of bringing several good settlers into the district. In the county there are six flax-mills and five sawmills at work, the wages at which amount to a considerable sum. Constant attention is necessary to protect from trespassers the State kauri forests of Huaki and Waipoua to the south, and Te Hura and Warawara to the north, of Hokianga River.

Whangarei County.—The Crown tenants are, with few exceptions, doing very well. Especially is this so in Mangakahia and Purua Survey Districts, and in that part of Maungaru within the county.

Otamatea and Hobson Counties.—The settlers in these districts all appear to be making fair progress. In the Tokatoka Swamp there has been a marked improvement. There are two creameries at work in the district, which has evidently a bright future before it.

Bay of Islands County.—In the part of the county that comes within my district there has been considerable activity in the gum and flax industries, and settlement is progressing satisfactorily.

Generally speaking, the settlers are prosperous, and the flax and butter outputs have considerably increased. Swamps are being drained and planted with flax in several localities. There is keen competition among mill-owners for the green flax, and it is readily bought even when extremely difficult of access. The timber industry has also been active, and there is a good demand for labour in the timber, flax, and gum industries.

The Ranger whose district extends over an area both north and south of Auckland City reports as follows on the portions which he has visited :—

Waitemata, Rodney, Otamatea, Waipa, and Manukau Counties.—Most of the settlers have effected good improvements and are doing well. A considerable area of bush has been felled, and fair burns have been obtained. Several flax-mills are working in the Waitemata County. Stock-raising, however, is the principal occupation of the settlers.

Thames County (part).—The land available for settlement being mostly broken country, settlers confine their operations principally to stock-raising, which has greatly increased, and they are diligently felling and burning bush, with good results. Being chiefly a mining district, settlement is somewhat curtailed on bush lands through most of the areas being withdrawn from Hauraki Pastoral Lease Regulations, a form of tenure exceedingly popular with settlers; but, as a number of timber leases are now nearly devoid of milling-timbers, the areas will soon become available for settlement. The mining, kauri-timber, and gum industries continue to provide employment for a large number of persons. New schools have been erected, and roadwork is being pushed on by the local body. A considerable area of rich swamp country will be available as soon as a successful drainage scheme has been devised.

Coromandel County, Ohinemuri and Piako Counties (parts).—The report on Thames County applies equally to the Coromandel County. Stock-raising is the principal occupation, and there are several flax-mills also at work. In the Waitoa district, although more recently selected, good improvements have been made, and the selectors are fairly prosperous. The land available for settlement is easily brought under cultivation, as it is mostly flat and covered with fern or tea-tree.

Waikato County.—Most of the selections in the county were inspected, and I found the improvements well advanced. Bushfelling had been effected extensively, and good burns had taken place. Dairying and stock-raising are the principal occupations of the settlers, who appear to be doing exceedingly well.

Raglan County.—The report on Waikato County applies similarly to the selections in this county. There are signs of prosperity everywhere.

South of Auckland.

The Rangers have supplied the following reports :—

Waitomo County.—There is every indication that the selectors who have gone into these back-blocks are satisfied with their sections. There has been an increase in the number of cattle and sheep. Bushfelling is being carried on energetically. Schools and dairy factories are being erected, and there is every sign of a progressive district. A large area of Native land has been taken up by private individuals.

Awakino County.—There has also been excellent progress in this district. The settlers are devoting their attention to stock-raising, and settlement is progressing satisfactorily.

Kawhia County.—A marked increase in the number of cattle and sheep, the area brought under crop, the extensive bushfelling, and the general evidence of energetic settlement indicate that this will be a very prosperous district. The Northern Steamship Company has a small steamer trading from Kawhia up the Marakopa River, and it has proved a great boon to the settlers in the contiguous districts.

West Taupo and Waipa Counties.—Dairying, stock-raising, and cropping are receiving attention from the settlers in the Puniu Survey District, but I am not in a position to say much about the general progress of settlement in these counties, as I have not been able to go over any considerable portion of the locality.

Opotiki County.—Selectors, on the whole, are making good progress, and have established comfortable homes, especially those who have obtained large areas. A few small areas taken up by people with small means have made poor headway, which shows that the Opotiki forest lands are not suitable for small farms or for people with little means to carry out the improvements. The whole district was visited by heavy floods in January, which caused considerable damage to roads and crops.

Whakatane County.—The swamp lands in the Rangitaiki and Matata districts are receiving great attention in the matter of flax-cultivation. Some of the sections have changed hands at high prices. A considerable sum of money is being spent in taking levels and putting in drains, but until the floodwaters from the Rangitaiki River are prevented from running into the swamp no satisfactory results will be obtained. For the present it is impossible for the selectors as a whole to reside. The high land in the county is first-class dairying country, and the selectors are doing well.

Tauranga County.—A number of new settlers have taken up land in this district, and people are just beginning to find out that it is first-class dairying country. With good practical farming, the so-called Bay of Plenty cattle-disease is a myth.

Rotorua County.—When this district becomes cleared and grassed there is nothing to prevent it from becoming a large dairying centre. All that is required is strict attention to grass-seed; all soft grasses should be avoided. The timber industry is in full swing. In addition to the four large saw-mills at Mamaku, another has been erected at Arahiwi, and a mill has been moved into the forest lately purchased by the Government from the Thames Valley Land Company. There has also been a large mill erected in the Horohoro district, and seven miles of tram-line have been formed from the Ngatira Railway-station to the mill. There is a demand for labour in the district.

East Taupo County.—The greater part of this county consists of open manuka scrub, tussock, and fern land, with the exception of about 80,000 acres of good milling-timber. Timber-mills are at work in the district, but there are only eight selectors in the county. Cattle-raising is the chief industry.

Piako, Ohinemuri, and Thames Counties (parts).—The reports on this part of the district are practically similar to those already given above.

The Rangers in whose districts are situated special settlements, village settlements, and improved-farm settlements have supplied general reports on the various settlements, but these are being dealt with under separate headings.

One Ranger has practically devoted the whole of his time to the inspection of the holdings acquired under the Land for Settlements Acts, and he has made a comprehensive detailed report on each settlement, which is also dealt with separately.

The Rangers' returns show that a very large number of inspections have been made. As in former years, the figures demonstrate the activity of the settlers, as they have effected improvements far in excess of the statutory requirements.

I would here like to remark that our Rangers' duties in these northern districts are various and extensive, requiring tact, industry, and perseverance, and the mere examination of holdings for compliance with the conditions of the Land Act represents but a tithe of their labours. The demands on their time for timber-measurements and flax-approximations are great, and the multifarious wants and complaints of the gum-digger, fruit-grower, the gold and coal miner, the timber-floater, to say nothing of native, scenic, thermal, and other matters, make their life a responsible and arduous one.

THE DIFFICULTIES OF SETTLERS.

Want of access is perhaps the greatest difficulty in the north that settlers have to contend with, although absence of schools and the prevalence of swamp-areas in some localities also add to the difficulties of settlement, and keep people who would otherwise make their homes on their selections from taking their families out. In a measure the question of establishment of schools and other conveniences of civilisation depends upon the settlers themselves, but few care to go out with their families and put up with the drawbacks on the chance of others eventually following. Isolation has a depressing effect, and is therefore avoided as much as possible. Notwithstanding this aspect, however, the schedule of Rangers' reports shows that the percentage of resident selectors is very high. There continue to exist two distinct classes of defaulters—viz., (1) those who have taken up land and obtained all the concessions as to non-payment of rent and residence, whose actions demonstrate them as simply hanging on with a view to disposing of their interests at a profit when the conditions of occupation shall have become compulsory; and (2) the hardworking man of small means who supports his family by outside work and puts all his small savings into the improvement of his holding in view of subsequent residence, but who, even after a great struggle, has failed to carry out all his obligations. These two classes call for the exercise of care and discrimination in dealing with defaulters, as the former is not entitled to any consideration, whilst the latter deserves all the encouragement that is within the power of the Land Board to concede.

LAND BOARD.

The Land Board held twenty-five meetings during the year, some of which extended over a period of three days. The variety and multitude of matters dealt with by the Board make it impossible to classify all the subjects, but an idea of the volume of business is given from the return of transfers and mortgages, 429 of the former and 373 of the latter having been considered.

The Land Board, with a view to keeping in touch with the many varying phases and wants in different localities, as well as seeing the settlers on the land, made three tours of inspection during the year—one in the Whangarei, Hobson, and Bay of Islands Counties, while a large block of land was being opened in the Mangakahia Valley; another through Opotiki and Whakatane Counties, at a time when an important ballot was being held at Opotiki. The back settlements in this county were visited, and examinations were also made of Rangitaiki Swamp and the Waimana Estate. The Board also recently went over the Selwyn, Mangawhero, and Mangapouri Estates. I have myself individually paid special visits to different parts of the land district during the year.

FOREST LANDS AND TIMBER INDUSTRY.

The Chief Timber Ranger reports that there has been a continued demand for milling-timber in the district, and to meet the requirements five parties, comprising twelve men, are constantly employed measuring timber prior to submitting it for public competition. Of the various kinds of timber, 41,847,206 ft. have been disposed of during the year, and the royalties received amounted to £34,630 6s. 3d. A special report in connection with the timber industry has been compiled for the Head Office, showing the number and localities of sawmills in operation, and details regarding the number of men employed, the output, and exports, together with approximate quantities and kinds of timber remaining on Crown lands and State forests. Twenty timber-floating licenses were issued during the year, eighty-nine lapsed, and the total number issued since the Act came into force is 173.

There can be no doubt that the time is well within sight when the great kauri industry will be a thing of the past, and attention will have to be given to other varieties of timber, of which, fortunately, there is still an abundance; and the day will come when, amongst others, the large timber-conservation of about 57,000 acres on the Selwyn Estate, with its comparatively easy railway connection, and its hundreds of millions of feet of rimu, totara, kahikatea, and tawa—now thought, perhaps, but little of by many—will become a valuable national asset.

FLAX INDUSTRY.

The importance of this great industry is every day becoming more apparent, and its great possibilities are forcing themselves upon the attention of the Land Board and the Department. There are very large areas of Crown swamp in different districts, and particularly in the Piako, which, with an expenditure of, say, from £1 to £1 10s. an acre, would raise their values to anything from £5 per acre upwards.

During the past year arrangements were made with Mr. Scotcher, flaxmiller, in the Piako Swamp, to plant out in flax-plants the poorest part of the swamp as an experiment. On looking at the plants a few days ago with the Hon. Mr. McNab, I was astonished at the growth and the success under such conditions. It augurs well for the future prospects of flax-growing that such good results can be produced from poor land.

Experts in the past have advised that 300 acres of closely grown flax, when once established, will provide employment in perpetuity for a mill employing fifty hands in the cutting, milling, and drying; but even if it required an area of 500 or 1,000 acres, the advantage to the country as a whole would be enormous. I, therefore, am decidedly of opinion that Crown land capable of growing flax should be conserved with this end in view, and only offered after it has been sufficiently drained for that purpose. Broadly speaking, what I mean is not thorough draining, but having the main outlets cut, so that every flax-farmer would know from the first where his drains would run, and would then gladly do the rest himself.

HAURAKI PASTORAL LEASES.

From the Ranger's report it will be seen that this form of tenure is one that appeals to the classes of selectors of land over which the conditions of occupation prescribed apply. Improvements have not fallen due on many of the selections, but during the ensuing year the required time will have expired, when it will be necessary to inspect the holdings, and at the end of the year a better idea will be given of how selectors have carried out their obligations. I would point out that, as the object of the Hauraki Pastoral Lease Regulations was only to make use of the open country for grazing, no applications, as a rule, are now approved for any land having timber on it that could be used either for milling or mining.

The following is the Ranger's report with regard to these holdings: "This is a tenure that is becoming very popular with the settlers in the mining district. It is the only way of settling these poorer classes of land to advantage, as it gives fairly large areas at low rental. The majority of the area which is open for selection is rough and broken, principally fern land, and only suited for the fire-resisting grasses, such as Danthonia and rat-tail, and when stocked with sheep, which are most suitable for this class of country, it gives good results. Speaking generally, most of the settlers have made good improvements, and are thrifty and contented."

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Record Clerk reports that during the year 28,264 letters and parcels and 1,791 telegrams were received, and 53,071 letters and parcels and 1,803 telegrams despatched.

ACCOUNTS.

The Accountant states that the number of vouchers passed through the books during the year amounted to 2,008, representing an expenditure of £48,046 4s. 3d., and forty transfer vouchers showing credits amounting to £3,659 18s. 11d. On the Chief Draughtsman's Imprest Account 1,121 vouchers requiring payment were made by 1,767 cheques, totalling £21,551 3s. 8d.; and the amount imprested by the Paymaster-General was £22,571. On his Official Account 857 cheques were drawn for a total sum of £11,322 19s. 9d.

On the Commissioner's Imprest Account thirteen vouchers requiring payment were made by twenty-one cheques, amounting to £108 13s. 3d., and the amount imprested was £200. On his Official Account eight cheques were drawn for a total sum of £750. The average number of men employed per month on survey parties was seventy-one, for which wages amounting to £7,489 2s. was paid; and for timber-measuring, &c., the average was ten, for which £1,688 9s. 9d. was paid.

The sum of £2,208 11s. 6d. was collected for survey liens, and re-leases (in triplicate) numbering 168 were issued, while ninety-six cards were forwarded to the Auditor of Land Revenue, Wellington. 772 applications to have land cut out in satisfaction of survey liens were forwarded to the Native Land Court.

J. MACKENZIE,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

HAWKE'S BAY.

LANDS OPENED FOR SELECTION.

The lands opened for sale and selection under the various tenures during the year reached the total of 42,581 acres. Of this area, 14,506 acres were offered for the first time, and 28,075 acres had been previously offered.

A brisk demand for land continues, the difficulty of meeting which is considerable; and, whether easy of access or otherwise, available areas have been largely applied for, and wholly selected in every instance.

The area shown as open for selection—viz., 19,797 acres—comprises pastoral-run and town lands exclusively, thus illustrating how eagerly land is selected in this district.

LANDS DISPOSED OF.

This year's revenue shows a decrease of £6,172 on the total of last year. One of the chief contributing causes of this falling-off is the failure through inability or disinclination on the part of selectors under the occupation-with-right-of-purchase system to acquire the freehold of their holdings, as out of forty-four lessees under that tenure only five availed themselves of the opportunity. The land transactions for the year ended the 31st March, 1907, with the number of tenants, the area held under each tenure, and the revenue derived therefrom, are given concisely in the following summary:—

Summary of Land Transactions, 1906-7.

Tenure.	Transactions during Year.		Leasehold Lands held at 31st March, 1907.			Revenue received during Year 1906-7.
	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.		
Cash	46	A. 815 R. 1 P. 36	...	A. ... R. ... P. ...	1,988 17 9	
Perpetual lease made freehold	1	327 0 0	...	...	560 0 0
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	5	2,088 0 0	...	...	1,789 3 0
Perpetual lease ... ..	...	...	12	3,543 0 23	164 7 4
Deferred payments ... ..	...	...	1	1,415 0 0	63 15 0
Occupation with right of purchase	10	3,498 3 5	245	134,717 2 22	6,051 18 4	
Lease in perpetuity	6	1,993 3 24	202	103,615 3 28	3,375 10 0	
Village settlements—						
Occupation with right of purchase	...	...	7	45 0 14	0 12 6
Cash ... ..	...	...	...	...	5 0 0
Lease in perpetuity	12	792 1 7	62	2,718 0 39	1,157 12 3	
Village - homestead special settlements	...	...	27	160 1 18	60 5 10
Special - settlement associations—Lease in perpetuity	...	...	14	3,111 0 19	116 1 8
Improved farms ... ..	...	...	17	1,916 0 0	238 18 6
Small grazing-runs ... ..	...	...	85	248,938 3 2	2,782 7 3
Pastoral runs	4	30,652 0 0	17	117,713 0 0	762 4 1	
Timber-cutting ... ..	...	...	...	...	240 0 0
Miscellaneous leases	14	3,282 0 14	85	63,437 3 24	754 -8 9	
Transfer fees ... ..	...	...	...	...	207 2 0
Crown-grant fees ... ..	...	...	...	...	60 18 7
Survey liens ... ..	...	...	...	...	61 9 4
Other sources ... ..	...	...	...	...	443 17 10
Totals	98	43,449 2 6	774	681,332 0 29	20,884 10 0	
Land for settlements—						
Lease in perpetuity	24	12,585 3 12	419	119,093 1 13	34,684 11 11	
Lease in perpetuity (village)	...	...	14	33 3 24	21 8 11
Small grazing-runs ... ..	...	...	16	19,681 0 0	4,118 2 6
Miscellaneous leases	1	2 1 0	9	369 0 27	185 19 6	
Miscellaneous receipts ... ..	...	...	...	...	3 11 0
Cash village	1	0 1 0	...	...	8 0 0
Buildings, &c. ... ..	...	...	...	...	776 13 1
Native townships	15	77 3 25	103	692 3 2	434 18 6	
Endowments ... ..	...	...	26	9,362 2 35	344 0 6
Grand totals	391	56,115 3 3	1,361	830,565 0 10	61,461 15 11	

REVIEW OF EACH SYSTEM OF TENURE.

Deferred Payment.—Remains unchanged, one tenant holding a pastoral area of 1,415 acres.

Perpetual Leases.—Twelve tenants hold an area of 3,543 acres of Crown lands, paying £132 annually, whilst 3,233 acres of education-endowment lands are held by seventeen tenants, and for which an annual rental of £161 is payable. The lessees herein are rapidly converting their holdings into freehold or exchanging to lease in perpetuity, so the tenure bids fair, like deferred payments, to soon become a system of the past.

Occupation with Right of Purchase has been further augmented by ten selections, whilst two were written off, and five acquired the freehold. This leaves 245 tenants, holding 134,717 acres, and paying an annual rental of £6,699. Value of improvements effected on properties visited was £97,316, as against

£38,516 required by the Act, and souls residing were 226. As stated in my remarks under "Lands disposed of," not so much eagerness is evinced towards making these holdings freehold when the opportunity occurs, which may be attributed to the fact that tenants who have not the requisite cash to enable them to acquire the freehold recognise the wisdom of paying 5 per cent. to the Crown in preference to a much higher rate to money-lenders, whilst those possessing the necessary capital can easily find an investment that would allow a fair margin of profit as between the rental paid to the Government and the interest earned by such investment.

Lease in Perpetuity.—Six fresh selections only under this tenure have obtained during the year. There were two forfeitures, two surrenders, and one exchange, and the area now held by 202 tenants is 103,616 acres, for which an annual rental of £3,606 is payable. Value of improvements required was £28,291, whilst the value of those effected was £73,877, and souls residing were 171.

Small Grazing-runs remain as at last year, 248,938 acres being held by eighty-five tenants, who pay an annual rental of £2,775; and of twelve leases expiring in February, 1908, eleven have been offered to existing lessees for a further term at increased rentals, and the twelfth is to be subdivided and offered as two runs.

Pastoral Runs.—There are 117,713 acres held by seventeen settlers, representing an annual rental of £777. Four new selections were made during the year, included in which was a time-expired lease reselected by the original holder, whilst two (inclusive of the foregoing) were surrendered.

INSPECTIONS AND RANGERS' REPORTS.

One Ranger visited 567 properties, with an area of 241,051 acres, on which he found 1,870 souls residing. The value of improvements required was £78,086, as against £199,539 actually effected. 21,504 acres of the total area visited was felled, 26,234 acres was grassed, and 8,442 acres in crop; whilst 452 buildings were erected thereon, of a value of £20,521. Out of a total of 567 tenants, 104 were defaulters—for non-residence, 57; for improvements, 39; and other causes, 8—due in some instances to want of schools or to insufficient means of access, although in this latter respect there is a marked improvement since last year.

The other Ranger reports that he visited 180 properties in the Poverty Bay district, with an area of 161,553 acres, and found that 470 souls resided, and that improvements to the value of £174,959 had been effected, as against £54,440 actually required. Area felled on holdings visited was 64,000 acres; grassed, 69,000 acres; and in crop, 257 acres. Buildings erected were 221, of a value of £22,604.

POSITION AND PROGRESS OF SETTLEMENT.

The high standard of settlement obtaining in this district has been well maintained during the year, and the predictions of my predecessor as to its well-being and prosperity fully justified. Settlement has proceeded apace, increasing steadily, and for lands which have been thrown open for selection there has been keen competition—in all cases a good class of settler being obtained. Especially is this so in the case of the Mangatahi Settlement, of 12,272 acres, opened for selection on the 5th February last. The Land Board was most careful in examining applicants, and, in the endeavour to secure the best class of settler, rejected no less than twenty of the 151 who applied for the twenty-two allotments.

On every hand there are unmistakable indications of satisfactory settlement, and the Rangers' reports disclose further progress. Total improvements effected on all lands are valued at £199,539, and those required at £78,086. Stock carried stands at—horses, 3,714; sheep, 379,550; cattle, 17,686; and pigs, 1,394: being an increase of 67,586 as compared with last period.

The results of the year, both from the farmers' and pastoralists' points of view, have been excellent, prices all round being well sustained, and this Department, in consequence, experiencing little or no trouble in collecting rents and enforcing the requirements of the Acts. With the splendid climatic conditions which obtain here, landholders can hardly avoid prosperity, and one is, therefore, with the present hopeful outlook, quite safe in predicting another successful year.

REBATE OF RENT.

Four hundred and seventy-six tenants, holding an area of 221,358 acres, have benefited to the extent of £997 under "The Crown Tenants' Rent Rebate Act, 1900"; and under "The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900," 389 tenants, holding an area of 214,017 acres, were granted rebates amounting to £3,561. These figures are considerably in excess of last year's totals.

NUMBER OF TENANTS, AND ARREARS.

Last year's numbers have been further added to, and now 1,361 tenants hold 830,565 acres, for which £61,720 is payable annually, or an average of £45 3s. per tenant per annum.

Nineteen tenants are in arrear to the amount of £254, being thirteen under Land for Settlements Acts, owing £240, and six ordinary, owing £14. When it is remembered that arrears for the past two years were £2,102 and £1,044 respectively, it will be seen that this constitutes a record for the district.

FORFEITURES AND SURRENDERS.

There were ten forfeitures for non-compliance with conditions, five being again selected and four not yet reoffered. Six surrenders were accepted—two for subdivision, and four unable to carry on. Five of these are again occupied, and one not yet reoffered.

LANDS TO BE OPENED.

The area available for selection, and part of which will be dealt with during the coming year, totals 140,128 acres; 109,635 acres being in the Cook and Waipapu Counties, under the optional and grazing-

run systems, and 30,493 acres in Waipawa and Hawke's Bay Counties, under the optional, lease-in-perpetuity (Land for Settlements), and pastoral-run systems.

LAND BOARD.

There have been seventeen meetings of the Land Board during the year (including the four quarterly meetings held at Gisborne), at which 2,020 letters, applications, and other documents were dealt with, inclusive of 112 transfers.

Taking advantage of the Board's presence at Gisborne, a tour was made of the Willows, Pouparae, and Waimarie Settlements, in the Poverty Bay district, in order to ascertain the effects of the disastrous floods of July, 1906, which inundated a considerable portion of these lands, and to report thereon. I am pleased to say that with the exception of a few instances in which temporary loss and derangement of operations resulted, and which have been specially dealt with, the settlers have now recovered from the effects, and, favoured by an exceptionally fine season, are once more in a sound position.

DEPARTMENTAL.

Soon after my transfer to this district, under the guidance of Mr. H. Martin Smith, Crown Lands Ranger, I visited the following settlements, in order to acquire a knowledge of the country and to ascertain the condition of the settlers—*i.e.*, Elsthorpe, Lindsay, Forest Gate, Argyll, Hatuma, Tomoana, Raureka, and Mahora—and on every hand there was a general appearance of prosperity, and also evidence that the tenants, as a whole, are an industrious and practical lot of settlers, and, as no complaints were brought before me, it is to be concluded they are satisfied with their prospects.

Turning to office matters, there were 30,706 letters and 521 telegrams received and despatched, and 634 vouchers, representing payments amounting to £16,159, were dealt with during the year; receipts for rents totalled 3,096; cards to Auditor, 163; reports to Government Advances to Settlers, 206; and leases prepared, 273.

In conclusion, I desire to record my appreciation of the courteous, efficient, and ever-ready assistance rendered me by the entire staff.

HENRY TRENT,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

TARANAKI.

The land transactions for the year ending the 31st March, 1907, are shown in the sub-joined summary:—

Class of Selection.	Transactions during the Year.			Held at 31st March, 1907.			Revenue received during the Year.				
	Number.	Area.		Number.	Area.						
Cash	26	A. 3,843	R. 2	P. 39	...	A. ...	R. ...	P. ...	£ 2,989	s. 15	d. 9
Deferred payment	2	398	0	0	1	99	0	0	404	6	4
Perpetual lease ... ..	...	...	...	...	13	3,961	0	16	185	3	3
Occupation with right of purchase	90	69,945	1	33	428	216,069	3	21	6,894	15	9
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	10	2,547	3	33	...	...	...	...	3,691	2	2
Lease in perpetuity	27	15,018	3	13	469	179,687	1	3	4,440	11	6
Lease in perpetuity—Land for settlement	8	1,300	0	0	35	3,672	1	37	3,203	13	6
Village settlements—											
Occupation with right of purchase	...	...	...	...	9	8	1	0	1	11	5
Lease in perpetuity ... ..	...	...	...	...	10	69	0	8	8	18	3
Special settlement—Lease in perpetuity	...	...	...	...	86	16,213	0	15	737	8	8
Improved-farm settlements...	2	344	2	0	252	33,633	3	0	1,247	9	1
Small grazing-runs ... ..	...	...	...	...	17	16,654	2	6	325	6	5
Miscellaneous leases	25	324	1	11	122	1,493	3	2	665	3	1
Transfer and other fees ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	224	5	0
Crown-grant fees ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39	4	8
Endowments ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47	0	0
Timber licenses ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	3	6
Miscellaneous receipts ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,856	13	6
State-forests royalty ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55	17	6
Totals	190	93,722	2	39	1,442	471,562	0	28	27,046	9	4

NOTE.—“Miscellaneous receipts” include £1,523 12s. 6d., repayment to Government Loans to Local Bodies Account.

CROWN LANDS OFFERED FOR SELECTION AND DISPOSED OF.

The area open for application on the 31st March, 1906, was 106,799 acres, and 49,337 acres was opened during the year, making a total of 156,136 acres available for disposal. Of this area 12,846 acres was withdrawn and reoffered during the year at reduced prices. One hundred and twenty selections were made, comprising a total area of 88,700 acres (more than double the area returned last year), leaving 54,590 acres open for application at the close of the year. Two blocks, comprising an area of 20,721 acres, in Ohura and Mahoe Survey Districts were offered under optional conditions for the first time, and the whole of the sections were applied for, there being a great deal of competition for them.

Four groups of forfeited sections, comprising an area of 21,719 acres, were offered under optional conditions, and 20,425 acres were selected. Two groups of forfeited sections, comprising an area of 4,979 acres, were offered for lease in perpetuity only, and 4,487 acres was taken up.

The Huinga Settlement, near Toko, was opened under the Land for Settlements Acts on the 4th October, 1906, and out of ten sections, comprising an area of 1,884 acres, nine have been selected, with practically no competition. One allotment of 34 acres in Spotswood Settlement was reopened and selected.

A total area of 78 acres was offered for lease by public auction, and only 3½ acres remain unselected.

The selections under section 114 of "The Land Act, 1892," comprise one area of 69 acres 3 roods 39 perches for cash, and seven allotments for lease in perpetuity comprising an area of 680 acres 2 roods 18 perches. Regarding four of the latter, in response to a requisition I inspected the country and fully realised the necessity of granting the application for enlargement of these holdings.

The land offered for sale by public auction comprised fifty-four allotments in the Town of Waitara, of which forty-two were quitted at advances on upset prices; forty-three allotments in the old military settlers' townships of Huirangi and Manganui, all sold as suburban lands; twenty-four allotments in the Village of Tarata, nine being sold at upset prices; and two suburban sections in the Town of Aria which were offered during the year will appear in next year's return, together with the Manganui allotments previously mentioned. The inquiries for land available for selection have been very numerous, and there is no doubt that the provisions of "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903," coupled with the improvement of access and good prices now obtaining for wool, are the principal reasons for the large blocks of land, some of which have been in the market for some years, now being taken up.

PRINCIPAL SYSTEMS OF TENURE.

These are, in this district, confined to the occupation with right of purchase and the lease in perpetuity, resulting from lands opened under the optional conditions, and the selections this year from lands opened in this manner are as follows: Occupation with right of purchase—90; area, 69,945 acres. Lease in perpetuity—18; area, 10,995 acres. Cash—3; area, 3,737 acres.

POSITION AND PROGRESS OF SETTLEMENT.

The Ranger for the central and southern portions of the land district makes the following notes from his inspections during the year:—

"In a general summary of the progress of settlement in the central and southern part of the district I have to say that on nearly all the different classes of tenure there has been good progress. The improvements are generally much in excess of requirements. The properties visited number 191, covering an area of 60,805 acres. The requirements of the Act were improvements to the value of £46,094, and the improvements effected were valued at £84,677.

"Under the land-for-settlements tenure, which comprises the Tokaora, Clandon, Spotswood, and Huinga Settlements, the first two named have all the indications of success. Huinga, which is only just starting, has nearly all been applied for, while Spotswood is in rather a backward position. Should the oil industry, however, be a success, the land in this settlement is likely to be in demand, as it adjoins the principal boring-areas.

"The different improved-farm-settlement holders in the Ngaire, Huiroa, Mangaere, Taumatatahi, and Whangamomona Settlements, with the exception of the last, are prosperous, largely owing to the dairying industry. Whangamomona, the least prosperous, is heavily handicapped by bad roads, high prices of provisions, and the distance from markets. The poorer class of settler is generally giving up the struggle, and is being replaced by men who know something of farming.

"Under the farm-homestead system of tenure the settlers are all making good progress. Many of these have got all their land in grass, and where it is at all suitable dairying is the principal industry.

"*Small Grazing-runs.*—Where these are near markets they are successful, this year especially so, owing to high price of wool.

"Under the ordinary tenures, which include perpetual lease, lease in perpetuity, and occupation with right of purchase, settlers have complied well with the conditions. I would, however, point out that settlement is seriously retarded by the scarcity of men for bushfelling.

"On the whole, the year has been exceptionally good for all classes of landholders, owing to the plentiful supply of grass, and the good prices ruling for butter, wool, and all classes of stock."

The Ranger for the northern part of the land district reports that the holdings visited number 183, covering an area of 104,378 acres. The Act required improvements to be effected to the value of £19,643, and the value actually effected is £30,698. He makes the following remarks:—

"The settlers all over the northern part of Taranaki are doing fairly well, and generally have had a good season, those on or near the west coast, as a rule, being well satisfied with the prices obtained for their butter. Away back in the Ohura country the settlers are not so fortunate, having practically

to take what they can get for their dairy-produce, and, the price of cattle being down, those depending on this class of stock have had rather a disappointing year. However, the country keeps on making steady progress, and those who stocked with sheep last year have done extremely well out of them. The number of sheep coming into the district this autumn shows a considerable increase.

“The settlers in the improved-farm settlements at Totoro, Mangapapa, and Nihoniho are making an effort to have dairy factories established in their midst, but the want of proper access is the great drawback. On the 19th April the first auction sale in the district is to take place, at Matiere. This will be of great assistance to settlers, as formerly a man wanting a few head of cattle very often had to go without, as it would not pay him to go away to the nearest auction sale for a few head.

“During the present year schools have been opened at Mangapapa and Kaeaeae, and an effort with the same object is being made at Aria, Tatu, Tokirima, and Turoto Road.

“A medical association has been formed at Ohura, and arrangements practically completed by which a doctor will shortly be resident in the district. This will be an immense benefit to settlers, as at present the nearest doctor is forty-odd miles away.

“This winter the Aria settlers will have the advantages of a telephone, the erection of which is almost complete.”

REBATES OF RENT.

During the year 753 tenants holding under lease-in-perpetuity and occupation-with-right-of-purchase conditions of the Land Acts were granted 10 per cent. rebate on their annual instalments, amounting to £891 17s. 8d., and twenty-two land-for settlements tenants received a rebate of 10 per cent., equal to £153 2s. 5d. These figures show an increase of 116 tenants who availed themselves of the privilege, and represent a very large proportion of the tenants entitled to obtain it.

ARREARS OF RENT.

Excluding the current instalment, the number in arrear was fifty-five, as compared with eighty-seven last year; the amount owing being £465, as against £1,273.

Taking the current instalment into consideration, the number of tenants was 229, against 251 last year; the amount owing being £1,923, as compared with £3,150. I have found it necessary to resort to the process of law in some cases, which I have every reason to believe will have a salutary effect.

FORFEITURES AND SURRENDERS.

There were twenty-three holdings under ordinary conditions resumed, some for breaches of the Land Acts and others at the request of the selector. There were also two holdings under the Land for Settlements Act—in the Spotswood Settlement—forfeited for non-payment of rent. Two holdings were voluntarily surrendered. The reasons for these forfeitures and surrenders are mainly the unfitness of the selector for back-block life and the want of good access by road. This latter is an ever-present difficulty in connection with the opening of new lands.

RESERVES, FORESTS, ETC.

The reserves set apart during the year comprised 1,110 acres for growth and preservation of timber, 760 acres for primary education, and small areas for public recreation, school, cemetery, and travelling stock. Five areas, totalling 75 acres and 16 perches, were set apart for scenic and historic reserves.

DISPOSAL OF REMAINING CROWN LANDS.

A block of about 15,000 acres of second-class land in the Ohura and Piopotea West Survey Districts is now being prepared for settlement, and will be ready for offering about July or August next. It will, I anticipate, prove to be fairly good grazing-country.

The surveys have recently been commenced of the undermentioned blocks: About 13,000 acres in the valley of the Mohakatino, on the south side, second-class land; about 13,000 acres in the Pouatu and Mahoe Survey Districts, between the Tangarakau and Heao Rivers, also second-class land; and about 7,500 acres in the Totoro Survey District, on the south bank of the Mokau River, some of which may be found to be first-class land. It may be possible to have some of these lands in the market during the next financial year, and I have every reason to believe all that is offered will be eagerly sought after, the demand for land being so great.

OFFICE-WORK.

The volume of clerical business attended to is about the same as last year, being made up as follows: Correspondence inwards and outwards, circulars, applications, parcels, &c., 20,075; cheques drawn for wages, &c., 854; vouchers dealt with, 771; transfers recorded, 176; receipts for rents, refunds, &c., 3,238; provisional titles issued, 105; cards furnished to the Auditor of Land Revenue, 254; total, 25,473.

In addition to the ordinary work arising out of the transactions for the year, there has been the preparation of titles consequent upon the completion of surveys of lands disposed of within the last two years under the “provisional area” system, together with the necessary corrections to the books of reference caused by amendment of areas

FRANS. SIMPSON,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

WELLINGTON.

NUMBER of NEW SELECTORS and AREA taken up, from the 1st April, 1906, to the 31st March, 1907, and TOTAL AMOUNT of REVENUE received during the Year.

Nature and Tenure of Lands selected.	Number of Selectors.	Area selected.			Average Holding.			Cash received on Past and Current Transactions.		
		A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
Town lands sold for cash ...	100	50	0	8	0	2	0	3,297	11	0
Suburban lands sold for cash ...	1	3	1	0	3	1	0			
Rural lands sold for cash ...	4	1,691	0	0	422	3	0	506	10	8
Perpetual leases made freehold ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,365	19	11
Deferred-payment instalments ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	13	6
Perpetual leases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	289	19	8
Occupation with right of purchase ...	30	25,673	3	33	855	3	8	9,872	17	5
Lease in perpetuity ...	9	276	0	23	30	2	30	5,916	10	0
Village settlement—										
Cash ...	7	5	1	5	0	3	0	28	10	0
Village-homestead special settlements...	16	156	2	17	9	3	6	1,864	10	5
Special-settlement associations—										
Lease in perpetuity ...	...	4	1	24	4	1	24	4,736	0	6
Improved-farm special settlements—										
Lease in perpetuity ...	5	746	3	0	149	1	16	2,677	10	4
Occupation with right of purchase ...	39	4,530	2	18	116	2	29			
Small grazing-runs...	8	5,435	3	9	679	2	0	2,070	18	10
Pastoral runs ...	3	4,594	0	0	1,531	1	13	2,166	17	9
Improved-farms made freehold	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	428	0	7
Miscellaneous leases and licenses ...	45	483	1	20	10	2	38	1,060	17	1
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,256	0	0
Land for Settlement Acts—										
Lease in perpetuity ...	64	17,911	1	32	279	3	18	13,503	2	6
Workers' dwellings ...	17	1	2	5	0	0	15	106	4	6
Small grazing-runs ...	6	8,097	0	0	1,349	2	0	1,300	13	5
Miscellaneous leases ...	4	3,048	0	0	762	0	0	3,361	11	2
Totals ...	359	72,709	0	34	...	...	...	70,812	19	3

A comparison of the summary of the year's transactions with that of the previous year shows a decrease of 3,797 acres in the area selected during the past year under all systems, the number of selectors being, however, 151 more.

The total area now on the books on settlement conditions is 634,280 acres 1 rood 29 perches, held by 3,367 selectors, or 38,745 acres and ninety-four selectors more than the previous year. The gross revenue received showed an increase of £11,418 on last year's figures.

LANDS OPEN FOR SALE OR SELECTION.

The total area of Crown land offered for sale or selection during the year was 29,889 acres, which, added to the area standing open on the 1st April, 1906—viz., 44,670 acres—made a total area of 74,559 acres available for selection. Of the area of 29,889 acres offered during the year, 28,072 acres was offered for the first time.

The principal operations during the year were the offering of the Mahupuku Settlement, 2,362 acres; Hikawera Settlement, 1,753 acres; and Dyer Settlement, 16,439 acres—all the lots in which were immediately disposed of, as were also the homestead sections in Longbush and Tablelands Settlements, which had hitherto been withheld owing to a Supreme Court injunction. Sales by auction took place of lots in Ohakune, Waiouru, Raetihi, Mangaweka South, Pongaroa, Pohangina, and Taihape Townships, and in Hawaenga and Makukupara Villages. Two pastoral runs in the Motukawa Block, comprising an open area of 2,834 acres, were offered by public auction for terms of seven years. Two sections in the Pohangina Survey District (7 and 8, Block VII), comprising an area of 315 acres, were offered on optional system, the numbers of the applicants for them being 420 and 394 respectively.

A lot of 448,000 superficial feet of matai and kahikatea timber on Section 3B, Block XVI, Te Kawanu Survey District, was offered by public auction. Twenty-five five-roomed workers' dwellings, comprising seven different designs, in the Heretaunga Settlement, at Petone, were offered on the 10th September. The demand for the dwellings has not been keen, but all of them have now been allotted, with the exception of four, which it is expected will soon find tenants.

Out of the 29,889 acres offered during the year, 1,041 acres was offered subject to "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903," 528 acres being classified as heavy bush and 513 acres as scrub land. About 1,413 formal applications were received for lands during the year.

INSPECTIONS AND RANGERS' REPORTS.

These comprise 1,094 inspections by the two Rangers in the east-coast district, of an area of 144,164 acres, being an increase of 238 in number, but a decrease of 131,639 acres on last year's figures. The value of the improvements required to be effected was £54,487; the amount actually spent was £114,995, being £60,508 more than was required to be spent.

In the west-coast district 734 inspections were made by the two Rangers, of an area of 147,986 acres, being a decrease of eighty-eight in number and an increase of 62,755 acres in area from last year's figures. The amount required to be spent on improvements was £80,581, whereas £192,252 was expended, being £111,671 in excess of requirements.

The grand totals for both districts are as follows: Number of inspections made, 1,828, over an area of 292,149 acres, being an increase on last year's figures of 150 in number and a decrease of 68,884 acres in area. Improvements were required to be effected to the value of £135,068, and improvements actually done amounted to the value of £307,247; excess, £172,179. Out of 1,828 holdings inspected, only 105 selectors had not complied with requirements.

REBATES OF RENTAL.

Rebate amounting to £2,497 for prompt payment of rental was granted to 2,314 selectors. These figures show an increase over last year's returns of 127 selectors and £79 in amount.

ARREARS OF RENTAL.

There are 136 selectors in arrear with two or more payments, amounting to £1,279 16s., comprising an area of 16,736 acres, being a decrease on last year's figures of £431 4s. in amount and forty-one in number, the area being less by 3,115 acres. The total arrears, inclusive of the current half-year's rents, are 317 in number, £3,027 in amount, for 48,229 acres. These show a substantial decrease on last year's figures.

SMALL GRAZING-RUNS.

Eight leases expired by effluxion of time during the year, the annual rent being £243 12s. 9d., and the area 5,652 acres. All these runs have been offered to and accepted by the late lessees at new valuations, in terms of section 209 of "The Land Act, 1885."

FORFEITURES AND SURRENDERS.

There were four forfeitures during the year on ordinary Crown leases, four under the land-forfeiture lease-in-perpetuity tenure, and four Native-township leases, the total area being 989 acres, and the total annual rent £220. Two surrenders, of an area of 14 acres, were accepted, the annual rent being £10.

RESERVES AND ENDOWMENTS.

During the year 2,692 acres was reserved for the following purposes: Scenery, gravel, stock, primary education, public buildings, &c. An area of 9,733 acres, set aside as an endowment for the Wanganui River Trust, was disposed of during the year as small grazing-runs.

CASH LANDS.

The area disposed of for cash was 1,744 acres, comprising two selections of 1,672 acres under Part III of "The Land Act, 1892," the land purchased without option being 100 lots of town land, aggregating 50 acres, one suburban lot of 3 acres, and two rural lots of 19 acres. Fifty-one lots of Pohangina Township (Wanganui Harbour Board Endowment), aggregating 12 acres 3 roods, were sold for cash, the price realised being £288.

TIMBER ROYALTIES.

The revenue received under this heading amounted to £297.

MEETINGS OF THE LAND BOARD.

During the year the Land Board held twenty-five meetings.

"THIRDS" AND "FOURTHS."

The allocation under "The Land Act, 1892," of the proportions of rent from Crown lands taken up under the various systems of tenure has been made, and the amounts paid to the credit of the respective local authorities, to whom £6,211 0s. 11d. has been paid for duly approved proposals for roadworks and under hypothecation certificates.

There were 249 proposals for expenditure of "thirds" and "fourths" received from the local bodies, and after careful examination 235 of these were submitted to the Land Board for favourable consideration, and were approved. Seven certificates of hypothecation were also approved of by the Land Board and issued under the signature of the Chairman.

I regret to have again to report that the proposals for the expenditure of the accrued "thirds" and "fourths" made by certain of the local bodies have not been adequate or in accordance with the amounts standing to their credit. On the 31st March last, £15,983 0s. 2d was in the Receiver of Land Revenue's Deposit Account to the credit of the County Councils and Road Boards, while during the twelve months only £6,211 0s. 11d., as mentioned above, has been disbursed. I am now having a schedule prepared showing the various amounts standing to the credit of the local authorities of which

notice has been given for at least eighteen months, and for which no proposals have been received, so that action may be taken to carry out the provisions of section 121 of "The Public Works Act, 1905."

CLERICAL BRANCH.

The number of letters received during the year amounted to 13,935, and those despatched to 15,980, including letters, rent notices, parcels, &c. A grand total of 60,415 letters, &c., were received and despatched during the year. 470 cheques were drawn on Imprest Accounts for a total of £3,129 ls. 10d. The number of vouchers dealt with was 1,175, representing a total of £25,535 11s. 9d.

JOHN STRAUCHON,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

NELSON.

CONDITION AND PROGRESS OF SETTLEMENT.

The condition and progress of settlement in Nelson Land District during the year just ended may be regarded as highly satisfactory. That is saying a great deal, when there is taken into consideration the fact that the southern portion of the district—more than one-half the area of the province—comprising thousands of acres of flat and undulating bush country and fertile river-flats well adapted for agricultural and pastoral farming was withdrawn from settlement from 1884 to 1901—seventeen years—under "The East and West Coast (Middle Island) and Nelson Railway and Railway Construction Act, 1884."

Settlement had commenced in Nelson as early as 1842, and had extended in isolated communities of small farmers from Nelson along the Waimea Plain, and thence north-westerly along the seaboard fronting Tasman Bay and Golden Bay to Takaka and Collingwood. Subsequently a settlement was established at Karamea, on the west coast of Nelson Province. The settlement referred to, with the exception of Karamea, had not, however, good back country, essential to the expansion of permanent settlement, and the southern portion of Nelson being closed against selection, farmers' sons were compelled to seek other fields in order to obtain lands.

The lands in southern Nelson were released from the Midland Railway reservation in February, 1901, and it was not until April, 1905, that any serious attempt was made to re-establish and promote close settlement in any systematic way. In April, 1905, the Maruia Block was opened for selection in areas varying from 150 to 1,000 acres. Shortly afterwards additional areas were opened in the same district, and also in the neighbourhood of Murchison. These lands were rapidly selected, and a distinct advance in settlement during the last two years is evidenced by the determination shown by the selectors to bring their holdings into cultivation with a view to providing permanent homes for themselves and families. This is the true basis of successful settlement, for it is, generally speaking, free from that pernicious speculative spirit which induces persons to take up land in the hope of making something out of it without putting anything into it.

The outstanding feature connected with new settlement in this district is the determination of the settlers to face and overcome all the difficulties—and there are many—attendant on the converting of bush land into pasturage. One cannot too much admire the determination and spirit of self-sacrifice found amongst the settlers. The capital expended by them on their holdings is in some instances wages earned in the district, and in other instances the savings of persons previously employed in mining pursuits. It will be thus seen that the settlers, generally speaking, are poor men, living practically from hand to mouth, putting their earnings into their holdings in clearing, felling, burning, sowing, and stocking as their finances will permit. They have already done excellent work, for the comparatively small areas which have been cleared and cultivated have altered the character of the country, thereby dispelling a number of erroneous notions which had previously obtained respecting the quality and capabilities of the country.

The beneficent provisions of "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903," are a great aid to the national policy of settlement, and doubtless the occupation of a large area of bush country in this district is due to the immunity from rent and rates permitted by the Act named.

I have regarded it as the most important part of the duty intrusted to me to visit the newly settled districts and get behind the scenes, so as to ascertain at first hand the feelings and wants of the settlers, and I have found it the exception, rather than the rule, to hear of dissatisfaction. In instances where it does exist it is usually traceable to some causes which can be nearly always easily remedied; and in this connection it may be noted that the active help and sympathy of the Commissioner and Land Office officials is a very important factor indeed in the encouragement and maintenance of a spirit of contentment amongst the settlers. I have so far been writing in previous paragraphs of settlement established in new districts.

With regard to the prospect of settlement on the Crown lands which fringe the old-established settlements, it is difficult to write in precise terms. There is in the aggregate a large area of hilly pastoral country outside mining districts still available for selection for pastoral purposes throughout several districts in northern Nelson, but the land of fair quality is so limited and patchy that it offers little inducement for selection by others than those who are resident freeholders in the immediate vicinity of these lands. The frontages to roads and rivers, comprising generally rich flats, were "gridironed" many years ago, thus cutting off access to the back country, and rendering it useless for profitable

occupation. Applications are made from time to time to the Land Board for fragments of these isolated lands, but the cost of purchasing and forming roads thereto runs into a sum of money out of all proportion to the value of the land, and only in a few instances are the applications for permanent tenures granted. It would, in my opinion, be wise to extend to these lands the provisions of the regulations for the occupation of pastoral lands within mining districts, so as to permit of the area being taken up free from restrictions as to residence conditions.

LANDS OPENED FOR SALE OR SELECTION.

An area of 48,000 acres was opened for sale or selection during the year ending the 31st March, 1907. Of this area 47,000 acres was subject to the provisions of "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903." Of the 48,000 acres referred to, 29,441 acres was offered for selection on lease in perpetuity, 18,359 acres was offered on the optional system, 190 acres was offered by public auction for cash, and 48 acres was offered on the village-homestead system. The localities of the optional lands are practically confined to that part of the land district outside of the boundaries of mining districts, and extend over the Gordon, Wai-iti, Motupiko, and Motueka Survey Districts, while the localities of the lands opened for selection on lease in perpetuity extend over the Central Buller and Maruia districts.

LAND TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR.

The figures relating to the land transactions for the year ending the 31st March, 1907, are given in the following return:—

Summary of Land Transactions for Year ending the 31st March, 1907.

Tenure.	Transactions during the Year.		Area under Lease at 31st March, 1907.		Revenue received during the Year.
	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands.</i>					
Cash	30	A. 6,552 R. 1 P. 32	...	A. ... R. ... P. ...	£ 3,302 s. 13 d. 6
Deferred payment ... ..	...	...	91	6,970 2 8	536 14 3
Deferred payment made freehold	32	4,832 2 36	...	...	...
Perpetual lease ... ..	...	...	12	2,017 3 14	32 10 2
Occupation with right of purchase	5	1,664 2 0	191	37,851 1 30	601 13 3
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	6	950 3 13	...	...	335 8 0
Lease in perpetuity	47	12,496 3 3	325	90,450 2 16	1,026 1 6
Mining districts land occupation lease	5	128 0 8	32	1,526 3 35	36 17 5
Small grazing-runs	1	4,167 0 0	7	12,723 0 0	73 17 6
Pastoral runs ... ..	...	...	2	165,829 0 0	330 0 0
Pastoral licenses within mining districts	10	1,175 0 0	22	3,615 0 0	90 14 7
Miscellaneous leases and licenses, including coal and timber royalties	125	21,584 0 30	626	168,906 1 29	3,218 5 9
Other sources ... ..	...	...	...	...	253 12 9
Totals	261	53,551 2 2	1,308	489,890 3 12	9,838 8 8
<i>Endowment Lands.</i>					
Lease in perpetuity	11	4,799 2 38	11	4,799 2 38	11 4 0
Village-homestead special settlements	...	...	20	100 3 7	19 14 3
Mining districts land occupation lease	1	20 0 0	80	1,517 2 11	94 19 3
Miscellaneous leases	14	2 1 33	326	5,483 0 19	907 16 3
Royalty on coal and timber ... ..	...	...	...	...	15,065 16 5
Grand totals	287	58,373 2 33	1,745	501,792 0 7	25,937 18 10

OBSERVATIONS ON THE TENURES.

Lands sold for Cash.—A total area of 8,033 acres 1 rood 7 perches was sold to thirty-six purchasers, the amount realised being £3,638 1s. 6d. Of the area quoted, 530 acres 2 perches was purchased by adjoining owners under section 114 of "The Land Act, 1892." Lands sold for cash are situated for the most part outside of the boundaries of mining districts. Of the areas sold, 6,011 acres 1 rood 27 perches was opened on the optional system, 530 acres and 2 perches without option, and 950 acres 3 roods 13 perches comprised an occupation with right of purchase made freehold.

Lease in Perpetuity.—Practically all the land which has been selected for purposes of close settlement and mixed farming during the last three years is held on this tenure. This is owing to the fact that the best of the available lands is situated within mining districts. Mining interests being paramount, there is hostility shown on occasions to the opening of lands on lease in perpetuity unless the areas are trammelled by impediments in the nature of large mining reserves, and the cutting-off of water frontages. Fortunately, the judicial spirit shown by the Wardens in weighing objections to the opening of lands under permanent tenures obviates much irritation which would otherwise be felt by applicants for land. I have not heard complaints from selectors respecting the limiting of the tenure in mining districts to lease in perpetuity. They are apparently satisfied. Environment, it appears to me, is an important factor in choice of tenure, for I have observed in travelling through this district that lands opened on the optional system in proximity to lands held on freehold tenure are almost invariably selected either for cash or on the occupation-with-right-of-purchase tenure, while lands opened on the optional system in proximity to lands opened on lease-in-perpetuity tenure are selected on that tenure. An area of 17,296 acres was selected by fifty-eight persons during the year.

Occupation with Right of Purchase.—An area of 1,664½ acres was taken up by five selectors during the year, and during the same period six selectors acquired the freehold of 950 acres 3 roods 13 perches under the terms of their leases. There were no exchanges of tenure to lease in perpetuity.

Deferred Payment.—Thirty-two selectors acquired the freehold of 4,832 acres 2 roods 36 perches during the year. There are still current ninety-one leases, covering an area of 6,970 acres 2 roods 8 perches.

Mining Districts Land Occupation Act.—The natural localities for areas selected under this Act are where the industries of coal and gold production are carried on. This tenure is becoming unpopular with many selectors. Married men who are ambitious to hold on a more permanent tenure desire to convert their licenses into lease in perpetuity, and to that end are prepared to surrender; others wish to rid themselves of residence conditions and sublet the land. Residence was compulsory up to the 30th October, 1905, when it was relaxed by section 29 of "The Mining Act Amendment Act, 1905." Experience in this district goes to prove that the areas granted under this tenure in the vicinity of coal-mines have been too large. On the Westport-Mokihinui Railway line, for instance, selectors hold from 5 to 100 acres, and use them solely as residential sites. The policy of the Land Board is to limit the areas in districts where there is evidence of congestion of population in the neighbourhood of mines. Five persons were granted occupation leases over 128 acres of ordinary Crown lands, and an area of 20 acres was granted in the Westport Harbour Board Endowment. There are 112 selectors on the books, and, although the average area held is only 27 acres, and the annual rental thereof about 1s. per acre, yet the rents are not collected without difficulty.

Perpetual Lease.—There were no transactions relating to this tenure during the year.

Occupation of Pastoral Lands in Mining Districts.—No better tenure than that under the regulations for the occupation of pastoral lands in mining districts can be designed, for, while it confers on the selector the exclusive right of pasturage, it permits any person who holds a miner's right to exercise over the area all the mining privileges granted to him by the Warden. The land is not proclaimed as open for selection like ordinary lands: the selector may choose his locality, and apply to the Land Board for a lease thereof. The tenure is twenty-one years. Residence is not compulsory, and the license may be converted into lease in perpetuity at any time after improvements to the value of 4s. an acre have been effected. This right of conversion is one of serious import, and imposes on the Land Board the duty of insuring that licenses shall not be granted over areas which are suitable for close settlement, nor in such form of area as will block frontages to back country. A little irritation is caused sometimes by the Land Board refusing to grant licenses for the reasons just stated. In my opinion, the choice of the country should be limited to land specially classified as purely pastoral, and the terms of the lease should be somewhat similar to those of small grazing-runs as regards renewal and valuation for improvements. I venture to submit that, if amendments were made in the regulations in the direction indicated, they would prove effective, by preventing the acquisition of land fit for close settlement on lease-in-perpetuity tenure by an indirect process without public competition, and affording an incentive to the licensee to effect improvements. The area dealt with during the year comprised 1,175 acres, granted to ten selectors.

Small Grazing-runs.—One run, containing 4,167 acres, was selected during the year. This tenure is not adapted to bush country. There are now seven leases current, covering an area of 12,723 acres, and these practically include all the open lands available.

Pastoral Leases.—There are two leases current, comprising an area of 165,829 acres. There were no transactions under this heading during the year.

Village-homestead Special Settlement.—There is only one village-homestead special settlement in this district, and that is situated at Seddonville. This settlement is in a very prosperous condition. Improvements to the value of £1,845 8s. have been effected. There are twenty selectors, and out of that number only one has failed to make any improvements, and three have not complied with residential conditions. The selectors are principally miners who work in the Seddonville State Coal-mine. There are seventy-three people—men, women, and children—resident in the settlement.

Miscellaneous Licenses.—125 licenses of a miscellaneous nature were granted during the year over a total area of 21,584 acres. The licenses comprise seventy-four relating to sawmilling and timber-cutting granted by the Warden, the rents and royalties derived therefrom being territorial revenue; thirty-eight temporary occupation licenses over 11,218 acres, issued for grazing purposes; and ten flax-cutting licenses, covering an area of 168 acres.

Coal and Mineral Leases.—The output of the Westport Coal Company's mines at Coalbrookdale and Millerton amounted to 571,556 tons, being an increase of 71,325 tons over the output of last year. The royalties collected on coal by this office reached the sum of £14,671 19s. 7d. 627,109 tons of coal was shipped from the Port of Westport during the year. The Westport Stockton Coal Company has started operations on their property, and in the near future the export of coal from Westport will be very considerably augmented. Under the power conferred on the Commissioner of Crown Lands by section 166 of "The Mining Act, 1905," I issued three mineral prospecting warrants, with the concurrence of the Hon. the Minister of Mines, over an area of 2,050 acres in Aniseed Valley, close to Nelson City.

Endowment Lands.—The following leases over the Westport Harbour Board Endowment lands were issued during the year: Eleven lease-in-perpetuity holdings, covering an area of 4,792 acres; fourteen leases of Westport town sections; fifteen timber-cutting licenses over 1,023 acres; and one license under "The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894," over 20 acres.

LANDS TO BE OPENED DURING THE YEAR 1907-8.

It is proposed to open 52,485 acres of unsurveyed Crown lands and 4,451 acres of land acquired under the Land for Settlements Act. The Crown lands comprise the following blocks: viz., a compact area situated from about seventeen to twenty-two miles south of Murchison, and known as "Mid-Marua," containing 21,750 acres; "Warwick," containing 5,821 acres; "Rappahannock," containing 7,109 acres; and "Glenroy," containing 13,127 acres. All of the blocks mentioned will be opened as unsurveyed bush lands on lease in perpetuity, excepting Glenroy, which will be offered under the regulations for the occupation of lands within mining districts. In addition to the blocks just named, the Maungatapu Block, [situated about 12½ miles from Nelson, and containing 2,632 acres, will be opened on the optional system; an area of 2,046 acres in the Inangahua Survey District will be opened for selection on lease in perpetuity. The total area of Crown lands to be opened is 52,485 acres. The area to be offered under the Land for Settlements Act is the property recently known as the Wangapeka Run, situated in the Sherry Valley, about two miles from the Tadmor Railway-station. All these lands are ready for immediate occupation.

An effort will be made to throw open a splendid block of country containing about 1,500 acres situated thirteen miles from the Town of Murchison, and locally known as the Blackwater and Mangles country.

RANGER'S REPORT.

The Ranger visited 144 properties held on the lease-in-perpetuity and occupation-with-right-of-purchase tenures, covering an area of 72,607 acres. The value of the improvements required by law on these holdings is £10,977; the improvements actually effected by the tenants amounted to £28,253. The number of defaulters in respect to improvements is nineteen, and in respect to non-residence thirty-four. There are a considerable number of holdings yet to be inspected, and an effort will be made to carry on the inspections continuously during the year. The Ranger reports as follows:—

"In Sounds County the number of leasehold sections inspected was forty-seven, comprising an area of 24,938 acres. Value of improvements required by law, £4,471; improvements effected, £15,627, being £11,156 more than statutory requirements. Number of defaulters for improvements, 4, and for non-residence, 11.

"In Collingwood, Takaka, and Waimea Counties the number of leasehold sections inspected was eighty-six, comprising an area of 41,297 acres. Value of improvements required, £6,372; value effected, £12,261, being £5,889 more than statutory requirements. Number of defaulters for improvements, 9, and for non-residence, 18.

"Buller and Inangahua Counties: Eleven leasehold sections were inspected, comprising 6,372 acres. Value of improvements required, £134; improvements effected, £364, being £230 more than statutory requirements. The number of defaulters respecting improvements, 5, and for non-residence, 5.

"With regard to pastoral licenses under the regulations for the occupation of lands in mining districts, very little has been done in improving the lands, the area cultivated being 120 acres. I expect, however, that considerable improvements will be made during the current year.

"As the result of the visits which I have paid to Crown tenants in the course of my duty, I am able to say that the selectors are very well satisfied with their holdings, and that the land is being settled in a *bona fide* manner. Generally speaking, the district has progressed very satisfactorily. There has been a great demand for land, and very great improvements have been made by freeholders as well as by Crown tenants. All Crown lands opened for selection have been keenly competed for. The high prices obtaining for sheep, wool, and other classes of stock and products are offering inducements to people to clear and cultivate the land, and many are turning their attention seriously to pastoral pursuits.

"Speaking of the newly settled country in Central Buller, during the last year over 3,000 acres of bush have been felled, and I am pleased to report that in nearly every case the Crown tenants have had very successful burns. So pleased are they with their selections—the cleared land having taken the grass so well—that by the end of the current year a very large area of bush will have been felled in this locality. Everything considered, the Crown tenants are very prosperous and content. The approximate number of stock depasturing on leasehold lands is as follows: 32,000 sheep, 1,500 cattle, 170 pigs, and 200 horses."

REVENUE.

The total gross revenue received from all sources, including rents from the Westport Harbour Board endowments and royalties on coal and timber, amounted to £25,937 18s. 10d.

REBATES OF RENTAL.

Rebate for the punctual payment of rent, amounting to £56 19s. 3d., was granted to 204 tenants under the provisions of "The Crown Tenants' Rent Rebate Act, 1900."

ARREARS OF RENT.

The arrears of rent, exclusive of the current half-yearly instalments, amount to a sum of £450, distributed amongst seventy-eight tenants. £48 is owing on deferred-payment license, £48 is owing on an occupation-with-right-of-purchase license, and £63 is owing on lease in perpetuity. Of the balance, £155 is owing on mineral leases, which are under the jurisdiction of the Warden, and £58 on the Westport Harbour Board endowment lands. A number of the rentals which go to make up the arrears are comparatively small, and I have instructed the Receiver of Land Revenue to have them paid immediately. Some of the arrears have been outstanding two and three years. There is no reason why they should not be paid, considering that the tenants have been participating in the general prosperity of the colony.

GOVERNMENT LOANS TO LOCAL BODIES ACCOUNT.

The moneys paid to the Government Loans to Local Bodies Account amounted to £250 2s. 10d.

FORFEITURES AND SURRENDERS OF LANDS HELD ON PERMANENT TENURE.

There were no forfeitures during the year. One selector surrendered his lease-in-perpetuity holding on the plea that he could not make a living out of it.

RESERVATIONS.

1,699 acres 3 roods 9 perches was reserved for various purposes under section 235 of "The Land Act, 1892," during the year.

PAYMENT OF "HALVES" TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES UNDER "THE TIMBER AND FLAX ROYALTIES ACT, 1905."

The amounts paid during the year under the provisions of the above-named Act amounted to £262 0s. 11d., £126 6s. 11d. of this sum having been paid to the Inangahua County Council and £135 14s. to the Buller County Council.

PAYMENT TO LOCAL BODIES FROM "THIRDS" AND "FOURTHS."

A total sum of £1,114 16s. 5d. was distributed amongst the Counties of Collingwood, Takaka, Waimea, Buller, and Inangahua, and the Road Boards of Stoke, Dovedale, Upper Moutere, and Riwaka.

TRANSFERS.

Forty-nine transfers were approved by the Land Board during the year, thirty-two relating to lease-in-perpetuity lands, three to occupation-with-right-of-purchase lands, ten to lands leased under "The Mining District Land Occupation Act, 1894," one to perpetual-lease land, one to small grazing-run, one to a village-homestead special-settlement allotment, and one to a reserve.

The business under this heading has declined since I took charge, and the refusal of the Land Board to approve of transfers as a matter of form has caused irritation in some quarters. In no single instance, however, has a transfer been refused when the conditions of lease have been complied with. The policy of the Board in this respect, as well as in others, is to interpret the provisions of the Land Act in a liberal and generous spirit—to take every case on its merits and deal with it equitably. Such a policy is as much in the interests of the *bona fide* settler as it is in that of the State.

SAWMILLING AND TIMBER-CUTTING.

There has been great activity in the timber industry in the southern part of this district during the year, and it will probably increase during the current year. There are seventy-one sawmills in this district, fifteen of them being in localities situated between Motueka and Cape Farewell, twenty-two scattered between Nelson City and Tadmor Saddle, twenty-three situated in Buller County, and eleven situated in Inangahua County. The output of the mills for the year increased by 1,895,800 superficial feet over the output of the previous year. With the exception of Messrs. Bowater and Bryan, who cut for export, all the timber milled in the Buller and Inangahua Counties is used for local purposes—house-building, bridges, railway and public-works requirements, and mining. The number of persons employed in connection with the industry is 403. A movement is being made on the part of the sawmillers to have the reserved areas increased beyond 600 acres, on the grounds that the capital involved in the extension of their milling plants justifies the concession. The argument sounds fair enough, but if it were put into operation it would tend to the extinction of the small sawmiller. In any case there is not, in my opinion, a sufficient amount of milling-timber left in the Nelson District to warrant an increase of reserved areas. A desirable reform, however, would be the abolition of the 5s. sleeper-cutting license, for hundreds of acres of valuable forest have been destroyed by the exercise of the privilege.

DAIRY INDUSTRY.

It is satisfactory to know that the dairy industry is extending in this district. In localities where it has been started everything points to the possibility of its expansion and development into a profitable industry, and no doubt its auxiliaries—pig-breeding, bacon-curing, and poultry-rearing—will keep pace with it.

The natural facilities for dairying in Nelson are many—soil, climate, and rainfall favouring the industry. At Karamea—a typical dairying country, coast land—there is a butter-factory which uses the milk of four hundred cows, the output of butter during the year being 27 tons. There are also butter-factories established at Collingwood, Takaka, Richmond, Wakapuaka, and Motueka.

ANGORA-GOAT INDUSTRY.

It has frequently occurred to me during my visits to various parts of this district that a large area could be made profitable by establishing thereon Angora-goat farms. Angora goats should be well suited to the Nelson conditions of climate and locality, for there is much typical goat country. An attempt has been made by Mr. Cropp, of Wai-iti, to establish a flock, but he has not yet arrived at that stage in experiments which enables him to speak with authority on his prospects of success. In the United States, South Africa, and Australia purebred bucks are allowed to run amongst a flock of common goats, and the results are reported to be astonishing, for a flock may be produced which cannot be distinguished from purebred Angoras.

As there is always a ready market for mohair, and the flesh of the Angora is equal to the best mutton, the importation of Angoras appears to be a matter which is worthy of the serious consideration of the Government. Incidentally it may be noted that Mr. Cropp keeps his goats in enclosures overrun by blackberries and briars, and by this means rids the country of these weeds. He states that the goat lives almost entirely on the leaves and young shoots of the weeds mentioned.

CLASSIFICATION OF LANDS IN NELSON LAND DISTRICT.

So much has been written and spoken respecting the areas of Crown lands available for mixed farming and pastoral settlement that I have spent some time in making a careful estimate thereof, based on the best available topographical data, supplemented by my personal knowledge of the district. The Nelson Land District contains an area of about 4,686,000 acres. Up to the 31st March, 1907, there has been sold or otherwise disposed of an area of 1,618,000 acres, leaving an area of 3,068,000 acres, which may be classified as follows: Lands suitable for mixed farming, 421,000 acres; lands suitable for pastoral purposes, 1,103,000 acres; lands suitable for reservation for forest, climatic, and scenic purposes, 884,000 acres; and barren mountain-tops, 660,000 acres.

The area suitable for mixed farming may be described generally as light to heavily timbered country, with tracts of open terrace land (pakihī), the latter being stony and mossy in places. The timber consists of black-birch, brown-birch, red-birch, rimu (red-pine), kahikatea (white-pine), mountain totara, and kowhai, with undergrowth of puka (broadleaf), hoho (five-fingers), horopito (pepperwood), konini (fuchsia), makomako (wineberry), horoeka (lancewood), houhere (lacebark), and black scrub. The soil on the river-flats is exceedingly rich, and on the slopes and up to a good elevation there is a great deal of limestone, marls, sandstone, &c. That the open terrace land before referred to may be improved by drainage and cultivation is evidenced from the results obtained in the Inangahua County, but considerable capital is required to make it reproductive.

The area suitable for pastoral purposes naturally comprises the hilly country, wooded similarly to the flat and low-lying country just described, excepting that the birches predominate and the undergrowth is not so dense. The formation is limestone, serpentine, granite, and conglomerate. Where the forest has been cleared, grassed and sown liberally, the results from this country have been excellent.

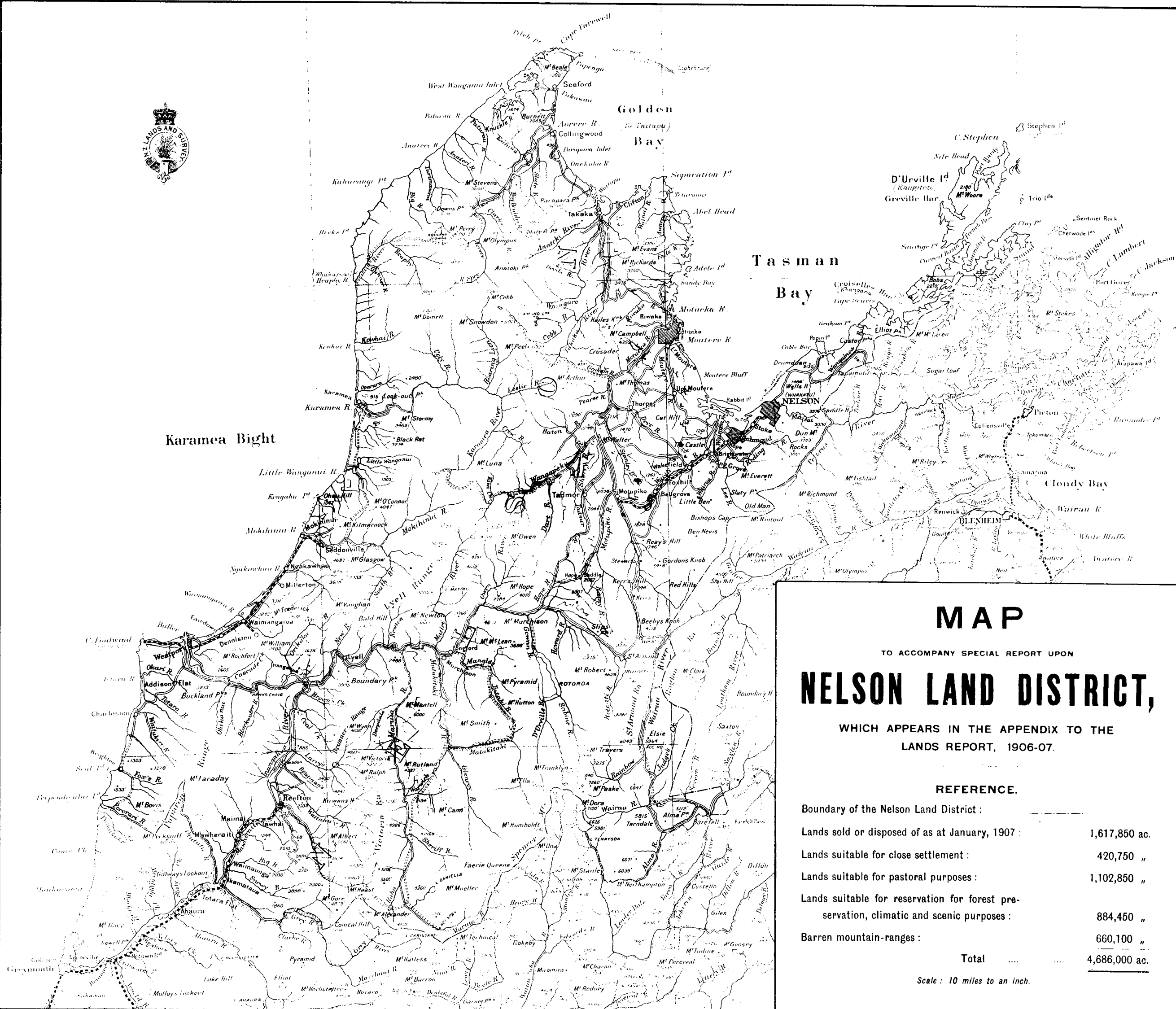
The area suitable for reservation for forest, climatic, and scenic purposes is an estate of great value, for although it possesses no value as land suitable for any kind of settlement, yet it is a great picturesque showground for tourists.

The barren mountain-tops, although reaching a high elevation, have a value for grazing purposes in many localities during a portion of the summer season; in fact, there is a considerable area for that purpose under lease at the present time.

It is not too much to say that included in the lands thus briefly described there is land suitable for every kind of culture, stock-producing, dairying, orcharding, pig-breeding, &c. The general average quality of the lands, combined with an excellent climate, justify the opinion that there is a field here for the industrious settler. He can acquire cheap land on liberal terms in localities where there are the requisite natural conditions for his special pursuits. These facts have been long overlooked by residents of other districts in the colony, and cannot now be too widely known.

WITHDRAWAL OF LANDS FROM GOLDFIELDS.

A question of importance in relation to the permanent settlement of Crown lands in parts of Nelson is frequently forced on the notice of the Land Board. I refer to the difficulty experienced by small settlers—particularly ex-miners—in acquiring a permanent tenure to the lands which they occupy under temporary license. As you are aware, nearly the whole of Nelson Land District is situated in mining districts, there being only about 1,000,000 acres over which the Warden exercises no jurisdiction. Hitherto there has been only one industry in Southern Nelson—that of mining—and no disposition was shown by the mining community to settle on the land. Recently, however, many miners have turned their attention to land, and, naturally enough, those who have done so desire to acquire a permanent tenure so as to protect their improvements. They are, however, frequently unsuccessful in obtaining a permanent tenure, owing to their applications being objected to on the plea that the land they occupy is auriferous, or that there is an impending development in gold or coal. Many applications have been granted by the Land Board after careful inquiry, but have been vetoed by the Warden. It is within my own personal knowledge that many of the objections are frivolous. The Land Board recognises the importance of the mining industry, but there is no reason why a large area of good land should



MAP

TO ACCOMPANY SPECIAL REPORT UPON

NELSON LAND DISTRICT,

WHICH APPEARS IN THE APPENDIX TO THE
LANDS REPORT, 1906-07.

REFERENCE.

Boundary of the Nelson Land District :	-----
Lands sold or disposed of as at January, 1907 :	1,617,850 ac.
Lands suitable for close settlement :	420,750 "
Lands suitable for pastoral purposes :	1,102,850 "
Lands suitable for reservation for forest pre- servation, climatic and scenic purposes :	884,450 "
Barren mountain-ranges :	660,100 "
Total	4,686,000 ac.

Scale : 10 miles to an inch.

be locked up owing to the objection that possible mining interests are prejudiced. It cannot be denied that very large areas within mining districts might reasonably be exempted from mining, for the country has been prospected over and over again, and has not proved payably auriferous.

I would recommend for the favourable consideration of the Government that a report be obtained as to the area which may reasonably be exempted from mining, and that it be released under section 19 of "The Mining Act, 1905." The probability is that if the lands in the Inangahua and Buller Counties be not made available there will be a large exodus of ex-miners and others from those localities.

MEETINGS OF THE LAND BOARD.

Eleven meetings of the Land Board were held at Nelson, one at Westport, and one at Reefton during the year. The increase of business in the southern part of this district is very noticeable, and probably the Board will make two visits to Westport and Reefton during the current year.

DEPARTMENTAL.

I visited nearly all the localities in Nelson where there are Crown tenants. I have ascertained their requirements, and brought to a satisfactory completion many matters which have been the subject of complaint on the part of the tenants. Having made the acquaintance of the settlers, my correspondence with them has become nearly doubled; but that is, however, a matter of little importance if it tends to a good understanding between the settlers and the Department.

My acknowledgments are due to the office staff for the valuable assistance which they have rendered to me in all departments of the work, and to Ranger Harris, whose intimate knowledge of the district was of great benefit in assisting me to acquire a personal knowledge of the tenants and of the localities where they are settled.

The number of telegrams and letters received and despatched during the year was 14,222. The number of vouchers which passed through the Accountant's office was 649, representing a sum of £15,336 9s. 3d. A total of 3,925 land-sale posters, land guides, and miscellaneous maps were distributed throughout the land district.

F. W. FLANAGAN,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

MARLBOROUGH.

The table below gives a summary of the land transactions within this land district for the year ended 31st March, 1907. The total area dealt with is 33,897 acres, and the amount of receipts was £32,985 15s. 7d., an increase of £2,003 9s. 9d. over last year's returns.

Table showing the Land Transactions and Revenue.

Nature and Tenure of Lands selected.	Number of Selectors.	Area.			Cash received on Past and Current Transactions.		
		A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
Town lands sold for cash	1	0	1	0	275	0	0
Rural lands sold for cash	4	3,083	3	12	1,033	15	5
Perpetual lease made freehold ... ..	...	...	...	...	82	10	0
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	...	...	...	...	63	0	0
Perpetual leases ... ..	...	...	...	...	30	10	8
Occupation with right of purchase	3	2,646	0	0	496	4	5
Lease in perpetuity	35	3,945	2	0	2,904	9	1
Village settlement—							
Perpetual lease ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	2	6
Lease in perpetuity ... ..	...	...	...	...	15	17	4
Village-homestead special settlement ... ..	...	...	...	...	17	12	6
Occupation lease, Mining Districts Land Occupation Act	...	...	...	...	27	19	1
Small grazing-runs ... ..	...	...	...	...	2,749	16	5
Pastoral runs	2	13,880	0	0	3,947	1	8
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	20	10,169	3	29	2,410	8	7
Miscellaneous ... ..	...	...	...	...	193	5	3
Land for Settlements Acts—							
Lease in perpetuity	7	40	1	27	12,064	15	8
Small grazing-runs	1	993	0	0	5,860	5	10
Miscellaneous	19	136	2	38	712	1	2
Cash	2	2	0	0	100	0	0
Totals	94	33,897	2	26	32,985	15	7

During the past year the settlement in this district has been small, because of the limited area of suitable Crown lands available. The demand has been very great, and it is much to be regretted that we have but little land to meet it. There have been, however, ninety-one new tenants added to our

list, chiefly on small isolated blocks and miscellaneous licenses. The total number of holdings within the district is, on Crown lands, 1,040, occupying an area of 1,302,709 acres. This shows an increase of fifty-nine holdings during the year, held under various tenures, exclusive of land for settlements, which are treated separately in another place.

For the purpose of this report Marlborough may be conveniently divided by the Wairau River into two distinct portions, where quite different conditions often obtain. The north portion, including the whole of the Sounds and portion of the Marlborough County, may be called generally "small-holdings country"; the general characteristic of this portion is rather broken bush-clad hills, with some fertile flat valleys running into them. Within this northern portion most of our settlement takes place, generally under special conditions, because all the front country has been taken up long ago, leaving only the poorer and less accessible parts available for expansion of the present holdings. It is also within this portion that most of the timber is obtained, and this, I think, temporarily retards the clearing of the bush, for many of the mills are working on private property. I estimate that about 1,500 acres only of bush has been felled and burnt during the past season, although, owing to the unusually dry season, much standing bush, chiefly birch and inferior timber, has been destroyed. The settlers in these parts appear to be doing fairly well, owing to the high price of stock, wool, and other produce, but they have very much to contend with in the way of noxious weeds. This especially applies to the Upper Wairau, Wakamarina, and Pelorus Valleys. In the west portion of this division the settlers have a harder time, because the land is poor and the weeds they have to contend with are, if possible, more numerous and vigorous. There is some gold being got in this portion as well as in the Wakamarina Valley, but I fear it gives a rather poor return for the labour expended upon it.

The flax industry appears to be in a good sound position in Marlborough, and many of our settlers are obtaining a very welcome additional return for what was, until lately, only a waste part of their holdings. In some cases this amounts to nearly the rent they have to pay.

The southern portion of the district (south of the Wairau) contains nearly the whole of the land for settlement, which is reported upon in another part, and most of the pastoral land in the district. It is chiefly open land, and although a very large proportion is high mountainous country, some of the plains are both extensive and fertile. This southern portion as a whole, but especially the eastern portion, has suffered considerably from drought; the recorded rainfall for Grovetown, which is the nearest meteorological station to Blenheim, was about 22 in. for the year, and for the spring months—viz., October, November, and December—was only 2½ in.

The southern limit of the country over which the drought extended was about the Ure River. South of this the rain, although less than normal, was sufficient to keep the pasture growing and green. The effect of this drought was, of course, felt most on the land where a considerable amount of cropping was done, but the crops in spite of this were fairly good; but the shortness of feed, both locally and in Canterbury, in conjunction with the slaughtermen's difficulty at the freezing-works, had a very prejudicial effect on the price of stock, especially fat sheep and lambs. The hardness and dryness of the ground also, where it did not actually prevent ploughing, retarded the growth of the root-crops, and many of the settlers were consequently unable to hold their surplus stock, and had in many instances to sell them for a considerably reduced price. These remarks also apply to the Kaikoura district, where the feed was generally abundant; many of the settlers were cut off from their principal markets in Canterbury, because there was a shortness of feed in that district and a consequential lack of demand for store sheep. The progress made by the settlers in the Kaikoura district has been very marked; the country which a few years ago was covered by dense bush is now in good grass, and the Crown tenants appear to be doing good service for themselves and for the cause of settlement in general.

Lease in Perpetuity.—There is no doubt that in Marlborough the most popular tenure is lease in perpetuity. Out of the 1,040 Crown tenants who hold permanent leases there are 619 who hold under this tenure 195,395 acres.

Occupation with Right of Purchase.—Only forty tenants hold under this form of tenure 13,061 acres.

Small Grazing-runs.—The area held by 122 tenants is 260,141 acres, with an annual rent of £10,302 10s. 10d.

Pastoral Runs.—The area held under this tenure by fifty-five tenants was 898,627 acres, yielding an annual rental of £3,889 13s.

Occupation Leases under "The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894."—There were no selections taken up under this heading during the year, but several have been applied for, some of which were refused because they were in a State forest, and the others are awaiting survey. There were nineteen selectors, holding 1,161 acres and paying rent £31 4s. 4d. current at the 31st March, 1907. These holdings are generally situated up the Wakamarina Valley. Some of the selectors have made good use of their holdings and have kept them clear of noxious weeds. Others have only done a little work beyond getting a house to live in and enough land cleared to run a cow or two.

REVENUE.

The actual revenue collected amounted to £32,985 15s. 7d.; miscellaneous items, £30 3s. The gross receipts were £33,015 18s. 7d., an increase of £2,033 12s. 9d. on last year's receipts.

REBATE OF RENT.

Rebates amounting to £2,136 19s. 5d. were granted. This and the good prices obtained for stock and market produce accounts for the small amount of arrears.

ARREARS OF RENT.

This amounts to £516 16s. 11d. (out of a total annual rental of £31,838 10s. 5d.), and is distributed among forty-one tenants, out of a total of 1,040 tenants.

SURRENDERS.

There were only six surrenders, comprising mostly small areas on which tenants could not make a living, and which were immediately taken up by adjoining owners.

"THIRDS" AND "FOURTHS."

The sum of £2,746 was paid to the local bodies, that amount being practically all moneys received during the year, so that no complaint can be made of the various Road Boards not taking prompt advantage of the revenue accrued under this heading.

FOREST-COVERED CROWN LANDS.

Some comment has been made in the public Press and in letters from intending settlers as to the impropriety of holding back forest-covered land until the timber has been cleared off it by sawmilling; and, while agreeing that it is most necessary that settlement should not be retarded, it should, I think, be remembered that it is not wise to destroy the little remaining timber we have, even for so desirable an object as settlement. The present system of giving timber licenses to cut the timber on royalty before offering the land for settlement not only secures a very large proportion of the timber from being wasted, but obtains frequently as much as £4 an acre for the timber, and this not only does not impoverish the land, but to a certain extent helps the settler to make a better job of his bush-clearing, because it removes most of the large trees.

OFFICE-WORK.

There were 5,275 letters received and despatched, and 2,000 rent-notices issued. This does not include a large number of sale-plans, Crown Lands Guides, &c. 369 vouchers were passed, amounting to £8,325 16s. In the office of the Receiver of Land Revenue, besides the gross receipts of the year, amounting to £33,015 18s. 7d. for which 1,820 receipts were issued, the sum of £851 1s. 7d. was paid into the Deposit Account, for which 167 receipts were issued and 271 cheques drawn.

F. STEPHENSON SMITH,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

WESTLAND.

CROWN LANDS OPENED FOR SELECTION.

The following table exhibits the manner in which Crown lands were opened for sale or lease during the year:—

					Lease in Perpetuity (ordinary).	Total.
					Acres.	Acres.
Offered for first time	..	..	..	..	8,259	8,259
Offered previously	..	..	..	..	Nil	..
Total	..	..	..	..	..	8,259

The above were offered under section 121 of "The Land Act, 1892," and section 2 of "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Act, 1903," and comprised areas all over the district.

LANDS DISPOSED OF.

The subjoined table sets forth the results of land administration in this district for the year:—

Class of Selection.	Transactions during the Year.			Leasehold Areas held on 31st March, 1907.			Revenue received during the Year.
	Number.	Area.		Number.	Area.		
		A.	R. P.		A.	R. P.	£ s. d.
Perpetual lease	...	...	...	7	580	1 8	27 12 0
Occupation with right of purchase	...	...	...	106	18,590	0 24	668 1 3
Lease in perpetuity	87	14,327	0 33	471	59,732	2 9	1,637 0 10
Lease in perpetuity, land for settlements	2	215	1 36	27	4,990	1 4	574 18 1
Lease in perpetuity, village settlements	1	0	1 0	11	198	1 27	12 11 7
Mining Districts Land Occupation Act	2	90	1 3	6	136	1 3	3 11 9
Pastoral runs	58	34,726	3 36	193	561,059	0 35	1,186 18 1
Miscellaneous leases	34	5,895	0 9	243	82,233	0 13	492 7 10
Miscellaneous leases, land for settlements	...	...	...	1	8	2 0	1 0 0
Endowments	...	...	...	6	1,631	2 5	1,750 17 0
Timber licenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,607 14 2
Flax licenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	91 4 1
Other sources	...	...	...	...	...	...	100 5 1
Transfer lease and license fees	...	...	...	...	...	...	169 7 0
Totals	184	55,255	0 37	1,071	729,160	1 8	15,323 8 9

REVENUE.

The revenue for the year amounts, as shown above, to £15,323 8s. 9d., which is £1,271 16s. above the estimate, and £2,056 16s. more than last year.

Taking into consideration the low upset prices of our lands (consequent upon their moderate fertility, dense forest, and remoteness from markets), and also that most of the new selections have been made under the liberal provisions of the Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, the resulting revenue is fairly satisfactory.

REVIEW OF THE CURRENT SYSTEMS OF TENURE.

Cash Lands.—No lands have been opened on this system during the year. Westland being wholly a mining district, it has been considered necessary to discourage this form of selection as much as possible; consequently, no sales of any kind have taken place during the year.

Occupation with Right of Purchase.—No selections were taken up on this tenure, and, for the reasons given under cash system, no areas were opened in Westland during the year.

Lease in Perpetuity.—Under this tenure during the year 8,259 acres were subdivided into thirty-one allotments. These were all under the provisions of "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903." Of these, sixteen holdings, comprising an area of 4,322 acres, were selected. The area opened during the year has been limited, owing to the fact that various areas have been subdivided and are ready for the market, but are included in pastoral runs, and the twelve months' notice of resumption had not expired. These will come into the market early in the coming year. The summary of land transactions during the year shows eighty-seven selectors, with an area of 14,327 acres; of these, fifteen selections, for a total of 4 acres, were for lease in perpetuity in the Township of Runanga.

Village-settlement Lands (on Lease in Perpetuity).—In the Runanga Township Extension, one section of 1 rood was selected. Several applications for other sections have had to be held over in the meantime, as they were within the area reserved for State coal-mine purposes.

Leases under "The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894."—As pointed out in last year's report, the minimum rental under this Act is found to be too high for the class of lands in this district. Several applications are awaiting survey. Two areas of 90 acres have been selected and titles issued during the year.

Pastoral Runs.—Under this heading fifty-eight licensees have taken up 34,726 acres during the year. Nine of these, comprising 26,344 acres, are temporary grazing licenses under section 219 of "The Land Act, 1892." The balance, forty-nine, of 8,382 acres, are selected under the regulations for the occupation of pastoral lands within mining districts.

Pastoral Lands within Mining Districts.—Under the regulations, selectors are enabled to take up farming lands on the goldfields on a more certain tenure than formerly, and many are availing themselves of the opportunity of securing a title to ground which before the issue of the regulations they had held only on sufferance. A large number of miners who had established homes on and adjoining the diggings are among the present tenants, and in every case are extending their clearings, as well as erecting better houses and fences. Some of the land leased is of fair quality, but a good deal is composed of old gold-workings and heavy-bush land which will take time to reclaim. Withal, these lessees, although anxious and hopeful for an exchange to a lease-in-perpetuity holding, yet are very contented with their present title, and that settlement under these regulations is a tenure which meets with the approval of the selector is shown thus: The present number of leaseholders is seventy-one, occupying 12,034 acres, as against forty-four, of 8,884 acres, last year. The area now in grass equals 1,200 acres, and the value of improvements, £3,000.

Miscellaneous Leases.—The total area taken up on various tenures comprises 5,895 acres, held by thirty-four selectors. These are made up of one coal lease of 80 acres, two flax leases of 40 acres, and thirty-one miscellaneous leases of 5,775 acres, under section 116 of "The Land Act, 1892."

INSPECTIONS AND RANGERS' REPORTS.

Several inspection visits to different localities were made by the Land Board members and the Commissioner for the purpose of settling disputes on the ground, deciding values, and conferring with settlers and applicants concerning proposals for opening up new farming areas for selector.

The Crown Lands Rangers have made their usual periodical inspections of the various holdings in the district, and their reports evidence careful and thorough investigation of each case. The oversight of sawmilling and flax-milling, reports to the Land Board, and inspections on behalf of the Wardens, have been satisfactorily carried out.

POSITION AND PROGRESS OF SETTLEMENT.

Northern Division.—That portion of Westland lying between the Upper Grey Valley and the Mikonui River evidences stability and progress amongst the Crown tenantry who occupy the farming blocks, which alternate with the intervening and surrounding gold-mining areas, coalfields, mineral leaseholds, and sawmill forests. This division is well provided with access by railways, dray and bridle roads, hence cultivation on small holdings pays well, and dairying is profitably carried on throughout the whole area. The present position is as follows: Number of tenants, 201; area held, 43,990 acres; area brought into profitable use, 7,825 acres; value of improvements effected by tenants, £34,530 (exclusive of Runanga Township, pastoral and miscellaneous tenantry, noted below).

Southern Division.—This area occupies the southern portion of the district, extending from the Mikonui Valley to the Otago boundary, and comprises a narrow strip of littoral country between the foothills of the Southern Alps and the sea-coast. The whole of it is covered with forest, and the settled lands are scattered on the lower flats of the numerous alpine river valleys. A considerable acreage of farming lands has been taken up during the year, persistent reclamation of much waste forest has taken place, and distinct progress in every direction has been made. The want of road access precludes small holdings and compels the raising of fat stock and rearing of horses; but as soon as the larger rivers are bridged much dairying will follow. A yearly increase of sheep is also worthy of note. The present position is as follows: Number of tenants, 255; area held, 57,969 acres; area brought into profitable use, 13,875 acres; value of improvements effected by tenants, £37,535.

Township of Runanga.—Tenantry, 196. This township is situated four miles from Greymouth, and is held under lease in perpetuity. Twenty-eight sections have been forfeited during the year, principally for non-compliance with the regulations, one surrendered, and sixteen new sections have been taken up. The streets are now all cleared of forest, and formation and metalling are steadily proceeding, access having been given to every house. All the Government and municipal reserves have been felled, and the township presents a thriving and prosperous appearance. The class of house erected is very superior to the ordinary miner's residence; thirty-six have been built during the year, and there are now ninety-five houses on the township, of which ten are shops. The residents are mostly employees of the adjacent State coal-mine, but a large number live in Greymouth, and others again are on the mining reserve adjoining the workings. On account of this, the population of the township is smaller than it otherwise would be. For details of the expenditure on streets, &c., see Mr. District Surveyor Wilson's report, appended to my survey report (published as part of C.-1A).

Pastoral Leaseholds.—All the Westland runs, with the exception of a few mountain-top leaseholds, occupy the valleys and intervening spurs and terraced lands between the sea-coast and the main range. They are almost wholly covered with forest, and are chiefly occupied by herds of cattle, which feed on the undergrowth. On the intervening scrub and tussock patches fair numbers of sheep and horses are profitably reared. Several areas of mountain pastures are also grazed by sheep during the summer months. There are 193 lessees, many of whom only occupy small areas, and who use the bush feed chiefly for rearing the stock, which they fatten on turnips and grass. These holders are all thriving, their herds and flocks are increasing, and their outlook is very encouraging.

Miscellaneous.—Tenantry, 243. These holders lease small reserves, &c., all over the district, under temporary titles, which preclude heavy improvements. Still, such leaseholds are very much appreciated by many men, who conjoin land-cultivation with lumbering, gold-mining, coal-mining, and other attendant pursuits. Of the 243 noted above, forty-six are lessees of coal, oil, and flax areas.

GENERAL.

The Commissioner's and Rangers' reports show that the Crown tenants, on the whole, have fairly well complied with the conditions of their several leases; the arrears of rental are now very low, the value of improvements effected on each holding is considerably in excess of the amount required by the regulations, and altogether the position, in every respect, as between Crown and tenants is very satisfactory.

The district as a whole is progressing satisfactorily, and despite a cold spring the crops are much better than last year. The country generally is looking well, owing to the fine season; good "burns" were obtained, and fine root-crops ensued; grass is abundant, and plenty of sound hay has been stacked, consequently winter feed is secure. In the southern districts, which may be classed as purely grazing-lands, clearing and grassing has been vigorously carried on, and the outturn of fat stock has been unprecedented in number and quality.

A keen demand for land still holds, and it is confidently expected that the whole of the new blocks which are now being prepared for the market will be at once occupied.

REBATES OF RENTAL.

Rebates amounting to £70 16s. 7d. were made during the year to 265 Crown tenants.

ARREARS OF RENTAL.

These amount to £215 11s. 4d. owing by fifty-seven tenants, being a considerable reduction on the figures of last year. There are no arrears on the lands-for-settlement estates at Pœrua and Kokatahi, or on the Kokatahi Village Settlement lands.

FORFEITURES AND SURRENDERS.

There were thirty-nine forfeitures during the year. Thirty of these were small sections in the Runanga Township, the lessees of which had taken up the sections with the idea of settling there, but afterwards found the locality unsuitable. One pastoral run was forfeited on account of non-payment of rent. Eight miscellaneous leases were cancelled, the land in nearly all cases being reselected on permanent tenures. Surrenders of fifteen leases were accepted. Three of these were leases in perpetuity, on which the lessees were unable to comply with conditions. Of the eight miscellaneous leases, three were flax leases, covering areas on which there was not sufficient flax to warrant the erection of mills; three were mineral leases, under the jurisdiction of the Warden; the other two being surrendered for the purpose of acquiring the areas on mere permanent tenures. Four pastoral licenses were surrendered, two being on account of losses in stock, and the others on account of resumption of large areas for settlement.

SCENIC RESERVES.

The very important matter of setting apart certain lands as scenic and sanctuary reserves has been carefully attended to, and already seventeen areas, aggregating 19,808 acres, have been permanently gazetted for these purposes. It is proposed during the coming year that a large number of additional reserves be recommended for reservation, and thus complete, in the main, the conservation of all localities of scenic value in Westland.

FORESTS.

The timber industry still progresses, and an increased output has to be recorded. The mills in north Westland have been fully engaged, and are rapidly extending their operations into the back country, where large areas of fine milling forest await their enterprise. Many firms now possess locomotives, log-haulers, and the latest appliances for handling and milling. Others are adopting these better methods, and substituting iron rails for wooden tramways. The completion of the Ross Railway will enable an increased area of fine milling forest to be overtaken. Continuous inquiries are also made regarding the forests in South Westland, and ere long we hope to see sawmills established adjacent to the ports in various localities. These facts evidence a sound and profitable business, which, together with attendant industries, provides employment for fully a thousand hands, who

with their families are ready-money customers of the neighbouring farmers. There are forty-nine sawmills erected on Crown lands and freeholds. The area occupied for timber-cutting purposes comprises about 29,000 acres. The output for the year amounts to 44,933,813 ft. of commercial timber, 95,000 railway-sleepers, 2,000 telegraph-poles, besides quantities of bridge, &c., piles, posts, firewood, and other lumber. The total royalty paid amounts to £8,607 14s. 2d.

FLAX-MILLING.

There are twelve mills, employing about 150 hands, erected in the various flax-growing localities scattered throughout the district. Several of these firms are struggling under the great hindrances of difficult transport of supplies and fibre, as the mills are situated considerable distances from railway or ports. Nevertheless, new enterprises are being undertaken, older ventures re-established with better appliances, and the outlook is very promising. Several millers have applied to the Land Board for areas for the purpose of cultivating flax, and others already have drained and planted a fair acreage. Should these experiments succeed, then a considerable expansion of the industry will rapidly ensue, and much of our waste water-logged country be reclaimed.

CROWN LANDS FOR DISPOSAL DURING YEAR 1907-8.

The Crown lands at present available and to be thrown open for selection, apart from pastoral runs, amount to 121,759 acres, and are classified thus:—

—	Town and Suburban Lands.	Rural Lands.		Pastoral Runs.	
		Surveyed.	Unsurveyed.	Number.	Acres.
<i>Lands now open for Selection.</i>					
	Acres. 112	Acres. 10,174	Acres. 85,503	56	781,810
<i>Lands to be thrown open for Selection.</i>					
	160	22,120	3,690	10	105,500
Total lands available during coming year	272	32,294	89,193	66	887,310

The town and suburban lands comprise sections in the Towns of Runanga and Rohutu, and the Villages of Kokatahi, Waitaha, and Runanga Extension.

All the rural lands are or will be obtainable under "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903," and areas contiguous to gold-workings are also open for selection under the regulations for occupation of pastoral lands within mining districts. The provisions of the above Act and regulations have proved most applicable to this densely timbered country, and have greatly induced the settlement of many areas during the year. Of the surveyed land, 4,420 acres, between Waiho and Okuru, are open for selection under all tenures of the optional system; the balance of 5,754 acres is available on lease in perpetuity only, and is located in blocks all over the northern district. The pastoral runs cover all the country fit for depasturing stock.

The subdivisions having been almost finished, six blocks of rural lands in different localities will be offered at an early date, and other lots will follow as soon as they are surveyed. As there is a continuous inquiry for farming lands, all these areas will probably be taken up.

The classification of 120 runs by the Westland Classification Commissioners (in accordance with section 189 of "The Land Act, 1892,") was duly gazetted, and those lands in Class 2 adapted for agricultural purposes will now be resumed and subdivided for settlement.

PAYMENTS TO LOCAL BODIES.

Proposals and plans for the expenditure of "thirds" and "halves" were duly investigated, and after careful inspection and check were recommended to the Land Board and approved.

"Thirds" under "The Land Act, 1892," accrued and were paid as under: Westland County Council, £339 14s. 4d.; Grey County Council, £202 11s. 4d.: total, £542 5s. 8d. "Halves" under "The Timber and Flax Royalties Act, 1905," as under: Westland County Council, £873 1s. 7d.; Grey County Council, £2,196 4s. 6d.: total, £3,069 6s. 1d. Gross total, £3,611 11s. 9d.

ERADICATION OF NOXIOUS WEEDS.

In connection with the destruction of these weeds on Crown lands, £204 12s. 9d. was paid during the year on the certificate of the Inspector of Stock, who, together with the Rangers, reports that corresponding efforts are being made by the settlers to do their share of the work.

DEPARTMENTAL.

The Land Board has held fifteen ordinary and special meetings during the year, and, as remarked above, has also made several inspection-visits to various parts of the district. The number of applications and items dealt with was 1,107, or an average of seventy-four at each meeting.

The following items represent approximately the amount of clerical work put through by the Department during the last twelve months: Sale-posters, Land Guides, and lithographs distributed aggregated 1,166; the number of vouchers passed through the Accountant's office was 907, representing £24,421 1s. 6d.; cheques issued on Imprest Account numbered 1,388, representing £15,125 14s. 2d.; number of letters received and despatched 11,753; 3,783 notices sent out; 184 Audit cards; 1,338 receipts; 217 departmental returns furnished; 700 leases and similar documents prepared; 83 reports to Wardens and other reports to Advances Office, Old-age Pensions, and other Departments.

I have much pleasure in acknowledging the loyal and able assistance accorded by the staff in over-taking the work of the year,

G. J. ROBERTS,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

CANTERBURY.

LAND TRANSACTIONS.

The following table shows in a concise form the transactions that have taken place during the year, the number and area of Crown holdings at the 31st March, 1907, and the total revenue received from all sources within the period:—

LAND TRANSACTIONS, 1906-7.

Tenure.	Transactions during Year.		Area held at 31st March, 1907.		Revenue received during the Year.
	Number of Sections.	Area.	Number of Holders.	Area.	
Cash lands—		A. R. P.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Town	8	4 0 0	...	...	103 0 0
Suburban ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Rural	7	131 0 28	...	...	441 8 7
Deferred payments—					
Rural and pastoral ... ..	...	...	5	9,214 0 10	580 18 4
Village ... ..	...	...	7	64 3 3	13 9 5
Made freehold	2	130 0 0	...	...	163 5 0
Perpetual lease—					
Ordinary ... ..	...	...	23	2,026 0 7	150 0 11
Village ... ..	...	...	21	293 3 35	59 18 4
Made freehold	3	45 1 13	...	...	81 16 8
Occupation with right of purchase—					
Ordinary ... ..	...	...	26	4,733 2 23	217 13 7
Village ... ..	...	...	8	2 2 0	3 9 8
Made freehold	1	240 0 0	...	...	300 0 0
Lease in perpetuity—					
Ordinary, Crown ... ..	...	...	242	75,570 0 21	3,810 19 1
Village, " ... ..	...	...	18	8 2 0	7 14 5
Lake Ellesmere ... ..	...	...	68	13,937 0 0	1,271 2 6
Conversions to lease in perpetuity—					
Ordinary ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Village homestead	7	215 1 38	...	...	...
Farm homestead ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Village homestead special settlement—					
Perpetual lease ... ..	...	...	69	1,439 2 36	204 13 5
Lease in perpetuity, Crown	1	16 2 0	191	7,126 2 4	610 15 11
Lease in perpetuity, Lake Ellesmere ... ..	...	...	57	1,419 1 3	252 18 4
Farm homestead—					
Perpetual lease ... ..	...	...	10	669 0 8	48 7 2
Lease in perpetuity, Crown ... ..	...	...	20	1,867 2 9	80 5 10
Small grazing-runs, Crown	5	12,268 0 0	55	133,734 0 19	5,657 18 0
Pastoral licenses, "	5	16,717 0 0	140	3,450,673 1 39	31,140 14 10
Miscellaneous occupation licenses—					
Crown	56	8,578 3 9	565	76,931 3 37	2,786 10 10
Lake Ellesmere ... ..	...	...	17	1,190 2 10	62 7 9
Endowment ... ..	...	...	1	1,480 2 8	97 10 0
State forests	3	4,033 0 0	22	11,027 2 14	390 16 6
Mineral licenses ... ..	...	...	6	1,389 0 0	57 3 0
Timber licenses	6	805 0 0	21	3,319 3 8	275 9 1
Other sources ... ..	...	...	...	...	601 19 0
<i>Cheviot Estate.</i>					
Lease in perpetuity ... ..	...	...	118	24,392 1 2	5,836 7 10
Village homestead ... ..	...	...	92	2,480 1 0	836 17 11
Grazing farms ... ..	...	...	49	45,846 1 26	6,209 10 7
Pastoral licenses ... ..	...	...	1	1,642 0 0	193 3 8
Miscellaneous occupation licenses	4	169 2 0	62	1,389 0 22	219 6 5
Cash sales	16	7 0 31	...	...	379 19 6
<i>Land for Settlements.</i>					
Lease in perpetuity	30	6,093 1 22	1,138	175,702 3 2	58,016 14 5
Farm homestead ... ..	...	...	11	2,114 1 9	147 1 1
Small grazing-runs	1	3,684 0 0	44	81,161 0 26	9,513 9 8
Miscellaneous occupation licenses	5	46 3 0	37	967 3 31	222 19 3
Other sources ... ..	...	...	...	...	281 19 5
Cash sales	2	4 0 19	...	...	163 7 5
Workers' dwellings	9	2 0 20.2	9	2 0 20.2	21 4 7
Totals	171	53,191 1 20.2	3,153	4,133,818 0 32.2	131,514 7 11

A comparison of this table with the corresponding one for the preceding year shows a falling-off from 205 to 171 in the number of transactions for the year, although the area represented has risen from 41,447 acres to 53,191 acres, owing to the increased area of pastoral holdings included in this year's transactions. The area held at the close of the year has increased by 3,889 acres 1 rood 15 perches, and the number of tenants by thirty-eight. The total revenue for the year shows a falling-off of £1,726 18s. 2d. as compared with the receipts of the previous year.

LANDS OPENED.

Excluding lands offered under the Land for Settlements Acts and on the Cheviot Estate, which are dealt with separately, the lands opened for selection during the year may be summarised as follows:—

(a.) Offered for sale for cash by public auction: Fifty-six sections, totalling 13 acres 2 roods 38 perches, in the Township of South Rakaiia; sixteen of these, comprising 3 acres 3 roods 19 perches, were sold for £103, the upset prices totalling £80.

(b.) Offered under the small-grazing-run system: Five runs, comprising a total area of 12,268 acres, situated in the Malvern Hills. For these five runs 428 applications were received, the number balloting for individual runs varying from 151 to 363. The favourable seasons and prices of stock and wool recently experienced, together with the limited amount of this class of holding obtainable in Canterbury, and the reasonable rents fixed, no doubt combined to create the keen demand experienced for these runs, although a scrutiny of the ballot-lists leads to the conclusion that the number of applicants would have been very much reduced if they had been required to undergo the examination prescribed for applicants under the Land for Settlements Acts.

(c.) Offered under the pastoral-lease system: One run of 11,000 acres situated in the Hakataramea Valley, which was purchased at the upset rental.

(d.) Offered by tender or auction for lease for varying terms: Six blocks, totalling 2,130 acres, situated at Hanmer Springs, Port Lyttelton, and near Morven; all these realised satisfactory rentals.

THE DIFFERENT SYSTEMS OF TENURE.

The two disappearing systems of tenure—namely, deferred-payment licenses and perpetual leases—have only been slightly reduced during the year, the former by two holdings of 130 acres converted into freehold, and the latter by three allotments totalling 45 acres 1 rood 13 perches also converted into freehold. The number so treated shows a very marked diminution from the figures for the preceding year, when twelve holdings comprising 1,071 acres became freehold.

Under the occupation-with-right-of-purchase system one holder of 240 acres exercised his right of acquiring the freehold, but otherwise the figures remain unchanged, and the ordinary leases in perpetuity are also unaltered.

Under the village-homestead system there has been one new selection of 16½ acres, and a small transfer of holdings from the perpetual-lease to the lease-in-perpetuity subdivision, but with these exceptions the tenure remains unaltered. The farm-homestead holdings also remain as before.

The number of small grazing-runs has increased by the five runs, totalling 12,268 acres, already referred to under the heading of "Lands opened"; but the pastoral runs, notwithstanding five fresh selections, comprising 16,717 acres, have decreased by about 18,757 acres, as the result of expiries of leases which have now been dealt with under other tenures, such as the small grazing-runs previously mentioned. No further expiries of any importance are likely to take place until 1910, when a considerable number of runs now held under leases for terms of twenty-one years from 1890 will be available for disposal a year before the expiration of the existing leases.

RANGERS' INSPECTIONS.

The total number of holdings inspected by the three Rangers during the year was 1,849, of an area of 562,278 acres and 1 perch; the total value of improvements required was £253,741 6s. 8d., and the value effected £469,897 2s. 6d. There were thirteen defaulters on account of non-residence, and thirty-one on account of deficient improvements. The very large value of improvements placed upon the holdings, and the small proportion of defaulters, emphasize the success which has attended Crown settlement in the Canterbury District. In addition to the work represented by the above figures, a very large number of miscellaneous inspections and other duties have been performed by the Rangers.

Of the Crown lands disposed of under lease in perpetuity, occupation with right of purchase, and other tenures under the Land Acts, the greater number have now been occupied for over ten years, and with the exception of the Lake Ellesmere leases, where the periodical inflow of water prevents full compliance with requirements as to value of improvements effected, and some of the hill holdings, ranging up to 2,000 acres in South Canterbury, upon which it is practically impossible to remuneratively expend the prescribed amount, the tenants have generally complied in a satisfactory manner with the requirements of their leases, and further annual supervision becomes unnecessary. In these cases there is not much change in the condition of the holdings, but, generally speaking, the improvements are well maintained, and the lands kept in a good state of cultivation. Some leases and licenses in the Oxford district selected in 1903, and a few scattered holdings in other localities, remain under supervision, and among these there are a few defaulters in respect of residence or improvements, but in most cases the law will probably be satisfied during the ensuing year. The leaseholders of land on the confines of Lake Ellesmere benefited by the continuance of the lake at a low level for a considerable period, so that during the dry weather excellent feed was obtainable when most needed. On the other hand, the lighter lands suffered considerably from the drought. A good deal of surface sowing has been done with much success on the hill holdings of South Canterbury.

The remarks made with reference to the general condition of holdings will apply also to the village settlements throughout the district, which have helped many hardworking and deserving men to a position of comparative or actual independence, and on which have been reared a number of the younger men who are now going out to settle the unoccupied lands of the colony, though it is to be regretted that in many instances they are obliged to find holdings outside this district.

The land-for-settlements holdings are dealt with at length in a separate report. (See Appendix II.)

PAYMENTS OF RENT, REBATES, AND ARREARS.

The total annual rental payable by the 3,153 holders, occupying 4,133,818 acres and 32 perches of Crown land in the district, is £143,196 2s. The amount of arrears of rent due at the 31st March, 1907, by the tenants of all classes was £1,676 19s. 1d., owing by ninety-four holders, occupying 21,163 acres 3 roods 26 perches. This represents about 3 per cent. of the total number of holders, and, as regards amount, a little under $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the annual rent-roll of the district.

The usual rebate of 10 per cent. has been allowed to all tenants within the classes specified in "The Crown Tenants' Rent Rebate Act, 1900," and "The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900," who paid their rents within the prescribed period of one month after due date. The total number of tenants who received this concession was 1,755, out of the 2,065 tenants in the specified classes, and the amount granted by way of rebate was £7,946 12s. 5d.

FORFEITURES AND SURRENDERS.

During the year eight holdings of all classes were forfeited for breach of conditions, the total area being 240 acres and 26 perches. Surrenders were accepted at the request of the lessees in respect of six holdings, comprising a total area of 901 acres and 22 perches, making a grand total of fourteen holdings, representing an area of 1,141 acres 1 rood 8 perches, and an annual rental of £365 17s. 2d. Of the eight forfeitures, four leases in perpetuity were terminated for non-fulfilment of conditions of occupation and two for non-payment of rent, and two coal-mining leases for non-compliance with working-conditions.

TRANSFERS AND EXCHANGES.

A very large number of holdings occupied under settlement conditions changed hands by way of transfer during the year. This is probably due in part to a desire merely to take advantage of the present high values; while in other cases tenants have, aided by recent favourable seasons, done sufficiently well to be enabled either to purchase freehold properties in the open market, or to take up larger areas of Crown leasehold. The total number of settlement holdings that changed hands was 200, comprising 43,214 acres 2 roods 18 perches, made up as follows:—

	Number.	Area.		
		A.	R.	P.
Leases in perpetuity, all classes	144	22,141	2	0
Village-homestead leases, all classes	34	1,209	3	2
Perpetual and farm-homestead leases	5	662	3	35
Occupation-with-right-of-purchase licenses	4	209	0	6
Small grazing-runs and grazing-farms	13	18,991	1	15

These figures represent an increase of forty-one holders and 17,790 acres upon the corresponding figures for the preceding year.

The number of holdings exchanged from perpetual lease to lease in perpetuity was seven, comprising an area of 215 acres 1 rood 38 perches, a considerable decrease upon the sixteen holdings and 506 acres and 8 perches exchanged in the previous year.

In the figures quoted in the three foregoing paragraphs, the land-for-settlement leases have been included for the purpose of showing the actual totals dealt with.

RESERVES.

Twelve blocks of land, comprising a total area of 961 acres 2 roods 25 perches, were set apart as reserves during the year; four were for plantation purposes, three for scenery preservation, two for recreation, and one each for school-site, bridge-protection, and sanctuary for wild fowl.

TIMBER, FORESTS, ETC.

The number of sawmilling and splitting licenses in existence at the close of the year was twenty-one, covering an area of 3,319 acres 3 roods 8 perches, from which a revenue of £275 9s. 1d. had been collected. These were all situated in the Oxford Bush.

I have to report with regret that in January last, when the whole country was in an exceedingly inflammable condition as the result of an unusually dry season, destructive fires occurred both in the bush around Mount Oxford and also at Otarama and Paterson's Creek, on the south side of the Waimakariri River, near the Midland Railway. Aided by prevailing strong winds, the fires destroyed several thousand acres of bush that this district can ill afford to lose. Careful inquiry was made into the origin of the fires, and although there are grounds for suspecting that in the case at least of the Oxford fire it was caused either intentionally or through almost criminal carelessness, yet there is not at present sufficient evidence to admit of any proceedings being taken. A reward has been offered for evidence leading to the conviction of persons intentionally or carelessly causing such fires, and steps have been taken to make known the penalties attaching to such action. The question of dealing with the burnt

lands at Oxford has been carefully considered, and it has been decided to reserve a portion of the remaining bush with a view to the conservation of the Oxford district water-supply, and to allow the existing sawmill-areas to be cut out before dealing with the other available lands by offering them for settlement occupation.

Planting operations are still being carried on by the Mackenzie County Council upon portions of the treeless plains of the Mackenzie County, by means of funds derived from the leasing of reserves set apart for that purpose.

During the year an area of 52 acres 2 roods 39 perches, known as Kennedy's Bush, and situated on the summit of the Port Hills, about ten miles from Christchurch, has been acquired and reserved under "The Scenery Preservation Act, 1903." One-third of the purchase-money was raised locally by public subscription, and the balance was provided by Government. The cost of fencing the block has also been jointly provided in the same manner. This acquisition comprises the best remaining piece of native bush within easy distance of Christchurch; it is finely situated, commanding a beautiful view of Lyttelton Harbour, and has for many years been a favourite holiday resort. It is hoped that public opinion will protect the bush from damage or depredation. Two blocks of land, comprising a total area of 124 acres and 20 perches, were also set apart for scenery-preservation out of the acquired Morice Settlement, near Little River, Banks Peninsula; these include two valuable and interesting areas of native bush.

"THE WORKERS' DWELLINGS ACT, 1905."

The first twelve dwellings erected in this district under "The Workers' Dwellings Act, 1905," were opened for application on the 11th February, 1907. The buildings were all of five rooms, with conveniences, three built in brick, and the remainder of wood, and are situated at the southern end of Sydenham, adjacent to an electric-tram line, and about fifteen minutes' journey from the centre of the city. The rentals averaged from 10s. to 12s. per week, plus insurance and local rates. Thirty applications were received, and the whole of the dwellings were allotted at the first ballot; one was subsequently surrendered by the successful applicant, but it has since been reallocated. The tenants are all in occupation, and appear to be of an excellent and deserving class. The announcement made at the ballot that further dwellings would be erected gave general satisfaction. Negotiations have since been concluded for the acquisition of a site for the erection of dwellings in the vicinity of the railway workshops at Addington.

NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

Considerable additional work has been thrown on the office during the year in connection with the New Zealand International Exhibition, a portion of the West Coast Court having been allotted to the Department, in which were exhibited the undermentioned plans, &c., furnished and mounted by the Head Office: Map of New Zealand with mountain features in pictorial relief; large map of Dunedin and suburbs; mounted lithographs of townships, county maps, triangulation and block sheets, and settlements; maps of the North and South Islands, showing topography, county boundaries, &c.; photographs of the Southern Alps, scenery in Christchurch and different parts of the district, stock, &c., on Crown settlements, &c.; pamphlets, Crown Lands Guides, "Immigrants' Guide and Settlers' Handbook," reports on the Lands Department, State forests, and timber industry.

An officer was in attendance to give information to the public, and to distribute lithographs, pamphlets, &c.

Great interest was taken by the public in the exhibits, and constant inquiries were made by visitors from all parts of the world concerning the New Zealand systems of land-tenure, and large numbers of lithographs and pamphlets were distributed. Considerable interest was manifested in the large relief map of the colony, which was exhibited in a glass case, and there was a great demand for lithographs of this map, no less than 150 being distributed on the afternoon of the closing-day. We have also supplied various Commissioners from other colonies with information and maps, and generally the court has been a success and of considerable service to the public.

CROWN LANDS FOR DISPOSAL.

The following table summarises the Crown lands open for selection on the 31st March, 1907:—

Tenure under which Land is open.	Area.			Counties in which situated.
	A.	R.	P.	
Village-homestead allotments ...	86	2	0	Ashburton.
Optional selection, under Part III of "The Land Act, 1892"—				
First-class surveyed ...	6	1	10	Ashburton.
Second-class surveyed ...	144	0	9	Ashley, Ashburton, Geraldine, and Waimate
First-class unsurveyed ...	421	0	0	Selwyn and Ashburton.
Pastoral runs ...	45,000	0	0	Amuri.
Land for Settlements Acts—Lease in perpetuity	16	3	13	Amuri, Selwyn, Ashburton, Levels, and Waimate.
Total ...	45,674	2	32	

There are practically no Crown lands to be offered for occupation during the ensuing year, except such as may from any causes revert to the Crown, and there are no estates at present in prospect for disposal under the Land for Settlements Acts.

DEPARTMENTAL.

Fifteen ordinary and special meetings of the Land Board have been held during the year; 509 statutory applications for land were received and dealt with, of which 45 were granted, and, in addition to these, very large numbers of applications for approval of transfers and mortgages, Crown Lands Rangers' reports, and other business were considered at each sitting of the Board. The inward and outward recorded correspondence, returns, notices, &c., amounted, in round figures, to about 20,250, and about 1,600 sale plans, posters, &c., were distributed. In the office of the Receiver of Land Revenue, besides the gross revenue for the year, amounting to £131,514 7s. 11d., for which 5,676 receipts were issued, a sum of £8,364 8s. 9d. was paid into the Deposit Account, against which 476 receipts and cheques were issued. A sum of £1,842 17s. 10d. was paid into the Local Bodies' Deposit Account, out of which £1,165 9s. 1d. was paid over to the local bodies in respect of proposals which had been approved by the Land Board. In the Accountant's office, 279 vouchers, representing a sum of £3,781 3s. 9d., were drawn against the Imprest Account, and 887 vouchers, representing £12,927 1s. 3d., were passed through for pre-audit and payment.

ERIC C. GOLD SMITH,

Commissioner of Crown Lands.

OTAGO.

I may preface my remarks by a passing allusion to the financial results of the year, which have been remarkably satisfactory, indicative of sound and solid progress and prosperity. The estimates of gross revenue for the year amounted to £88,074 17s. 4d., while the actual receipts were £89,633 14s. 9d., an excess of £1,558 17s. 5d., the principal items of excess being cash lands, perpetual leases made freehold, and land-for-settlements lease in perpetuity. It was at one time feared that owing to the unusually dry period in the early part of the season the settlers would have suffered severely in their returns for the year; and though they have done so to a certain extent, in some places more than others, the timely breaking-up of the drought saved many from what would otherwise have been a disastrous year to them.

Settlement of ordinary Crown lands is the first matter claiming attention. The transactions under this head are still comparatively few, in consequence of the limited area of ordinary Crown lands now available for closer settlement.

The area opened for sale and selection during the year under the various systems and tenures amounted in all to 114,483 acres. Of this, 49,847 acres was opened for the first time, and the balance, 64,636 acres, had been previously opened. Included in the land opened for the first time were the Steward, Plunket, and Totara Settlements under the Land for Settlements Act, comprising an aggregate area of 30,606 acres, of which 5,871 acres constituted five small grazing-runs in the Steward Settlement. Of the balance opened for the first time, 18,824 acres was ordinary Crown lands under the small-grazing-run system, 274 acres on lease in perpetuity only, 124 acres under the optional system, and 19 acres for cash by auction. The previously opened areas comprised 2,044 acres under the optional system, 156 acres for cash by auction, 60,485 acres pastoral runs, 1,185 acres as small grazing-runs, 145 acres lease in perpetuity only, and 621 acres land-for-settlement lease in perpetuity. There is still a steady demand for land of good quality suitable for both agricultural and grazing purposes. Mixed farming seems to be the general desire on the part of intending settlers. As the pastoral licenses over suitable land for closer settlement fall in, it will be the aim and object of the Land Board and the Department to endeavour as far as possible to meet the legitimate demands for land for settlement purposes. For disposal during the year now entered upon the lands at present in view in respect of ordinary Crown lands are, besides certain miscellaneous areas now open for application, the subdivisions of the Blackstone Hill, Lauder, Home Hills, and Lee Stream Runs, embracing a gross area of 153,000 acres approximately, which, as a matter of fact, have been disposed of before the writing of this report. Several runs expiring in 1909 will also be dealt with about the end of the year. Under the Land for Settlements Act there will be the small Kurow Settlement, Airedale Estate, Otekaike Estate, and Ashley Downs Estate, comprising altogether an aggregate area of, say, 24,000 acres, the survey of which (with the exception of the Kurow Settlement, already surveyed) will be completed as soon as possible.

The summary of transactions shows that as compared with the previous year the volume of business has been greater in regard both to area and receipts. The total number of transactions, including leases made freehold, was fifty-three more than in 1905-6, and the acreage dealt with greater by 101,577 acres. The total number of holdings now on the books is, including land for settlements and endowments, 3,604, with an acreage of 5,471,677 acres, at an annual rental of £89,713 2s. 2d., an increase over the previous year of 124 holdings, and £8,624 13s. 9d. annual rental. The receipts of the past year were £7,476 8s. 11d. more than in 1905-6. As a matter of course, the receipts under land for settlements are increasing yearly as further estates are brought into the market. For the ensuing year the estimate of revenue has been fixed at £4,440 above last year's receipts, and there is every prospect that the estimated amount will be realised.

Ordinary pastoral runs are, as pointed out last year, gradually diminishing both in area and annual rental, the latter in greater proportion than the former, as a consequence of the best runs being taken

for settlement as they fall in. At present the number of licenses is about the same, but the area held is less by 160,730 acres, and the annual rental less by £1,315 14s. 6d. The following statement of the number, &c., of ordinary Crown lands held under pastoral license during the last six years shows the gradual shrinkage of revenue under this head :—

Year.					Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.		
						Acres.	£	s.	d.
1901-2	...	...	...	...	237	4,508,322	29,313	8	8
1902-3	...	...	...	...	237	4,519,101	28,832	4	2
1903-4	...	...	...	...	226	4,385,344	27,876	15	10
1904-5	...	...	...	...	213	4,324,622	27,427	14	6
1905-6	...	...	...	...	216	4,320,008	26,919	14	4
1906-7	...	...	...	...	216	4,159,279	25,603	19	10

INSPECTIONS AND RANGERS' REPORTS.

The Crown Lands Rangers' reports of their inspections continue to show a large excess of improvements effected over actual requirements, a fact that indicates satisfactory, steady, and substantial progress. The excess in value of improvements over statutory requirements in respect of holdings inspected the previous year amounted to £84,457. For the year just ended the amount stands at £66,625. The defaulters are mainly selectors whose land is of inferior quality, and who cannot in consequence profitably expend what would be necessary to cover the statutory requirements.

PROGRESS OF SETTLEMENT.

It has already been stated that throughout this district as a whole there are indications of the satisfactory progress of settlement. Some portions of the district are, of course, more prosperous than others, as the climatic and other conditions may affect the farmers' operations. The Rangers' general notes with regard to the three divisions into which, as suggested last year, the district has been nominally divided—viz., North, South, and Central—will furnish a fairly comprehensive view of the year's progress and the present conditions and prospects of settlement in Otago.

The information as to the number of lessees, area held, and value of improvements effected in the three divisions referred to is limited to lands held on settlement conditions, land held as pastoral runs and under miscellaneous leases and licenses not being included. In general outline the following is a *résumé* of the Rangers' reports :—

In the Northern division there are now 245 ordinary Crown tenants, holding an aggregate area of 230,855 acres, the improvements on which are valued at £44,132; also 468 land-for-settlement tenants, who hold 79,918 acres, with improvements valued at £100,231, making a total of 713 tenants, holding 310,773 acres, with improvements valued at £144,363. The Southern division now contains 627 tenants on ordinary Crown lands, with a total area of 118,613 acres, and improvements the value of which is estimated at £70,656; also 130 tenants under the Land for Settlements Act, holding 36,175 acres, with improvements valued at £31,847: making a total of 757 tenants, 154,788 acres, and improvements valued at £102,503. In the Central division, which comprises all Central Otago and the Lakes district, there are now 1,083 tenants on ordinary Crown lands, holding 500,596 acres, with improvements valued at £179,886, and thirteen tenants under land for settlements, with 1,239 acres and improvements valued at £2,195; making a total for the Central division of 1,096 tenants, holding 501,835 acres, with improvements valued at £182,081. The grand totals for the three divisions are 2,566 tenants, 967,396 acres, and improvements valued at £428,947.

The settlers in the Northern portion of the Otago Land District have not made great progress during the past year. Little or no rain fell between October and January, in consequence of which the grain-crops and the grass suffered rather severely. About the month of January the paddocks were very bare, and settlers were almost at their wits' end to provide feed for their stock. Many were, unfortunately, compelled to sell sheep and cattle, which, owing to the scarcity of feed, did not command anything like reasonable prices. The lambing generally was, however, above the average, and the price of wool very satisfactory. The root-crops are not by any means up to the average, and feed is still very scarce. In view of these facts it is to be sincerely hoped that a mild winter may follow, as if it should be a severe one the results might be serious.

The Southern division which usually has a good average rainfall, has also suffered considerably through want of rain. Except in specially favoured localities, the crops have been very light and the grass backward. The root-crops, which, so to speak, hung in the balance for a long time, made fair progress after the middle of February. Some of the turnips will yet turn out fair, but they will not nearly approach the average.

The Central division, comprising all Central Otago, has been in much the same position as the Northern, the dry season preventing any material progress from being made. The sheep off the high country are in splendid condition, but the low-country stock are not in a fit condition to face a bad winter. The Central district suffers more or less every year from drought and prevalent high winds. Where irrigation has been possible the results have been magnificent, but as the quantity of available water is very limited the irrigated area is necessarily also limited.

Speaking generally, the Crown tenants of Otago have made only moderate progress during the year. The comparative failure of grain and root crops has, however, been partly counterbalanced

by the higher lambing percentages and the good prices for wool. The settlers are not by any means disheartened, and, having had a succession of seven or eight good years, they are in a favourable position as a rule to cope with one bad one. Settlement conditions have been very well observed, and the settlers' prospects are fairly bright and encouraging.

Ranger Mackenzie, reporting for the Lakes district more particularly, shows that where there has been default in a few cases the settlers have either shown good and valid reasons for the default or have made good the deficiency. He states that notwithstanding the very dry season the district as a whole is in a fair state of prosperity. While a few places have suffered, in green crops especially, the grain-crops in the Hawea district have seldom been better, there having been some very heavy yields. Sheep had come in from the high mountain country in good condition. The dry season had suited the Mākara Valley, where crops could scarcely be better. In that district, however, and also in West Wanaka, very little progress had been made in extending settlement. There was still a strong demand for land, and would-be settlers were looking forward to the falling-in of some of the large runs. The great question throughout the Wanaka, Hawea, Wakefield, and Cromwell districts was water. Settlers were willing to be taxed for this if obtainable. It was really wonderful what could be done in the Clutha Valley with irrigation over land that was otherwise altogether barren. He had reported lately on the Cromwell Flat, and showed that water would be the main thing in the future for the general prosperity of that district. Mr. Mackenzie reports having visited all the holdings in his district, besides having furnished a large number of special reports on various matters, and had also undertaken a number of surveys, attended to office-work, &c. A fire had occurred in the Greenstone Valley, and although notices of warning had been posted up all round the district they seemed to have little or no effect in preventing fires.

REBATES OF RENT.

Rebates of rent were granted to a total of 1,525 tenants during the year, to the extent of £2,924 4s. 3d., being more than the previous year by forty-four tenants and £460 17s. 8d. in amount granted. In ordinary Crown lands the number of tenants who participated was less by ten, but in land for settlements fifty-four more, while the amount granted to ordinary Crown-land tenants was £16 17s. 8d. less and to land-for-settlement tenants £477 15s. 4d. more than in the previous year. The several tenures that participated in the rebate and the number and amount granted during the twelve months are as follows:—

Tenure.	Number of Tenants.	Amount granted. £ s. d.
Ordinary Crown lands—		
Deferred payments	7	2 3 10
Perpetual leases	173	103 11 0
Lease in perpetuity (ordinary)	623	406 13 0
Lease in perpetuity (village homestead)	52	5 14 5
Lease in perpetuity (farm-homestead association)	14	12 1 8
Occupation with right of purchase	207	89 13 9
Total	1,076	619 17 8
Land for settlements	449	2,304 6 7
Grand total	1,525	£2,924 4 3

ARREARS OF RENT.

The amount of arrears in respect of ordinary Crown lands, exclusive of the current half-year, is approximately about the same as at the 31st March, 1906, while in land for settlements the number of tenants in arrear and the amount owing are a little more. Taking the gross arrears, inclusive of the current six months, into consideration, the number of holders in arrear is less by thirty-eight, notwithstanding the increase in the number of tenants on the books, but the amount owing is £25 1s. 9d. more than in 1906. As stated in previous reports, small grazing-runs are conspicuous in these arrears, in consequence of there being no rebate under that tenure for prompt payment, there thus being no incentive for the lessees to pay until the half-yearly period has well advanced. A large proportion, however, of these are generally paid within the first three months of the period. Exclusive of the current half-year, the percentage of tenants in arrear is 2.55 of the total number on the books, and the amount owing 2.12 of the total annual rental. Including the current half-year, the percentages are: Number of tenants, 12.84; amount owing, 7.88. Under all the circumstances, therefore, these must be regarded as exceedingly small.

FORFEITURES AND SURRENDERS.

These are six more in number than for the previous year, and embraced a much greater area and rental. The surrenders included the large areas comprised in the Blackstone Hill, Lauder, and Home Hills Runs, which were surrendered to be dealt with for closer settlement. Of thirteen forfeitures, nine were for non-payment of rent, and four for non-residence and abandonment. For the sixteen surrenders the reasons were various—subdivision, purchase of land, reduction of capital value, closer settlement, &c.

TRANSFERS.

The transfers during the year have exceeded those of the previous year in number by thirty, and in area dealt with by 674,290 acres, the total being 229 transfers, and area dealt with 949,586 acres. In 1905-6 the total number was 199 transfers, covering an area of 275,296 acres.

BUSH AND SWAMP CROWN LANDS SETTLEMENT ACT.

Up to the 31st March last nine selections have been made under this Act, the total area taken up being 1,388 acres and 4 perches. During the year there were but two selections, over an area of 202 acres 1 rood 18 perches. The operations under the Act in this district are therefore still too few and insignificant to enable an opinion of any value to be given as to the effect of the Act upon settlement.

RESERVES, FORESTS, ETC.

Reserves for various public purposes have during the year been permanently gazetted over an aggregate area of 4,203 acres 2 roods 11 perches. Of these, 1,573 acres was proclaimed under "The Scenery Preservation Act, 1903," and 2,359 acres for the growth and preservation of timber. Steps are still being taken for the reservation of further areas of Crown lands for scenery purposes, and negotiations during the year have resulted in the acquisition of additional private lands recommended by the recent Commission, including lands at Mount Cargill, Signal Hill, and other localities. It is hoped that the public generally will support the Department in its efforts to conserve the native bush and scenery of these reserves by preventing as far as possible their spoliation and destruction by fire and otherwise.

The timber transactions in relation to ordinary Crown lands have been more than usually limited in extent this year.

GENERAL REVIEW.

Reviewing the year's transactions, the prominent features appear to be realised anticipations, steady and solid advancement, increase in settlement under land for settlements, encouraging prospects. The very great demand for allotments in the Plunket (Corriedale) and Totara Settlements, and more recently for the subdivisions of the Blackstone Hill, Lauder, Home Hills, and Lee Stream Runs, has demonstrated beyond doubt the unsatisfied desire on the part of many to settle on the land. There is, however, one element in connection with the disposal of these new blocks of land that can scarcely be passed over without comment, and that is the apparent attempt on the part of some applicants to acquire land for speculative purposes. The remedy for this is not altogether an easy one, for so long as the required declarations are made, and the conditions of the leases are complied with, no further restriction in the way of transfer than those embodied in the Act can be imposed by the Land Board. Increased discretionary powers might tend to mitigate the evil complained of. But, notwithstanding this, the review of the year's operations as regards the fulfilment of settlement conditions, the buoyancy of the revenue, the small amount of outstanding rents, and the hopeful outlook for the future, affords strong grounds for congratulation and encouragement.

DEPARTMENTAL

The administrative work of the Department becomes increasingly arduous and onerous as the number of Crown tenants increases and further settlements are brought into the market, and other numerous and important interests are made to claim the attention of the Lands Department. Recently the staff at my disposal has had considerable strain put upon it in connection with land sales and ballots, the more so as these have happened at a time when the office-work is always heavy—viz., at the end of the financial year. I am pleased to be able to acknowledge the willing co-operation of all the members of the staff, who have performed their several duties in a manner alike creditable to themselves and the office.

D. BARRON,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

SOUTHLAND.

LANDS OPENED FOR SALE OR SELECTION.

During the past financial year the area of ordinary Crown lands offered for the first time was 7,968 acres, out of which 1,037 acres, comprising sections situated in the Taringatura, Waikawa, Invercargill, and Waiau districts, was opened on the optional system, and 5,965 acres, situated in Hokonui, Otara, Waiau, Alton, and Waikawa, on lease in perpetuity only. Of the area opened on the optional system, 590 acres was selected on cash and occupation with right of purchase; and of the area on lease in perpetuity only, 3,938 acres was selected.

Of a total of 143,415 acres that had been previously offered and was reopened during the year, 1,532 acres was opened on the optional system, of which 568 acres was selected on cash and occupation with right of purchase, and 2,035 acres was opened on lease in perpetuity only, of which 1,638 acres was selected. Six pastoral-run licenses, comprising an area of 136,134 acres, were reoffered, and all purchased at auction. Under the Land for Settlements Act, 9 acres of village land was opened for the first time, 3 acres of which has been selected, and 617 acres previously offered was reopened, of which 233 acres was selected.

LANDS DISPOSED OF.

The following table gives particulars of the lands disposed of and otherwise dealt with during the financial year :—

Nature of Selections.	Transactions during the Year.			Area held under Lease at 31st March, 1907.			Gross Revenue received during the Year.				
	Number.	Area.		Number.	Area.						
		A.	R.	P.		A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
Cash by auction	17	43	3	6	...	...	...	...	156	16	2
Cash by application	19	1,085	1	4	...	...	...	...	475	13	9
Deferred payments ... ..	...	...	...	...	5	5,953	0	10	492	13	2
Deferred payment made freehold	9	905	2	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Perpetual leases ... ..	...	...	...	...	64	11,972	3	14	407	12	4
Perpetual leases made freehold	4	598	0	30	...	...	...	...	425	9	3
Occupation with right of purchase	27	5,543	1	13	324	72,028	3	8	1,410	14	1
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	5	1,075	3	28	...	...	...	...	810	6	11
Lease in perpetuity	32	8,685	0	33	337	97,995	0	29	1,919	10	9
Exchanges to lease in perpetuity	16	2,914	2	34	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Occupation leases (Mining Districts Land Occupation Act)	2	197	2	32	42	1,240	2	4	155	6	4
Village settlements—											
Deferred payments ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	60	2	37	28	17	11
Deferred payments made freehold	1	9	3	37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Perpetual lease ... ..	...	...	...	...	80	1,088	1	13	150	14	1
Perpetual lease made freehold	7	130	1	39	...	...	...	...	313	13	9
Occupation with right of purchase	...	...	...	...	4	3	0	24	1	11	8
Lease in perpetuity	15	201	2	24	292	4,499	2	2	333	1	7
Village - homestead special settlement	...	...	...	...	51	553	1	24	140	6	10
Improved-farm settlement ... ..	...	...	...	...	47	5,000	1	20	293	9	10
Small grazing-runs ... ..	...	...	...	...	19	64,436	0	13	737	0	2
Pastoral runs	7	59,484	0	0	92	1,482,753	1	0	3,709	10	5
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	57	4,554	2	37	369	32,140	0	22	1,349	8	11
Timber-cutting ... ..	...	6,501,975	sup. ft.	...	...	...	...	...	2,465	3	7
Other miscellaneous revenue ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	376	0	2
Totals ordinary Crown lands	218	85,430	2	28	1,728	1,779,725	1	20	16,153	1	8
Land for settlements—											
Cash	1	1	0	0	...	...	...	...	3	0	0
Lease in perpetuity	12	1,322	2	31	225	46,207	3	0	9,384	9	7
Small grazing-runs... ..	...	...	...	...	2	2,808	1	0	90	18	8
Miscellaneous	3	277	2	36	12	1,429	0	2	648	13	9
Totals land for settlements	16	1,601	1	27	239	50,445	0	2	10,127	2	0
Endowments	3	1,280	0	0	69	131,332	3	37	964	3	3
Gross totals	237	88,312	0	15	2,036	1,961,503	1	19	27,244	6	11

The gross revenue for the year was £27,244 6s. 11d., being an increase of £262 14s. 8d. on that of the preceding year. The total number of Crown tenants is now 2,036, the increase on last year being forty-six.

The following is a summary of the transactions in connection with and the position as regards the principal tenures :—

Cash.—The cash transactions of all classes numbered forty-one, the area disposed of being 1,728 acres, and the amount realised £1,061, showing an increase over last year of twelve purchasers and £252 in amount, the area sold being 62 acres less.

Deferred Payment.—Nine deferred-payment licenses were converted into freehold, the area acquired being 906 acres. One license over 58 acres was exchanged to lease in perpetuity; only three ordinary deferred-payment licenses covering an area of 1,460 acres are now held, and also two pastoral deferred-payment licenses comprising an area of 5,456 acres. No arrears.

Perpetual Lease (ordinary).—The number of perpetual leases held in this district has decreased by nine, by the operation of four made freehold, three exchanged to lease in perpetuity, one surrender,

and one forfeiture. The net area now held is 11,973 acres, the number of lessees being sixty-four. No arrears.

Occupation with Right of Purchase.—During the year twenty-seven selections were made under this tenure, the area selected being 5,543 acres. This is a considerable falling-off as compared with last year, when the selections numbered sixty-seven and the area selected 14,328 acres; but the difference is explained by the limited area opened on the optional system this year. It is to be remarked that of the land opened on the optional system during the year no selection was made on lease in perpetuity. There are now 324 selectors under this tenure, holding 72,029 acres, being an increase of six lessees and 364 acres over last year. Nine lessees are in arrear, to the amount of £35 2s.

Lease in Perpetuity (ordinary).—Thirty-two selections, covering an area of 8,685 acres, were made during the year, showing an increase of eleven selectors and 3,636 acres over last year. There were sixteen exchanges to lease in perpetuity from other tenures, comprising a total area of 2,915 acres. The total area now selected on this tenure is 97,995 acres, held by 337 lessees, giving an increase of 11,101 acres and forty-seven lessees over last year. Six lessees are in arrear for £34 16s. 10d.

Small Grazing-runs.—There has been no movement in this tenure during the year. There are nineteen lessees of ordinary small grazing-runs, holding 64,436 acres; two land-for-settlement small grazing-runs, area 2,808 acres; and three endowment runs, containing 10,450 acres. The Crown Lands Ranger reports that on the whole the lessees are complying well with the conditions of lease, are using the land chiefly for grazing, have made good and substantial improvements, and are in a prosperous condition. The improvements effected are £6,539 in excess of the required amount; but two lessees are in arrear to the amount of £18 8s. 7d.

Pastoral Runs.—Under this tenure ninety-two licensees hold 1,482,753 acres, none of the licensees being in arrear with rent.

The Classification Commissioners appointed to reclassify pastoral runs the licenses of which will expire on the 29th February, 1908, had to deal with ten licenses, which covered an area of 93,121 acres. Of these ten licenses, the Commissioners recommended that three be not reoffered as pastoral runs—two in the Nokomai Survey District (Runs 523 and 524, containing 1,991 acres), in order that they might be offered for selection on lease in perpetuity in four separate sections, as originally surveyed, upon the expiration of the licenses, there now being no objection from a mining point of view to this course; the third run, No. 491, Rowallan Survey District, containing 12,600 acres, will not be reoffered at all, as portion of it has been surveyed for landless Natives and the balance is high bush-clad country. From another run in the Oteramika Hundred 400 acres was deducted in order that this area might be leased on settlement tenure. Two licenses over adjoining land in the Wairaki district were grouped so that they would be held under one license; area, 12,300 acres. A somewhat extensive grouping of runs in the north-eastern portion of the district was recommended by the Classification Commissioners and given effect to, the circumstances being as follows: The licensees of two runs, Nos. 424 and 436, containing 56,200 acres, situated in the Otago Land District, and who also held two runs in the Southland District, Nos. 328 and 436A, containing 37,780 acres, all of which adjoin, applied to the Otago Land Board to group the four runs under one license, on the ground that they should be in one run, as most of them are summer country, impossible to work as a sheep-station unless all owned by one person. The Otago Land Board referred the application to the Southland Land Board, expressing the opinion that it would be advantageous to have the runs grouped as one run, but the Southland Board could not see its way to agree to the proposal. Subsequently, it being represented that it was considered doubtful that the two Otago runs would be taken up if not grouped, some of the land being very high country (from 4,000 ft. to 6,000 ft. above sea-level), as the Southland runs command the workable frontage and all the low winter country, and the Classification Commissioners for the Otago and Southland Land Districts having met at the homestead of the runs and discussed the subject, it was decided to group the four runs and include Block V, Wakaia, which was waste Crown land surrounded by the runs, the total area being 95,784 acres, the whole to be administered by the Southland Land Board. All the runs classified and reoffered were again taken up.

THE BUSH AND SWAMP CROWN LANDS SETTLEMENT ACT.

During the year under review 5,300 acres were opened for selection under this Act, 3,432 acres being heavy-bush land, 1,283 acres light-bush land, and 585 acres scrub land.

The selections made during the year were thirty-one, covering an area of 7,833 acres, comprising six heavy-bush land, 1,815 acres; nineteen light-bush land, 4,278 acres; four scrub land, 1,427 acres; and two swamp land, 313 acres.

The total selectors under this Act now number 104, the area held being 23,600 acres, showing an increase over last year of twenty selectors and 4,985 acres.

The Crown Lands Ranger has inspected the holdings of seventy-seven selectors, who lease a total area of 18,155 acres, and have been in occupation for one or two complete years, and reported that twenty-two of those holding two years and sixteen of those holding one year are residing, although in most cases residence is not due, the land being bush-clad. The total value of the improvements effected is £2,861 9s., being £1,907 10s. in excess of the required value. About twenty selectors have not effected the required improvements, and these shall have my attention shortly; in some cases want of road access is the difficulty. Upon the whole, the operation of "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903," in this district must be considered to be fairly successful.

REMISSIONS OF RENT.

The amount remitted on ordinary Crown lands was £32 11s. 9d., to two lessees; and to one lessee under the Land for Settlements Act the sum of £61 3s. 2d. was remitted.

REBATES OF RENT.

Under the operation of "The Crown Tenants' Rent Rebate Act, 1900," 630 lessees of ordinary Crown lands were granted rebates to the amount of £271 4s. 9d. for prompt payment of rents, and 155 land-for-settlement tenants received rebates amounting to £674 1s. 7d. under the provisions of "The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900."

ARREARS OF RENT.

On ordinary Crown lands thirty-two lessees are in arrear, to the amount of £162 11s. 4d., which figures show a decrease of twenty lessees in arrear and of £40 14s. 11d. in amount.

Twenty-two lessees under the land-for-settlements tenures are in arrear to the amount of £915, being a decrease of seven lessees and £332 7s.

FORFEITURES AND SURRENDERS.

During the year the leases of twenty-three lessees of ordinary Crown lands were forfeited for non-compliance with the conditions of lease, the area involved being 11,556 acres; four leases were surrendered, the area of which was 5,600, two pastoral runs containing 5,300 acres being included.

FREEHOLD TITLES ISSUED.

Under the provisions of the Land Acts, 1885 and 1892, sixty-four certificates of the completion of the purchase of lands have been issued by the Receiver of Land Revenue. These receipts are commonly called provisional titles, and are registered under the Land Transfer Act. The tenures under which the lands were acquired were as follows:—

	Selectors.	Area. Acres.
Deferred payment	11	1,031
Perpetual lease	11	729
Occupation with right of purchase	5	1,076
Cash under "Land Act, 1892," Part III	4	544
Auction, &c.	32	585
Land for settlements	1	1
	64	3,966

EXCHANGES TO LEASE IN PERPETUITY.

Sixteen exchanges from other tenures to lease in perpetuity have been effected during the year, the area affected being 2,915 acres, comprising lands previously held under deferred payment, perpetual lease, Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, and miscellaneous licenses.

TRANSFERS.

No less than 111 transfers of leases and licenses under the various tenures were completed in the course of the year, the total area conveyed being 239,576 acres. The transfers included thirty-eight lease in perpetuity; area, 4,886 acres: eight land for settlements; area, 2,440 acres: twenty occupation with right of purchase; area, 5,000 acres: eighteen perpetual lease; area, 2,724 acres: ten pastoral-run licenses; area, 211,264 acres: three small-grazing-run leases; area, 10,747 acres: and several minor leases of small areas.

TRANSMISSIONS.

Transmissions to executors or administrators in the estates of ten deceased lessees were approved by the Land Board, the area affected being 1,472 acres.

RANGERS' INSPECTIONS.

On the mainland 808 inspections of selectors' holdings have been made, of an area of 96,426 acres, the improvements required being £36,112, while the value of those effected is £68,461. The Ranger reports that, with the exception of some roadwork during the summer, the selectors are chiefly employed in the improvement and working of their own holdings. Besides these statutory inspections, the Ranger has made 400 inspections and reports to the office in connection with Land Board and departmental business.

The Ranger at Stewart Island reports having inspected the holdings of the twenty-six lessees upon the island at various times during the year, the area inspected being 3,548 acres; the required improvements are £1,801 1s. 4d., and the value of improvements effected £3,097 10s. He adds that during the year the amount of improvements effected has been small, which is chiefly accounted for by the fact that nearly all of the tenants were obliged to take work at the local sawmills, the road contracts, or to engage in the fishing industry. The Crown tenants on the whole seem to be contented, and to consider their future prospects good. He has as far as possible kept watch over the fauna and flora on the island. No destruction of bush has taken place, and no killing of game occurred. The imported game animals seem to be now well established, but the native game birds become yearly more scarce.

The Forest Ranger has made a number of inspections and valuations of sawmilling-timber upon Crown land being dealt with by the Land Board, and in connection with applications for the purchase of timber remaining upon former sawmill-workings.

RESERVATIONS.

The total area of lands permanently reserved during the year was 7,384 acres, comprising 6,704 acres in the Eglington, Te Anau, Mataura (Edendale Settlement), Oteramika, and Jacob's River districts, reserved for scenic purposes; 319 acres for school-sites, scattered over the whole land district; 347 acres for primary education, in the Wakaia district; and 14½ acres for miscellaneous purposes.

BUSH FIRES.

In the month of January, following upon the long dry season experienced throughout the district during the past summer, several bush fires of greater or less magnitude occurred in various parts of the district over both private and Crown lands and State forests. The first fire brought under my notice, on the 11th January, was one that spread over about 210 acres of State forest at Spar Bush—old sawmill-workings—in the New River Hundred. With your approval, the sowing of this area was immediately put in hand, and completed for a total cost of £97 for grass-seed and labour.

Later in January last very destructive bush fires swept over the large area known as Seaward Bush, in the Invercargill, Campbelltown, and Oteramika Hundreds. The total area which was affected by the fires is estimated at 11,400 acres, part State forest and part Crown land. Of this area a large portion was not considered suitable for sowing down with grass, owing to the quantity of timber still standing and lying upon the ground, but upon examination of the State forest and Crown land it was deemed advisable to sow down estimated areas of about 1,425 acres, and arrangements were made as soon as possible for so doing. The work of sowing was kept up as long as the weather-conditions were suitable, with the result that 897 acres in State forest has been sown at a cost of £469 16s., and 735 acres of Crown lands sown at a cost of £313 3s. 9d.: total area sown, 1,632 acres; total cost, £782 19s. 9d.

The Seaward Bush fires in their ravages destroyed four sawmills and plants—belonging to Messrs. Timpany Bros., McCallum and Co., Broad, Small and Co., and the Southland Sawmilling Company—a considerable quantity of standing and sawn timber, and some miles of tramways. Messrs. Broad, Small, and Co. have again erected a mill and resumed work; Messrs. Timpany Bros. are about to erect a mill on another site, but the other two mills will not be re-erected, the areas having been nearly worked out at the time of the fire.

Besides the destruction of sawmills and timber, the fires in Seaward Bush destroyed many cottages, fencing, and timber and grass owned by Crown tenants and others. A number of Crown tenants applied for assistance, and upon the Hon. the Minister of Lands approving of the supply of grass-seed for the purpose of sowing burnt areas, subject to repayment spread over a period of one, two, or three years, a circular letter was sent to over thirty applicants. However, but eighteen ultimately accepted assistance, and grass-seed to the value of £285 has been supplied to them, the area sown being 433 acres.

LAND PROPOSED TO BE OPENED.

During the ensuing financial year it is proposed to place in the market for the first time the following blocks of land, should the surveys be completed in time: viz., about 9,000 acres in Blocks VI and XI, Alton District; 6,000 to 8,000 acres in Blocks XXIII and XXIV, Invercargill Hundred; and also some 5,000 acres in various blocks in Longwood District and Jacob's River Hundred. A considerable portion of the proposed area to be offered in Invercargill Hundred was surveyed some fourteen to sixteen years ago, but owing to the land carrying good sawmilling-timber it was never opened for selection, and has since been the scene for many years of active milling operations. Although surveyed some fourteen to sixteen years ago, the subdivisions were made too small, and owing to the milling operations and recent fires very few, if any, of the pegs could now be found, therefore the necessity of a resurvey, and into larger allotments more suitable for the requirements of a successful bush settlement.

Menzie's Ferry Domain, the reservation over which has been removed, has now been subdivided into five allotments of about 26 acres each, and will shortly be offered for selection on the village-homestead system, and, I anticipate, will readily be taken up owing to their convenient situation, excellent quality of land, and suitability for working-men with small capital. Greenhills Township will also be placed in the market at an early date, having been recently surveyed, grouped, and valued. Forty-six acres have been subdivided into quarter-acre sections, some of which have been grouped, and the whole will be offered at auction as suburban lands; 221 acres have also been subdivided into ten allotments, classified as rural lands, and will also be disposed of by auction. Besides the above, there is a considerable area of surveyed land now open for selection which will remain available to applicants to select from during the ensuing financial year.

OFFICE-WORK.

Besides coping with the current work—which increases year by year, as stated in last year's report—a large amount of arrears of work has been done in the way of putting defective records in order as well as the information obtainable permits, and the bringing up to date and issuing of titles, some of which date back to the year 1858; but I am pleased to say this class of work will soon be a thing of the past, and much credit is due to the clerical staff for their assiduous attention to such obscure and complicated investigations, and the able manner in which these arrears have been brought near completion. I would also again place on record my thanks and appreciation of the willing assistance rendered at all times by the officers of this branch of the Department in carrying out the many and varied duties devolving on this local office during the financial year just ended.

JOHN HAY,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

CHEVIOT ESTATE.

(Canterbury District.)

The land transactions on the Cheviot Estate during the year have been very small. Sixteen town and village sections at Domett, which is for the present the terminus of the Waipara-Cheviot Railway, were sold for cash at auction; the total area was 7 acres and 31 perches, and the price realised, £379 19s. 6d. Four temporary occupation licenses were granted over an area of 169 acres 2 roods. These included a fresh lease, for a term of three years from the 1st September last, of the Cheviot Woolshed Block, close to the Town of Mackenzie. The rent obtained was less than for previous terms, owing to the fact that the establishment does not now possess the practical monopoly of the Cheviot business that it formerly enjoyed. A large number of sheep are still, however, shorn and dipped here, and the new lease has fallen into the hands of the capable manager who has held it for the preceding six years.

The number and area of holdings occupied on the estate remain practically the same as during the previous year.

The Crown Lands Ranger's report states that the tenants have experienced a good year, especially so considering the abnormal amount of dry weather during the late spring and summer. 8,147 acres was cropped, with fair results; of this amount, 822 acres was in wheat, 2,256 acres in oats, 259 acres in barley (grown principally for sheep-feed), 2,335 acres in turnips, 1,878 acres in rape, 115 acres in mangolds, and 78 in potatoes. The plantations on the leaseholds occupy 240 acres, the orchards 68 acres, and the gardens 48 acres. 87,800 sheep were shorn, and approximately 36,000 fat lambs sold off the estate. In addition to the sheep, there are 1,263 head of cattle, 819 horses, and 446 pigs. Except for occasional additions to dwellinghouses, wool-sheds, or stables, or the bringing of a few more acres into cultivation, the improvements have not increased in value to any extent, and are approximately estimated at £100,000. In the Town of Mackenzie four new places of business have been erected during the year. The area of land now in English grasses is 26,906 acres, and in tussock 32,513 acres, part of the latter having been surface-sown. The inhabitants of Mackenzie are taking steps to have their township formed into a town district. The permanent population does not vary much; on the leaseholds there are 758 souls, and if the residents on freeholds and in the township were included the total population of the estate would be nearly nine hundred souls.

ERIC C. GOLD SMITH,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

APPENDIX II.—LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS (REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS OF CROWN LANDS ON).

AUCKLAND.

A perusal of the tables relating to these settlements and the Ranger's reports will show that, generally speaking, the selectors are in a prosperous condition. Dairying and stock-raising are the principal industries. The outlook in the Okauia Settlement is still of an unpromising nature, but with this exception all the settlements give evidence of industry on the part of the selectors, and indicate that there is a very promising future in view for the energetic farmer. It will be noticed that the Opouriao Settlement, in the Bay of Plenty, has been particularly successful. The Selwyn Settlement is the most recent, and shows signs of being a success.

WORKERS' HAMLETS.

The hamlets as a whole are not such thriving settlements as we should like to see, and the remarks with regard to them made in our last report appear to be equally applicable to this year's efforts, although all but Hetana and Waari are making fair progress. In some cases the holdings are considered too small to be of use, considering the distance they are from the city.

TOWNSHIP SECTIONS IN ESTATES.

Hitherto it has been recognised as not necessary to insist on holders of township sections complying with the terms of their leases in regard to residence and improvements, although, as the land is selected under the lease-in-perpetuity conditions and there is no provision in the regulations to exempt the lessees of town sections, the holders are liable for compliance. In the case of some of these town sections, failing to either improve or reside is constituting a drawback to the progress of settlement, and the Land Board has taken action to insist on the fulfilment of the conditions of the leases.

The Ranger whose duty it is to inspect these settlements has supplied the following details:—

Okauia Settlement.—This settlement, in the Piako County, is situated about seven miles from Mata-mata Railway-station, and is connected by a good formed road, which runs through the settlement. I cannot report any improvements on this settlement, nor is the outlook any more satisfactory than it was last year. Two of the settlers are suppliers of milk to the creamery six miles away. The land is poor, and used almost solely for grazing purposes. Outlook not promising.

Opouriao Settlement.—This settlement has now been eleven years in existence, is situated in the Bay of Plenty district, and about eight miles from Whakatane Township. A level metalled cart-road connects the settlement with Whakatane. All the roads through the settlement are well formed and metalled. The land is of an excellent quality, the greater part rich alluvial flats. The dwellings are of a permanent character, and homes and surroundings on every hand show the prosperity and plenty that has been the lot of the farmer for the last few years, making him happy and contented. The supplying of the two factories with milk is the chief means of livelihood to the settlers, who milk a great number of cows. The cheese-factory, on the southern portion of the settlement, has a supply of 80,000 gallons of milk monthly, and the settlers' cheques for a month's supply of milk range from £20 to £120. The richness of the pasture is demonstrated by the high average of the cows. One settler milking eighteen cows averaged £1 13s. 8d. per cow per month, another £1 10s. 8d. Of course, the high price ruling for butter-fat—11½d. per pound—undoubtedly accounted in some degree for this high average. Maize has not been grown extensively this year, summer frosts making it too risky. Last year a frost in December and another in February made the crop an almost total loss. Small areas of oats and potatoes were looking remarkably well at the time of my visit, though the blight had made its appearance in some potatoes. The fences are bad in many cases; the thorn hedges require clipping. A few drains will require attention soon, but in the main they are in good order. The Whakatane River is encroaching on some sections and carrying away portions. One section I estimate has lost 3 or 4 acres, and the encroachment is still continuing. In many cases the settlers have planted willows. In some instances this has stopped its further encroachment, while in other cases willows and soil have all been carried away by the floods. I consider this river-encroachment will be serious unless some scheme of bank-maintenance is carried out. The Taneatua Village, almost in the centre of the settlement, is a go-ahead place, with stores, bakeries, hall, smithy, school, post and telephone office, and a good accommodation-house. In conclusion, this is without doubt one of the best settlements it has been my lot to inspect. The settlers are progressive, thifty, and industrious, and, with the exception of two, who are sheep-farming, all milk for the factories.

Rangiatea Settlement.—This settlement has been eight years in existence, is situated in the Te Aroha district, and the Auckland-Paeroa Railway line runs through the centre of it. All the holdings in this settlement are satisfactorily occupied and conditions well fulfilled. There are two creameries within easy distance, and, like all the other settlements, dairying is carried on to a considerable extent, the land being very suitable for that purpose. These settlers had 285 acres of oats, and were fortunate during harvesting-time, being able to get their crops stacked and secure before the heavy January rains set in. An area of 291 acres of turnips on this settlement looks very well and has every prospect of turning out a good supply for winter feed. Roads through the settlement are in good order, drains well cleaned out, and the holders appear to be comfortable and financially prosperous.

Karapiro Settlement is situated in the Cambridge Survey District, and within a mile of Cambridge Railway-station, which is distant from Auckland about 100 miles by train. The settlement is in a prosperous agricultural and pastoral district. There are not any creameries on the settlement, but one within a mile on the western side, and another within half a mile on the eastern side. The land is of good quality and suitable for almost anything in the farming line, and the settlement continues to make good progress. Like the other settlements, dairying is the principal source of revenue, and rearing young stock. Cropping is not carried on to any extent, except for about 114 acres of turnips for winter feed, the crop looking better than on any of the other settlements. Settlers are satisfied with their prospects, which are bright and encouraging.

Fencourt Settlement.—This settlement has been seven years in existence, and is situated about three miles from Cambridge Township and 100 miles by rail from Auckland. It is in a prosperous pastoral and agricultural district. During the last twelve months the settlers have done very well, it having been a splendid season for grass. All the settlers go in for dairying, for which purpose the land is well suited. There is one creamery on the settlement and a butter-factory adjoining the estate, and it is satisfactory to learn that the milk-tests equal anything in the district. An area of 219 acres was under oats, and heavy crops were grown, but the continuous rains at time of harvesting practically ruined the greater portion; turnip-crops also met with a similar fate, in many instances having to be sown a second and third time. Roads through the settlement are in very good order now that the Drainage Board has almost completed the main drain through the settlement. This will be a great advantage to the settlers, for they will be able to bring under the plough a considerable area which hitherto was under water for the greater part of the year. Speaking generally, this settlement is very productive, settlers hardworking and energetic, and on every hand are signs of prosperity and comfort.

Whitehall Settlement.—This settlement is situated in the Waikato district, and within six miles of Cambridge Township, Cambridge being 100 miles from the City of Auckland, and train runs daily between the two places. The land on this settlement consists of rolling downs and flat land, more adapted to stock-raising and sheep than dairying. There is a creamery within two miles, but only three of the settlers are suppliers. With the exception of 200 acres of turnips, very little other crops are grown. I cannot say much progress has been made during the last year; still, the settlers appear to be working with a will, and in time I see nothing to prevent this settlement being as prosperous and productive as the older-settled estates.

Bickerstaffe Settlement.—This settlement has been two years in existence, and is situated in the Otamatea, Matakoho, Waipu, and Hukatere Survey Districts, about eighty-three miles north of Auckland. The area of level land is very small. The Bickerstaffe Settlement may be considered as dependent upon the dairying industry for its principal source of revenue. Most of the settlers have separators of their own, and each morning a van visits each supplier and carries the cream either to the Maungaturoto or Whakapirau Factory. At the same time stock-raising also receives attention. Roads through the settlement are in fair order. For a settlement in its infancy, substantial improvements have been effected, and houses erected. Taking everything into consideration, there is no doubt as to the ultimate success of the settlement. No crops are cultivated.

Matamata Settlement is situated on the Auckland-Rotorua Railway, which passes through the settlement for about eight miles, and is 122 miles from Auckland. During the last twelve months good progress has been made, and many new houses erected of a very substantial nature. The old grass, in many cases just about run out, has been broken up, and oat-cropping has been carried on extensively; but, unfortunately, just at harvesting-time heavy floods set in, and the greater part was either spoilt by the continuous rains or discoloured. A large area of turnips also suffered, and in many instances had to be sown a second and a third time, and, being late, it is doubtful if they will get a crop. Dairying is the principal industry on the settlement, and the returns from the creameries are very satisfactory. There are four creameries on the settlement, and all in full swing. All the roads are formed and in good order. The township, in the centre of the settlement, has grown considerably since last report, comprising stores, bakery, smithies, accommodation-houses, school, post and telephone office, livery stables, and a number of private dwellings. A much-needed want has been filled by a doctor taking up his residence in the township, and he is working up a fairly good practice. Taking everything into consideration, the settlement is apparently in a sound and prosperous condition.

Selwyn Settlement is situated on the Auckland-Rotorua Railway line, about 140 miles from Auckland. The quality of the soil varies from fair to good, and with suitable manuring should become adapted for mixed farming. For the time the settlers have had possession (a little over a year), fair improvements have been effected; houses, in some instances, good. The majority of the settlers go in for stock-raising and grazing. During the last four months a creamery has been started on the settlement with about six or eight suppliers, which no doubt will be increased next year. Some 268 acres of turnips was sown, but was not looking well, the season not being favourable. The Canadian thistle is prevalent on several of the sections; the only remedy is to keep it from seeding, which is being done. A considerable area of the native grass has been ploughed, and either cropped with turnips or English grass substituted. With all drawbacks, this settlement may be considered thriving, and in time will support a number of families.

Kitchener Hamlet.—This hamlet is six miles from Auckland, on the Auckland-Helensville Railway line, and ten minutes' walk from the Avondale Railway-station. There is very little to add to last year's report; all the sections with the exception of one are taken up, and improvement conditions complied with in a satisfactory manner. The soil is of fair quality on clay subsoil. The settlement has been a great benefit in providing cheap homes for the lessees, many of whom are employed in Auckland in various occupations. They have good, comfortable homes, and appear satisfied with their holdings.

Plumer Hamlet is situated at Henderson, fourteen miles from Auckland, on the Auckland-Helensville Railway line. All the sections with the exception of four are taken up; comfortable homes have been erected, and the holdings ring-fenced. Three of the settlers have vegetable and strawberry gardens, finding a ready market for all they produce, while others have to seek work wherever it offers. The settlers complain that the holdings are too small for a person to reside and make a living upon, therefore the breadwinner has to go away from home for some time to make money to keep things going.

Waari Hamlet.—This hamlet is situated at Henderson, fourteen miles from Auckland, and close to the Henderson Railway-station. A good metalled road also connects with the City of Auckland. The soil is of a poor, clayey nature, and the sections are not being taken up readily. Those residing upon their sections have built comfortable dwellings, and have complied with improvement conditions.

Methuen Hamlet is situated at Avondale, six miles from the City of Auckland. Workmen's trains run regularly between Auckland and Avondale; there is also a regular coach service. Soil fairly good, on clay subsoil. Very few sections not taken up. Those occupied have good, substantial houses erected, and conditions carried out satisfactorily. A number of the lessees are tradesmen who follow their callings in Auckland. Their homes have a cheery look, and all the occupants appear to be contented.

Hetana Hamlet is within a mile and three-quarters of the New Lynn Railway-station, and eight miles from the City of Auckland by train. Trains run at intervals during the day convenient for men going to and coming from work. There is very little extra to report since last year. The improvements are principally in the buildings, and very little cultivation is carried on. The holdings are too small for a man to get a living from, and too far out of town for tradesmen.

Cradock Hamlet is situated at Avondale, six miles from Auckland, and about half a mile from the Avondale Railway-station. The land is generally good, with clay subsoil. The buildings are of a substantial nature, and the improvement conditions are carried out satisfactorily. Good progress has been made, and holders appear to be satisfied.

In conclusion, I have to acknowledge, with thanks, the assistance that has been given me by the officers in this division of my administration in the great district that I have the honour to control; particularly is this acknowledgement due to the heads of the different branches with which I come more in contact, and it is largely their tact when dealing with numerous settlers, applicants, and interviewers that has resulted in real grievances being kept down to a reasonable minimum.

J. MACKENZIE,
Commissioner of Crown Lands

HAWKE'S BAY.

Raureka Settlement.—This settlement, which was part of the Frimley Estate, was placed in the market in May, 1896. The area purchased was 427 acres 2 roods. The number of selectors is 18; total population, 95; number of sheep, 400; horses, 57; cattle, 100; pigs, 32; area in orchards, 10 acres; area in white and green crops, 82 acres; area ploughed and sown down in permanent pasture, 310 acres. The total area held is 416 acres and 38 perches, and annual rental received £543 2s. There are eighteen dwellinghouses, of a total value of £2,065. This season an area of 112 acres has been shut up for hay and grass-seed. The value of the improvements effected by the selectors amounts to £4,228 15s., as against £1,209 3s. required by law. Dairying and fruit-growing are the principal industries, and the growing crops—principally barley and potatoes—promise an excellent harvest.

Elsthorpe Settlement.—The Elsthorpe Settlement is situated about thirty miles south of Napier, and the main road from Kaikora Railway-station to the sea-coast at Kairakau runs through the property. It is distant from the railway about fourteen miles, with a good gravelled road the whole distance. The settlement was opened for selection on the 24th June, 1896. The area purchased was 9,740 acres. The present number of selectors is 38; total population, 102; number of sheep, 25,398; horses, 148; cattle, 835; pigs, 9. Area in grass, 9,000 acres; area in white and green crops, 50 acres 1 rood 20 perches; balance bush and scrub. There are twenty-six dwellinghouses in the settlement, of a total value of £4,380. The improvements effected by the settlers, and exclusive of those originally on the land, are valued at £13,950 10s., as against £8,226 5s. 6d. required by law. The settlers are mostly engaged in pastoral pursuits. The markets for mutton and wool have already boomed the settlement as one of the most prosperous in Hawke's Bay. In several instances settlers are driving their own motor-cars, and the success of the settlement has long since been assured.

Waimarie Settlement.—This settlement contains 425 acres 3 roods 14 perches, and is situated about ten miles from Gisborne, on the main Ormond-Opotiki Road. This settlement was divided into eighteen allotments, all of which have been selected. Sixteen of the selectors reside on their holdings and two on adjoining sections. There are seventy persons living on this settlement, which is at present carrying 34 horses, 77 cattle, 15 pigs, and 438 sheep. Area in grass 297 acres, and in white and green crops 112 acres, the balance being scrub and bush. The improvements effected are valued at £3,468, as against £1,085 13s. 3d. required by the Act. Only a few of the sections are large enough for the selectors to make a living on, the majority being used as homes while the selectors find work in the locality. This settlement is higher than Pouparae, and only three sections were affected by the flood last winter, but have now completely recovered. Altogether the selectors have had a most successful year.

Pouparae Settlement.—This settlement, containing 336 acres 1 rood 12 perches, was opened for selection in April, 1897, in nine holdings, the whole of which have been selected. Nine dwellinghouses have been erected, and nine selectors are residing. There are fifty-three persons living on this settlement, which is carrying 50 horses, 99 cattle, 53 pigs, and 50 sheep. The improvements required by the Act amount to £859 6s. 3d., and effected £4,062 1s. Area in grass is 228 acres, and in white and green crops 76 acres, the balance being scrub and bush. Dairying is carried on by some of the selectors, but owing to the smallness of their selections the settlers find it necessary to obtain outside work. Last winter this settlement was badly flooded. The silt deposited made the land in places useless for a time, but with one or two exceptions the sections have well recovered from their involuntary top-dressing, and are now in many cases better than they were before.

Tomoana Settlement.—This settlement, which was part of the Frimley Estate, and is situated near Hastings, was placed in the market on the 2nd March, 1898. The area purchased was 111 acres 3 roods 38 perches. Number of occupied sections, 13; total population, 64; number of sheep, 50; horses, 17; cattle, 41; pigs, 7. Area in grass, 80 acres, out of which 30 acres has been ploughed, cropped, and again laid down in permanent pasture by the settlers; area in white and green crops, 6 acres; and orchards and gardens, 18 acres. The area held is 110 acres and 3 perches, and is occupied by thirteen selectors, who pay an annual rental of £135 2s. There are twelve dwellinghouses in the settlement of a total value of £2,280. Eleven selectors are residing on their holdings. The improvements required by the Act amount to £310 8s., and the value of improvements effected to £3,453, which, compared with last year's returns, shows that further improvements to the value of £512 15s. have been effected in the settlement during the year. Dairying and the fruit-growing industry are still the principal sources of revenue. An area of 43½ acres has been shut up for grass-seed and hay this season.

Willows Settlement.—This settlement is situated about four miles from Gisborne, on the road to Matawhero, and contains 775 acres 1 rood 36 perches. It was opened for selection in March, 1899, in twenty-one allotments, all of which have been selected. All the settlers are residing either on their sections or on adjoining land. There are eighty-seven persons residing on the settlement, which is at present carrying 54 horses, 227 cattle, 57 pigs, and 1,398 sheep. The improvements effected are valued at £6,056 15s., as against £1,913 12s. 7d. required by the Act. The area in grass is 686 acres, and in white and green crops 66 acres, the balance being scrub and bush. The principal industry of this settlement is dairying, and owing to the prevailing high prices the settlers have had a most successful year. This settlement was also badly flooded last year, but the settlers have now all recovered from the effects.

Mahora Settlement.—This settlement, which was originally part of the Frimley Estate, is situated near Hastings, and was opened for selection on the 22nd March, 1899. The area purchased was 1,133 acres 3 roods. The number of selectors is 31; total population, 140; number of sheep, 1,323; horses, 92; cattle, 360; pigs, 180. The population and stock show a considerable increase since last year. Area in grass is 870 acres, out of which 307½ acres has been shut up for hay and grass-seed; area in white and green crops, 188 acres; and in orchards, 29 acres. An area of 17 acres 2 roods 18 perches

is still unselected, and is occupied under a temporary lease. Selectors hold an area of 1,112 acres 1 rood 13 perches, and pay an annual rental of £1,605 1s. 2d. There are thirty-one dwellinghouses, valued at £5,110. The improvements effected by selectors are valued at £9,527, as against £3,453 15s. 6d. required by the Act. Dairying and fruit-growing are still the main sources of revenue in this settlement. The Mahora North School is now well established, and the settlers are applying for another school near the southern portion of the settlement, which will probably be granted, and is much needed.

Hatuma Settlement.—This settlement is situated fifty-nine miles from Napier, on the Main Trunk Railway between Wellington and Napier, and lies near Waipukurau, and between Orouawharo and Arlington Estates. It was placed on the market on the 25th April, 1901. The area purchased was 26,522 acres 3 roods 20 perches. The number of occupied sections is 59; total population, 280; number of sheep, 47,638; horses, 250; cattle, 1,760; pigs, 58. Area in grass, 22,800 acres, out of which 2,150 acres has been ploughed, cropped, and laid down again in permanent English grasses; white and green crops, 1,250 acres; balance scrub. There are fifty-nine dwellinghouses in the settlement, valued at £10,868. The improvements effected are £38,729, as against £37,133 required by the Act. A new school has been erected during the year at the far end of the settlement for the convenience of settlers' children residing at too great a distance to attend the main school.

Manga-a-toro Settlement.—This settlement is situated in the southern portion of the Hawke's Bay Land District, about eleven miles from Dannevirke Township and Railway-station, and was acquired from the Assets Realisation Board by the Government under the Land for Settlements Act. The area purchased was 19,581 acres 3 roods 12 perches. The number of occupied sections is 26; the total population is 121; number of sheep, 31,116; horses, 185; cattle, 1,701; pigs, 23. The area in grass is 15,100 acres, of which 1,426 acres have been regrassed, and 538 acres of bush felled and sown; area in white and green crops, 725 acres 2 roods; balance scrub and bush. All the sections are now occupied, 19,422 acres being held by twenty-six selectors. There are twenty-five dwellinghouses in the settlement, valued £7,305, the buildings ranging in value from £60 to £800 each. The total value of improvements effected is £23,167 17s. 9d., as against £6,200 8s. 10d. required by the Act. The prices now obtaining for wool and mutton has placed this settlement in very prosperous circumstances.

Kumeroa Settlement.—This settlement was acquired from Mr. Thomas Crosse under the Land for Settlements Act, and was opened for application on the 12th May, 1902. The area purchased was 3,744 acres 2 roods 38 perches. The number of occupied sections is 15; total population, 75; number of stock, 6,481, comprising sheep 5,682, horses 62, cattle 578, pigs 159. The area in grass is 3,595 acres area in white and green crops, 43 acres 2 roods; the balance bush and scrub. The area offered for selection was 3,745 acres, and is now all occupied by fifteen selectors. The settlement is distant about six miles from Woodville by good metalled dray-road, the roads through the settlement being also metalled. There are fourteen dwellinghouses, of a total value of £2,655. Thirteen selectors are residing on their holdings, and one (a married woman) on land adjoining her section. The improvements effected are valued at £5,863 7s., as against £1,655 6s. 8d. required by the Act. The Hawke's Bay Dairy Company and Farmers' Union creameries are established near the settlement, and dairying is carried on with profitable results. Some of the settlers are now forming themselves into a Drainage Board for the purpose of reclaiming the areas of swamp land within their holdings, and there is every prospect of their meeting with success in the undertaking.

Forest Gate Settlement.—This settlement is situated in the western portion of the Hawke's Bay Land District, distant about fifty miles from Napier by rail and road, and ten miles from Waipawa Township and Railway-station. The area purchased was 8,822 acres and 13 perches. Number of occupied sections is 28, and number of selectors 26, one of the holdings having been recently forfeited by the Land Board. Total population is 108. Number of sheep, 16,912; horses, 139; cattle, 580; pigs, 28. Area in grass, 7,600 acres; area in white and green crops, 823 acres 2 roods; balance light bush and scrub. The settlement was thrown open on the 19th May, 1902. The value of the improvements effected is put down at £12,218 1s. 7d., as against £2,489 15s. required by law. There are twenty-five dwellinghouses, valued at £3,917, and nineteen settlers residing on their holdings. The settlement is in a thriving condition. With the present prices ruling there is a gradual tendency amongst the settlers to relinquish the dairying industry and return to sheep-farming.

Argyll Settlement.—This settlement, which was opened for selection on the 26th June, 1903, is situated in the Waipawa County, and is distant six miles from Waipawa Township, three miles from Kairora North, and nine miles and a half from Pukehou Railway-station. The area purchased was 33,705 acres 1 rood 30 perches. The number of occupied sections is 62; total population, 251; number of sheep, 44,060; horses, 301; cattle, 2,538; pigs, 90. Area in grass, 3,000 acres, out of which 1,000 acres have been ploughed, cropped, and again sown down in permanent pasture; area in white and green crops, 2,890 acres; balance scrub. There are sixty dwellinghouses in the settlement, valued at £10,560. The improvements required by law amount to £8,979 17s. 3d., and the improvements effected are valued at £36,900 10s. 6d., including £4,071 2s. estimated value of original improvements. It is estimated that Messrs. Manson and Tuck's timber-mill, erected on the settlement, will cut out the Guavas Bush in about three years' time. A scheme for a water-race has been adopted, and, although only the main race at the present time has been laid out, many of the settlers are already greatly benefited during the summer months.

Wigan Settlement.—This settlement is situated about eight miles from the Town of Buckley (Tolaga Bay), and about forty-three miles from Gisborne. It contains 10,046 acres 2 roods 6 perches, and was offered for selection in December, 1903, divided into seventeen allotments, all of which were selected. Thirteen of the selectors are residing, three are spinsters residing with their parents in the district, and one married woman resides on adjoining land with her husband. There are forty-two persons living on the settlement, which is carrying 74 horses, 1,079 cattle, 12 pigs, and 20,100 sheep. Area in grass is 10,033 acres, and in white and green crops 2 acres, the balance being bush and scrub. The

selectors have effected improvements to the value of £6,655, which, with value of the original improvements, makes a total of £8,782 1s. 11d., as against £3,424 0s. 4d. required by the Act. This settlement is purely pastoral country, and all the settlers have had a most successful year, quite eclipsing all previous records. All the settlers appear very prosperous, and many fine houses and wool-sheds have been erected.

Lindsay Settlement.—This settlement, situated in the Waipawa County, was formerly known as the Mount Vernon Estate, and was acquired by the Government under the Land for Settlements Act. It is distant about forty miles from Napier, and adjoins Townships of Waipawa, Waipukurau, and Ongaonga, and was opened for settlement on the 11th April, 1905. The area purchased was 13,574 acres. The number of occupied sections are 65; total population, 211; number of sheep, 17,100; horses, 200; cattle, 1,506; pigs, 75. Area in grass, 2,480 acres; area in white and green crops, 1,193 acres; balance, scrub. There are fifty-five dwellinghouses in the settlement, valued at £6,288. The improvements required by law are £5,270, whilst those effected are valued at £14,673, which shows a satisfactory increase on last year's figures.

HENRY TRENT,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

TARANAKI.

Tokaora Settlement.—Situated four miles from Hawera, comprising 1,505 acres 2 roods 8 perches, divided into sixteen sections, occupied by thirteen persons, and almost wholly devoted to dairying. There are seventy-four people resident, and live-stock consists of 770 cows, 20 sheep, 57 horses, and 475 pigs. The improvements effected by the tenants comprise thirteen residences, valued at £2,020; outbuildings, fencing, &c., £2,160; total, £4,180. The area in new grass is 50 acres, in white crops 120 acres, in green crops 66 acres. The whole settlement is making very steady progress.

Spotswood Settlement.—Situated about two miles and a quarter from New Plymouth, comprising 310 acres 3 roods 23 perches, divided into sixty-one sections for workmen's homes and eight small farms. There are seven persons occupying under the former tenure, and two under the latter. One holding was abandoned and one forfeited, the person occupying the latter being allowed to remain as a weekly tenant for the present. Two other houses are let to weekly tenants. There are thirty-eight persons resident, and the live-stock consists of 36 cows, 4 horses, and 11 pigs. The improvements effected by the tenants in possession comprise seven residences, valued at £1,670; fencing, &c., £165; total, £1,835. The settlement is very little used for dairying, except for the settlers' own needs.

Clandon Settlement.—Situated about two miles from the Toko Railway-station, comprising 881 acres and 13 perches, subdivided into six dairy farms, all occupied, and wholly devoted to dairying. The live-stock consists of 266 cows, 14 horses, and 185 pigs. There are twenty-five persons on the land, and the improvements effected are two residences, valued at £400; fencing, outbuildings, &c., £315; total, £715. The area in green crops is 25 acres. The settlement is making fair progress.

Huinga Settlement.—Situated about three miles from Toko, and opened for application in October last. It comprises 1,853 acres 3 roods 20 perches of good grazing-country, formerly covered with heavy forest, some dead timber still standing. There are ten farms, all more or less suitable for dairying, six of them having residences and outbuildings when purchased by the Crown. Seven of the sections have been selected, and twenty-three persons are resident. The improvements effected by the tenants are additions to residences, £55; outbuildings and stumping, £44; total, £99. There are 8 acres in green crop. The live-stock consists of 233 cows, 11 horses, and 10 pigs. The settlement has made a good beginning, and the prospects are promising.

FRANS. SIMPSON,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

WELLINGTON.

WEST COAST.

Paparangi.—The area purchased by the Crown was 322 acres 3 roods 32 perches. Thirty-seven sections are now under occupation, and the total population is 144 souls. The majority of the settlers use their holdings for residential purposes, and go in for market-gardening, pigs, and poultry-keeping, while a few on the larger areas are dairying. 300 acres are in new grass, and 22 acres are in native grass, orchards, &c. The settlers appear to be all prosperous, and the success of the settlement is assured.

Ohakea.—An area of 1,745 acres 1 rood 30 perches was acquired, and fifteen sections are now occupied, there being 65 souls on the land altogether. The stock on the land comprises 2,490 sheep, 483 cattle, 79 horses, and 238 pigs. 1,282 acres are in new grass, 309 acres in white crops, and 67 acres in green crops. The improvements are valued at £6,777. The settlers have had a very good year, and, with excellent prospects before them, the success of the settlement is assured.

Te Matua.—Comprises an area of 702 acres and 19 perches. Thirteen sections are occupied, and the number of souls on the land is 55. The stock consists of 390 sheep, 301 cattle, 34 horses, and 198 pigs. 11 acres were laid down in white crops, 24 acres in green crops, and 491½ acres in new grass. The total value of the improvements on the land is £3,945. The settlers have had another very good year, and their future prospects are excellent, while the settlement as a whole is a decided success.

Aorangi.—The area acquired by the Crown was 1,785 acres. Thirty-seven sections are now occupied, and the total population of the settlement is 162 souls. The stock numbers 1,706 sheep, 721 cattle, 117 horses, 373 pigs. 51 acres are in grain-crops, 47½ acres in green crops, and 1,502 acres are laid down in new grass. The settlers have done exceedingly well during the year, and have excellent prospects before them.

Mangawhata.—The area purchased was 1,240 acres 2 roods 36 perches, and the seven sections into which it was subdivided are all occupied, the total number of souls on the land being 43. The improvements on the land are valued at £4,137. The stock consists of 620 sheep, 673 cattle, 72 horses, and 192 pigs. 10 acres are in white crops, 1½ acres in green crop, and 1,158 acres are laid down in new grasses. The settlers have had a good year, and have excellent prospects before them.

Epuni Hamlet.—The total area acquired was 100 acres 3 roods 14 perches. Forty-two sections are occupied, and the population of the settlement is 182 souls. 40 acres are in new grass, the remainder being used for gardens, orchards, &c. The total improvements are valued at £9,747. For the most part the selectors use their holdings for residential purposes, while some on the larger areas go in for market-gardening, fruit-growing, poultry-keeping, &c. There are 19 horses and 20 cattle on the land. The settlers all seem prosperous, and the settlement is well established.

Maungaraki.—This settlement comprises 472 acres 1 rood 20 perches. Twenty sections are now occupied, and the total population is 81 souls. 145 acres are now in grass, and 122 acres are in native grass, gardens, orchards, &c. There are 38 cattle, 25 horses, and 15 pigs on the land. The total improvements effected are valued at £2,656. The holdings are for the most part used for residential purposes, the selectors growing vegetables and keeping poultry and cows for their own use. The settlers are making good progress, appear satisfied, and have good prospects before them.

Linton.—The area purchased was 551 acres 1 rood 36 perches. The number of sections now in occupation is five, and the number of residents on the land is 32. 58 acres was in white crops, 4 acres in green crops, and 441 acres laid down in new grass. The stock consists of 71 sheep, 227 cattle, 13 horses, and 56 pigs. The improvements on the land are valued at £2,075. The settlers have done well during the year, and the settlement is fairly prosperous.

Normandale.—The area acquired was 1,623 acres and 9 perches. The number of sections occupied is thirty, and the total population is 97 souls. The holdings are wholly used for residential purposes by men who are absent during the day at their various callings. All have gardens under cultivation, and grow vegetables, &c., for home consumption. The stock consists of 33 cattle, 13 horses, and 14 pigs; and the improvements on the land are valued at £5,027 13s. 4d. The settlers appear to be making satisfactory progress, and have fair prospects before them.

EAST COAST.

Langdale.—The area purchased was 9,405 acres, the number of sections under occupation being 29, the total population 77 souls. The stock comprises 13,639 sheep, 988 cattle, and 109 horses. 157 acres was in white crops, 257 acres in green crops, and 8,481 acres laid down in new grass. The total improvements effected on the land are valued at £10,415 2s. 7d. The settlers are making steady progress, and they all seem prosperous and well satisfied with their future prospects.

Longbush.—The area purchased by the Crown was 3,021 acres 3 rood 26 perches. Eight sections are occupied, the population on the land being 26. The stock comprises 3,720 sheep, 405 cattle, 31 horses, and 20 pigs. 2,233 acres is laid down in grass, and 15 acres in green crops. The total improvements on the land are valued at £2,201. The settlers have had a good year on account of the high prices ruling for stock, &c., and their prospects for the future are very promising. This settlement has proved a successful one.

Tablelands.—An area of 5,496 acres 3 roods 30 perches was acquired by the Government. Ten sections are now under occupation, and the number of souls on the land is 24. The stock consists of 7,070 sheep, 490 cattle, and 50 horses. 4,389 acres is laid down in grass, and 97 acres in green crops. The total improvements on the settlement are worth £3,468. Owing to the high prices ruling for stock, &c., the settlers have had a prosperous year, and they are well satisfied with their future prospects. This settlement has proved a most successful one.

Tawaha, Hikawera, Mahupuku, and Dyer.—As most of the selections in these settlements were made during the year, it is too early yet to report upon them.

JOHN STRAUCHON,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

MARLBOROUGH.

Blind River Settlement.—Situated on the Blind River, near the point at which it flows into Cook Strait, and half-way between Lake Grassmere and the Awatere River. The area purchased was 5,507 acres. It was opened for selection in 1895, cut up into twenty-nine sections varying in area from a few acres to 320 acres, held by nineteen selectors, who by a system of grouping are now reduced to

eleven tenants residing fully, one partly residing, and two residing on adjoining land with near relations; total, 14. The number of persons residing is now forty-six. The number of sheep is 5,040; cattle, 11; horses, 49; and about 15 to 20 pigs. There were 510 acres of white crops and 315 acres of green and root crops grown during the last season. The yield was generally less than former years, owing to the drought, which was felt very much on this settlement, especially on the sea-coast and near Lake Grassmere. Notwithstanding this, and the trouble of keeping down rabbits, the settlement appears to have done fairly well.

Omaka Settlement.—Situating on the east bank of the River Omaka, about eight miles south-west from Blenheim. Area purchased in 1896 was 3,898 acres, now held by thirteen selectors, nine of whom are residing upon the land and four upon adjoining lands. The land is mostly good pastoral land. One new house has been erected during the year. Forty-four persons are residing. The settlers appear to have fair prospects for the coming year, and seem generally contented with their land. The number of sheep is 3,160; cattle, 42; horses, 51. 592 acres of white crops and 66 acres of green crops have been planted during the past year, with a slightly diminished yield from the standard of former years.

Puhipuhi Settlement.—Situating on the upper Puhipuhi River, Kaikoura. Purchased in 1897. Area, 320 acres, held by two selectors. This can scarcely be designated a settlement. It was two small blocks of freehold in the midst of a large block of Crown land, and was purchased so as to work in with the block and form homesteads for two larger holdings. The residence in these cases has not been strictly continuous, but otherwise they have complied with the Act. Improvements effected, £243. Stock held cannot be determined, owing to the holdings being merged into the other part of the sections to which they are attached.

Starborough Settlement.—Area, 35,906 acres. Opened for selection in 1899. This settlement is situated on the right bank of the Awatere River and along portion of the coast of Cook Strait. The general character is good agricultural and pastoral country. Including the Township of Seddon, there are 191 selectors on this estate, although there are only 183 holders, 126 of whom are in the township, leaving fifty-seven as holding on the rest of the settlement. Out of these only one is non-resident. There are fifty dwellings in the township and forty-seven on the outer lands; total number of persons residing on the estate, 398. The total improvements effected are valued at over £48,000. The sheep number 34,785; cattle, 123; horses, 289; and about 100 pigs. Area in white crop, 2,555 acres; root and green crop, 1,677 acres; cultivated grass, 8,723 acres. The yield from these cropping-areas was below the average, but fairly good, considering the dryness of the spring and summer. The average return of grain is probably, for wheat, about 27 to 30 bushels; barley, 20 to 27 bushels; oats, 25 to 35 bushels; chaff, probably $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons per acre. The pastoral part of the estate has done well to fairly well; for, although the drought caused a forced sale of sheep at a time when the freezing-works were stopped by labour troubles, the good price of wool went a long way towards compensating for this loss. If the lesson taught by the late dry spell is properly learnt, and it induces the settlers to conserve all the water possible and thus mitigate the evil of droughts in future, this dry spell may be a blessing in disguise. The autumnal rain has done a lot of good, and feed now appears plentiful for the winter.

Richmond Brook Settlement.—Area, 5,854 acres, situated on the right bank of the Awatere River, about six miles above the railway-crossing. This block was settled in 1899. It is chiefly good pastoral land, but there was 735 acres in corn, 398 acres in root and green crops, and 3,353 acres has been laid down in grass. There are 7,630 sheep, 29 cattle, and 77 horses on the estate. Twelve good-sized holdings. Only one selector, who resides on adjoining land, is not complying with the residential clauses. This is a prosperous little settlement, and I think the settlers have many reasons to be satisfied with the conditions and prospects.

Waipapa Settlement.—Situating on the right bank of the Clarence River, a few miles above the sea. The area acquired is 3,755 acres. Opened in 1901. Selected by five settlers, four of whom are residing on their holdings, and the other resides with his neighbour for the present. Five houses are built, one of which is men's quarters, near the wool-shed, at some distance from the homestead to which it belongs. About 25 acres of oats for home consumption and 35 to 40 acres of green crops has been the extent of cropping. As this land has been worked in conjunction with a large area of rough, high country behind it, it is not possible to give the exact stock carried. The prospects are good for this settlement while wool remains high, for it is essentially a wool-growing country. The settlers have much to contend with in the rabbit pest, but appear to be doing well.

North Bank Estate.—Situating on the left bank of the Wairau River, about twenty-five miles above Blenheim. Area, 12,895 acres. Settled in 1903. Held by seven settlers; these settlers have much to contend with in the shape of noxious weeds and poor, mostly broken land. One settler is not fully complying with the residential conditions. The settlement supports thirty-seven persons. The sheep carried is only 3,100; cattle, 62; horses, 30. During the year 100 acres of land have been under crop. This is the poorest settlement we have, and were it not for the fact that the settlers obtain a good deal from the flax growing on the estate and in the vicinity they would, I fear, find it a hard struggle to obtain a living. The improvements effected have been valued at £1,642.

Rainford Settlement.—Situating within four or five miles of Kaikoura Township. This is all flat, first-class soil, suitable for dairy-farming, and as a cheese-factory is situated within a mile of the settlement it should do well. The area is only 246 acres, held by eleven selectors, eight of whom permanently reside in nine houses, which contain thirty-four persons. The estimated value of the improvements besides the original value is £1,332. There was last season 20 acres in white crop and 14 acres in green crop, the remainder being in good permanent pasture. The prospects of this settlement are good, and, though the holdings are small, they form good homes for industrious settlers.

Flaxbourne Settlement.—Area, 46,598 acres. Opened for selection in 1905. This estate is situated on the east coast, between the Ure River and Lake Grassmere. The general characteristics of this block are grass- and fern-covered downs and hills bearing from good to fair soil. The land is now

occupied in 133 holdings, included in which are eighty-one lease-in-perpetuity leases of rural land, eighteen small grazing-runs, seven leases in the Township of Ward, and twenty-seven occupation licenses (year to year); some lessees of the latter have erected houses on their temporary holdings. But little progress can be expected in the Township of Ward until the railway reaches it; at present only two or three houses have been built. There are seventy-seven houses on the estate, occupied by 252 persons. The value of the new improvements on the estate is £10,105, and one holder has failed to make the statutory improvements. There are fourteen tenants (out of 133 holdings) not complying with the residential conditions; these are chiefly small holders of 5-acre lots whose owners have to go away to earn a living. This state of affairs will probably improve as the railway-works progress. Eight of the non-residents are living on other parts of the settlement. The stock on the estate is made up of 39,437 sheep, 656 cattle, 214 horses, and perhaps 60 or 70 pigs. The crops last season have been 1,062 acres of white crops and 1,027 acres of green and root crops. The estimated area of cultivated grass is 2,354 acres. These crops were considerably damaged by the dry season, but were better than one could expect after the somewhat dismal prognostications made by people who said that even a slight drought would mean nearly total ruin to all crops on the estate. So far as I can learn, the late dry season was the most severe for a great many years; and when greater attention is paid to the conservation of the generally abundant winter rainfall there is no reason why the settlement should not continue its present prosperity. Over 1,000 tons of flax was sent to the flax-mills, chiefly in Blenheim and the neighbourhood. This has been a material help.

F. STEPHENSON SMITH,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

WESTLAND.

Poerua Settlement.—This settlement is in a very satisfactory position, and is fully occupied. At the beginning of the season the prospects were not very bright, as grass was backward, owing to the late spring; but the after-weather fully compensated, as evidenced by the abundance of feed of all kinds; in fact, this year is judged to have been the best known for quantity and quality of fodder, &c., the oaten and meadow hay being remarkably good, while the root-crops gave handsome returns. All the original swamp land is rapidly drying up, this being due to the draining, which is persistently made. Not much bushfelling has been done during the year, the settlers being busy cleaning up their clearings, fencing, and building. Two new houses have been erected on the estate, and some good haysheds also built. The breed of cattle has improved very much, and the young horses bred on the settlement look well. Most of the settlers supply milk to the local creamery—one has a separator and a churn, and finds a ready market for his butter. The flood-waters of a creek have scoured some land away, and thus caused some loss and annoyance; but, apart from this, the present position of the tenants is excellent, and their future appears assured. The following figures indicate the present aspect of the settlement: Area, 3,230 acres; number of occupied sections, 19; total population, 71; numbers of stock—sheep 680, horses 68, cattle 800, pigs 90; area in grass, 1,600 acres; area in white and green crops, 34 acres; requirements of Act, £1,887; how far complied with, £7,644; arrears of rental, nil.

Kokatahi Settlement.—This estate has had a very successful year, and although, as elsewhere, the spring feed was very backward, yet the subsequent good weather made amends, for the crops turned out well, some fields of turnips being especially good. Hay, both oaten and meadow, were well saved, and all the barns are full for winter feed. There are seven tenants on the estate; four of these supply milk to the factory, and the other three breed and fatten cattle and sheep. One new house has been erected this year, and a new barn is also in course of construction; this will complete the requisite number of barns and sheds. Many of the tenants are doing good work in ploughing, and all are improving their holdings; their homesteads are all well and faithfully built, the fences are in thorough good order, and the coming year is awaited with hopefulness. The following statement exhibits the present position: Area of the estate, 1,895 acres; number of occupied sections, 7; total population, 40; numbers of stock—sheep 1,949, horses 33, cattle 305, pigs 53; area in grass, 1,653 acres; area in white and green crops, 47 acres; requirements of Act, £268; how far complied with, £3,940; arrears of rental, nil.

G. J. ROBERTS,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

CANTERBURY.

LANDS OPENED DURING THE YEAR.

No new estates have been acquired or offered during the year, and the only lands offered under this system in addition to those available at the beginning of the year were seven allotments, totalling 630 acres 3 roods, situated in the Annan, Kinloch, Highbank, and Waikakahi Settlements, and Puhuka Hamlet, these allotments having reverted to the Crown by forfeiture or surrender. All but one allotment of 1 acre have been reselected.

The lands available for selection at the close of the year consisted of thirty-five small town and village allotments, totalling 16 acres 3 roods 13 perches, situated in the Annan, Highbank, Rosewill, and Waikakahi Settlements, and the Kapuatohe Hamlet.

No fresh estates are at present in view for acquisition or disposal during the ensuing year.

LAND TRANSACTIONS.

The new selections during the year have consisted of thirty allotments, totalling 6,093 acres 1 rood 22 perches, under the lease-in-perpetuity system ; one small grazing-run of 3,684 acres ; and five temporary occupation licenses of 46 acres 3 roods ; the total annual rental realised being £3,626 8s. 2d. Two allotments of 4 acres and 19 perches were sold for cash for the purposes sanctioned by the Land for Settlements Act. The total number of lessees on the 31st March, 1907, was 1,230, the area occupied being 259,946 acres and 28 perches, at an annual rental of £77,241 15s. 10d.

PAYMENT OF RENT.

The total amount of rents and other payments collected during the year on all land-for-settlement estates was £68,345 11s. 3d., and the total receipts for the district since the commencement of the system now amount to £427,591 18s. 10d.

The arrears of rent due on the 31st March, 1907, exclusive of current payments, amounted to £780 4s. 8d., owing by thirty-six tenants holding an area of 5,973 acres 3 roods 26 perches. These represent barely 3 per cent. of the total number of tenants, and the amount owing is just over 1 per cent. of the total annual rent-roll.

TRANSFERS, FORFEITURES, AND SURRENDERS.

Transfers have been effected during the year of ninety-seven lease-in-perpetuity holdings, comprising an area of 11,865 acres and 24 perches ; three farm-homestead leases, comprising 515 acres 3 roods 35 perches ; and three small grazing-runs, with an area of 4,630 acres 2 roods 30 perches : making a total of 103 holdings, representing 17,011 acres 3 roods 9 perches.

Six leases, comprising an area of 32 acres 1 rood 38 perches, were forfeited for non-fulfilment of conditions, and a surrender of one allotment of 594 acres 3 roods was accepted at the request of the lessee.

CONDITION OF ESTABLISHED SETTLEMENTS.

The reports which have been received from the Crown Lands Rangers at the close of the year show that the satisfactory results recorded in previous years have not only been fully maintained, but that in nearly all cases excellent progress has been achieved both in the increase of permanent improvements effected and also in the general condition of the holdings, the cleanness and working of the land, and the prosperity of the tenants. The exceedingly dry season experienced caused the general yields of grain-crops to fall considerably below the average, and also in some cases seriously affected the root-crops, besides subjecting the tenants to the prevailing shortness of feed ; the pastures, however, recovered rapidly after a welcome rainfall at the end of the season. In the northern settlements, where tenants depend more on grazing than on cropping, there was a good average lambing percentage, and throughout the district the tenants are doing well, and are in a prosperous and contented condition. There are a few cases where the requirements of the leases have not been completely fulfilled, these being principally where the lessees have not yet been able to bring their improvements up to the value required for the sixth year of occupation ; but they are taking the necessary steps to remedy such deficiencies, and will no doubt effect full compliance before long. In the more recently established settlements, especially Kinloch and Mills, dwellinghouses have not been erected by some of the lessees, but in the former settlement this is due to difficulties of access which have not yet been obviated, and in nearly all cases the tenants are camped on or adjacent to their holdings. Taken all round, the year's reports disclose a splendid achievement in the settlement upon the land of *bona fide*, hardworking, and capable farmers, and amply vindicate the operations of the Land for Settlements Acts within the district.

I may mention that during the year Mr. H. L. Anderson, the New South Wales Commissioner to the New Zealand International Exhibition, visited some of the settlements in South Canterbury, and expressed surprise at the number of good homesteads, buildings, and planting, &c., to be seen, and considered that the colony was to be congratulated on the class of its tenants and the good methods of farming displayed.

There is a steady inquiry for farms under the Land for Settlements Act, but at present we have no lands available to satisfy the demand. The Ranger for South Canterbury also reports inquiries for 5-acre lots close to Timaru.

Appended are detail notes respecting the separate settlements, the following being a summary of the results : Number of settlements, 48 ; homestead-sites, &c., 10 : total 58. Area leased in settlements, 259,946 acres and 28 perches ; adjoining Crown land leased with purchased land, 17,792 acres : total, 277,738 acres 28 perches. Number of settlers, 1,193 ; total population, 4,600. Total value of improvements required, £194,961 6s. 7d. ; total value effected, £401,666 6s. 7d. The area sown in white crops last season was 33,540 acres ; area in green or root crops, 17,540 acres ; area sown in cultivated grasses, 134,188 acres ; area in native pasture, plantations, orchards, &c., 92,470 acres. Number of stock on the settlements : 255,521 sheep, 8,730 head of cattle, 4,585 horses, and 1,722 pigs.

Pareora No. 1 Settlement (near St. Andrew's, Waimate County).—Established January, 1894. Area purchased, 620 acres 2 roods 13 perches. Number of sections occupied, 28 ; number of souls, 104, residing in twenty-five houses. The settlement carries 190 head of cattle, 41 horses, and 60 pigs ; and last season there were 201 acres in grain-crops, 71 acres in green and root crops, and 316 acres in cultivated grasses. The total value of improvements required is £1,144 5s. 2d., and the value effected £2,933 0s. 6d. The crops have been light, but many of the tenants supply milk to the local creamery, and employment is readily obtainable at the adjacent freezing-works and on farms in the district. The holdings are small and are kept in good order, and the tenants appear to be comfortable and contented.

Studholme Junction Settlement (near Studholme Junction, Waimate County).—Established January, 1894. Area purchased, 109 acres and 7 perches. Number of sections occupied, 4; number of souls, 10, residing in two houses. The stock consists of 32 head of cattle, 17 horses, and 10 pigs; and the area cultivated last season included 30 acres in grain-crops, 13 acres in root and green crops, and 59 acres in cultivated grasses. The value of improvements required is £214 7s. 10d., and the value effected £579 8s. The settlement is in a satisfactory condition.

Kapua Settlement (near Waimate, Waimate County).—Established March, 1894. Area purchased, 574 acres 1 rood 22 perches. Number of sections occupied, 12; and the population consists of thirty-nine souls, residing in twelve houses. The area under cultivation last season comprised 219 acres in grain-crops, 52 acres in green and root crops, and 269 acres in cultivated grasses. The stock on the settlement numbered 151 head of cattle, 25 horses, and 36 pigs. The total value of improvements required is £977 8s. 9d., and the value effected is £1,893 5s. The holdings are in good order, and the conditions satisfactorily fulfilled.

Rosebrook Settlement (near Timaru, Levels County).—Established June, 1895. Area purchased, 600 acres 1 rood 8 perches. Number of sections occupied, 14; number of dwellinghouses, 13; population, 65. The area under cultivation last season included 220 acres in grain-crop, and 32 acres in green or root crops, while 325 acres had been laid down in cultivated grasses. The stock consisted of 44 sheep, 123 head of cattle, 77 horses, and 40 pigs. The total value of improvements required is £1,061 16s. 4d., and the value effected £2,396 3s. 6d., the conditions of the leases being satisfactorily fulfilled in all cases. The crops have been generally light, owing to the dry season, but the settlement appears to be in a prosperous and satisfactory condition.

Otaio Settlement (near St. Andrew's, Waimate County).—Established June, 1895. Area purchased, 373 acres 3 roods 14 perches. Number of holders, 9; dwellinghouses, 8; population, 41. The stock include 68 head of cattle, 22 horses, and 30 pigs; and last season 160 acres were in grain-crops, 32 acres in green and root crops, and 165 acres in cultivated grasses. The total value of improvements required is £692 6s. 1d., and the value effected £1,949 5s. 6d. The settlement is making fair progress, and the conditions of the leases are satisfactorily fulfilled. Most of the tenants supply milk to the local creamery, and the crops have been fairly good.

Patoa Settlement (between Waitohi and Hurunui Rivers, Ashley County).—Established November, 1895. Area purchased, 4,535 acres 3 roods 14 perches. There are four selectors, two of whom have erected dwellinghouses and reside upon their sections, and two reside on other holdings in the vicinity. The population numbers twelve souls, and the stock consists of 1,693 sheep, 20 cattle, 8 horses, and 10 pigs. The area of crop last season was 85 acres, of which 78 acres was in grain-crop; 490 acres is in cultivated grasses, and the balance in native pasture and manuka scrub, the bulk of the land being very stony and dry. The total value of improvements required is £978 4s. 4d., and the value effected is £1,662.

The Peaks Settlement (between Waitohi and Hurunui Rivers, Ashley County).—Established August, 1895. Area purchased, 2,811 acres and 9 perches. The number of holders is twelve, all but one of whom reside on previously selected village-settlement leaseholds in the vicinity; there is therefore only one dwellinghouse on the settlement, in which two persons reside. In three cases the improvements effected are short of actual statutory requirements; the total value required is £2,357 16s., and the value effected £2,239. There are 1,795 sheep, 1 cow, and 20 horses on the settlement. 409 acres was in grain-crop last season; 287 acres in root or green crops; 711 acres in fallow, native grass, gardens, and plantations; and the balance in cultivated grasses. Owing to the dry season and the light quality of the land the harvest was poor, but the lambing average was good.

Roimata Settlement (at Woolston, a Suburb of Christchurch).—Established August, 1895. Area purchased, 48 acres 3 roods 27 perches, which is divided into twenty-six holdings varying in area from 1 to 3½ acres, which are occupied for residential and gardening purposes, and are kept in good order. A few of the larger holdings are in pasture, and 13 cows are kept. Number of dwellinghouses, 25; the population is 118 souls; and the value of improvements effected £6,016, against £866 12s. 8d. required. The levelling and channelling of the intersecting street during the past year has had the long-desired effect of effectually draining the settlement, besides improving its general appearance.

Kereta Settlement (near Timaru, Levels County).—Established December, 1895. Area purchased, 105 acres 2 roods 29 perches, on which there are four holders, and three dwellinghouses, with a population of twenty-seven souls. The settlement is used almost exclusively for dairying, the only areas cropped last season being 10 acres in grain, and 6 acres in green and root crops. The stock consists of 93 head of cattle, 12 horses, and 30 pigs. The total value of improvements required is £230 0s. 8d., and the value effected £909 17s. 6d. The conditions are satisfactorily fulfilled in all cases, the holdings are in good order, and the tenants doing well.

Braco Settlement (at Fendalton, a Suburb of Christchurch).—Established November, 1895. Area purchased, 27 acres 2 roods 4 perches, divided into fourteen holdings from 1 to 3 acres in size. There are fourteen dwellinghouses, and a population of fifty-six. All but one of the tenants are residing and complying, and most of them have brought their small holdings to a high state of cultivation. The total value of improvements required is £451 18s., and the value effected £2,391.

Epuworth Settlement (close to Temuka, Geraldine County).—Established November, 1895. Area purchased, 21 acres and 3 perches, divided into two sections. There is one dwellinghouse, in which seven souls reside. The value of improvements required is £41 7s. 2d., and the value effected £158 16s. The block forms a convenient small holding, in good order, and the conditions are satisfactorily fulfilled.

Ashley Gorge Settlement (near East Oxford, Selwyn County).—Established December, 1895. Area purchased, 1,165 acres 3 roods 6 perches, on which there are established ten leaseholders in perpetuity, and two blocks form homestead-sites for the holders of small-grazing-run leases of 2,812 acres of adjoining pastoral country. Including the latter, there are twelve dwellinghouses, with a population of fifty-

one souls. The stock carried on the whole area includes 2,680 sheep; 250 head of cattle, principally dairy-cows; and 35 horses. The settlers use their holdings chiefly for dairying purposes, and very little cropping is done. The area in crop last season included 83 acres of grain, and 51 acres of root and green crops; 630 acres was in cultivated grasses, and the balance in native pasture. The total value of improvements required is £1,893 7s. 4d., and the value effected £4,707. All the lessees are complying satisfactorily, and are doing fairly well, though some of them find the areas small for the maintenance of themselves and their families.

Orakipaoa Settlement (near Temuka, Geraldine County).—Established June, 1896. Area purchased, 384 acres and 31 perches. There are twenty-seven holders in the settlement, twenty dwellinghouses have been erected, and the resident population is ninety-five. The stock includes 143 cattle, 37 horses, and 52 pigs; 127 acres was in grain-crop last season, 53 acres in green and root crops, and 190 acres in cultivated grasses. The total value of improvements required is £1,492 7s. 4d., and the value effected £2,338 19s. There are a few cases of deficiency in value of improvements effected, due to the fact that some of the lessees reside by permission on original selections in the neighbouring Arowhenua Village Settlement, and therefore have no buildings on their holdings at Orakipaoa. The crops have been light, and feed has suffered from the dry season, but the tenants appear contented, as the settlement is well situated in a farming district where employment is generally obtainable.

Highbank Settlement (near Methven, Ashburton County).—Established June, 1896. Area purchased, 9,121 acres 3 roods 8 perches. The number of sections occupied is seventy-five, and the number of dwellinghouses fifty-seven; the population is 235; and the stock comprises 10,191 sheep, 201 cattle, 288 horses, and 150 pigs. Last season there was 2,857 acres under white crop, and 756 acres under root and green crops; 235 acres was occupied by plantations, gardens, &c.; and the balance is in cultivated grasses. The value of improvements required is £13,902 14s., and the value effected £19,352 14s. 1d. With two minor exceptions, the conditions of the leases are being satisfactorily fulfilled. The Ranger reports that the settlement is in a very prosperous condition, most of the tenants have comfortable homesteads, the buildings and other improvements are kept in good order, and the holdings well cultivated; crops generally have yielded good results, and recent rains have brought on winter feed. A number of leases in the settlement have changed hands lately at prices that should be satisfactory to the outgoing tenants.

Otarakaro Settlement (at Fendalton, a Suburb of Christchurch).—Established March, 1897. Area purchased, 39 acres 3 roods 9 perches, which is occupied by seven tenants in areas varying from 5 to 7 acres. There are seven dwellinghouses, inhabited by twenty-five souls; the total value of improvements required is £202, and the value effected £1,650. 28 acres of the land is in pasture, on which thirteen cows are kept; 8 acres is in orchards, and 4 acres in gardens.

Wharenui Hamlet (at Riccarton, a Suburb of Christchurch).—Established March, 1897, being the first workmen's homes settlement in the district. Area purchased, 73 acres 1 rood 10 perches, divided into twenty-six holdings. There are twenty-six dwellinghouses, and the population is 121 souls. The total value of improvements required is £810 1s., and the value effected £5,859. All the lessees are residing and complying. About 20 acres is in orchards and gardens, most of which is in capital order; 6½ acres was in crops of potatoes, peas, &c., and the remainder in pasture, on which 15 cows and 8 horses graze.

Rakitairi Settlement (between Temuka and Hilton, Geraldine County).—Established March, 1897. Area purchased, 3,526 acres 1 rood 26 perches. Number of sections occupied, 22; dwellinghouses, 18; and souls resident, 81. The stock on the settlement consists of 3,885 sheep, 102 cattle, and 129 horses. Grain-crops were sown last season on 964 acres, and green and root crops on 401 acres; 1,935 acres is in cultivated grasses, and 221 acres in tussock, &c. The grain-harvest was light, owing to the dry season, though the quality of the grain was good; the turnip and rape crops are also badly blighted, so that a shortage of winter feed is probable. The settlement, however, is a successful and prosperous one. The value of improvements required is £4,915 2s. 3d., and the value of those effected is £6,773 19s. 6d.

Waiapi Settlement (near Temuka, Geraldine County).—Established March, 1897. Area purchased, 1,124 acres 2 roods 36 perches. Number of sections occupied, 15; dwellinghouses, 14; population of the settlement, 66. The stock includes 898 sheep, 154 head of cattle, and 67 horses. The area cultivated last season comprised 359 acres in grain-crop, and 130 acres in green and root crops; 589 acres are in cultivated grasses, and 46 acres in gardens, plantations, &c. All of the lessees are residing and complying satisfactorily, and the value of improvements effected is £4,015 3s. 1d., against £1,821 6s. 9d. required. The tenants practice dairying and mixed farming; crops have been light on account of the dry season, but feed is now plentiful, and the holders appear comfortable and contented. More attention might with advantage be paid by the occupiers of small sections to the planting of orchards.

Horsley Down Settlement (near Hawarden, Ashley County).—Established June, 1897. Area purchased, 3,982 acres 3 roods 35 perches. The number of selectors is twenty-six, and the total population ninety-eight, residing in twenty-four dwellinghouses. The number of sheep held by the settlers is 4,826, from which a good lambing, averaging over 100 per cent., was obtained; there are also 134 head of cattle, 119 horses, and 42 pigs. The crops last season included 650 acres in grain, and 300 acres in root or green crops; 335 acres was in fallow, native pasture, plantations, &c., and the balance of the settlement was in cultivated grasses. Owing to the dry season, the crops did not turn out well. The value of improvements required is £4,770 3s. 10d., and value effected £12,633 3s. 3d. All the settlers have complied satisfactorily with the conditions of their leases, and appear to be doing well.

Albury Settlement (at Albury, Mackenzie County).—Established April, 1897. The area purchased was 19,539 acres 1 rood 24 perches, to which was added a block of 5,457 acres of adjoining pastoral Crown land, the total number of holdings being seventy-five. Sixty dwellinghouses have been erected, and the resident population is 327 souls. The whole area carries 23,820 sheep, 605 head of cattle, 455

horses, and 200 pigs, besides the area under cultivation, which last season included 2,501 acres of grain-crop, and 1,526 acres of root or green crops; 8,791 acres is laid down in cultivated grasses, and 12,037 acres in native pasture, &c. The total value of improvements required is £18,793, and the value effected is £26,770 7s. 10d. There are three cases in which the improvements are not yet up to the required amount, but this will be remedied before long. The settlement as a whole is making steady progress, improvements are increasing, and the tenants appear to be doing well. Crops generally have been light, but stock have done well. Many of the settlers supply milk to the local creamery.

Marawiti Settlement (between Rakaia and Methven, Ashburton County).—Established May, 1897. Area purchased, 2,028 acres 2 roods 33 perches. Thirteen sections are occupied, on which seventy-one souls reside in twelve dwellinghouses. The stock on the settlement consists of 1,465 sheep, 67 cattle, 56 horses, and 25 pigs. Grain-crops were sown last season in 606 acres, and green or root crops in 178 acres; plantations, gardens, &c., occupied 180 acres, and the remainder is in cultivated grasses. The value of improvements required is £3,089 5s. 7d., and value effected £4,585 8s. 6d. The settlement has suffered somewhat from the dry season, and some damage was done by a fire which traversed part of the area, but on the whole crops have been fair, and the tenants are doing well. In one case there is a lack of satisfactory compliance, but generally the conditions of the leases are well fulfilled.

Hekeao Settlement (near Mount Somers, Ashburton County).—Established March, 1898. Area purchased, 2,254 acres 2 roods 11 perches. The number of sections occupied is fifteen, thirteen of which have dwellinghouses erected on them, the other two being occupied as extended areas by adjoining tenants. The population numbers thirty-three, and there are 2,335 sheep, 32 cattle, 50 horses, and 20 pigs. The value of improvements required is £3,113 13s. 7d., and the value effected £5,311 13s. 6d. There is a slight deficiency in value of improvements in one case, but otherwise all the conditions of the leases are being satisfactorily fulfilled, and the holdings are maintained in good order. The area cultivated last season comprised 421 acres of grain-crop, and 399 acres of green or root crops; 133 acres is occupied by plantations, gardens, &c., and the remainder is in cultivated grasses. Crops and pasture have generally done well, and the settlement appears to be in a prosperous condition.

Pawaho Hamlet (Workmen's Homes, at Heathcote Valley, between Christchurch and Lyttelton).—Established April, 1838. Area purchased, 52 acres and 18 perches. There are twenty-five allotments, a similar number of dwellinghouses, and the population is ninety souls. The total value of improvements required is £797 6s. 9d., and the value effected £3,944. The land is for the most part well cultivated, and seemingly suitable for fruit-growing, but there is difficulty in draining some of the allotments.

Waikakahi Settlement (between the Waihao and Waitaki Rivers, Waimate County).—Established March, 1899. Area purchased, 48,262 acres 2 roods 34 perches. Number of holders, 139 rural lease in perpetuity; fourteen small grazing-runs; and thirty-three lease in perpetuity in the Township of Morven. The number of dwellinghouses erected on these 186 holdings is 160, and the resident population is 781 souls. The area in crop last season included 8,327 acres in grain-crops and 3,967 acres in green and root crops; 32,733 acres is laid down in cultivated grasses, and 3,069 acres in native pasture, plantations, gardens, &c. The estate carries 54,119 sheep, 1,929 head of cattle, 1,049 horses, and 250 pigs. The total value of improvements required is £59,338 10s. 9d., and the value effected £86,047 4s. The Ranger's report shows that the settlement is making great progress; the homesteads are nearly all good, and the tenants are adding considerably to their improvements, the increase for the year being estimated at nearly £8,500. Morven Township is quite a busy centre, and the value of the stores and other buildings in the township alone exceeds £5,000. Owing to the dry season, the crops were light, and feed was very scarce; but the pastures have made a good recovery, and at present are looking well. The tenants are all in good circumstances, and, as a whole, are a fine body of farmers, and proud of the success of the settlement.

Tamai Hamlet (Workmen's Homes, at Woolston, a Suburb of Christchurch).—Established June, 1899. Area purchased, 41 acres and 28 perches. The number of sections occupied is forty, and there are forty dwellings, with a population of 155 souls. The total value of improvements required is £1,200, and the value effected £6,631. Some of the allotments require more drainage, and there is difficulty in finding fall for the water. The fences are in many cases not up to legal requirements. About half of the tenants have gardens, and more land would be cultivated but for the difficulty of drainage.

Takitu Settlement (between Glenavy and Hakataramea, Waimate County).—Established March, 1900. Area purchased, 9,713 acres and 37 perches. This settlement consists of five small grazing-runs, and the resident population is twenty-four souls in five dwellinghouses. Practically no cropping is done, the areas last season being 132 acres in grain-crop, and 145 acres in green or root crops; 8,655 acres is laid down in cultivated grasses, and the balance—about 742 acres—is in native pasture. The stock depasturing on the settlement consists of 7,450 sheep, 102 head of cattle, and 30 horses. The total value of improvements required is £4,288 4s. 4d., and the value of improvements effected £6,962 16s. 3d. The conditions of the leases are well fulfilled and very substantial improvements have been effected, and the tenants appear to be in a very prosperous condition.

Pareora No. 2 Settlement (near St. Andrew's, Waimate County).—Established March, 1900. Area purchased, 8,132 acres and 31 perches. The number of sections occupied is thirty-two, all of which have dwellinghouses erected on them. The number of souls in residence on the settlement is 188; and the stock comprises 9,672 sheep, 318 cattle, 253 horses, and 140 pigs. The value of improvements required is £13,328 18s. 9d., and the value effected is £17,879 7s. 6d., additional improvements to a value of about £2,000 having been effected during the year. The conditions of the leases as to residence and improvements are satisfactorily fulfilled in all cases. Grain-crops were sown last season in 2,145 acres, and root or green crops in 824 acres; 363 acres was occupied by plantations, gardens, &c., and the remainder of the settlement was in cultivated grasses. This settlement has not suffered much from the dry season, and the crop-yields have in most cases been good, although in some cases new grass has failed and will have to be resown. About twenty of the tenants supply milk to the local creamery.

Rautauiri Settlement (between Temuka and Winchester, Geraldine County).—Established April, 1900. Area purchased, 113 acres and 7 perches. There are six holders, each of whom has built, and is residing and complying, the number of souls being twenty. The area in crop last season was 45 acres in grain-crop, and 28 acres in root or green crops, and 36 acres has been laid down in cultivated grasses. The stock included 21 head of cattle, 13 horses, and 30 pigs. The total value of improvements required is £312 7s. 6d., and the value effected £1,171 17s. 6d. The crops have suffered this year with the dry season, as in previous years from foulness of the land; but the holdings have been put into good order, and the lessees appear comfortable, the sections, though small, being very conveniently situated.

Papaka Settlement (between Timaru and Pleasant Point, Levels County).—Established April, 1900. Area purchased, 1,561 acres 2 roods 25 perches. Number of sections occupied, 9; number of dwelling-houses, 9; resident population, 42. The stock carried on the settlement consists of 1,778 sheep, 55 head of cattle, 50 horses, and 50 pigs. The area cultivated last season included 595 acres in grain-crop, and 65 acres in green and root crops; 744 acres have been laid down in cultivated grasses, and the balance—150 acres—in native pasture, &c. The total value of improvements required is £2,904 18s. 5d., and the value effected £3,925. The settlement is making good progress, and is in a very satisfactory condition. Crops have been only fair, but pastures have recovered since the late rains, and all the holdings are in good order.

Punaroa Settlement (near Fairlie, Mackenzie County).—Established April, 1900. Area purchased, 7,029 acres 3 roods 5 perches. There are sixteen leaseholders in perpetuity, and one small-grazing-run holder, all of whom have erected dwellinghouses, and are residing and complying satisfactorily. The population is sixty-four, and the settlement carries 7,653 sheep, 194 head of cattle, 99 horses, and 79 pigs. Not very much cropping is done, the area of grain-crop last season being only 277 acres, from which fair yields were obtained; 622 acres was in green or root crops, 3,734 acres in cultivated grasses, and 2,388 acres in native pasture, gardens, &c. The total value of improvements required is £6,342 13s. 9d., and value effected £8,890 11s. 10d. The Ranger's report states that the settlement is making good and substantial progress, and the tenants are all doing well; the smaller holders supply milk to the local creamery, and generally the settlement is a very useful and prosperous one.

Lyndon No. 1 Settlement (near Wāiau, Amuri County).—Established March, 1901. Area purchased, 4,243 acres 3 roods 28 perches. The number of selectors is eight, all of whom have erected dwellinghouses, and are residing, the only case of incomplete compliance being one of deficiency in value of improvements effected. The population is 51, and the stock on the settlement consists of 4,320 sheep, 33 head of cattle, and 58 horses. The lambing percentage was good, but the oat-crops, owing to the dry spring, were poor. The area under crop included 317 acres in oats, and 322 acres in green and root crops; 2,150 acres is laid down in cultivated grasses, and the balance is in native grasses, fallow, and a small area in plantations. The total value of improvements required is £4,803 5s. 3d., and the value effected £7,709 19s. 4d. The tenants generally are doing well, but experience some difficulty from the long distance that their fat lambs have to be driven to a market.

Kohika Settlement (near Otaio, Waimate County).—Established May, 1901. Area purchased, 3,864 acres 1 rood 10 perches. Number of sections occupied, 15. There are fifteen dwellinghouses, and the population of the settlement numbers fifty-seven. The stock carried includes 4,573 sheep, 154 cattle, and 116 horses. All the tenants are at present residing and complying satisfactorily, although additional improvements to a considerable extent will be needed in some cases to satisfy the requirements for the sixth year, which will terminate shortly; the value now required is £1,446 18s. 6d., and value effected £5,746 4s. 3d. Grain-crops have been sown in 968 acres, and green or root crops in 300 acres; plantations, gardens, &c., occupy 67 acres, and the balance of the area is in cultivated grasses. The harvest-yields have been fairly good, and the tenants are doing good work in cleaning their lands. The majority of them supply milk to local creameries, and the settlement appears to be in a prosperous condition.

Tarawahi Hamlet (Workmen's Homes, at Sydenham, a Suburb of Christchurch).—Established June, 1901. Area purchased, 31 acres 3 roods. There are twenty-four holdings, on each of which a dwellinghouse has been built, and ninety-four souls are residing in the hamlet. The total value of improvements required is £720, and the value effected £5,193; nearly all the holdings have gardens in good cultivation, and there are eight large greenhouses for tomato-growing. A few of the tenants keep a cow each, and all are making the most of their holdings. The general condition of the hamlet is satisfactory, and some of the houses give evidence of artistic taste and industry.

Raincliff Settlement (near Fairlie, Geraldine County).—Established June, 1901. Area purchased, 745 acres 2 roods, of which 206 acres 3 roods was in plantation, now constituted a State forest. The balance is occupied as one holding, on which three souls reside. There are 600 sheep, 18 cattle, and 9 horses; 20 acres has been in grain-crops, 10 acres in root and green crops, and 450 acres in cultivated grasses. The value of improvements required is £85 3s. 10d., and value effected £521 1s. 1d. The holding is in good order, and the conditions satisfactorily fulfilled.

Puhuka Hamlet (at Washdyke, Levels County, close to Timaru).—Workmen's homes hamlet, established July, 1901. Area purchased, 39 acres 2 roods 7 perches. There are ten holders, all of whom have erected dwellinghouses, and are residing and complying satisfactorily. The population numbers thirty-four souls. The total value of improvements required is £270, and the value effected is £1,740 5s. 11d. This is a very useful settlement, and is making good progress, and the Ranger notes that there is a demand in the locality for suitable holdings of not less than 5 acres each.

Kaimahi Settlement (at Papanui, a Suburb of Christchurch).—Established October, 1901. Area purchased, 100 acres 2 roods 1 perch, divided into allotments of from 5 to 10 acres in extent, suitable for market-gardens or fowl-farms. There are eleven resident holders, and a total population of forty souls. The Riccarton Road Board has 4 acres for a gravel-pit, and the Agricultural Department has possession of 10 acres for the purpose of eradicating the growth of Californian thistle. This land was

in barley in the spring, and the crop was subsequently ploughed in, the area being now in clover. Of the 86 acres occupied by resident tenants, 56 acres has been in pasture, 5 acres in oats, 13 acres in potatoes, and the rest in gardens. Most of the holdings are in a high state of cultivation, but twitch is very troublesome, and Californian thistle comes up repeatedly on some of the land. The number of stock on the settlement is 24 head of cattle and 7 horses. The total value of improvements required is £252 9s. 2d., and the value effected £2,579.

Kapuatohe Hamlet (Workmen's Homes at Belfast, near Christchurch).—Established October, 1901. Area purchased, 49 acres 3 roods 37 perches. One section is held by the Road Board for a gravel-pit; ten other allotments are occupied, and three small sections of half an acre each remain unselected. There are ten dwellings, nine of which are inhabited by twenty souls, and one tenant does not reside. The total value of improvements required is £271, and the value effected is £1,188 10s. The lessees own 11 head of cattle, 4 horses, 10 pigs; 4 acres of the land is in gardens, 8 acres is cultivated for oats and potatoes, and the rest is in pasture. Some of the tenants complain that the land they occupy is not good, and is unfitted for gardens. Certainly some of the sections are unsuited for market-gardens, but they afford sites for good homes for those engaged in the industries in the neighbourhood of Belfast.

Rapuwai Settlement (near Pleasant Point, Geraldine County).—Established December, 1901. Area purchased, 2,247 acres 2 roods 11 perches. Number of sections occupied, 5; number of dwellinghouses, 5; population, 21. The area in crop last season consisted of 200 acres of grain-crops, and 256 acres of green and root crops; 1,616 acres was in cultivated grasses, and the balance in native pasture, &c. The stock numbered 2,468 sheep, 32 head of cattle, and 47 horses. The value of improvements required is £472 5s., and effected £2,311 13s. 7d. The tenants are all residing and complying satisfactorily, and keeping their holdings in good order, while making excellent work of the eradication of gorse, which had spread badly in parts prior to their occupation.

Lyndon No. 2 Settlement (near Waiau, Amuri County).—Established April, 1902. Area purchased, 15,887 acres, which is divided into three small grazing-runs and six leaseholds in perpetuity. Eight out of the nine selectors have erected dwellinghouses, and are residing and complying satisfactorily; the other one has only held about six months. The population is twenty-nine souls. The stock numbers 7,990 sheep, 16 head of cattle, 48 horses, and 3 pigs. The area cropped last season consisted of 353 acres in oats, and 378 acres in root and green crops; 2,873 acres has been sown with cultivated grasses, and the balance is in native pasture. The value of improvements required is £2,976 9s. 6d., and value effected £7,973 9s. 3d. The lambing percentage was fairly high, and the tenants are making good progress, though hampered somewhat by the distance from a market for their fat stock.

Maytown Settlement (close to Waimate, Waimate County).—Established April, 1902. Area purchased, 391 acres 3 roods 32 perches. The number of holders is eleven, and the population sixty-one souls, residing in eleven houses. The area cultivated last season comprised 123 acres in grain-crop, 30 acres in root and green crops, and 206 acres in cultivated grasses. The stock included 121 head of cattle, 27 horses, and 40 pigs. The total value of improvements required is £282 11s., and the value effected £1,689 13s. 11d. The Ranger's report shows the tenants to be in a comfortable position. Crops have been light on account of the dry season, but the settlers supply milk to the creamery, and keep their holdings in good order.

Eccleston Settlement (near Otaio, Waimate County).—Established May, 1902. Area purchased, 1,246 acres 1 rood 5 perches. The number of sections occupied is four, on which fifteen souls reside in four houses. The stock comprise 1,370 sheep, 31 cattle, and 24 horses. 401 acres was in grain-crop last season, and 56 acres in green or root crops, all of which yielded fairly good results. The value of improvements required is £496 4s. 10d., and value effected £2,874 7s. 8d. All the tenants are complying satisfactorily, and appear to be doing well.

Meud Settlement (on the North Side of the Rakaia River, near the Railway, Selwyn County).—The area purchased was 5,914 acres 3 roods 17 perches, and the settlement was established in January, 1903. The number of sections occupied is twenty-one, on nineteen of which dwellinghouses are erected, the tenants of the other two residing upon former adjacent selections. The population is fifty-six, and the stock carried includes 4,640 sheep, 40 cattle, 72 horses, and 15 pigs. Grain-crops were sown last season in 580 acres, and green or root crops in 715 acres; 232 acres was in plantations, gardens, &c., and the balance in cultivated grasses. The value of improvements required is £933 15s. 8d., and the value effected £5,919 11s. Notwithstanding the dry season, the crops have turned out fairly satisfactorily, and the tenants appear to be doing well.

Chamberlain Settlement (near Albury, Mackenzie County).—Established March, 1903. Area acquired, 10,500 acres 1 rood 9 perches, to which has been added a block of 9,523 acres of adjoining pastoral Crown land. Including this, the number of permanent tenants is twenty, and there is one resident holder of a twenty-one years' lease of a section which covers the coal-mine on the property. Twenty-one dwellinghouses have been erected, and 104 souls reside on the settlement. The stock consists of 15,394 sheep, 182 cattle, 143 horses, and 60 pigs. The area in grain-crops last season was 1,056 acres, the harvest from which was generally light; 992 acres was in root or green crops; 6,453 acres is sown in cultivated grasses; and the balance—about 11,510 acres—is in native pasture, &c. The value of improvements required is £3,064 4s. 2d., and value effected £11,140 16s. 10d., a substantial addition having been made during the past year. All the tenants are complying satisfactorily, and appear to be doing well. There is room for improvement in the matter of planting fruit and shelter trees.

Annan Settlement (near Waiau, Amuri County).—Established June, 1903. Area purchased, 32,858 acres 2 roods 33 perches. Number of holders, 39; dwellinghouses, 37; and the total population of the estate is 165 souls. The stock carried consists of 27,135 sheep, 349 head of cattle, 185 horses, and 33 pigs. 725 acres was in grain-crop last season; 980 acres in root and green crops; 8,027 acres is in cultivated grasses; and the balance is native pasture, a portion of which has also been surface-sown

with English grasses. The value of improvements required is £8,217 4s. 2d., and the total value effected is £23,692 10s. 1d. Two township allotments have only recently been selected, and all the other holders, with one minor exception, are residing and complying satisfactorily. This settlement has not suffered from the dry season so much as other portions of the district, and the tenants, with the help of a good lambing, appear to be prospering.

Rosewill Settlement (between Timaru and Albury; Levels and Mackenzie Counties).—Established March, 1904. Area purchased, 38,683 acres 2 roods 15 perches. The number of holders is 154, including two small grazing-runs, the balance being rural and village leases in perpetuity. The number of dwellinghouses erected is 145, and the resident population numbers 569 souls. The stock carried on the estate includes 34,827 sheep, 878 head of cattle, 730 horses, and 300 pigs. The area cropped last season comprised 7,138 acres in white crops, and 3,450 acres in green and root crops; 21,406 acres was laid down in cultivated grasses; and the balance—6,310 acres—was in native pasture, plantations, &c. The total value of improvements required is £13,957 7s., and the value of those effected £52,391 16s. 11d. Excellent progress has been made during the year on this settlement, the increase in value of permanent improvements totalling nearly £7,000, in addition to the improvement effected by working and cleaning the land. The holdings are all in good order, and the conditions of the leases well fulfilled. The tenants are a hardworking, practical body of men, and appear to be doing well.

Morice Settlement (near Little River, Akaroa County).—Established December, 1905. Area purchased, 2,253 acres 2 roods 26 perches. The number of sections occupied is twenty-nine, on twenty-five of which houses are erected, nineteen of these having been newly built since the settlement was established. The population numbers eighty-three, and the stock consists of 580 sheep, 656 cattle (nearly half of which are dairy-cows), and 34 horses. There is practically no cropping done, the sections being used principally for dairying; cocksfoot-grass seed was cut off about 777 acres, and yielded an average of about 2½ sacks per acre, the seed being of excellent quality. The value of improvements required is £1,050 5s. 9d., and value effected £5,367 1s. 3d., including fourteen miles and three-quarters of new substantial fences. All but four of the tenants (who have not yet erected permanent dwellinghouses) have fulfilled the requirements of their leases satisfactorily.

Kinloch Settlement (near Little River, Akaroa County).—Established March, 1906. Area purchased, 13,033 acres 1 rood 5 perches. The number of selectors is thirty, and the total population seventy-one. The stock carried includes 17,130 sheep, 916 head of cattle, and 70 horses, and in most cases a very good percentage of lambs was obtained. No cropping has been done, but cocksfoot-grass seed was harvested off about 150 acres. There are eighteen dwellinghouses on the settlement, nine of these having been erected since selection. Most of the other tenants are camped on the ground, and some are waiting for the completion of the roads to enable them to get building-material on to the sites selected for their homesteads. About thirty-five miles and a half of substantial fencing has been erected at considerable cost, a seven-wire fence with hardwood posts and iron standards costing from 18s. to £1 per chain. In six cases the lessees have not yet been in possession for twelve months, and, taking into consideration the difficulties of access, excellent progress has been made in improvements. The total value of improvements required is £2,547 5s. 10d., and the value effected £6,535 11s. 2d.

Mills Settlement (near Waimate, Waimate County).—Established March, 1906. Area purchased 882 acres 2 roods 30 perches. The number of selectors is twenty-one, the population is seventy, and the stock consist of 190 sheep, 235 cattle, and 51 horses. Fifteen dwellinghouses are erected, and one tenant is residing in a tent pending the erection of his house. In the other five cases the residence conditions are not being fulfilled, and four of these are also in default as to value of improvements. The necessary action is being taken in all these cases. The total value of improvements required is £414 3s. 9d., and the value of these effected is £2,713 1s. 6d. The area cropped last season included 224 acres in grain and 77 acres in root or green crops, the harvest from all being light; 36 acres is in plantations, gardens, &c., and the balance in pasture. Thirteen tenants are using their sections for dairying purposes, and supplying milk to the local creameries. On the whole, good progress has been made, and the settlement will prove a useful one, supplying a necessary class of small holding for the district.

Homestead-sites and Low-lying Lands for Adjacent Pastoral Lands, &c.—There are ten of these blocks, with a total area of 1,224 acres and 21 perches. Four of them are residentially occupied, and carry a population of nine souls. The value of improvements required is £368 8s. 3d., and the value effected is £1,801 11s.

ERIC C. GOLD SMITH,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

OTAGO.

The main feature of land-for-settlement transactions during the year has been the disposal of the allotments in the new Settlements of Steward, Plunket (Corriedale), and Totara, which were opened on the 9th April 1906, 5th February 1907, and 25th March 1907, respectively. The details in respect of these will appear in their chronological order. There was one forfeiture in the Greenfield Settlement, for non-residence, &c., the allotment being at once taken up again when reopened for selection. The lease of the lime-works at Makareao has been forfeited for non-compliance with conditions, and tenders for a fresh lease are about to be called for. The receipts for the year exceeded the estimate by £565

1s. 1d. A new settlement, named "Kurow Settlement," formerly known as "Logan's Farm," with selection area of 220 acres 3 roods 22 perches in twelve small dairy farms, at a total annual rental of £235 10s., is to be opened on the 21st May, and there are other estates anticipated during the year, as, for instance, the Otekaike Estate, of about 17,800 acres; the Airedale Estate, of about 2,670 acres; and Ashley Downs, of about 3,700 acres.

Pomahaka Downs.—Established February, 1894. Area, 7,478 acres 2 roods 2 perches. Occupied holdings, 24, with an area of 6,340 acres 1 rood 35 perches; annual rental, £913 16s. 2d., inclusive of four temporary licenses over 1,333 acres 2 roods 24 perches at £32 19s. per annum. There is an unlet area of 925 acres and 8 perches, of a yearly value of £146 0s. 4d. Receipts for the year, £499 15s. 5d., making the total to date £9,539 14s. 11d.; rebates, £15 3s. 7d., to five selectors; arrears, £817 5s. 7d., owing by twelve selectors, holding 2,815 acres. Total population, 39; houses, 16; sheep, 3,355; cattle, 152; horses, 71; pigs, nil. Area in new grass, 955 acres; in white crops, 831 acres; in green crops, 848 acres; native grasses, &c., 430 acres. Value of improvements, £6,567. The settlers on this settlement are still hopeful of some concession being made in regard to the capital value of the land. The Ranger reports, "The past year has proved a fairly good one for the settlers on Pomahaka. They all adopt mixed farming, and each keeps a flock of sheep. Good percentages of lambs have been obtained and a good price for wool. The grain-crops have been light, but there will be some very fair root-crops. The settlers have made more than ordinary progress during the year, and they have complied well with the conditions of their leases."

Teaneraki.—Established February, 1894. Area, 351 acres and 39 perches. There are twenty-three holdings over an aggregate area of 344 acres 1 rood 30 perches, at an annual rental of £281 9s. 6d. Receipts, £258 17s. 7d., making total to date £3,352 12s. 4d.; rebates, £22 7s. 11d., to twenty lessees; arrears, £13 3s., by three selectors, holding 45 acres. Total population, 81; houses, 17; sheep, nil; cattle, 168; horses, 39; pigs, 41. Area in new grass, 40 acres; in white crop, 57 acres; in green crop, 53 acres; native grass, &c., nil. Value of improvements, £2,064. The Ranger reports, "This small settlement continues to hold its own, although the dry season affected it somewhat seriously. The greater number of the settlers find employment outside while their families work the land for dairying purposes. The stock went off very much in condition, and a number were sold at low prices; but, since the weather broke, the root-crops as well as the grass have improved, and stock will now pull through the winter."

Tahawai.—Established August, 1895. Area, 70 acres 1 rood 35 perches, there being eight holdings over an area of 68 acres 2 roods 14 perches, at £35 14s. 4d. yearly. Year's receipts, £33 16s. 6d.; total to date, £396 13s. 4d.; rebates, £1 10s. 8d., to seven tenants; arrears, nil. Population, 38; houses, 8; sheep, nil; cattle, 48; horses, 12; pigs, 23. Area in new grass, 5 acres; in white crop, 8 acres; in green crop, 15 acres; in native grass, &c., nil. Value of improvements effected, £1,468. The Ranger states, "This little settlement is still in the same prosperous condition as in former years. The settlers are all doing well, owing principally to the water-supply from the race running through the settlement, which enables the settlers to irrigate their holdings. I would again suggest that the Government should acquire the right to this water for the benefit of the settlement."

Maerewhenua.—Established September, 1895. Area, 11,163 acres 3 roods 31 perches. There are seventy-three holdings over an aggregate area of 10,922 acres 2 roods 29 perches, at an annual rental of £3,552 2s. 2d., including 12 acres 1 rood 1 perch under three miscellaneous licenses at £1 18s. per annum. There is also an unlet area of 3 acres, of the annual value of 15s. Receipts, £3,249 4s. 9d., making the total to date £39,220 12s. 4d.; rebates, £345 11s. 3d., to sixty-six tenants; arrears, 19s., by one tenant, holding 8 acres 1 rood 35 perches. Total population, 241; houses, 55; sheep, 6,906; cattle, 611; horses, 251; pigs, 132. Area in new grass, 668 acres; in white crop, 2,350 acres; in green crop, 859 acres; in native grass, &c., nil. Value of improvements, £21,828. The following is the Ranger's report: "This settlement is in a very prosperous condition, the settlers nearly all doing well, although in common with all the farmers in north Otago they have suffered from the continued drought through the summer months. The grain-crops were almost a total failure. Many of them were eaten off, and what were harvested barely paid expenses. The grass disappeared, and the land was so bare that it was difficult to say whether it was pasture or ploughed land. Dairying suffered in consequence, the milk-supply being so much reduced that the closing of the creameries was seriously contemplated. Matters were made worse from the fact that settlers could not get the lambs away to the freezer, and consequently had to be held with the ewes on the already short supply of food or sacrificed in a falling market. Since the break in the weather, however, things have a much brighter appearance, and the root-crops have come away well, and in most cases will furnish food-supply for the winter."

Puketapu.—Established March, 1896. Area, 509 acres and 6 perches, there being eleven holdings over an area of 496 acres and 36 perches, at an annual rental of £189 0s. 10d. Receipts, £170 3s. 2d., making the total to date £1,955 9s. 11d.; rebates, £18 17s. 8d., to eleven lessees; arrears, nil. Total population, 37; houses, 7; sheep, nil; cattle, 104; horses, 24; pigs, 24. Area in new grass, nil; in white crops, 67 acres; in green crop, 46 acres; in native grass, &c., nil. Value of improvements, £1,552. The Ranger reports, "The settlers on this estate are doing fairly well, considering the very dry season experienced. They work the land for dairying, very little grain being grown except for home consumption. The cows had a very hard time, and many had to be sacrificed to prevent them from dying of starvation, and all calves were destroyed, as there was no milk for them."

Ardgowan.—Established May, 1896. Area, 4,267 acres 3 roods 28 perches, there being sixty-six holdings over an aggregate area of 4,170 acres 1 rood 33 perches, at an annual rental of £1,897 5s. 4d., including two miscellaneous licenses over 11 acres and 29 perches at £5 11s. 6d. yearly. Receipts, £1,864 0s. 10d., making the total to date £20,382 1s. 9d.; rebates, £84 8s., to fifty-five lessees; arrears, £50 4s. 8d., owing by five selectors, holding 176 acres. Total population, 232; houses, 48; sheep, 1,210;

cattle, 997; horses, 186; pigs, 144. Area in new grass, 344 acres; in white crop, 786 acres; in green crop, 256 acres; in native grass, &c., 220 acres. Value of improvements, £12,837. The Ranger reports with regard to this settlement as follows: "The settlers are in much the same condition as those in other settlements. Crops were almost a total failure as a consequence of the drought, and the grass was burnt up. The settlers are chiefly dependent on the creamery, and the failure of the milk-supply was a great loss to them. All the cows became very poor and had to be sold off for what they would bring to prevent them from starving. The root-crops, although receiving a great set-back, recovered a good deal after the rain, and the stock will now winter much better than was anticipated."

Makareao and Makareao Extension.—Established, the former in June, 1896, the latter in April, 1897. Total area acquired, 4,972 acres 2 roods 16 perches, there being in all thirty-three holdings over an aggregate area of 4,714 acres 1 rood 21 perches, at an annual rental of £669 3s., including three miscellaneous licenses over 60 acres and 33 perches at £9 5s. 6d. yearly. Receipts £640 9s., from inception £9,250 11s. 10d.; rebates, £70 2s. 5d., to thirty selectors; arrears, nil. Total population, 86; houses, 19; sheep, 2,760; cattle, 619; horses, 75; pigs, 54. Area in new grass, 55 acres; in white crop, 326 acres; in green crop, 206 acres; in native grass, &c., 2,962 acres. Value of improvements, £6,079. The Ranger reports, "This estate is in much the same position as it was last year. The drought experienced had its effect on the grass and stock; so much so that stock had to be considerably reduced. The dairy industry also suffered, the shortage of milk having materially reduced the monthly cheques from the factory. There were, however, some good crops, several returns being from 30 to 40 bushels per acre. Very few fat lambs were got away, on account of the drought, the consequence being that farmers had to sacrifice either their lambs or their ewes."

Momona.—Established May, 1897. Area, 224 acres 1 rood 16 perches. Holdings, 14, with an area of 219 acres 1 rood 16 perches, at £185 1s. 2d. per annum. Receipts, £170 0s. 5d., making total to date £1,970 12s. 2d.; rebates, £5 18s. 5d., to ten selectors; arrears, £37 8s. 11d., owing by four lessees, holding 85 acres. Total population, 54; houses, 14; cattle, 190; horses, 23; pigs, 51. Area in new grass, 8 acres; in white crop, 22 acres; in green crop, 39 acres; in native grass, &c., nil. Value of improvements, £2,248 12s. 6d. The settlers on this settlement are still suffering somewhat from the trouble that arose in the matter of the drainage, which has not even yet been finally settled. The Ranger reports as follows: "Good progress has been made on Momona this year. After the continued wet of last year, followed by very dry weather during the spring, the ground became very hard and difficult to work. Cultivation was therefore much more backward than usual. The early parts of the spring and summer were exceedingly dry, but the grass did fairly well. The growth was checked somewhat about January and February by the continued drought, but a few showers late in February helped things very much, and, the frost keeping off so far, the grass is still growing. Momona is purely a dairying settlement, and the all-round results of the year have been very fair. Given normal years, the prospects of this settlement are excellent. The settlers have no present grievance, except that relating to drainage matters, which may possibly be successfully settled by the proposal to constitute the whole of the Taieri as one drainage-area."

Tokarahi.—Established May, 1897. Area acquired, 11,259 acres 2 roods 36 perches, there being seventy-nine holdings, with an aggregate area of 10,978 acres and 35 perches, at an annual rental of £4,110 18s., inclusive of twenty-seven miscellaneous licenses over an area of 193 acres 3 roods 31 perches at £16 14s. 10d. yearly. Receipts for the year, £4,050 9s. 8d., making the total to date £39,277 5s.; rebates, £356 17s., to forty-five selectors; arrears, £114 13s. 6d., owing by one lessee with an area of 400 acres. Total population, 195; houses, 41; sheep, 5,042; cattle, 648; horses, 286; pigs, 148. Area in new grass, 615 acres; in white crop, 2,381 acres; in green crop, 781 acres; in native grass, &c., 2,185 acres. Value of improvements, £20,684. The Ranger's report is as follows: "The settlers are doing well in spite of the protracted drought experienced during the summer. The grain-crops were almost a failure, and those that were not fed off by stock barely paid harvesting. The weather broke about the middle of February, too late to save the grain-crops, but it very materially helped the turnips, so that stock will not suffer so much as they would otherwise have done. Dairying received a set back here as well as elsewhere, but the good seasons of the past will enable settlers to tide over the effects of the late bad one."

Janefield.—Established September, 1899. Area acquired, 147 acres and 2 perches, there being twenty settlement holdings and one occupied by the Agricultural Department, over a total area of 143 acres 2 roods 37 perches, at an annual rental of £258 6s. 2d. Receipts, £221 9s. 11d., total to date £1,692 9s. 1d.; rebates, £15 19s. 11d., to seventeen tenants; arrears, £18 11s. 4d., owing by three selectors, holding 24 acres. Total population, 89; houses, 19; sheep, nil; cattle, 78; horses, 33; pigs, nil. Area in new grass, nil; in white crop, 15 acres; in green crop, 22 acres; in native grass, &c., 7½ acres. Value of improvements, £3,551. Ranger's report: "This settlement has made solid progress during the past season, which, though dry and unfavourable in many respects, gave the tenants an opportunity of clearing much of the foulness that resulted from the bad farming of the former owner. Much remains yet to be done in the clearing of weeds, but the land is good, the settlers hardworking, and no doubt they will soon bring the land back to a healthy state of cultivation. Janefield has proved of great advantage to the class of tenants who occupy it. They were working-men living in and about Mosgiel, paying rent for cottages on quarter and one-eighth acre sections; now they have their own houses, they can keep their cows and horses, and when out of outside employment they can occupy themselves profitably on their holdings. Doubtless if another such opportunity offered to get small holdings many of the working-people about the Taieri would gladly avail themselves of it."

Elderslie.—Established March, 1900. Area, 11,618 acres 2 roods 4 perches, there being thirty-four holdings over an area of 11,506 acres 3 roods 18 perches, at an annual rental of £4,126 19s. 4d., including eight miscellaneous licenses over 245 acres 2 roods 35 perches at £18 8s. 10d. yearly. Receipts, £3,716 8s. 10d., making the total to date £27,050 2s. 6d.; rebates, £410 16s. 10d., to twenty-six selectors;

arrears, nil. Total population, 79; houses, 24; sheep, 9,137; cattle, 182; horses, 186; pigs, 55. Area in new grass, 705 acres; in white crop, 1,904 acres; in green crop, 559 acres; in native grass, &c., 752 acres. Value of improvements, £13,709. The Ranger reports as follows: "This settlement is in a very healthy condition, and the settlers are doing well, although the effects of the drought are as marked here as anywhere in the district. The land was very bare of feed, and stock were so low in condition that they were on the point of starvation, and the settlers were quite helpless in the matter, being unable to profitably dispose of the stock. The drought was unprecedented in the history of north Otago, and all farmers were alike affected. In former dry seasons it was the practice to send stock south, where feed was generally plentiful; but the southern district was in the same fix as the north, consequently there was no outlet and absolutely no demand. Things were so bad that to save themselves to some extent, as well as to save the sheep from dying of starvation, thousands of the older sheep, and in many cases young sheep and even lambs, were sent to the boiling-down works. Sheep which in January, 1906, would have brought £1 4s. per head were sold in January, 1907, at as low as 2s. 6d. per head, and lambs which in the previous year would have realised 14s. or 15s. were sold at from 3s. to 4s. per head. The grain-crops were largely eaten off, but since the rain came both turnips and grass have revived wonderfully, and will now provide feed enough to carry stock through the winter."

Barnego.—Established May, 1900. Area, 7,078 acres 2 roods 1 perch, there being twenty-three holdings over an area of 7,054 acres and 10 perches, at an annual rental of £1,408 17s., including 19 acres 1 rood 5 perches under miscellaneous license at £1 per annum. Receipts, £1,264 9s., making total to date £8,285 19s. 2d.; rebates, £90 7s. 11d., to seventeen tenants; arrears, £262 1s. 8d., owing by five lessees, holding 2,249 acres. Total population, 65; houses, 18; sheep, 4,065; cattle, 277; horses, 80. Area in new grass, 990 acres; in white crop, 757 acres; in green crop, 646 acres; native grass, &c., 1,145 acres. Value of improvements, £8,891 15s. The Ranger's report is as follows: "The settlers on the lower or flat portion of this settlement are all milk-suppliers, a factory being within easy distance. They have had a very good year, as a dry season suits them much better than a very wet one. In quality and quantity the milk-supply has come up to the best average, and good prices have been maintained. The root-crops, which did not promise well during the early part of the season, came away very well after the middle of February, and from all appearances now the turnips are likely to be a very good crop. The settlers on the hill portion of the settlement have also had a very fair year. They are all more or less sheep-farmers, and the mild early season was very favourable to lambing. High percentages have been obtained, and good prices received for wool. The oat-crops have not yielded well, but the roots, though very backward during the earlier part of the season, promise to do well for the remainder. Generally speaking, Barnego has made satisfactory progress during the year. The settlers have complied very well with the settlement conditions."

Earnscoleugh.—Established December, 1901. Area, 1,269 acres 3 roods 5 perches, there being thirteen holdings over 1,239 acres and 4 perches, at an annual rental of £173 10s. 8d., including three miscellaneous licenses over 17 acres 1 rood 4 perches at £3 7s. 2d. yearly. Receipts, £168 14s., total to date £965 3s. 8d.; rebates, £4 16s. 8d., to eight tenants; arrears, nil. Total population, 50; houses, 8; sheep, nil; cattle, 65; horses, 15; pigs, 12. Area in new grass, nil; in white crop, 2 acres; in native grass, &c., 103 acres. Value of improvements, £2,195 10s. The Ranger reports as follows: "Very steady progress has been made on this settlement during the year. The fruit-trees are doing very well so far, and each year sees an additional area under trees. Progress in fruit-growing settlements does not appear so marked as in ordinary farming settlements, and it is only on very close inspection and comparison with the results of previous years that the actual advance made can be seen. Each selector erected his buildings during the first year or two, so that the number of buildings will not increase to any extent in the future. Any marked improvement, therefore, must be looked for in the increased number of trees planted and their favourable development. So far as they have gone, these settlers have done very well in the direction of planting. They are all working-men, chiefly engaged in the dredging industry, at which they work for eight hours every day, devoting their spare time to their holdings. The grass on the various sections is looking very well, owing no doubt to irrigation, and generally speaking the present position is satisfactory and the prospects decidedly encouraging."

Windsor Park.—Established May, 1902. Area, 3,821 acres 2 rood 16 perches; holdings, 37, with a total area of 3,803 acres 3 roods 25 perches; annual rental, £1,647 16s. 10d. Receipts, £1,587 6s., total to date £7,882 8s. 10d.; rebates, £135 11s. 7d., to thirty-three tenants; arrears, £22 5s. 8d., owing by two selectors with 175 acres. Total population, 83; houses, 23; sheep, 2,073; cattle, 331; horses, 113; pigs, 59. Area in new grass, 746 acres; in white crop, 989 acres; in green crop, 224 acres; in native grass, &c., 199 acres. Value of improvements, £5,318. (See Ranger's remarks under Windsor Park No. 2.)

Windsor Park No. 2.—Established October, 1902. Area, 2,179 acres 2 roods 17 perches; holdings, 10, with an area of 2,177 acres 2 roods 11 perches; annual rental, £875 16s. 8d. Receipts, £898 13s. 6d., total to date £3,608 12s. 8d.; rebates, £80, to nine selectors; arrears, £7 11s. 11d., owing by one tenant holding 30 acres. Total population, 40; houses, 7; sheep, 526; cattle, 166; horses, 38; pigs, 21. Area in new grass, 101 acres; in white crop, 397 acres; in green crop, 180 acres; in native grass, &c., 307 acres. Value of improvements, £2,580. The Ranger reports, "The settlers on these adjoining settlements are doing fairly well, but for some reason they are not in as good a position as some on other settlements; probably this is in a measure owing to the short period they have been in occupation. A number of them adopt dairying as their pursuit, which industry, as in the case of other settlements, has received a set back in consequence of the drought, from which it will take some time to recover. The necessity of having to sacrifice their herds, and the reduction of their monthly income from the creamery through shortage of milk-supply, have temporarily crippled the settlers' finances, and caused

them considerable hardship and inconvenience; but they appear hopeful that the next season will be a better one, and thus enable them to retrieve their position. The grain-crop was all but a failure, and the root-crops have not come away since the rain as well as in other places."

Duncan.—Established December, 1902. Area, 633 acres 2 roods 3 perches; holdings, 7, over an area of 631 acres 3 roods 30 perches; annual rental, £238 1s. 2d., including one miscellaneous lease (coal) at £10 per annum and royalty. Receipts, £177 6s., total to date £673 0s. 7d.; rebates, £6 16s. 6d., to five selectors; arrears, £9 15s., owing by one lessee with 166 acres. Total population, 14; houses, 4; sheep, nil; cattle, 46; horses, 12. Area in new grass, 20 acres; in white crop, 70 acres; in green crop, 13 acres; in native grass, &c., 205 acres. Value of improvements, £1,061 10s. The Ranger states as follows: "Duncan Settlement was in rather a bad state, the effect of careless farming before it was taken over. The artificial pastures had run out, and weeds of various kinds had taken possession. To bring the land back to a healthy state will necessitate a hard struggle for a few years. Although this year has been decidedly against high yields, it has proved of great advantage in assisting to kill weeds. There is a dairy factory on the settlement, and the settlers are supplying milk to it. When they can get their holdings into good grass they will probably be able to do fairly well, but in the meantime they have a battle to fight in which patience and determination will enable them to succeed. The crops this season were somewhat light. Settlement conditions have been well complied with."

St. Helen's.—Established June, 1903. Holdings, 3 over the whole area, at £224 11s. per annum. Receipts, £203 10s. 6d., total to date £914 14s. 6d.; rebates, £20 18s. 5d., to three selectors; arrears, nil. Population, 7; houses, 3; sheep, 300; cattle, 42; horses, 15; pigs, 9. Area in white crop, 58 acres; in green crop, 25 acres. Value of improvements, £732. With regard to this settlement the Ranger reports, "The three settlers on this estate are going on quietly and well. They have suffered in common with others from the drought, but are hopeful that the coming season will have brighter prospects in store for them. The land is good and the rent reasonable, and with ordinary seasons they must succeed."

Greenfield.—Established April, 1905. Acquired area, 22,071 acres 1 rood 30 perches, there being in occupation 39 farm allotments, one small grazing-run, and one miscellaneous license over an aggregate area of 21,785 acres 1 rood 3 perches, at an annual rental of £4,244 11s. 8d. Receipts, £3,682 0s. 11d., total to date £7,996 2s. 4d.; rebates, £377 19s. 10d., to thirty-seven selectors; arrears, £72 8s. 6d., owing by one selector holding 818 acres. Total population, 115; houses, 39; sheep, 14,015; cattle, 189; horses, 180. Area in new grass, 654 acres; in white crop, 1,936 acres; in green crop, 1,400 acres; in native grass, &c., 3,885 acres. Value of improvements, £9,527 8s. 6d. The Ranger reports as follows: "The Greenfield settlers did not get a very favourable start as far as weather-conditions are concerned. The first year was very wet and cold, and the past year warm and unusually dry. Dry seasons in their locality are exceptional, and it is not likely there will be an early recurrence of so dry a season as the past. Excellent progress has been made throughout the whole settlement. Many new houses have been erected, and a number of the selectors who were single at the time of selection have since married. The grain-crops generally were inferior, but the root-crops in many cases will be good. A large amount of subdivisional fencing has been put up, and a large area placed under cultivation. Extra high lambing percentages have been the rule, and many of the tenants have realised over 100 per cent. Wool sold well, and this added to the exceptional increase in lambs has more than made up for the shortage in grain-crops. The settlement has made excellent progress during the year. The settlers are all very hopeful, and their prospects are very bright. They have good roads and a regular steam service on the Clutha River to Balclutha Railway-station."

Steward.—Established April, 1906. Acquired area, 21,935 acres 2 roods 7 perches, there being 21,729 acres 1 rood 28 perches in occupation by forty-eight selectors, at an annual rental of £5,021 12s. 6d. This includes five small grazing-run leases, with 5,871 acres 1 rood 6 perches, at an annual rental of £983 2s. 4d. Receipts for the year, £4,773 0s. 3d.; rebates, £240 2s. 1d., to forty-four selectors; arrears, nil. Total population, 131; houses, 39; sheep, 12,155; cattle, 283; horses, 140; pigs, 59. Area in new grass, nil; in white crop, 1,651 acres; in green crop, 937 acres; in native grass, &c., 10,600 acres. Value of improvements, £11,378. Ranger's report is as follows: "This settlement has made very good progress since its establishment twelve months ago, notwithstanding the fact that it has had to encounter one of the most severe droughts ever recorded in the history of north Otago. Any crop that was put in did not come to much, as might have been expected under the circumstances; but the grass held its own wonderfully well, most of the holdings being understocked. The turnips in some cases are fairly good. There are already about 130 souls residing on the land, and the number will be increased when some of the settlers take up their permanent residence and bring all their families on to the land. Some very substantial buildings have been erected, costing in some cases upwards of £700."

Plunket (late Corriedale).—Established February, 1907. Acquired area, 6,136 acres; area in occupation, 6,126 acres and 9 perches, by eighteen selectors, at £2,075 5s. 4d. yearly. Receipts, £1,082 9s. 6d.

Totara.—Established March, 1907. Acquired area, 3,168 acres 2 roods 6 perches; area taken up at 31st March, 3,031 acres and 23 perches, by twenty-five selectors, at annual rental of £2,513 15s. The remaining allotment, of 94 acres 2 roods 4 perches, has since been occupied at £89 16s. yearly. Receipts, £1,257 12s. 8d.

The last two settlements having been disposed of so recently, it is too early yet to supply further details.

The general condition and prospects of the several settlements in this district under the Land for Settlements Act are, as may be gathered from the reports and returns, satisfactory and encouraging, while the operations of the past year may be said to have been upon the whole fairly successful. The following is a summary of the details given in the foregoing report: Number of settlements, 22; total area acquired, 120,898 acres; total number of holdings, 611; area occupied, 118,032 acres; annual

rental of occupied area, £34,733 15s. ; unlet area, 1,027 acres ; annual value of unlet area, £237 15s. 1d. ; receipts for the year, £29,969 18s. 5d. ; total receipts from inception, £191,467 9s. 4d. ; rebates granted during year to 449 tenants, £2,304 6s. 7d. ; arrears owing by thirty-nine tenants, holding 6,992 acres, £1,426 8s. 9d. ; total population, 1,676 ; number of houses, 409 ; number of sheep, 61,544 ; number of cattle, 5,196 ; number of horses, 1,779 ; number of pigs, 8,322 ; area in new grass, 5,906 acres ; area in white crops, 12,507 ; area in green crops, 7,109 ; area in native grass, &c., 21,855 ; total value of improvements now on the ground, £134,274.

D. BARRON,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

SOUTHLAND.

During the year twelve selections were made, covering an area of 1,322 acres ; but as two leases, of an area of 616 acres, were forfeited the result is an increase of ten lessees, and of an area of 706 acres, as compared with last year.

On the six settlements in this land district there are 239 lessees, holding 50,445 acres ; the amount in value of the required improvements is £25,375, while the value of the improvements effected is £55,625, being £30,250 in excess of requirements. Upon these settlements there are now 194 houses and 834 persons residing in them, the population on the settlements having increased by forty-four. The total number of stock upon the settlements is 20,889, which shows an increase of 632 over last year.

The following summary indicates the position of the several settlements :—

Merrivale Settlement.—Forty-nine lessees occupy 9,813 acres. The number of houses upon the settlement is fifty, the number of inhabitants being 148, a decrease of twenty persons as compared with last year ; but this is owing to the younger members of families migrating to other localities, and to other causes. The stock upon the settlement comprises 189 horses, 1,049 cattle, 5,021 sheep, and 120 pigs ; total, 6,379—an increase of 344 over last year. The total area in green and white crops is 1,158 acres ; area in grass, 6,299 acres. The total value of improvements effected is £15,809. The settlers principally use their holdings for dairying and stock-raising, and are now in a fairly prosperous condition.

Otaku Settlement.—Upon this settlement there are six selectors, holding 5,954 acres. Five houses are occupied by eleven individuals. The stock comprises 15 horses, 60 cattle, and 1,600 sheep ; total, 1,675. The total value of improvements effected is £2,375, which is somewhat under the amount required. The area in white and green crops is 461 acres ; area in grass, 5,242 acres. The lessees live by farming and grazing, and their prospects appear to have improved.

Beaumont Settlement.—Two new selections were made on this settlement during the year, of an area of 547 acres, the total number of lessees now being thirteen, and area held 4,468 acres. There are five houses, in which twenty-six persons reside. The total value of improvements effected is £2,964, which is in excess of requirements. The stock consists of 36 horses, 139 cattle, 960 sheep, and 11 pigs ; total, 1,146. The area in grass is 1,900 acres, and 585 acres are in white and green crops. The settlers are engaged in farming and grazing, and are progressing well.

Ringway Settlement.—On this settlement one new selection of 5 acres was made. The lessees number eight and hold 2,236 acres. There are six houses, occupied by ten persons. The total value of improvements effected is £2,306, which is slightly under the required amount, but is £1,422 in excess of the improvements effected last year. The area in grass is 1,953 acres, that in white and green crops 275 acres. The total number of stock is 2,237, comprising 45 horses, 186 cattle, 2,005 sheep, and 1 solitary pig. The lessees carry on mixed farming and grazing, and have made good progress during the year. The present position of the settlement is satisfactory. £31 was obtained for grazing on an unselected section in the early part of the year.

Glenham Settlement.—No new selections were made on this settlement during the year, four sections containing 2,517 acres being still unlet, but a sum of £205 17s. 4d. has been obtained for grazing upon them. Several inquiries have recently been made regarding them, and I anticipate that most of them will be selected ere long. There are twenty-nine lessees upon the settlement, holding 8,808 acres. The number of houses is twenty-six, and the inhabitants thereof number 157, an increase of twelve persons over the preceding year. The total value of improvements is £6,244, which is £4,939 in excess of required value. The area laid down in white crops is 551 acres, and in green and root crops 760 acres ; the area in grass is 5,161 acres. The stock consists of 138 horses, 888 cattle, 1,848 sheep, and ten pigs ; total, 2,884, being an increase of 449 on last year. The foregoing figures show very satisfactory progress on the part of the tenants, who are engaged in dairying, farming, and grazing. The dairy factory is again in operation, and will materially assist the settlers in making a living.

Edendale Settlement.—Twelve new selections were made during the year, the area being 1,048 acres, but one section of 390 acres remains unselected. There are 134 tenants on this settlement, holding 19,165 acres. The population numbers 482 ; houses, 102. The total value of improvements effected is £25,927, being £21,280 in excess of required value, and showing an increase of £2,583 over last year. The area in white crops is 2,462 acres ; in green and root crops, 1,462 : total, 3,924 acres laid down in crops. The total number of stock is 6,568, comprising 440 horses, 3,080 cattle, 2,735 sheep, and 313 pigs. The tenants are engaged in dairying, farming, and grazing, and their position and prospects are very good.

JOHN HAY,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

APPENDIX III.—VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS (REPORT BY SUPERINTENDENT OF VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS ON).

DURING the year ending the 31st March, 1907, the number of sections taken up under village-homestead regulations was thirty-three, with an area of 375 acres. Sixteen sections, with an area of 810 acres, were taken up under other tenure, making the total number of sections taken up under the village-settlement system forty-nine, with a total area of 1,185 acres.

During the same period six sections, with an area of 114 acres, were forfeited or surrendered under village-homestead regulations, and twelve sections, with an area of 139 acres, under other tenure.

The number of settlers under village-homestead regulations on the 31st March last was 1,505, holding an area of 31,742 acres—an average of about 21 acres to each settler. The number of settlers under other tenure was 573, with an area of 13,656 acres—an average of 23½ acres to each settler.

The total number of village settlers under all systems on the 31st March last was 2,078, holding an area of 45,398 acres—an average of 21½ acres to each settler.

The annual rent and interest on advances under village-homestead regulations is £5,095, equivalent to a rental of 3s. 2½d. per acre. The annual rent of sections under other tenure is £2,665, equivalent to a rental of 3s. 11d. per acre. The total amount of rent and interest is therefore £7,760. The amount actually paid during the year is £7,005. These figures show a difference of £755; but this does not mean arrears, as the whole of the year's rent was not due on sections recently taken up. The actual arrears amount to £434, about 2d. per acre on the area held, or 4s. 2d. to each settler.

The value of improvements on sections held under the village-homestead system is £198,697, equivalent to an average of £6 5s. per acre, or £132 to each settler. The improvements on sections held under other tenure are valued at £43,908, equivalent to an average of £3 4s. per acre, or £76 to each settler.

The number of souls on the land under all village systems is 5,835; of these, 2,653 are in the North Island, and 3,182 in the Middle Island.

The position of village settlements on the 31st March last may be classified as under:—

				<i>Number of Settlers.</i>		
				Resident.	Non-resident.	Total.
Under village-homestead regulations	...	...	...	1,174	331	1,505
Under other tenure	...	...	...	380	193	573
Totals	...	...	...	1,554	524	2,078
In the North Island	...	...	...	653	318	971
In the Middle Island	...	...	...	901	206	1,107
Totals	...	...	...	1,554	524	2,078

Area held on the 31st March, 1907.

				A.	B.	P.
Under village-homestead regulations	...	...	...	31,741	2	36
Under other tenure	...	...	...	13,656	2	26
Total	...	...	...	45,398	1	22
In the North Island	...	...	...	22,220	3	37
In the Middle Island	...	...	...	23,177	1	25
Total	...	...	...	45,398	1	22

Annual Rent and Interest.

				£	s.	d.
Under village-homestead regulations	...	...	...	5,095	5	0
Under other tenure	...	...	...	2,665	12	10
Total	...	...	...	£7,760	17	10
In the North Island	...	...	...	4,130	19	6
In the Middle Island	...	...	...	3,629	18	4
Total	...	...	...	£7,760	17	10

Sections taken up during the Year.

	Number.	Area.			Rent.		
		A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
Under village-homestead regulations	33	375	0	1	67	3	0
Under other tenure	16	810	2	14	422	7	6
Totals	49	1,185	2	15	£489	10	6
In the North Island	32	967	0	31	466	14	10
In the Middle Island	17	218	1	24	22	15	8
Totals	49	1,185	2	15	£489	10	6

Forfeitures and Surrenders during the Year.

	Number.	Area.			Rent and Interest.		
		A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
Under village-homestead regulations	6	114	0	20	10	2	4
Under other tenure	12	139	0	29	9	10	8
Totals	18	253	1	9	£19	13	0
In the North Island	11	137	3	37	10	8	8
In the Middle Island	7	115	1	12	9	4	4
Totals	18	253	1	9	£19	13	0

Amount advanced for Cottages, Bushfelling, &c.

	Cottages.			Bushfelling.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Under village-homestead regulations	9,165	2	6	6,030	10	4	15,195	12	10
Under other tenure ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	£9,165	2	6	£6,030	10	4	£15,195	12	10
In the North Island	4,562	17	6	5,221	13	2	9,784	10	8
In the Middle Island	4,602	5	0	808	17	2	5,411	2	2
Totals	£9,165	2	6	£6,030	10	4	£15,195	12	10

Repayments of above Advances.

	£			£			£		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
In the North Island	4,683	16	5	...	...	...	6,245	10	2
In the Middle Island	1,561	13	9	...	...	...	8,950	2	8
Remaining unpaid ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	£15,195	12	10

Amount received for Rent and Interest during the Year.

	Rent.			Interest.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Under village-homestead regulations	4,218	10	5	396	8	1	4,614	18	6
Under other tenure	2,390	0	10	...	...	...	2,390	0	10
Totals	£6,608	11	3	£396	8	1	£7,004	19	4
In the North Island	3,457	15	5	222	3	6	3,679	18	11
In the Middle Island	3,150	15	10	174	4	7	3,325	0	5
Totals	£6,608	11	3	£396	8	1	£7,004	19	4

The total amount received as rent and interest in connection with village-homestead settlements from the commencement of the system in 1885 to the 31st March, 1907, a period of twenty-two years, is as under:—

	Rent.			Interest.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
In the North Island	23,028	17	2	7,889	5	11	30,918	3	1
In the Middle Island	36,689	12	8	4,072	8	0	40,762	0	8
Totals	£59,718	9	10	£11,961	13	11	£71,680	3	9

Arrears of Rent and Interest on the 31st March, 1907.

	Number.	Area.			Rent.			Interest.			Total.		
		A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Under village-homestead regulations	59	1,050	3	32	190	4	2	79	13	7	269	17	9
Under other tenure	56	1,308	3	33	164	4	2	...	...	...	164	4	2
Totals	115	2,359	3	25	£354	8	4	£79	13	7	£434	1	11
In the North Island	76	1,705	0	18	259	14	10	68	6	9	328	1	7
In the Middle Island	39	654	3	7	94	13	6	11	6	10	106	0	4
Totals	115	2,359	3	25	£354	8	4	£79	13	7	£434	1	11

Value of Improvements on the Land.

	£	s.	d.
Under village-homestead regulations	198,697	0	0
Under other tenure	43,908	0	0
Total	£242,605	0	0
In the North Island	142,651	0	0
In the Middle Island	99,954	0	0
Total	£242,605	0	0

Number of Souls on the Land.

Under village-homestead regulations	4,656
Under other tenure	1,179
Total	5,835
In the North Island	2,653
In the Middle Island	3,182
Total	5,835

I think the financial results in connection with village-homestead settlements as disclosed in this report prove conclusively that the system is one to encourage and extend whenever land is available for the purpose.

J. E. MARCH.
Superintendent of Village Settlements.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS OF CROWN LANDS ON VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS.

AUCKLAND.

THE village settlements proper in this land district are practically limited to the settlements selected under "The Land Act, 1892"—viz., Te Kuiti, Kinohaku, and Rangaroa Village Settlements. The first two are progressing satisfactorily, and notwithstanding that residence is not due on Kinohaku a number of selectors are residing. Rangaroa is comparatively new, and at present shows no sign of being a specially successful settlement. There are other settlements on the books under the heading "Village Settlements," but they are holdings selected under the provisions of "The Land Act, 1885," and so many of the selectors have converted their tenures to lease in perpetuity and been treated as no longer village settlements that the original settlements are in some cases reduced to one section only. They have been reported on by the Rangers for the purposes of this report, but the ordinary statutory reports have all been made, and so far as residence and improvements are concerned the Department has no control in the matter; and in view of this fact, and the small number of selectors, it does not seem desirable to treat them as village settlements for purposes of comparison. The following reports on these settlements have been received from the Rangers:—

Te Aroha Village Settlement.—There has been no perceptible change in this settlement since last report. The settlers have their homes in good order, but, having to depend on outside employment, they have only sufficient time to cultivate a small garden, and just enough grass to keep a cow. Like all other settlers in this district, they were sufferers by the recent flood.

Te Kuiti Village Settlement.—This settlement adjoins Te Kuiti Township. Access is good, and there are nine selectors living on their holdings. Progress has been steady, and the improvements effected are greatly in excess of requirements. The success of the settlement is assured.

Kinohaku Village Settlement.—This settlement is situated from six to ten miles from Kawhia Township, and the access is by water. As the land was covered with bush when selected, residence has not yet fallen due. There are, however, eight selectors living on their holdings, and improvements have been effected on all the sections, in most cases in excess of requirements. A few of the selectors are engaged in stock-raising. There appears every prospect of the settlement being a success.

Rangaroa Village Settlement.—This settlement adjoins the Taumarunui Township, and, being open country, residence has just fallen due. There are, however, no selectors living on their sections yet. Progress has not been at all good, and the settlement cannot be classed as successful.

Whananaki Settlement.—As the land in this settlement is level and of good quality, settlers are doing very well.

Hukerenui Village Settlement.—The settlers are steadily bringing their lands under cultivation.

Motatau Village Settlement.—All the settlers in this district are effecting good improvements.

Motukaraka Village Settlement.—This settlement is well situated, being on the Hokianga River, near the thriving townships of Kohukohu and Rawene, which provide a good market for the produce of the settlers. The land is good and the settlement is prosperous.

Waimamaku Village Settlement.—There is only one settler who now holds his land under the original tenure. He is making a good living, although his area is only 45 acres. The settlement generally is a prosperous one.

Herekino Village Settlement.—This settlement languished for many years, but is now in a fairly prosperous condition. It is proposed to erect a dairy factory next year. Orchards and vineyards are paying well.

J. MACKENZIE,

Commissioner of Crown Lands.

HAWKE'S BAY.

Tamaki Village Settlement.—Situated about six miles from Dannevirke, with access by good metalled road. These allotments comprise flat agricultural land, of good soil, and adapted for dairying. There are now twenty-seven selectors, holding a total area of 2,206 acres and 25 perches, and paying an annual rental of £1,324 17s. 10d. An area of 13 acres is in crop. The population is fifty-one, and the number of stock 1,564, comprising 650 sheep, 712 cattle, 33 horses, and 169 pigs. Dairying may be said to be the principal source of income to the settlers. The Hawke's Bay Dairy Company have a creamery, and Mr. Webber has a butter-factory established in the settlement. The supply to the former is about 600 gallons of milk per day from eleven suppliers. The output from the latter was 11 tons of butter for last season, settlers receiving 9½d. per pound for butter-fat. Value of improvements required by the Act is £3,312 9s. 3d., and that effected by selectors amounts to £3,978 11s. Seventeen selectors have been in occupation for nearly two years, and ten selectors for only twelve months.

Puketitiri Village-homestead Special Settlement.—The above settlement is situated at Puketitiri, a village thirty-six miles distant from Napier by good dray-road, and is occupied by three selectors, all of whom are residing on their holdings. On an area of 88 acres and 26 perches improvements to the value of £841 have been effected. The population numbers 22, and the stock totals 79, comprising 29 horses, 11 cattle, 37 sheep, and 2 pigs. The settlers are engaged in various occupations—viz., road-making, as mill hands, or working for other settlers; whilst on one of the sections the Puketitiri Hotel is erected.

Woodville Village-homestead Special Settlement.—This settlement is situated about one mile from Woodville Township, on the main coach-road to Wellington, and is held by twenty-four selectors, seventeen of whom are residing on their holdings. On an area of 102 acres and 10 perches improvements have been effected to a value of £3,805. The present population is 83, and stock numbers 55, comprising 35 cattle, 17 horses, and 3 pigs. These holdings are convenient homes for working-men, who, in most instances, are away during the week earning wages.

HENRY TRENT,

Commissioner of Crown Lands.

TARANAKI.

There are only three small village settlements in this district. One is at Punehu, comprising eleven sections, in areas from three-quarters of an acre to 3 acres. Another is at Matapouri, consisting of three sections in areas of about 4 acres, and one of 18 acres. The other is at Tututawa, and named Mangaehu, comprising four sections, in areas from 6 to 9 acres. These settlements are not a success, owing to want of employment in the neighbourhood and the inability of the selectors to make a living from the limited areas. Most of the sections are held by persons farming other land in the vicinity.

FRANS. SIMPSON,

Commissioner of Crown Lands.

WELLINGTON.

No report received.

MARLBOROUGH.

No report received.

WESTLAND.

Kokatahi Village Settlement.—With the exception of some shelter patches of scrub, the whole of this settlement is under cultivation, and is used principally for grazing purposes. The settlers supply milk to the factory, rear stock, grow fruit, do some root-cropping, and have had a prosperous season. The following items give the position as at present: Total area, 197 acres; sections occupied, 4; total population, 14; area in grass, 186 acres; area in white and green crops, 8 acres; horses, 20; cattle, 112; pigs, 10; improvements required by the Act, £39; improvements made, £1,191; arrears of rental, nil.

Runanga Village.—As stated in last year's report; this is practically an extension of the Town of Runanga, and was laid out and set apart for the sole use of the employees of the adjacent State coal-mine. During the year certain roads have been formed and metalled, and thus access has been given to each holder. Some nice houses have been erected, and several sections have been cleared of bush preparatory to building. It should be noted that the sections average only a quarter of an acre, and are simply for residential purposes. The Ranger reports full compliance of tenants with the regulations.

G. J. ROBERTS,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

CANTERBURY.

No report received.

OTAGO.

In again reporting on village settlements in this district, it is unnecessary for me to repeat the remarks I made in last year's report as to the character of the so-called village settlements in Otago.

A reference to the Village Settlement Tables Nos. 12 and 13 will show that a decrease has taken place in some of the tenures, the present numbers, areas, and rentals being as follows: Two deferred-payment holdings, with 100 acres, at £3 6s. per annum; fifteen perpetual-lease village settlements, with 312 acres, at £29 17s. 8d. per annum; three occupation-with-right-of-purchase allotments, with 2 acres 1 rood 12 perches, at 12s. per annum; 117 village-homestead allotments on lease in perpetuity, with 1,698 acres, at £149 4s. per annum; seventy-two village-homestead special-settlement allotments on perpetual lease, with 1,060 acres, at £135 4s. 4d. per annum; and thirty-one village-homestead allotments on lease in perpetuity under the Land for Settlements Act, with 413 acres, at £317 3s. 10d. per annum; making in all 240 holdings, with an aggregate area of 3,585 acres, at an annual rental of £635 7s. 10d. The capital value of the whole of this area is £12,623, and the total payments made during the year in respect thereof amounted to £603 13s. 7d. The total value of the improvements now on the land is given at £16,516. The number of settlers resident is eighty-five, and the total number of souls about 564. The total area laid down in grass or cultivated is 2,099 acres. In respect of the sum of £1,541 5s. advanced for bushfelling and houses under the village-homestead special-settlement regulations the sum of £275 2s. 6d. has been repaid.

With the exception of the allotments under the Land for Settlements Act, very little progress is being made on these lands. As before remarked, they are too remotely situated and isolated for the selectors to obtain outside work, and the holdings are too small to support the settlers and their families.

The Ranger's report with regard to village settlements is as follows: "Comparatively little progress has been made on village-settlement lands in Otago during the year. For the most part they are in outlying places, where outside labour is not obtainable, and the quality of the land is not sufficiently good to enable the several selectors to make a living on their holdings. Another unfortunate feature is that many of the settlements are a considerable distance from any dairy factory, the settlers being therefore unable to take advantage of that branch of industry, that tends so often to make small farms payable. No doubt village homesteads or small holdings are very beneficial where the land is good, and where creameries are within easy distance; but these advantages exist only in a few instances with respect to the village settlements in this district. The principal purposes for which they are utilised are for grazing cattle and cultivation of small areas of crops for home consumption. Their present position is in most cases rather unsatisfactory, and their prospects cannot be described as very bright or encouraging."

D. BARRON,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

SOUTHLAND.

In this land district there are thirty-four village-homestead settlements and twenty-four village settlements, the total number of selectors upon them being 429, holding 6,205 acres on the following tenures: Deferred payment—two selectors; area, 60 acres 2 roods 37 perches: perpetual lease—eighty selectors; area, 1,088 acres 1 rood 13 perches: occupation with right of purchase—four selectors; area, 3 acres and 24 perches: lease in perpetuity—292 selectors; area, 4,499 acres 2 roods 2 perches: village-homestead special settlement—fifty-one selectors; area, 553 acres 1 rood 24 perches: total, 429 selectors; area, 2,605 acres and 20 perches.

The new selections during the year were fifteen; area, 202 acres.

JOHN HAY,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

APPENDIX IV.—IMPROVED-FARM SETTLEMENTS (EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS OF CROWN LANDS ON).

AUCKLAND.

THE holdings in these settlements are, as a rule, in a somewhat better position than at the end of the previous year. Ragwort is being coped with in Te Rau-a-moa, and personally I am very pleased at this, because as a last resource I supported the experiments which have now been so effectual. In some of the settlements selectors who were not attempting to carry out the conditions of occupation have been removed from the books. Progress in all the settlements is, however, rather slow. The following are the Ranger's reports on this class of settlement :—

Paemako Settlement.—This settlement is situated nineteen miles from Te Kuiti, on the Awakino Road. Progress has been slow, but the prospects are good, improvements being greatly in excess of requirements.

Tawai Settlement.—There are only four selectors in this settlement complying with residence conditions, and progress has been very slow, although the improvements are in excess of requirements.

Te Rau-a-moa Settlement.—The selectors in this settlement are engaged in dairying, a factory having been established. All the selectors have improved in excess of requirements. Access is good, and the settlement shows signs of being in a prosperous condition. The prevalence of ragwort has been a great drawback, as it covered a very large area. I am now able to report that the sheep which were placed there about two years ago have quite checked the weed, and I think the evil will be quite stamped out if the existing conditions are adhered to. It is necessary that the settlers should cut those plants which the sheep cannot get at.

Karu Settlement.—This settlement is not in a very flourishing condition. Progress has been very slow, and there are only three selectors residing.

Kakepuku Settlement.—Although there are ten selectors living on their sections, in consequence of their having to seek outside work the progress of the settlement has been very slow. The improvements are, however, slightly in excess of requirements.

J. MACKENZIE,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

HAWKE'S BAY.

There are only two small improved-farm settlements in this district—Waikopiro and Akitio—and, as all conditions have been completed for some time now, there is no change to report, except a slight increase in the value of improvements effected. The settlements are both in a very satisfactory position.

TARANAKI.

The position of those settlements allotted between 1894 and 1897, and occupied under the ordinary conditions, remains unchanged. They are as follows :—

Ngaire, Poti, and Maata Improved-farm Settlements.—Situate close to Eltham, and used principally for dairying on a small scale. The live-stock consists of 225 head of cattle. There are fourteen families occupying twenty-six sections of about 10 acres each, and they have experienced a prosperous year.

Tongaporutu, Derwent, Okau, Uruti, and Greenlands Improved-farm Settlements.—Situate close to Tongaporutu, the latter being some seventeen miles back, and generally divided into 100-acre sections, comprising small flats on frontage and steep hills at the back. There are sixteen families occupying twenty-one sections, most of them engaged in dairying, and are fairly prosperous, the last season having been exceptionally good for them. The live-stock consists of 1,309 head sheep and cattle.

Mangapoua Improved-farm Settlement.—Situate about four miles from Urenui, and occupied by two settlers, one family using the land for dairying; the other selector is a single man and grazes cattle. They are doing well. The live-stock consists of 116 head mixed cattle.

Mangaere Improved-farm Settlement.—Situate on Ohura Road, about ten miles from Douglas Railway-station. There are eleven sections, occupied by six families, all engaged in dairying, the live-stock consisting of 247 head of cattle. This settlement is very prosperous.

Whangamomona Improved-farm Settlement.—Situate about twenty-nine miles from Douglas Railway-station, and extending along Ohura Road for about eleven miles, comprising hilly country with flats on frontage, mostly used for dairying. There are forty families occupying seventy-nine sections of generally about 100 acres each. The live-stock consists of 2,712 head mixed cattle and sheep. These settlers are still handicapped in their efforts to make their farms pay, owing to unmetalled roads, distance from markets, and the consequent high prices for stores. The poorer class of settler is gradually being replaced by men with better means and a knowledge of farming.

Huiroa Improved-farm Settlement.—Situate on Douglas and Makuri Roads, and close to the proposed railway-line from Douglas Railway-station. There are six families in the occupation of eight sections. The live-stock consists of 461 head of cattle. The settlers are engaged in dairying, and appear prosperous.

Taumatahahi Improved-farm Settlement.—Situate on Waitotara Valley Road, about thirty miles from Waitotara Railway-station. The land is not suitable for this class of settlement, and four sections have practically passed into the hands of one person, who uses them in conjunction with a large sheep-farm adjoining.

The following four settlements are still under the improved-farm regulations, having only been allotted within the last four years.

Nihoniho, Paorae, and Mangapapa Improved-farm Settlements.—Situate in the Ohura and Aria Survey Districts, between twenty and twenty-two miles from Ongarue Railway-station, and easily accessible by good summer roads. There are ninety-three sections, of an average area of 175 acres each, and fifty-three have been settled upon and improved; fourteen other settlers reside in the district, and the remainder are held by persons who have not yet resided. It has been necessary to forfeit the interests of several persons and reallocate the sections. Twelve settlers applied for and received advances on dwellings erected during the year, and arrangements have been made to assist some of the more needy settlers by supplying fencing-wire. The population of these settlements is 231, the live-stock consists of 1,510 head mixed cattle, and the settlements are in a fair way to be prosperous.

Totoro Improved-farm Settlement.—Situate near the Mokau River, south of Wairere Falls, where there is a ferry crossing, and distant about twenty-five miles from Te Kuiti Railway-station. It comprises thirty-six sections, generally of about 200 acres each, of which twenty-three are settled upon, and six other settlers are living near their sections until they build; four have received advances on houses erected during the year. It has been necessary to forfeit and reallocate several sections owing to non-fulfilment of the conditions of residence. The population is sixty-two, the live-stock consists of 474 head mixed cattle, and the settlement is making very good progress.

Regarding these latter settlements of Nihoniho, Paorae, Mangapapa, and Totoro, I may say, judging from my personal knowledge of the selectors and the land in their occupation, that if within the next year or two judicious advances are made to assist in bushfelling, grassing, fencing, &c., and the Department of Roads continues to find a certain amount of work for those in need of it, I feel well assured that these settlements will show the most satisfactory results of any in this district.

FRANS. SIMPSON,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

WELLINGTON

WEST COAST.

Pemberton Improved-farm Settlement.—There are eleven sections in this settlement, aggregating 1,060 acres, now under occupation, the total number of persons on the land being eighty. 1,060 acres has been felled and grassed, and the stock consists of 800 sheep, 495 cattle, 44 horses, and 110 pigs. Dairying is the main industry and source of income, but on some of the smaller areas the settlers take outside work during the winter months. The improvements on the land are valued at £8,970, including £2,056 advanced by the Government. This is one of the most successful settlements in this district. The sections are in profitable occupation, and are very highly improved.

Kawhatau Improved-farm Settlement.—This settlement was established in 1894, and comprises eight sections, having a total area of 667 acres, the number of souls on the land being thirty-eight. The settlers engage principally in dairying, but in some cases where the sections are not self-supporting the selectors take outside contract work. Improvements to the value of £6,100 have been effected; which includes improvements to the value of £1,190 paid for by the Government. This settlement has always been most successful, and is now practically fully improved.

Hautapu Improved-farm Settlement.—This settlement is situated in the Taihape district, and consists of twelve sections, with a total area of 1,074 acres, the total population being forty souls. The stock consists of 618 head of all kinds. The settlers are dairying mostly, and take outside work during their spare time. 850 acres has been felled and grassed, the total improvements being valued at £5,320, towards which £1,124 has been advanced by the Government. This is also a successful settlement.

Masterton-Tenui Improved-farm Settlement.—The number of sections now under occupation is eleven, aggregating 1,065 acres, and the number of persons on the land forty-four. 1,000 acres have been felled and grassed, and the stock on the settlement consists of 1,600 sheep, 410 cattle, 43 horses, and 80 pigs. The improvements are valued at £5,300, and the settlers have been assisted by the Government to the extent of £847. The holdings are used for dairying and grazing purposes. The settlers are all doing well, and the success of the settlement is assured.

Horopito Improved-farm Settlement.—Three sections, of a total area of 300 acres, are occupied, and there are five persons living on the settlement. 142 acres is felled and grassed, and the stock numbers 146 head of all kinds. The valuation of the improvements on the land is £784, which includes a sum of £393 advanced to the settlers by the Government. As the railway-works are now in this vicinity, the prospects of the settlers are brighter, and they will find a market for their produce among the co-operative workmen.

Otaihape Improved-farm Settlement consists of eight sections, aggregating 178 acres, on which seventy-one persons are living. The settlement is all felled and grassed, and the stock on the land numbers 143 head of all kinds. Improvements to the value of £2,900 have been effected, and these include

664 pounds' worth paid for by the Government. The sections are mostly used for homes, but on some of the larger areas dairying is carried on. This is a very successful settlement, and, being close to Taihape Township, some of the sections are being subdivided for building-lots.

Ohutu Improved-farm Settlement comprises an area of 2,895 acres, subdivided into thirty-four holdings, all of which are under occupation, the total population being 135 souls. An area of 2,310 acres has been felled and grassed, and the total improvements on the land are valued at £13,870, towards which advances amounting to £1,941 have been made by the Government to assist the settlers. The stock consists of 1,704 head of mixed sorts, but principally cattle. Dairying is carried on on nearly all of the sections, and is the chief source of income. This settlement is a very successful one.

Otuarei Improved-farm Settlement.—Eight sections, of a total area of 1,570 acres, are now under occupation, and the number of persons on the land is thirty-three. 600 acres has been felled, and 1,285 acres grassed, inclusive of natural clearing, and the stock numbers 2,422 of all kinds. The improvements are valued at £3,205, inclusive of £548 advanced by the Government to assist the settlers. Most of the settlers engage in sheep-farming, and take some outside work during the winter. Two of the selectors started dairying, but owing to the distance from the creamery had to abandon it and go in for sheep-farming. This settlement is now a fairly successful one.

Rongoiti Improved-farm Settlement.—Five sections, aggregating 492 acres, are occupied, the total number of residents being twenty-one. 492 acres has been felled and grassed, and the number of stock running on the land consists of 1,320 sheep, 130 cattle, 34 horses, and 26 pigs. Improvements to the value of £2,769 have been effected, the Government assisting settlers to the extent of £464. The settlers are engaged principally in dairying and mixed grazing. They are all prospering, and the settlement is a success.

Oraukura Improved-farm Settlement.—The area now under occupation in this settlement is 1,819 acres, subdivided into ten farms, and there are forty-six persons living on the land. 800 acres has been felled, and 820 acres grassed, inclusive of natural clearings, and the stock numbers 570 head of all sorts. The improvements effected are valued at £4,550, which includes £507 advanced by the Government for the assistance of the settlers. The principal industry is dairying, but some of the settlers receive fair incomes from royalties on their surplus timber. The settlers appear to be well satisfied, and the settlement is a very successful one.

Sommerville Improved-farm Settlement consists of eight sections, comprising an area of 1,600 acres, all of which are occupied, the total population being thirty-five souls. 640 acres is felled, and 780 grassed, including natural clearing, and the stock on the land amounts to 586 head of all kinds. The improvements effected are valued at £2,540, including £283 advanced to the settlers by the Government. Dairying is the main industry and source of income, but nearly all the settlers take outside work. This is a successful settlement, and the settlers are prospering.

Taihape Extension Improved-farm Settlement comprises six sections, of a total area of 567 acres, all of which are occupied, and the total number of residents is twenty-six. 360 acres has been felled and grassed, and the stock on the land consists of 230 head of all kinds, but principally cattle. Improvements to the value of £2,028 have been effected, including £103 advanced to the settlers by the Government. As this settlement is close to Taihape, and is practically alongside a creamery, there is no doubt in time it will prove to be one of the best in the district.

Namunui Improved-farm Settlement.—Twenty-four sections, aggregating 1,840 acres, have been allotted, the number of persons living on the land being five. 413 acres has been felled and grassed, and the value of improvements on the land is estimated at £1,064. The stock comprises seventy head of mixed kinds. It is expected that next year a large area of bush will be felled, and that all the sections will be fairly well improved. This settlement was laid off to provide extension of areas up to 100 acres for the settlers in the adjoining village settlements, and residence is not required from those who reside on their village-homestead allotments.

Tapui Improved-farm Settlement.—Three sections, of a total area of 600 acres, are now under occupation, and the number of persons on the land is twenty-two. 147 acres has been felled and grassed, and the total amount of improvements is £710, including £60 advanced by the Government. The stock consists of 52 cattle, 10 horses, and 4 pigs.

Raketapauma Improved-farm Settlement.—The area now under occupation is 3,307 acres, subdivided into nineteen holdings, the number of souls on the land being twenty-seven. 150 acres has been felled and grassed, and the value of the improvements is £470, which includes £78 advanced by the Government to assist the settlers. Most of the selectors work on the Main Trunk line, but the majority of them intend shortly to take up their residence, and there will probably be a larger area felled next year.

Kauaekeke Improved-farm Settlement consists of one 200-acre section, held by one person. 150 acres has been felled and grassed, and there are 258 head of stock on the land. The improvements are valued at £420.

Horowhenua Improved-farm Settlement consists of one section of 138 acres, on which three persons are living. 70 acres has been felled and grassed, the total improvements being valued at £270, of which £40 was advanced by the Government. The stock consists of thirteen cattle and two horses.

EAST COAST.

Akitio Improved-farm Settlement consists of thirty-six sections, of a total area of 3,810 acres, on which twenty-five selectors are residing. 3,612 acres has been felled, and 3,391 acres grassed, inclusive of some natural clearings, and the stock carried on the land numbers 4,994 head of all kinds. The improvements are valued at £10,188, of which £3,690 has been advanced by the Government to assist the settlers. The selectors are industrious men, some of whom work exclusively on their holdings, while

others seek work in the locality and surrounding districts. The progress made is satisfactory, and the settlers are enjoying more prosperous times owing to the better road access and higher prices ruling for stock, produce, &c.

Mangatiti Improved-farm Settlement.—There are twenty-nine sections occupied, having a total area of 3,940 acres, and the number of selectors residing on the land is twenty-seven. 3,154 acres has been felled, and 2,991 acres grassed, the whole of the improvements being valued at £8,659, of which £3,340 has been advanced by the Government to assist the settlers. The stock consists of 75 horses, 936 cattle, 1,437 sheep, and 78 pigs. Some of the settlers work at dairying exclusively, while others seek work on the roads, &c. On the whole, the progress made is satisfactory, and the settlers are more prosperous, owing to better roads, and higher prices ruling for stock, produce, &c.

JOHN STRAUCHON,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

SOUTHLAND.

There are four improved-farm settlements in this land district, comprising a total area of 5,067 acres, upon which forty-seven settlers remain in occupation, holding 5,000 acres, the total population being 169, residing in eighteen houses. The total number of stock upon the four settlements is 806, the total area grassed being 3,155 acres. The total value of the improvements effected during the year is £349 6s. The Ranger reports, "The settlers on these settlements are making very little progress. The land in some places, notably in Waikawa and Moturimu, is of an inferior quality, and there is very little encouragement for making improvements. The settlers depend chiefly on outside labour, such as working on the roads, sawmilling, and cutting sleepers and telegraph-poles. The prospects and conditions of the selectors on the different settlements are not very encouraging." The following summary shows the position of the settlements :—

Haldane Settlement (Block IX, Waikawa Survey District).—Two sections, containing 143 acres, were withdrawn from the settlement, and opened on ordinary lease in perpetuity, in order that they might be selected by the lessee of adjoining land, who had not a sufficient area to make a living for his family. The total area in the settlement is 2,057 acres, held by nineteen tenants; there are eighteen houses, occupied by sixty-nine persons. The stock consists of 42 horses, 396 cattle, and 11 pigs; total, 449. The area felled during the year is 34 acres, and 16 acres was laid down in grass. The value of improvements effected during the year is £132 10s. The Crown Lands Ranger assesses the value of the existing improvements upon the settlement at £2,509.

Waikawa Settlement (Block XVII, Waikawa Survey District).—On this settlement 860 acres is held by four lessees, living in four houses, the total number of residents being eleven. The stock numbers 74, and comprises 6 horses and 68 cattle. No improvements of any kind have been made during the year. The area in grass is 714 acres. The Crown Lands Ranger values the improvements existing on the land at £400.

Papatotara Settlement (Alton Survey District).—This settlement is occupied by fourteen selectors, who hold 1,528 acres. Ten houses have been erected, in which forty-three persons reside. The total number of stock is 246, and consists of 17 horses, 226 cattle, and 3 pigs. The area in grass is 862 acres. The area felled during the year is 34 acres, and grassed 29 acres. The value of improvements effected during the year is £178 6s., and the total value of the improvements on the settlement is assessed at £1,161 by the Crown Lands Ranger.

Moturimu Settlement (Campbelltown Hundred).—Ten lessees occupy 609 acres. The houses number eight, and are inhabited by forty-six persons. The stock numbers 37, and comprises 33 cattle and 4 pigs. The area felled during the year was 6 acres, and the area grassed 9 acres, the total area in grass being 193 acres. The value of improvements effected during the year is £38 10s. The Crown Lands Ranger assesses the value of the improvements existing on the settlement at £849.

JOHN HAY,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Table 1.—SUMMARY OF LANDS ABSOLUTELY DISPOSED OF FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE COLONY, WITH TOTAL CASH RECEIVED TO THE 31st MARCH, 1907.

District.	Total Area sold and held on Freehold.		Total Area granted or reserved under Acts.		Total Area sold or otherwise finally disposed of from the Foundation of the Colony.		Total Cash received to the 31st March 1907, exclusive of Rents.		Total Area disposed of on Leasehold Tenures of a Permanent Character.		Total Area open for Selection on 31st March, 1907.		Total Area remaining for future Disposal, exclusive of Area in preceding Column, and of Native Lands.		
	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	£	s.	d.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.
Auckland ..	2,101,703	2 24	3,541,729	0 3	5,643,431	2 27	864,069	17	0	1,241,640	2 20	803,304	0 0	815,052	0 0
Hawke's Bay ..	1,434,186	1 25	401,084	2 18	1,835,271	0 3	730,521	10	5	638,989	2 2	19,797	0 0	145,858	0 0
Taranaki ..	447,181	1 27	694,416	2 30	1,141,598	0 17	868,343	17	7	470,068	1 26	54,590	0 0	191,000	0 0
Wellington ..	2,218,622	1 10	1,335,779	1 37	3,554,401	3 7	2,473,752	13	2	634,280	1 23	7,129	0 0	231,800	0 0
Nelson ..	522,512	2 14	848,253	2 27	1,370,766	1 1	468,109	10	11	151,540	1 29	275,650	0 0	2,225,044	0 0
Marlborough ..	857,586	0 1	217,109	1 7	1,074,705	1 8	344,202	1	1	471,185	1 33	138	0 34	19,000	0 0
Westland ..	66,595	2 18	149,371	2 30	215,967	1 8	75,891	6	10	84,227	3 35	95,789	0 37	1,562,323	2 5
Canterbury ..	3,518,502	1 29	1,544,841	2 24	5,063,344	0 13	6,471,579	7	9	568,447	3 0	45,675	0 0	..	..
Otago ..	2,019,984	0 4	706,161	2 38	2,726,155	3 2	2,222,887	5	11	989,411	0 6	50,695	1 20	491,603	0 0
Southland ..	1,605,851	3 29	2,930,384	0 6	4,536,235	3 35	1,908,097	9	1	313,847	3 38	58,020	0 0	..	..
Totals ..	14,792,745	1 21	12,369,131	3 20	27,161,877	1 1	16,424,454	19	9	5,563,639	2 12	1,410,782	3 11	5,671,680	2 5

Table 2.—LANDS OPENED FOR SALE AND SELECTION DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1907.

Land District.	Optional System.	Cash by Auction.	Lease by Auction and Application.	Village Allotments.	Pastoral Runs.	Small Grazing-runs.	S.G. Runs, Land for Settlements.	Lease in Perpetuity only.	Lease in Perpetuity, Land for Settlements.	Native Towns.	Totals.
Auckland ..	87,888	754	243	..	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Hawke's Bay ..	3,783	21	55	785	25,326	2,582	38,122	5,696	30,609	..	165,894
Taranaki ..	42,440	74	78	..	..	..	..	..	12,569	42	42,581
Wellington ..	2,014	63	400	73	2,884	..	8,097	4,979	1,918	..	49,489
Nelson ..	18,359	190	..	48	..	..	..	..	16,406	2	29,889
Marlborough ..	2,646	..	458	..	..	..	..	29,441	..	..	48,038
Westland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,104
Canterbury ..	2,168	39	2,307	3	11,000	12,268	..	8,259	..	..	8,259
Otago ..	2,569	175	..	..	60,485	20,009	5,871	..	631	..	26,238
Southland ..	..	88	4,845	25	136,134	..	..	8,000	25,356	..	114,483
Totals ..	161,867	1,394	8,386	984	235,779	34,859	52,090	56,794	88,115	44	640,262

Table 3 (Part I).—SUMMARY of LANDS taken up during the Year ended 31st March, 1907 (exclusive of Pastoral Runs and Miscellaneous Leases).

Tenures.	Auckland.		Hawke's Bay.		Taranaki.		Wellington.		Nelson.		Marlborough.		Westland.		Canterbury.		Otago.		Southland.		Total Area taken up during Year.			
	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.				
Table 5—ORDINARY CROWN LANDS.																								
5—Cash lands	2,071	0 16	815	1 36	3,843	2 39	1,744	1 8	6,552	1 82	3,084	0 12					135	0 28	958	0 6	1,129	0 10	20,333	1 27
6—Deferred payment .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7—Perpetual lease and small areas .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8—Occupation with right of purchase	103,812	3 27	3,498	3 569	945	1 33	25,673	3 33	1,664	2 0	2,646	0 0	..	..	..	..	2,744	2 23	5,543	1 13	215,529	2 14	..	..
9—Lease in perpetuity	13,822	3 22	1,993	3 24	15,018	3 13	276	0 23	12,496	3 3	3,945	2 0	14,327	0 33	..	..	..	..	2,979	1 22	8,685	0 33	73,545	3 13
10—Agricultural leases .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11—Occupation lease under "Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894"	72	0 32	..	..	..	..	..	..	128	0 8	..	..	90	1 3	..	..	..	..	555	2 9	197	2 32	1,043	3 4
12—Village settlement, cash	14	1 0	..	..	..	..	5	1 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	2 5
12—Village settlement, deferred payment .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12—Village settlement, perpetual lease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12—Village settlement, occupation with right of purchase .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12—Village settlement, lease in perpetuity	18	1 7	792	1 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	1 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	201	2 24	1,012	1 38
12—Village-homestead special settlement .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	156	2 17	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	2 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	173	0 17
14—Special-settlement associations .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1 24	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1 24
32—Improved-farm special settlement .. .. .	..	..	..	..	344	2 0	5,277	1 18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,621	3 18
15—Homestead .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16—Small grazing-runs	8,551	0 0	..	..	..	..	5,435	3 9	4,167	0 0	..	..	..	..	12,268	0 0	43,429	2 5	..	..	..	..	73,851	1 14
Totals	128,362	2 24	7,100	1 32	89,152	2 5	38,573	3 17	25,008	3 3	9,675	2 12	14,417	2 36	12,419	2 28	50,667	0 25	15,756	3 32	391,135	1 14	..	..
Table 5 CHEVRIOR ESTATE.																								
9—Cash lands .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12—Village-homestead special settlement .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16—Grazing-farms .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACTS.																								
5—Cash lands	8	2 36	0	1 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	0 0	..	..	4	0 19	..	..	..	..	1	0 0	16	0 15
9—Lease in perpetuity	15,586	0 9	12,585	3 12	1,300	0 0	17,911	1 32	..	..	40	1 27	215	1 36	6,093	1 22	25,636	1 14	1,322	2 31	80,691	2 23	..	..
12—Lease in perpetuity (village) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
14—Special-settlement associations .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16—Small grazing-runs	22,357	0 0	..	..	..	..	8,097	0 0	..	..	993	0 0	..	..	3,684	0 0	5,871	1 6	..	..	..	..	41,002	1 6
Grand totals	166,314	1 29	19,686	2 49	452	2 5	64,582	1 9	25,008	3 3	10,710	3 39	14,633	0 32	22,208	1 20	82,174	3 5	17,080	2 23	512,852	2 9	..	..

For Details see

Table 4.—ANALYSIS OF HOLDINGS taken up during the Year ended 31st March, 1907.

Tenures.	No. of Selectors.	Average Holdings of Selectors.					
		No. of Selectors under 1 Acre.	No. of Selectors 1 to 50 Acres.	No. of Selectors 51 to 250 Acres.	No. of Selectors 251 to 500 Acres.	No. of Selectors 501 to 1,000 Acres.	No. of Selectors 1,001 Acres and upwards.
ORDINARY CROWN LANDS—							
Cash lands	418	204	163	32	10	3	6
Deferred payment .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Perpetual lease	412	..	44	120	77	99	72
Occupation with right of purchase	296	15	53	122	67	29	10
Lease in perpetuity .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Agricultural lease	26	..	16	10	..	..	..
Occupation lease under "The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894"	15	4	11	..	..	..	..
Village settlement, cash .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Village settlement, occupation with right of purchase	32	1	21	10	..	..	..
Village settlement, lease in perpetuity	17	2	14	1	..	..	..
Village-homestead special settlement	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Special-settlement associations	46	..	4	42	4	4	34
Improved-farm special settlement	33	..	..	1	..	..	32
Small grazing-runs	113	..	18	44	11	8	..
Pastoral runs	4	4	..	..	..	..	11
Thermal springs, Rotorua .. .. .	..	39	273	124	25	9	..
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	481	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	1,894	269	618	506	194	152	155
CHIEF OF ESTATE—							
Cash lands	16	14	2	..	..	..	..
Lease in perpetuity .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Village-homestead special settlement .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grazing-farms .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	4	..	3	1	..	..	..
LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACTS—							
Cash lands	13	4	9	..	..	..	..
Lease in perpetuity	301	18	62	94	63	64	..
Lease in perpetuity, village .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Small grazing-runs	18	..	..	..	1	2	1
Miscellaneous	34	5	24	1	1	2	..
Grand totals	2,280	310	718	602	259	220	171

Table 5.—RETURN OF CROWN LANDS SOLD for CASH during the Year ended 31st March, 1907.

District.	Area disposed of.						Average Price per Acre.						Consideration received.		
	Town.		Suburban.		Rural.		Town.		Suburban.		Rural.		Cash.	Scrip.	Total.
	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Number of Purchasers.	Area.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.				
Auckland ..	59	146 1 9	11	46 0 10	28	1,878 2 37	98	2,071 0 16	10 11 8	4 17 6	{ 0 10 0 } { 0 16 4 }	2,866 6 4	..	2,866 6 4	
Hawke's Bay ..	37	19 1 26	1	1 3 10	8	794 1 0	46	815 1 36	70 0 0	1 0 0	0 12 6	1,988 17 9	..	1,988 17 9	
Taranaki ..	18	14 3 35	1	13 0 0	7	3,815 3 4	26	3,843 2 39	27 11 11	3 4 7	{ 2 13 9 } { 8 8 8 }	2,989 15 9	..	2,989 15 9	
Wellington ..	100	50 0 8	1	3 1 0	4	1,691 0 0	105	1,744 1 8	30 6 6	12 12 4	{ 0 14 9 } { 4 15 9 }	3,297 11 0	..	3,297 11 0	
Nelson ..	5	11 0 3	..	..	25	6,541 1 29	30	6,552 1 32	6 1 4	..	{ 0 8 10 } { 1 2 0 }	3,302 13 6	..	3,302 13 6
Marlborough ..	1	0 1 0	..	..	4	3,083 3 12	5	3,084 0 12	1100 0 0	..	0 8 2	1,258 0 5†	..	1,258 0 5
Westland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury ..	8	4 0 0	..	..	7	131 0 28	15	135 0 28	25 15 0	..	{ 1 6 2 } { 4 11 1 }	544 8 7	..	544 8 7
Otago ..	16	9 1 9	22	73 1 36	19	875 1 1	57	958 0 6	16 19 3	4 2 9	{ 0 10 7 } { 1 9 2 }	1,557 7 8	..	1,557 7 8	
Southland ..	1	0 2 0	16	43 1 6	19	1,085 1 4	36	1,129 0 10	24 0 0	3 7 4	{ 0 8 10 } { 0 8 7 }	632 9 11	..	632 9 11	
Totals ..	245	255 3 10	52	180 3 22	121	19,896 2 35	418	20,333 1 27	..	..	..	18,437 10 11	..	18,437 10 11
Land for Settlements—															
Auckland ..	7	8 2 36	..	..	..	..	7	8 2 36	8 0 11	..	..	70 2 6	..	70 2 6
Marlborough ..	2	2 0 0	..	..	..	..	2	2 0 0	50 0 0	..	..	100 0 0	..	100 0 0
Canterbury ..	..	..	..	..	2	4 0 19	2	4 0 19	..	..	39 13 2	163 7 5	..	163 7 5
Southland ..	..	..	..	..	1	1 0 0	1	1 0 0	..	..	3 0 0	3 0 0	..	3 0 0
Totals ..	9	10 2 36	..	..	3	5 0 19	12	15 3 15	..	..	..	336 9 11	..	336 9 11
Cheviot Estate—															
Canterbury ..	16	7 0 31	..	..	..	..	16	7 0 31	52 16 5	..	..	379 19 6	..	379 19 6

* Where two average prices are given, the first is for lands selected when an option was given to acquire them under other tenures, and the second when no such option was given.
† Exclusive of £50 liss. received as balance due on outstanding exchange.

Table 7.—RETURN OF PERPETUAL-LEASE LANDS: TRANSACTIONS during the Year ended 31st March, 1907.

District.	Taken up during the Year.			Exchanges to other Tenures during the Year.			Forfeitures during the Year.			Surrenders during the Year.		
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental payable. £ s. d.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental. £ s. d.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental. £ s. d.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental. £ s. d.
Auckland
Hawke's Bay
Taranaki
Wellington
Nelson
Marlborough
Westland
Canterbury
Otago
Southland
Totals	6	1,150 0 30	48 6 4	2	146 1 15	3 4 0	1	47 0 18	4 14 0
				3	1,035 1 22	37 12 4	1	46 1 15	1 9 0	1	47 0 18	4 14 0
				3	114 3 8	10 14 0	1	46 1 15	1 9 0	1	47 0 18	4 14 0
				6	1,150 0 30	48 6 4	2	146 1 15	3 4 0	1	47 0 18	4 14 0

District.	Freeholds acquired during the Year.			Made Freehold from Commencement of System to 31st March, 1907.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1907.			Amount received during the Year ended 31st March, 1907 (exclusive of Amount from Perpetual Leases made Freehold).			Selectors in Arrear, 31st March, 1907.		
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount realised. £ s. d.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Total Amount realised, exclusive of Interest. £ s. d.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental. £ s. d.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental. £ s. d.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount. £ s. d.
Auckland	10	1,929 3 27	875 15 0	503	154,908	73,035 17 3	220	38,586 0 30	1,101 9 11	884 4 7	29	4,063 0 0	74 7 1		
Hawke's Bay	1	397 0 0	560 0 0	295	133,159	124,022,008 9 7 12	12	3,543 0 23	132 7 0	164 7 4	..	..	..
Taranaki	..	..	..	400	101,050	39,938,453 10 2 13	13	3,961 0 16	216 4 2	185 3 3	..	..	..
Wellington	3	930 3 0	506 10 8	782	306,089	13,272,926 4 6 21	21	7,268 3 8	307 15 11	289 19 8	2	450 0 0	30 0 0		
Nelson	..	..	..	27	9,181 0 8	3,074 13 6 0	12	2,017 3 14	39 0 0	32 10 2	2	378 1 14	9 19 2
Marlborough	1	300 0 0	82 10 0	7	925 3 24	447 5 0 5	5	1,170 2 23	33 17 6	30 10 8	..	..	..
Westland	..	..	..	6	482 3 20	482 17 2 7	7	580 1 8	28 0 4	27 12 0	..	..	..
Canterbury	2	44 1 13	61 16 8	89	15,060	23,049 4 7 23	23	2,026 0 7	159 15 6	150 0 11	..	..	..
Otago	16	3,852 0 17	2,623 17 6	134	24,902	19,355 1 2 187	187	34,394 2 6	1,283 15 0	1,283 1 7	5	1,647 0 26	46 3 0		
Southland	4	598 0 30	425 9 3	86	19,443	14,636 14 2 64	64	11,972 3 14	441 2 0	407 12 4	..	..	..
Totals	37	7,482 1 7	5,135 19	1,232	765,198	2,160,469 17 1 564	564	105,521 1 29	3,743 7 4	3,355 2 6	39	6,577 0 17	162 7 11		

Table 8.—RETURN OF OCCUPATION-WITH-RIGHT-OF-PURCHASE LANDS taken up during the Year ended 31st March, 1907.

District.	Taken up during the Year.				Forfeitures during the Year.				Surrenders during the Year.				Exchanges during the Year.			
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Average Rent per Acre.	Annual Rental payable.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	R. P.	£ s. d.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	R. P.	£ s. d.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland	236	103,812 3 27	0 8 8	3,822 15 6	88	29,333 0 31	902 16 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hawke's Bay	10	3,498 3 5	0 11 08	161 10 6	2	190 0 0	19 16 4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Taranaki	90	69,945 1 33	0 9	2,463 4 2	15	8,460 1 0	346 15 6	1	315 0 0	..	7 17 6	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington	30	25,673 3 38	0 10	1,099 1 2	2	400 0 0	17 10 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson	5	1,664 2 0	0 5	31 14 0	..	..	..	1	803 0 0	..	15 9 0	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough	3	2,646 0 0	0 4 8	52 11 8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury	11	2,744 2 23	0 6 1	70 7 6	2	182 0 6	2 17 2	3	290 0 14	..	7 18 10	..	..	..	..	..
Otago	27	5,543 1 13	0 4 4	102 19 0	17	4,103 0 86	82 14 8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Southland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	412	215,529 2 14	0 8 7	7,804 3 6	126	42,668 2 33	1,972 9 11	5	1,408 0 14	..	31 5 4	..	..	..	..	..

District.	Freeholds acquired during the Year.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1907.			Amount received during the Year ended 31st March, 1907.*			Selectors in Arrear, 31st March, 1907.		
	Number.	Area.	Amount received.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	On the Year's Transactions.	On Past Transactions.	Total.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount.
Auckland	42	8,853 0 14	4,794 6 6	2,306	668,340 3 29	20,473 12 5	1,911 7 9	11,670 18 8	13,582 6 5	164	24,600 0 0	£ 850 16 1
Hawke's Bay	5	2,088 0 0	1,789 3 0	245	134,717 2 22	6,698 12 11	80 15 3	5,971 3 1	6,051 18 4	1	20 2 21	0 10 5
Taranaki	10	2,547 3 33	3,691 2 2	428	216,069 3 21	8,973 19 2	1,260 14 8	5,634 1 1	6,894 15 9	5	3,965 0 0	157 18 3
Wellington	37	12,375 0 0	13,365 19 11	655	244,508 2 15	13,225 14 5	568 12 6	9,804 4 11	9,872 17 5	10	2,176 0 0	129 15 0
Nelson	6	950 3 13	335 8 0	191	37,851 1 30	730 19 8	15 13 5	585 19 10	601 13 3	12	1,524 2 28	48 6 4
Marlborough	1	126 0 0	63 0 0	40	13,061 3 19	550 18 1	26 5 10	469 18 7	496 4 5	3	1,001 0 0	47 16 9
Westland	..	..	..	106	18,590 0 24	601 4 0	..	668 1 3	668 1 3	..	..	..
Canterbury	1	240 0 0	300 0 0	26	4,733 2 23	257 1 0	..	217 13 7	217 13 7	1	263 1 14	8 4 7
Otago	1	192 1 13	96 0 0	254	45,080 1 30	1,253 8 8	39 3 5	1,023 7 11	1,062 11 4	10	1,513 3 16	23 6 3
Southland	..	..	..	324	72,028 3 8	1,746 7 2	51 9 6	1,359 4 7	1,410 14 1	9	2,580 0 12	35 2 0
Totals	108	28,449 0 21	25,245 6 6	4,575	1,454,983 1 21	54,511 17 6	3,954 2 4	36,904 13 6	40,858 15 10	215	37,644 2 11	1,301 15 8

* Exclusive of amount paid for acquiring freehold

Table 9.—RETURN OF LEASE-IN-PERPETUITY LANDS, 31st March, 1907—continued.

District.	Surrenders during the Year.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1907.			Amount received during the Year ended 31st March, 1907.			Selectors in Arrear, 31st March, 1907.		
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	On the Year's Transactions.	On Past Transactions.	Total.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount.
Ordinary Crown Lands—												
Auckland	11	A. 2,005	£ 56	1,218	8,412	170	6,452	6,623	105	23,300	713	
Hawke's Bay	2	R. P. 0	46	202	3,606	28	3,347	3,375	2	3,387	8	
Taranaki	1	0	6	469	7,229	210	4,229	4,440	9	2,067	8	
Wellington	1	0	14	492	6,206	43	5,873	5,916	10	3,549	54	
Nelson	1	0	4	325	1,485	195	830	1,026	7	2,292	102	
Marlborough	3	0	2	313	3,290	395	2,500	2,895	5	1,011	63	
Westland	3	5	0	471	1,478	986	700	1,637	16	103	17	
Canterbury	2	16	10	242	4,268	24	3,810	3,810	1	15	3	
Otago	1	23	6	785	5,635	74	4,838	4,862	14	3,094	48	
Southland	1	23	6	337	2,257	74	1,845	1,919	6	2,663	34	
Totals	21	4,864	129	4,854	43,865	2,078	34,428	36,507	175	38,484	1,057	
Land for Settlements—												
Auckland	4	1,032	168	529	15,750	796	12,729	13,525	45	12,500	1,204	
Hawke's Bay	1	0	32	419	39,320	2,151	32,533	34,684	7	518	233	
Taranaki	1	3	10	35	3,097	424	2,779	3,203	5	114	96	
Wellington	1	0	6	310	15,247	5,371	8,131	13,503	13	99	2	
Nelson	1	0	0	306	12,271	7	12,057	12,064	14	2,420	181	
Marlborough	5	15	6	27	538	26	548	574	1	0	0	
Westland	1	36	5	1,138	65,941	2,801	55,214	58,016	32	2,106	521	
Canterbury	1	0	0	515	32,600	7,171	20,754	27,925	36	6,946	225	
Otago	1	0	0	235	10,362	83	9,301	9,384	22	5,319	1,413	
Southland	1	0	0	3,504	195,120	18,833	154,049	172,883	174	30,025	4,727	
Totals	12	2,195	588	3,504	648,481	18,833	583,911	617,883	174	30,025	4,727	
Cheviot Estate	118	24,392	6,450	118	6,450	5,886	5,886	7,100	1	25	3	
Ellesmere Endowment	68	13,937	1,399	68	1,399	1,271	1,271	2,600	1	25	3	

Table 12.—Return of VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS during the Year ended 31st March, 1907.

District.	Tenure.	Taken up during the Year.			Exchanges to other Tenures during the Year.			Made Freehold during Year.			Made Freehold from Commencement.		
		Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Selectors.	Area.	Amount realised.	Selectors.	Area.	Total Cash received.
		£ s. d.	A. B. P.	£ s. d.	A. B. P.	£ s. d.	A. B. P.	£ s. d.	A. B. P.	£ s. d.	A. B. P.	£ s. d.	
Auckland	Cash	8	14 1 0	3 5 0	3	60 3 0	3 5 0	38	34 0 8	..	..	540 4 0
"	Lease in perpetuity	4	18 1 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Village-homestead special settlement	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hawke's Bay	Cash	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Perpetual lease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Occupation with right of purchase	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Lease in perpetuity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Village-homestead special settlement	12	792 1 7	419 2 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Taranaki	Cash	..	..	..	1	3 3 39	1 2 6	..	..	..	..	..
"	Deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Occupation with right of purchase	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington	Cash	7	5 1 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Perpetual lease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Village-homestead special settlement	16	156 2 17	44 7 4	3	42 3 38	4 9 4	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough	Cash	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Village-homestead special settlement	..	..	..	2	60 0 0	3 11 4	..	..	..	..	..
Westland	Cash	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Lease in perpetuity	1	0 1 0	1 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury	Cash	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Perpetual lease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Village-homestead special settlement	1	16 2 0	2 12 10	7	215 1 38	30 13 10	..	..	..	..	..
Otago	Cash	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Perpetual lease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Village-homestead special settlement	..	..	..	2	66 3 9	7 16 0	..	..	..	..	..
Southland	Cash	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Deferred payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Perpetual lease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
"	Lease in perpetuity	15	201 2 24	19 2 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Totals	64	1,205 0 20	489 10 6	18	450 0 4	50 18 0	10	141 2 36	3,201	21,784 1 37	89,369 19 3	
Land for Settlements—	Cash	1	0 1 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1 1 32	31 15 0
Hawke's Bay	Grand totals	65	1,205 1 20	489 10 6	18	450 0 4	50 18 0	10	141 2 36	3,204	21,785 3 29	89,401 14 3	

Table 13.—SUMMARY OF POSITION OF VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS AT 31ST MARCH, 1907.

District.	Number of Settlers in Occupation.		Area occupied. A. R. P.	Area laid down in Pasture or cultivated. A. R. P.	Annual Rental or Instalments, including Interest on Advances. £ s. d.	Amounts advanced to Settlers up to 31st March, 1907.			Amount of Advances which have been repaid to 31st March, 1907. £ s. d.	Total Amount of Interest paid to 31st March, 1907. £ s. d.	Value of Improvements now on the Land. £ s. d.	Arrears of Interest on 31st March, 1907. £ s. d.
	Resident.	Non-resident.				For Houses. £ s. d.	For Bushfelling, Grassing, &c. £ s. d.	Total. £ s. d.				
Auckland ..	51	37	4,104 1 37	1,677 3 1	277 1 10	958 0 0	1,253 17 6	931 5 1	2,907 12 2	11,186 13 6	7 2 9	
Hawke's Bay	56	40	2,923 2 31	1,864 0 0	1,448 18 2	580 0 0	296 15 9	354 9 0	626 6 2	11,542 0 0	..	
Taranaki ..	18	1	77 1 8	77 1 8	12 15 2	..	..	..	..	892 0 0	..
Wellington ..	585*	63	11,151 1 36	9,872 0 0	2,061 8 10	3,024 17 6	3,670 19 11	3,398 2 4	4,274 13 0	105,755 0 0	61 4 0	
Nelson ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough	11	9	254 1 19	200 0 0	38 1 2	85 0 0	18 15 0	15 0 0	86 0 4	2,150 0 0	..	
Westland ..	9	2	198 1 27	197 0 0	14 0 10	..	..	..	..	1,428 0 0	..
Canterbury ..	241	73	8,985 3 38	7,944 3 7	1,087 1 8	2,460 0 0	..	927 10 0	1,947 10 1	29,117 18 3	2 10 0	
Otago ..	133	76	3,172 1 7	1,692 1 0	308 4 0	1,101 5 0	440 0 0	275 2 6	1,085 18 0	12,984 7 6	7 14 5	
Southland ..	370	59	6,205 0 20	3,843 3 0	682 18 8	756 0 0	350 2 2	174 1 3	891 4 7	30,022 1 0	0 17 5	
Totals ..	1,474	360	37,023 0 23	27,368 3 16	5,930 10 4	8,965 2 6	6,030 10 4	6,075 10 2	11,819 4 4	205,073 0 3	79 8 7	
Cheviot Estate, Canterbury	60	32	2,480 1 0	2,409 1 11	870 10 4	120 0 0	..	120 0 0	26 0 0	12,538 1 0	..	
Land for Settlements— Hawke's Bay	2	12	33 3 24	30 0 0	22 12 0	..	..	..	..	482 0 0	..
Otago ..	22	9	413 0 4	407 0 0	317 3 10	..	..	..	..	3,532 0 0	..

* Inclusive of 161 not reported on.

Table 14.—RETURN OF SPECIAL-SETTLEMENT ASSOCIATIONS, under Section 163 of "The Land Act, 1885," and Part IV of "The Land Act, 1892," to 31st March, 1907, not included in the Special Returns.

District.	Taken up during the Year.			Amount received during the Year.	Total Amount received on Current and Previous Transactions to 31st March, 1907.	Made Freehold.			Number of Selectors required to reside, and actually residing, and Area.		
	Number.	Area.	Capital Value per Acre.			During the Year.		From Commencement of System to 31st March, 1907.		Number required to reside.	Area.
						No.	Area.	No.	Area.		
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.		A. R. P.		
Auckland	..	..	325 12 11	8,742 17 6	..	52	5,217 0 25	69	56	11,201 2 0
Hawke's Bay	..	..	116 1 8	775 6 1	..	54	4,809 3 12	14	7	1,400 0 0
Taranaki..	..	..	737 8 8	10,340 16 9	..	..	..	55	66	15,764 2 23
Wellington	..	4 1 24	1 17 6	4,736 0 6	..	815	81,320 0 37	343	315	69,081 1 7	
Nelson ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury	..	..	128 13 0	2,030 19 0	..	..	..	4	5	660 3 11
Otago ..	..	..	109 0 8	1,464 12 0	..	..	..	14	9	1,717 2 36
Southland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	1	4 1 24	1 17 6	6,152 17 5	171,305 7 2	921	91,347 0 34	499	458	99,825 3 37	
<i>Land for Settlements—</i>											
Canterbury ..	..	..	147 1	1,833 16 11	..	..	..	..	1	232 0 0

District.	Forfeitures during the Year.			Surrenders during the Year			Net Area held, 31st March, 1907.			Selectors in Arrear, 31st March, 1907.		
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount.
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland	..	..	76 2 9	2	323 1 0	8 18 8	69	11,467 1 38	235 14 7	3	453 2 0	9 11 4
Hawke's Bay	..	1,895 3 0	..	..	..	..	14	3,111 0 19	101 16 0	..	..	..
Taranaki..	..	..	..	..	55 3 0	2 12 2	86	16,213 0 15	873 3 4	8	1,695 2 0	53 8 8
Wellington	..	..	..	..	..	..	431	78,063 0 29	4,461 7 7	13	2,076 0 0	204 0 0
Nelson ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	2,586 2 17	141 13 8	1	12 0 38	..
Otago ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	2,765 1 12	121 2 4	..	..	..
Southland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	9	1,895 3 0	76 2 9	2	379 0 0	11 10 10	644	114,156 3 10	5,934 17 6	25	4,237 0 38	267 8 5
<i>Land for Settlements—</i>												
Canterbury ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	2,114 1 9	162 7 8	..	..	..

Table 15.—RETURN of HOMESTEAD LANDS : TRANSACTIONS during the Year ended 31st March, 1907.

District.	Net Area held on 31st March, 1907.		Made Freehold during the Year.		Made Freehold since Commencement of System to 31st March, 1907.	
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Number of Selectors.	Area.
		A. R. P.		A. R. P.		A. R. P.
Auckland	464	76,096 3 10
Westland	39	1,480 0 0
Otago	22	2,876 0 0
Totals	525	80,452 3 10

Table 16.—RETURN of SMALL GRAZING-RUNS taken up during the Year ended 31st March, 1907.

District.	Taken up during the Year.				Forfeitures during the Year.			Surrenders during the Year.			
	Number of Holders.	Area.	Average Area.	Average Rent per Acre.	Annual Rent payable.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.
		A. R. P.	A. R. P. s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland	4	8,551 0 0	2,137 3 0	0 3 28	116 18 2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hawke's Bay .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Taranaki .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington	8	5,435 3 9	679 2 0	0 8 25	190 7 2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson	1	4,167 0 0	4,167 0 0	0 1 5	26 10 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	683 0 0	..	5 19 6
Westland .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury	5	12,268 0 0	2,453 2 16	1 0 3	625 18 8	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago	15	43,429 2 5	2,895 1 8	0 6 5	1,178 1 10	..	..	..	32,358 3 31	..	58 8 6
Southland .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	33	73,851 1 14	2,237 3 27	0 6 9	2,137 15 10	..	..	..	33,041 3 31	..	64 8 0

Land for Settlements—

Auckland	5	22,357 0 0	4,471 1 24	0 3 44	321 0 6	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hawke's Bay .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington	6	8,097 0 0	1,349 2 0	4 0	1,623 12 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough	1	993 0 0	993 0 0	0 4 7	18 12 6	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury	1	3,684 0 0	3,684 0 0	1 9 9	345 7 6	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago	5	5,871 1 6	1,174 1 13	4	983 2 4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Southland .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	18	41,002 1 6	2,277 3 23	1 7 2	3,291 14 10	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Cheviot Estate:</i> Canterbury .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

District.	Exchanges during the Year.		Net Area held on 31st March, 1907.			Amount received during the Year.			Arrears on 31st March, 1907.			
	No. of Holders.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	On the Year's Transactions.	On Past Transactions.	Total.	Number.	Area.	Amount.
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.
Auckland .. .. .	..	..	..	14	68,274 2 0	587 13 1	58 9 1	468 7 9	526 16 10	1	4,400 0 0	61 2 6
Hawke's Bay .. .. .	..	..	..	85	248,938 3 2	2,775 0 10	..	2,782 7 3	2,782 7 3	..	..	..
Taranaki .. .. .	..	..	..	17	16,654 2 6	235 0 6	..	325 6 5	325 6 5	..	..	..
Wellington	1	2,255 0 0	56 7 6	84	77,257 3 19	2,353 16 7	241 10 9	1,829 8 1	2,070 18 10	9	5,906 0 0	173 10 0
Nelson .. .. .	..	..	..	7	12,723 0 0	83 17 4	..	73 17 6	73 17 6	1	1,088 0 0	15 0 0
Marlborough	9	3,916 0 0	48 19 0	91	205,290 1 31	2,786 10 8	..	2,749 16 5	2,749 16 5	10	21,639 3 31	178 0 9
Westland .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canterbury .. .. .	..	..	..	55	133,734 0 19	6,061 7 6	313 7 6	5,344 10 6	5,657 18 0	2	5,498 0 0	159 7 6
Otago .. .. .	..	..	..	273	580,486 1 4	13,331 8 8	656 7 2	12,315 19 1	12,972 6 3	7	12,579 2 31	130 10 10
Southland .. .. .	..	..	..	19	64,436 0 13	735 17 10	..	737 0 2	737 0 2	2	2,715 0 0	18 8 7
Totals	10	6,171 0 0	105 6 6	645	1,407,795 2 14	28,950 13 0	1,269 14 6	26,626 13 2	27,896 7 8	32	58,766 2 22	786 0 2

Land for Settlements—

Auckland .. .. .	..	..	..	7	29,136 0 0	405 15 4	160 10 3	110 10 2	271 0 5	..	..	..
Hawke's Bay .. .. .	..	..	..	16	19,681 0 0	4,440 18 6	..	4,118 2 6	4,118 2 6	..	..	..
Wellington .. .. .	..	..	..	7	9,127 0 0	1,795 5 4	1,056 0 11	244 12 6	1,300 13 5	..	..	..
Marlborough .. .. .	..	..	..	*31	54,851 2 0	7,516 0 2	9 6 3	5,850 19 7	5,860 5 10	2	5,411 0 0	73 6 0
Canterbury .. .. .	..	..	..	44	81,161 0 26	10,882 6 6	172 13 9	9,340 15 11	9,513 9 8	1	3,590 0 0	206 15 9
Otago .. .. .	..	..	..	9	10,743 1 4	1,558 4 4	973 17 1	514 16 10	1,488 13 11	..	..	..
Southland .. .. .	..	..	..	2	2,808 1 0	201 7 4	..	90 18 8	90 18 8	..	..	..
Totals .. .. .	..	..	..	116	207,508 0 30	26,799 17 6	2,372 8 3	20,270 16 2	22,643 4 5	3	9,001 0 0	280 1 9
<i>Cheviot Estate:</i> Canterbury .. .. .	..	..	..	49	45,846 1 26	6,871 13 2	..	6,209 10 7	6,209 10 7	9	8,199 2 0	556 2 3

* Four of these are not separate holders, but are included in the 91 ordinary Crown-land holders.

Table 17.—NUMBER and AREA of PASTORAL LICENSES for the Year ended 31st March, 1907.

District.	Taken up during the Year.			Exchanges to other Tenures during the Year.			Forfeitures during the Year.			Expiries during the Year.			Surrenders during the Year.		
	Number of Holders.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Holders.	Area.	A. R. P.	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	A. R. P.	Number of Holders.	Area.	A. R. P.	
Auckland ..	21	A. R. P. 19,109 0 0	£ s. d. 101 11 10	..	..	..	3	1,757 0 9	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hawke's Bay ..	4	30,652 0 0	200 2 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14,420 2 0
Taranaki ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington ..	8	4,594 0 0	159 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough ..	2	13,880 0 0	150 0 0	8	3,651 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,880 0 0
Westland ..	58	34,726 3 86	179 15 0	..	..	..	1	8,500 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	37,500 0 0
Canterbury ..	5	16,717 0 0	349 6 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago ..	13	191,225 2 38	1,027 9 8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	181,810 0 0
Southland ..	7	59,484 0 0	557 4 4	..	..	..	1	7,110 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	5,300 0 0
Totals ..	113	370,388 2 34	2,724 9 8	8	3,651 0 0	5	17,367 0 9	40	281,433 1 12	13	242,910 2 0				

District.	Net Area held on 31st March, 1907.				Holders in Arrear on 31st March, 1907.			
	Number of Holders.	Area, approximately.	Average Holdings.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Amount.	£ s. d.
Auckland ..	131	A. R. P. 245,014 3 37	A. R. P. 1,870 1 14	£ s. d. 952 7 8	23	A. R. P. 60,598 0 0	£ s. d. 205 19 4	
Hawke's Bay ..	17	117,713 0 0	6,924 0 0	777 2 2	..	..	..
Taranaki ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington ..	29	133,337 0 0	4,597 3 0	2,244 15 6	..	..	..
Nelson ..	2*	165,829 0 0	82,914 2 0	330 0 0	..	..	..
Marlborough ..	55	898,627 0 0	16,339 0 0	3,889 13 0	1	200 0 0	5 10 0	
Westland ..	193	561,059 0 35	2,907 0 6	860 1 2	14	30,409 2 9	35 3 10	
Canterbury ..	140	3,450,673 1 39	24,647 2 27	32,912 2 4	..	..	..
Otago ..	216	4,159,278 2 15	19,260 2 7	25,603 19 10	..	..	..
Southland ..	92	1,482,753 1 0	16,117 0 0	3,989 14 2	..	..	..
Totals ..	875	11,214,285 2 6	12,816 1 12	71,559 15 10	38	91,207 2 9	246 13 2	
Cheviot Estate— Canterbury ..	1	1,642 0 0	1,642 0 0	193 3 8	..	..	..
Land for Settlements— Otago ..	2	953 2 38	496 3 19	121 13 0	..	..	..

*Exclusive of 38 holders of 72,080 acres (annual rental £190 17s. 8d.) now included in Table 18.

Table 19.—RETURN OF GROSS REVENUE RECEIVED during the Year ended 31st March, 1907.

System.	Auckland.	Hawke's Bay	Taranaki.	Wellington.	Nelson.	Marlborough.	Westland.	Canterbury.	Otago.	Southland.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
ORDINARY CROWN LANDS.											
Cash lands	2,866 6 4	1,988 17 9	2,969 15 9	3,297 11 0	3,302 13 6	1,308 15 5	544 8 7	1,557 7 8	632 9 11	18,488 5 11	
Perpetual lease made freehold	875 15 0	560 0 0	560 0 0	506 10 8	335 8 0	82 10 0	61 16 8	2,623 17 6	425 9 3	5,135 19 1	
Occupation with right of purchase made freehold	4,794 6 6	1,789 3 0	3,691 2 2	2,13,865 19 11	335 8 0	63 0 0	300 0 0	96 0 0	810 6 11	25,245 6 6	
Village-settlement perpetual lease made freehold .. .. .	.. .. .	5 0 0	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	20 0 0	.. .. .	313 13 9	333 13 9	
Village-settlement occupation-with-right-of-purchase lease made freehold .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	5 0 0	
Deferred payment, rural	249 0 9	.. .. .	404 6 4	2 13 6	536 14 3	.. .. .	182 0 2	47 8 7	359 8 6	1,781 12 1	
Deferred payment, pastoral .. .. .	.. .. .	63 15 0	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	562 3 2	25 18 8	133 4 8	785 1 6	
Perpetual lease and small areas	834 4 7	164 7 4	185 3 8	289 19 8	32 10 2	30 10 8	27 12 0	1,233 1 7	407 12 4	3,355 2 6	
Occupation with right of purchase	18,582 6 5	6,051 18 4	6,894 15 9	9,872 17 5	601 13 3	496 4 5	668 1 3	1,062 11 4	1,410 14 1	40,838 13 10	
Lease in perpetuity	6,623 7 2	3,375 10 0	4 440 11 6	5,916 10 0	1,026 1 6	2,895 14 11	1,637 0 10	4,862 0 9	1,919 10 9	36,507 6 6	
Agricultural lease .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	1,637 0 10	14 13 4	.. .. .	14 13 4	
Occupation lease under "The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894"	408 13 4	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	36 17 5	27 19 1	3 11 9	.. .. .	313 15 5	155 6 4	
Village settlement, cash	358 0 0	.. .. .	.. .. .	28 10 0	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	13 9 5	.. .. .	28 17 11	
Village settlement, deferred payment .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	59 18 4	.. .. .	150 14 1	
Village settlement, perpetual lease	170 7 7	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	3 9 8	.. .. .	1 11 8	
Village settlement, occupation with right of purchase .. .. .	.. .. .	0 12 6	1 11 5	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	0 13 6	
Village settlement, lease in perpetuity	102 16 9	1,157 12 3	8 18 3	.. .. .	.. .. .	24 11 6	12 11 7	7 14 5	137 19 11	333 1 7	
Village-homestead special settlement	159 16 4	60 5 10	.. .. .	1,864 10 5	.. .. .	17 12 6	.. .. .	815 9 4	140 18 7	140 6 10	
Special-settlement association, deferred payment .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	48 7 2	.. .. .	.. .. .
Special-settlement association, perpetual lease	325 12 11	116 1 8	737 8 8	4,736 0 6	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	80 5 10	109 0 8	.. .. .
Improved-farm special settlement	403 10 2	238 18 6	1,247 9 1	3,105 10 11	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	5,637 18 0	12,972 6 3	293 9 10	
Small grazing-runs	526 16 10	2,782 7 3	325 6 5	2,070 18 10	73 17 6	2,749 16 5	.. .. .	1,186 18 1	3,709 10 5	27,886 7 8	
Pastoral runs	517 16 3	762 4 1	.. .. .	2,166 17 9	330 0 0	3,947 1 8	1,186 18 1	1,140 14 10	25,856 2 8	69,617 5 9	
Coal and mineral leases	601 5 10	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	769 5 7	.. .. .	209 15 0	57 3 0	1,132 1 7	3,144 13 1	
Prospectors' mining leases	75 0 0	53 0 0	.. .. .	.. .. .	102 10 0	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	280 10 0	
Timber licenses and other leases, and sale of timber	17,560 7 0	240 0 0	27 3 6	197 14 5	1,689 19 0	467 0 9	8,607 14 2	275 9 1	9 11 0	30,203 3 8	
Flax-cutting	660 5 0	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	25 3 6	132 3 7	.. .. .	33 0 0	176 19 8	
Miscellaneous leases	1,442 9 1	754 8 9	83 3 2	385 7 6	491 19 3	206 1 9	212 18 4	.. .. .	1,005 11 1	4,531 18 11	
Transfer, lease, and license fees, &c.	643 3 0	207 2 0	224 5 0	505 1 2	138 4 0	164 8 0	169 7 0	337 11 6	342 3 0	2,922 2 8	
Rents of reserves	137 1 2	156 19 0	312 2 3	725 9 7	255 6 6	879 6 6	38 15 0	2,786 10 10	103 3 4	6,192 1 4	
Miscellaneous	880 8 2	176 18 8	1,768 19 5	1,706 8 6	39 4 4	21 12 6	100 5 1	1,339 6 11	426 0 5	5,340 7 3	
Crown-grant fees	171 12 10	60 18 7	39 4 8	148 18 9	76 4 5	7 4 9	.. .. .	52 3 5	76 0 5	700 3 9	
State forests	17,735 11 7	57 0 2	56 17 6	99 9 6	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	390 16 6	70 15 10	20,580 6 0	
Survey liens on Native lands	2,208 11 6	61 9 4	16 6 3	1,598 7 8	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	71 5 2	24 0 3	193 3 3	
Survey fees which do not form part payment of land .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	76 7 10	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	11 12 0	39 15 0	51 7 0	
Survey fees which do form part payment of land .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
Totals	74,914 12 1	120,884 10 0	233,525 18 2	522,541 7 8	9,538 8 8	814,248 12 11	12,996 13 8	847,788 7 7	54,847 12 10	16,153 1 8	327,239 5 3

* Includes £50 15s. paid on account of an exchange.

Table 19.—RETURN OF GROSS REVENUE RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1907—continued.

System.	Auckland.	Hawke's Bay.	Taranaki.	Wellington.	Nelson.	Marlborough.	Westland.	Canterbury.	Otago.	Southland.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward ..	74,914 12	120,884 10	023,525 18	252,541 7	9,838 8	814,248 12	112,996 13	847,788 7	754,347 12	16,153 1	827,239 5
LANDS FOR SETTLEMENTS.											
Cash ..	70 2 6	8 0 0	..	..	..	100 0 0	..	163 7 5	..	3 0 0	344 9 11
Lease in perpetuity ..	13,525 9	034,684 11	3,203 13	613,503 2	..	12,064 15	574 19	158,016 14	527,925 11	9,384 9	172,883 6
Lease in perpetuity, village ..	..	21 8 11	..	..	..	..	..	..	292 14 1	..	314 3 0
Special-settlement associations ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	147 1 1	..	..	147 1 1
Small grazing-runs ..	271 0 5	4,118 2 6	..	1,300 13 5	..	5,860 5 10	..	9,513 9 8	1,488 13 11	90 18 8	22,643 4 5
Pastoral runs..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	121 13 0	..	121 13 0
Miscellaneous ..	3,384 3 4	966 3 7	269 17 8	3,361 11 2	..	712 1 2	1 0 0	504 18 8	141 5 11	648 13 9	9,969 15 3
Totals ..	17,250 15	339,798 6 11	3,473 11	218,165 7 1	..	18,737 2 8	575 18	168,345 11	329,969 18	510,127 2 0	206,443 12 10
CHEVIOT ESTATE.											
Cash sales ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	379 19 6	..	..	379 19 6
Lease in perpetuity ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,836 7 10	..	..	5,836 7 10
Village homesteads ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	836 17 11	..	..	836 17 11
Grazing-farms ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,209 10 7	..	..	6,209 10 7
Pastoral runs..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	193 3 8	..	..	193 3 8
Miscellaneous leases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	219 6 5	..	..	219 6 5
Miscellaneous ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13,675 5 11	..	..	13,675 5 11
Rotorua Town Council ..	1,762 4 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,762 4 0
Endowment lands ..	897 18 5	344 0 6	47 0 0	463 14	716,039 10 2	..	1,750 17 0	1,683 18 7	5,316 3 6	964 3 3	27,567 6 0
Thermal-springs Districts Act: Rents ..	47 5 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	47 5 0
"Native Townships Act, 1895" ..	153 11 3	434 18 6	..	632 14 8	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,281 4 5
Workers' Dwellings Act ..	89 8 1	..	..	106 4 6	..	..	..	21 4 7	..	..	216 17 2
Grand totals ..	95,115 14	161,461 15 11	27,046 9	471,969 8	625,937 18	1032,985 15	715,323 8	9131,514 7	1189,633 14	927,244 6 11	578,233 0 7

Table 20.—RETURN of LANDS RESERVED and ALIENATED under Acts, or for Scrip.

District.	During the Year ended 31st March, 1907:				Total Area reserved, granted under Acts, &c., from the Foundation of the Colony to the 31st March, 1907.
	Area reserved for various Purposes.	Area granted under Acts.	Area granted in Satisfaction of Scrip.	Total Area alienated during the Year.	
	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Auckland	92,279 2 31	.. ..	.. ..	92,279 2 31	3,541,729 0 3
Hawke's Bay	3,353 0 19	.. ..	.. ..	3,353 0 19	401,084 2 18
Taranaki	1,989 0 2	15 0 28	.. ..	2,004 0 30	694,416 2 30
Wellington	2,691 3 35	.. ..	.. ..	2,691 3 35	1,335,779 1 37
Nelson	1,689 3 9	.. ..	.. ..	1,689 3 9	848,253 2 27
Marlborough	475 1 2	.. ..	.. ..	475 1 2	217,109 1 7
Westland .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	149,371 2 30
Canterbury	961 2 25	19 2 11	.. ..	981 0 36	1,544,841 2 24
Otago	4,203 2 12	10 1 18	.. ..	4,213 3 30	706,161 2 38
Southland	7,384 2 0	.. ..	.. ..	7,384 2 0	2,930,384 0 6
Totals	115,028 2 15	45 0 17	.. ..	115,073 2 32	12,869,131 3 20

Table 21.—FORFEITURES and SURRENDERS during the Year ended the 31st March, 1907, showing under each Tenure the Number of Selectors who have forfeited and surrendered their Holdings, and the Area and Rental of such Holdings.

Tenure.	Forfeitures.			Surrenders.		
	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rental.
ORDINARY CROWN LANDS.						
Cash	1	A. R. P. 26 3 11	£ s. d.	2	A. R. P. 103 2 0	£ s. d.
Perpetual lease	2	146 1 15	3 4 0	1	47 0 18	4 14 0
Occupation with right of purchase	126	42,668 2 33	1,372 9 11	5	1,408 0 14	31 5 4
Lease in perpetuity	69	11,910 2 12	372 3 11	21	4,864 3 39	129 1 2
Mining Districts Occupation Act.. ..	7	241 1 24	15 7 6	11	346 0 25	16 4 0
Village Settlement,—						
Occupation with right of purchase	2	2 0 0	0 6 0	..	.. ..	.. ..
Lease in perpetuity	10	201 0 29	12 12 10	..	.. ..	.. ..
Homestead special settlement	4	49 0 4	3 16 2	..	.. ..	.. ..
Special-settlement associations	9	1,895 3 0	76 2 9	2	379 0 0	11 10 10
Improved-farm special settlements	7	1,216 0 0	.. ..	..	.. ..	.. ..
Small grazing-runs .. ..	..	.. ..	.. ..	3	3,041 3 31	64 8 0
Pastoral runs	5	17,367 0 9	41 7 6	13	242,910 2 0	1,574 6 8
Miscellaneous	11	2,011 1 39	73 1 0	31	8,074 0 29	226 17 8
Total	253	77,736 1 16	1,970 11 7	89	261,175 1 36	2,058 7 8
CHEVIOT ESTATE.						
Miscellaneous .. ..	..	.. ..	.. ..	1	55 0 0	1 0 0
Total .. ..	..	.. ..	.. ..	1	55 0 0	1 0 0
LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS.						
Lease in perpetuity	28	4,096 1 38	616 9 10	12	2,195 1 39	588 14 4
Village lease in perpetuity	1	0 2 16	0 12 0	1	0 2 0	0 16 0
Miscellaneous	1	181 1 32	155 7 4	1	17 2 18	7 10 0
Total	30	4,278 2 6	772 9 2	14	2,213 2 17	597 0 4
Grand totals	283	82,014 3 22	2,743 0 9	104	263,444 0 13	2,656 8 0
Native townships	5	15 2 29	20 6 0	1	2 3 37	13 1 6

Table 22.—RETURN OF LAND taken up during the Year ended 31st March, 1907, within the Thermal-springs District of Auckland.

Locality.	Taken up during the Year.			Net Area held on 31st March, 1907.			Amount received during the Year.	Selectors in Arrear on 31st March, 1907.		
	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Yearly Rent payable.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Yearly Rent payable.		Number of Selectors.	Area.	Amount.
Rotorua*..	4	A. R. P. 1 1 0	£ s. d. 40 10 0	310	A. R. P. 6,080 0 24	£ s. d. 2,188 16 4	£ s. d. 1809 9 0	26	A. R. P. 450 0 0	£ s. d. 167 2 2

* Inclusive of Rotorua Town Council lands.

Table 23.—RETURN OF LANDS disposed of under "The Native Townships Act, 1905," for the Year ended 31st March, 1907.

Land District.	Name of Township.	Date of Proclamation.	Area of Township.		Date when opened for Sale.	Taken up during the Year.		
			Pro-claimed.	Offered.		No.	Area.	Rent payable.
Auckland	Kaimakau	14 July, 1897	A. R. P. 190 0 0	A. R. P. ..	14 Oct., 1898	..	A. R. P. ..	£ s. d. ..
"	Rotoiti	8 June, 1900	78 3 0	4 3 0	14 July, 1904	..	..	..
"	Parawai	29 June, 1900	485 0 0	42 0 26	30 June, 1904	..	..	..
"	Te Puru	26 Sept., 1901	23 3 37	2 0 25	30 June, 1904	..	..	..
"	Karewa	16 Oct., 1902	55 0 19	25 1 23	30 June, 1904	..	..	..
Hawke's Bay	Te Puia	13 July, 1898	497 0 0	166 1 32	15 Feb., 1900	2	64 3 0	9 8 0
"	Te Araroa	4 Oct., 1899	383 0 0	206 0 1	14 Dec., 1900	..	..	..
"	Tuatini	14 Sept., 1899	90 0 0	39 0 29	16 Jan., 1901	9	10 0 28	37 2 6
"	Waipiro	25 Oct., 1900	497 1 0	338 1 27	10 Feb., 1904	4	2 3 37	13 1 6
Wellington	Pipiriki	5 Aug., 1896	366 0 0	254 3 30	27 July, 1897	..	..	..
"	Tokaanu	11 Mar., 1897	490 0 0	198 0 0	17 June, 1898	2	2 2 0	10 0 0
"	Potaka	26 July, 1899	138 0 0	80 2 6	9 May, 1900	1	0 1 0	1 15 0
"	Parata	14 Aug., 1899 29 Aug., 1899	49 0 18	33 0 4	11 Sept., 1900	..	..	..
"	Hokio	1 Aug., 1902	39 3 30	19 2 25	11 Mar., 1903	4	3 1 38	6 5 0
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	22	84 0 23	77 12 0

Land District.	Name of Township.	Net Area held on 31st March, 1907.			Forfeitures or Surrenders during the Year.			Rent paid during Year.
		Number.	Area.	Rent payable.	Number.	Area.	Annual Rent.	
Auckland	Kaimakau	..	A. R. P. ..	£ s. d. ..	..	A. R. P. ..	£ s. d. ..	£ s. d. ..
"	Rotoiti	25	7 1 0	64 5 0	..	..	..	48 8 9
"	Parawai	14	9 3 14	66 2 6	1	0 1 16	3 0 0	47 9 3
"	Te Puru	30	10 0 37	110 12 6	..	..	..	46 8 3
"	Karewa	8	2 0 22	31 2 6	..	..	..	11 5 0
Hawke's Bay	Te Puia	21	136 3 32	77 0 6	..	..	..	79 6 9
"	Te Araroa	28	203 1 6	82 19 0	..	..	..	69 7 0
"	Tuatini	23	33 1 29	119 5 0	..	..	..	98 12 3
"	Waipiro	31	319 1 15	184 2 6	1	2 3 37	13 1 6	187 12 6
Wellington	Pipiriki	42	197 0 0	165 6 10	1	5 1 2	1 0 0	155 8 8
"	Tokaanu	29	86 1 37	216 8 4	1	5 2 0	3 10 0	164 10 0
"	Potaka	56	85 3 37	193 4 0	1	0 1 0	1 5 0	205 3 6
"	Parata	19	28 2 27	90 4 0	1	4 1 11	11 11 0	158 2 0
"	Hokio	22	10 3 31	15 11 0	..	..	..	9 10 6
Totals	..	348	1,131 2 7	1,416 3 8	6	18 2 26	33 7 6	1,281 4 5

Table 24.—RETURN showing the AREA OF BUSH felled on LANDS sold or leased by the Crown from 1st April, 1895, to 31st March, 1907.

District.	Felled during the Year on Lands taken up during the Year 1905-1906.			Felled during the Year on Lands taken up in Previous Years.			Total felled at 31st March, 1906.			Total felled at 31st March, 1907.		
	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.
Auckland	4,296	0	0	9,535	0	0	104,244	0	0	118,075	0	0
Hawke's Bay	2,140	0	0	9,794	0	0	111,258	0	0	123,192	0	0
Taranaki	920	0	0	1,650	0	0	42,070	0	0	47,580	0	0
Wellington	3,340	0	0	14,100	0	0	655,320	0	0	672,760	0	0
Nelson	320	0	0	6,700	0	0	26,237	0	0	33,257	0	0
Marlborough	200	0	0	1,500	0	0	90,357	0	0	92,057	0	0
Westland	3,000	0	0	1,800	0	0	56,820	0	0	61,620	0	0
Canterbury												
Otago	15	0	0	185	0	0	23,151	0	0	23,351	0	0
Southland	722	0	0	752	0	0	10,245	0	0	11,719	0	0
Totals	14,953	0	0	46,016	0	0	1,119,702	0	0	1,183,611	0	0

Table 25.—STATEMENT of the NUMBER of SELECTORS on the BOOKS of the LANDS AND SURVEY DEPARTMENT on 31st March, 1907.

District.	Deferred Payment.		Perpetual Lease.		Occupation with Right of Purchase.		Lease in Perpetuity.				Agricultural Lease.	Occupation Lease under "The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894."		Village Settlement, Deferred Payment.	Village Settlement, Perpetual Lease.	Village Settlement, Occupation with Right of Purchase.	Village Settlement, Lease in Perpetuity.		
	Crown Lands.	Endowment Lands.	Crown Lands.	Endowment Lands.	Crown Lands.	Endowment Lands.	Crown Lands.	Cheviot Estate.	Land for Settlements Acts.	Endowment Lands.		Crown Lands.	Endowment Lands.				Crown Lands.	Land for Settlements Acts.	Endowment Lands.
Auckland ..	19	..	220	1	2,306	7	1,218	..	529	23	..	182	..	..	..	..	51	..	..
Hawke's Bay ..	1	..	12	17	245	..	202	..	419	4	..	..	..	..	..	7	62	14	..
Taranaki ..	1	..	13	..	428	..	469	..	35	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	10	..	..
Wellington ..	1	..	21	..	655	..	492	..	310	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson ..	91	..	12	..	191	..	325	..	..	11	..	32	80	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough ..	..	..	5	..	40	..	313	..	306	..	..	19	..	..	1	..	9	..	..
Westland ..	..	..	7	..	106	..	471	..	27	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	11	..	..
Canterbury ..	5	..	23	..	26	..	242	118	1,138	68	..	..	..	7	21	8	18	..	..
Otago ..	14	1	187	16	254	..	785	..	515	9	15	243	..	2	15	3	117	31	4
Southland ..	5	..	64	12	324	1	337	..	225	43	..	42	..	2	80	4	292	..	..
Totals ..	137	1	564	46	4,575	8	4,854	118	3,504	158	15	524	80	11	117	31	570	45	4

District.	Village-homestead Special Settlement.			Special-settlement Associations.		Improved-farm Special Settlements.		Small Grazing-runs.			Grazing-farms: Cheviot Estate.	Pastoral.				Miscellaneous.				Thermal Springs, Rotorua.	Native Towns.	Total.		
	Crown Lands.	Cheviot Estate.	Endowment Lands.	Crown Lands.	Land for Settlements Acts.	Complete.	Not registered.	Crown Lands.	Land for Settlements Acts.	Endowment Lands.		Crown Lands.	Cheviot Estate.	Land for Settlements Acts.	Endowment Lands.	Homestead.	Crown Lands.	Cheviot Estate.	Land for Settlements Acts.				Endowment Lands.	
Auckland ..	37	69	..	51	..	14	7	12	..	131	1	..	207	..	13	22	19	310	77	5,526
Hawke's Bay ..	27	..	..	14	..	15	2	85	16	3	..	17	..	..	..	..	85	..	9	2	..	103	1,361
Taranaki ..	..	..	..	86	..	118	134	17	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	120	..	2	1	..	168	1,443
Wellington ..	648	..	..	431	..	220	17	84	7	6	..	29	..	..	..	..	262	..	9	7	17	..	3,384
Nelson ..	..	..	20	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	648	..	..	326	..	..	1,745
Marlborough ..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	91	27	..	..	55	..	..	..	..	110	..	54	..	..	..	1,040
Westland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	193	..	..	..	..	243	..	1	6	..	..	1,071
Canterbury ..	260	92	57	30	11	..	..	55	44	..	49	140	1	..	..	..	614	62	37	18	12	..	3,156
Otago ..	72	..	..	14	..	..	..	273	9	11	..	216	..	2	..	..	735	..	54	1	4	..	3,608
Southland ..	51	..	..	..	..	47	..	19	2	3	..	92	..	..	..	..	369	..	12	3	..	..	2,036
Totals ..	1105	92	77	644	11	451	153	645	112	35	49	875	1	2	14	..	3,393	62	191	386	52	310	348	24,370

Table 26.—STATEMENT showing the TOTAL NUMBER of CROWN TENANTS, with Area selected or held, the Yearly Rent payable, and Rent in Arrear on 31st March, 1907.

Tenure.	Total Number of Tenants.	Total Area held by such Tenants.		Total Yearly Rental or Instalment payable.	Total Amount of such Rents or Payments in Arrear.
		A.	B. P.		
ORDINARY CROWN LANDS.					
Deferred payment	137	30,741	1 10	£ s. d. 1,491 16 9	£ s. d. 75 5 3
Perpetual lease	564	105,521	1 29	3,743 7 4	162 7 11
Occupation with right of purchase	4,575	1,454,983	1 21	54,511 17 6	1,301 15 8
Lease in perpetuity	4,854	1,387,541	0 0	43,865 19 1	1,057 4 3
Agricultural lease	15	514	1 21	22 10 3	..
Homestead .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
Mining Districts Land Occupation Act	524	22,881	3 36	1,351 12 0	149 8 8
Village settlements—					
Deferred payment	11	225	2 0	23 4 8	1 10 0
Perpetual lease	117	1,703	3 31	258 8 0	19 9 10
Occupation with right of purchase	31	61	1 10	12 7 10	1 9 0
Lease in perpetuity	570	11,986	3 25	2,148 6 4	16 1 1
Village-homestead special settlements—					
Perpetual lease	239	4,607	0 19	612 13 10	32 5 10
Lease in perpetuity	866	18,438	1 18	2,723 5 7	193 19 0
Special-settlement associations—					
Deferred payment .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
Perpetual lease	10	669	0 8	48 4 0	0 8 5
Lease in perpetuity	634	113,487	3 2	5,886 13 6	267 0 0
Improved-farm special settlements	604	74,396	1 2	4,155 3 6	573 10 9
Small grazing-runs	645	1,407,795	2 14	28,950 13 0	736 0 2
Pastoral runs	875	11,214,285	2 6	71,559 15 10	246 13 2
Miscellaneous leases	3,393	697,939	1 4	14,132 7 3	670 18 2
Totals	18,664	16,547,780	0 16	235,548 6 3	5,505 7 2
CHEVIOT ESTATE.					
Lease in perpetuity	118	24,392	1 2	6,450 14 6	7 14 7
Village-homestead special settlement	92	2,480	1 0	870 10 4	12 1 3
Grazing-farms	49	45,846	1 26	6,871 13 2	556 2 3
Pastoral runs	1	1,642	0 0	193 3 8	..
Miscellaneous	62	1,389	0 22	283 0 10	2 17 11
Totals	322	75,750	0 10	14,669 2 6	578 16 0
LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACTS.					
Lease in perpetuity	3,504	648,481	0 10	195,129 14 4	4,727 1 7
Lease in perpetuity, village	45	446	3 28	339 15 10	14 11 0
Special-settlement associations	11	2,114	1 9	162 7 8	..
Small grazing-runs	112	207,508	0 30	26,799 17 6	230 1 9
Pastoral runs	2	953	2 38	121 13 0	..
Miscellaneous	191	11,540	3 37	1,810 13 10	59 14 7
Totals	3,865	871,045	0 32	224,364 2 2	5,081 8 11
Workers' dwellings	52	9	3 35	1,345 0 0	..
Thermal Springs (Rotorua)	310	6,080	0 24	2,188 16 4	167 2 2
Grand totals	23,213	17,500,665	1 37	478,115 7 3	11,332 14 3
Endowments	809	398,603	2 15	28,583 19 8	224 7 4
Native townships	348	1,131	2 7	1,416 3 3	397 8 6

Table 28.—ENDOWMENTS: RETURN of REVENUE received during the Year ended 31st March, 1907.

Tenure.						Revenue received.		
						£	s.	d.
Cash lands	..	..	..	..	..	316	10	0
Perpetual lease made freehold	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deferred payments	..	..	..	..	..	80	4	6
Perpetual lease and small areas	..	..	..	..	..	599	10	8
Occupation with right of purchase	..	..	..	..	..	30	12	0
Lease in perpetuity	..	..	..	..	..	1,670	17	5
Mining Districts Land Occupation Act	..	..	..	..	..	94	19	3
Village-homestead special settlement	..	..	..	..	..	272	12	7
Village lease in perpetuity	..	..	..	..	..	18	18	9
Small grazing-runs	..	..	..	..	..	1,107	11	4
Pastoral runs	..	..	..	..	..	4,897	0	0
Coal and mineral leases	..	..	..	..	..	16,415	6	7
Timber licenses and royalties	..	..	..	..	..	798	1	2
Miscellaneous leases	..	..	..	..	..	126	17	3
Rents of reserves	..	..	..	..	..	1,056	4	6
Thermal Springs District	..	..	..	..	..	82	0	0
Total	..	..	..	..	..	£27,567	6	0

Table 29.—SUMMARY OF CHEVIOT ESTATE RECEIPTS for the Financial Year ending 31st March, 1907.

						£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cash land sales	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	379	19	6
Rents, lease in perpetuity	..	..	..	..	..	6,673	5	9	..	..	..
" grazing-farms	..	..	..	..	..	6,209	10	7	..	..	..
" miscellaneous and pastoral leases	..	..	..	..	..	409	19	7	..	..	..
									18,292	15	11
									£18,672	15	5

Table 30.—CHEVIOT ESTATE: RETURN of Outlay and Income at 31st March, 1907.

Dr.						OUTLAY.			£ s. d.		
Purchase-money	260,220	0	0
Roads-construction	45,158	10	0
Surveys	6,411	9	11
Landing-service—Administration and contingencies to 31st March, 1906	12,318	12	10
Landing-service—Administration and contingencies, 1st April, 1906, to 31st March, 1907	34	2	1
Interest to 31st March, 1906	113,856	11	11
Interest, 1st April, 1906, to 31st March, 1907	8,866	2	6
Cheese-factory	900	0	0
Total	£447,765	9	3
Cr.						INCOME.					
Cash—											
Freehold disposed of	39,576	15	10
Rents and royalties to 31st March, 1906	175,244	4	7
Rents and royalties, 1st April, 1906, to 31st March, 1907	18,292	15	11
Interest to 31st March, 1906	1,556	10	11
Interest, 1st April, 1906, to 31st March, 1907
Shipping and port charges	3,828	3	11
Rents and interest unpaid at 31st March, 1907.	3,786	8	2
Balance	210,480	9	11
Total	£447,765	9	3

Table 32.—RETURN showing POSITION and TRANSACTIONS in Improved-farm Settlements from their Commencement to 31st March, 1907.

Name of Settlement.	Areas.	Dates of Gazette Proclamation.	Number of Sections in each Settlement.	Number of Settlers remaining in Occupation 31 Mar., '07.	Number of Persons resident.	Area occupied.	Area felled.	Area grassed.	Number of Cattle or other Stock on Allotments.	Roads felled and formed or partially formed during the Year.	Amount paid to Selectors for Improvements: Past and Present Transactions.		Rent and Interest paid by Selectors.		Value of Improvements now on the Land, including that paid for by Government.	
											For Houses.	For Bush-felling and other Works.	Total Payments.	During the Year ending 31 Mar., '07.		From Commencement of System.
Auckland—																
Te Rau-a-moa	1,519	1896, p. 655	10	10	30	A. 1,424 2 32	Acres. 1,060	Acres. 1,120	583	Mls. ch.	£ s. d. 237 8 0	£ s. d. 1,737 16 1	£ s. d. 48 16 1	£ s. d. 751 11 10	£ s. d. 7,171 11 2	
Paemako	1,412	1897, p. 5	13	10	41	1,221 2 38	1,113	578	380	..	337 8 0	372 6 8	78 7 9	679 6 4	2,798 11 0	
Mangatu	1,100	1895, p. 863	10	3	24	298 0 0	166	166	90	..	184 8 3	1,466 17 8	2 19 0	316 4 1	1,060 0 0	
Awatuna	1,000	1895, p. 863	10	1	3	100 0 0	40	32	8	..	122 2 11	1,111 15 10	7 2 3	126 0 3	130 0 0	
Katui	1,000	1895, p. 863	10	4	21	292 0 0	170	158	70	..	165 11 4	1,066 11 4	95 6 0	363 0 8	880 0 0	
Rangaitira	1,000	1895, p. 863	10	2	8	200 0 0	66	56	22	..	45 18 4	146 8 0	3 15 4	71 7 1	350 0 0	
Tawai	411	1896, p. 1541	19	7	15	91 3 27	80	76	45	..	102 10 0	487 0 8	7 12 10	106 8 11	880 1 0	
Karu	1,924	1904, p. 1098	11	3	5	1,555 0 0	..	30	30	..	55 0 0	..	2 17 0	2 17 0	260 15 0	
Kakepuku	2,738	1904, p. 1904	16	10	32	1,536 0 0	..	86	30	..	206 10 0	..	2 6 0	2 6 0	705 16 6	
Totals	12,104	..	109	50	179	6,719 1 17	1,695	2,302	1,258	..	1,457 5 0	6,101 2 0	249 2 3	2,419 2 2	14,236 14 8	
Hawke's Bay—																
Waikopiro	1,880	1895, p. 79	15	15	70	1,771 0 0	1,770	1,770	442	..	139 14 4	1,708 5 0	218 18 6	2,333 17 3	7,627 0 0	
Akitio	145	1896, p. 655	2	2	..	145 0 0	145	145	..	..	20 0 0	152 4 5	20 0 0	154 15 7	820 12 9
Totals	2,025	..	17	17	70	1,916 0 0	1,915	1,915	442	..	159 14 4	1,860 9 5	238 18 6	2,488 12 10	8,447 12 9	
Taranaki—																
Ngaire	170	7 Feb., 1895	16	15	26	159 2 30	166	166	130	..	262 10 0	311 7 9	43 11 5	448 12 6	1,557 0 0	
Tongaporutu	2,500	4 Oct., 1894	16	4	37	450 1 16	529	529	409	..	200 0 0	922 13 11	33 11 3	445 9 9	1,595 0 0	
Mangaere	482	10 Jan., 1895	13	11	44	442 2 16	460	460	247	..	132 10 0	574 2 0	61 11 11	521 19 1	2,321 0 0	
Urutii	697	10 Jan., 1895	7	5	21	502 0 0	494	494	144	..	79 0 0	817 7 0	55 17 0	490 6 9	1,570 0 0	
Taumatahahi	430	22 Oct., 1894	4	4	1	404 0 0	290	290	600	..	70 0 0	281 14 2	33 1 11	301 14 9	1,366 0 0	
Whangamomona	10,543	30 Jan., 1896	111	59	163	7,527 1 17	5,205	5,205	2,712	..	827 10 0	6,859 3 5	536 14 10	4,305 12 6	19,887 0 0	
Poti	108	4 July, 1895	8	8	18	108 0 0	106	106	77	..	120 0 0	173 15 3	37 11 11	361 11 11	1,324 0 0	
Maata	30	4 July, 1895	3	3	2	30 0 0	30	30	18	..	50 0 0	58 1 8	7 3 2	69 17 11	249 0 0	
Huiroa	668	29 Nov., 1894	9	7	26	563 1 23	522	522	461	..	93 10 0	587 3 0	40 14 11	454 5 4	2,257 0 0	
Okau	1,889	5 Mar., 1896	19	2	30	184 0 14	506	506	257	..	137 10 0	1,010 1 6	14 8 8	166 11 10	1,380 0 0	
Derwent	1,369	5 Mar., 1896	13	5	30	696 0 0	596	596	380	..	192 10 0	1,123 11 5	79 16 9	611 3 8	2,079 0 0	
Nihoniuho	3,190	15 Aug., 1895	23	21	41	2,862 1 28	942	1,009	595	..	133 0 0	820 0 11	104 0 4	269 8 10	4,073 0 0	
Greenlands	603	17 Sept., 1896	6	2	9	199 1 10	236	236	119	..	50 0 0	629 0 3	15 8 8	174 14 9	795 0 0	
Mangapoua	702	27 Oct., 1897	7	2	7	300 0 0	108	108	116	..	30 0 0	286 5 6	15 8 0	94 12 10	490 0 0	
Totoro	6,508	18 Feb., 1904	36	34	62	6,250 0 0	881	1,300	474	..	87 10 0	372 11 1	34 4 6	34 4 6	3,334 0 0	
Mangapapa	5,322	18 Feb., 1904	29	29	113	5,328 0 9	1,086	1,457	615	..	360 0 0	798 2 5	61 19 8	61 19 8	5,042 0 0	
Paerae	7,812	11 Jan., 1906 (19 July, 1906)	41	41	77	7,726 1 37	702	746	300	..	162 10 0	648 5 7	72 4 2	72 4 2	2,757 0 0	
Totals	43,023	..	361	252	707	33,633 3 0	12,809	13,760	7,654	..	2,988 0 0	16,273 6 10	1,247 9 1	8,884 10 9	52,076 0 0	

Wellington— Femberton ..	1,390	13	11	80	1,060 0 33	1,200	1,200	1,459	..	227 0 0	1,828 10 1	2,065 10 1	223 6 9	2,431 6 5	8,970 0 0
..	1,000	12	8	38	666 2 24	638	638	921	..	230 0 0	959 14 6	1,189 14 6	114 6 0	1,170 8 3	6,100 0 0
..	1,204	12	12	40	1,074 0 0	850	850	618	..	265 0 0	859 2 10	1,124 2 10	115 14 1	1,098 5 11	5,320 0 0
..	1,168	12	11	44	1,065 1 37	1,000	1,000	2,133	..	220 0 0	627 0 1	847 0 1	109 4 11	1,059 18 3	5,300 0 0
..	4,880	44	36	25	3,810 2 0	3,612	3,391	4,994	..	606 10 0	3,084 9 1	3,690 19 1	485 8 4	3,173 5 8	10,188 16 9
..	2,000	12	3	5	300 0 0	142	142	146	..	60 0 0	333 1 4	393 1 4	30 14 3	219 14 10	784 0 0
..	200	10	8	71	178 2 34	178	178	143	..	259 0 0	405 12 0	664 12 0	36 17 11	509 8 9	2,900 0 0
..	2,881	34	34	135	2,894 3 26	2,310	2,310	1,704	..	307 0 0	1,634 0 11	1,941 0 11	266 14 5	1,840 14 1	13,870 0 0
..	1,500	11	7	33	1,370 0 0	600	1,285	2,422	..	180 0 0	368 14 5	548 14 5	138 14 10	720 14 1	3,205 0 0
..	1,087	8	5	21	492 2 0	656	816	1,510	..	87 10 0	376 13 1	464 3 1	65 18 2	509 17 11	2,769 0 0
..	5,356	36	24	27	3,164 3 38	3,154	2,991	2,526	..	306 15 0	3,033 18 0	3,340 13 0	649 9 1	2,677 2 4	8,659 8 9
..	1,819	10	10	46	1,819 0 0	800	820	570	..	141 0 0	365 17 2	506 17 2	222 3 2	702 12 8	4,550 0 0
..	1,600	8	1	35	200 0 0	640	780	586	..	101 0 0	181 14 9	282 14 9	115 5 6	386 1 1	2,540 0 0
..	567	6	6	26	567 1 16	360	360	230	..	30 0 0	73 10 0	103 10 0	71 15 9	156 10 8	2,028 0 0
..	188	1	1	3	138 1 8	70	70	15	..	10 0 0	30 0 0	40 0 0	18 0 10	18 0 10	270 0 0
..	1,841	24	24	5	1,840 2 1	413	413	70	..	..	120 15 0	120 15 0	11 2 4	11 2 4	1,064 0 0
..	3,141	16	16	27	2,698 2 9	150	150	27	..	..	77 13 9	77 13 9	8 1 4	8 1 4	470 0 0
..	600	3	3	22	600 0 0	147	147	66	..	60 0 0	..	60 0 0	39 0 2	39 0 2	710 0 0
..	200	..	1	1	200 0 0	150	150	253	..	..	..	..	5 12 6	5 12 6	420 0 0
..	..	..	3	..	609 0 19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	1	..	776 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	1	..	200 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	7	..	1,400 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	32,572	272	237	684	27,126 3 5	17,070	17,691	20,398	..	3,090 15 0	14,360 7 0	17,451 2 0	2,677 10 4	16,787 18 1	80,118 5 6
Southland— Haldane (withdrawn, Gazette 1906, p. 2505, 143 acres)	2,057	22	19	69	2,087 0 18	1,423	1,386	449	..	394 10 0	4,613 4 1	5,007 14 1	112 0 7	805 18 11	4,140 7 8
Waikawa (withdrawn, Gazette 1904, p. 2154, 908 acres)	860	8	4	11	776 1 5	725	714	74	..	229 12 0	3,581 4 2	3,810 16 2	39 7 8	186 10 3	1,500 2 3
Papatotara ..	1,480	15	14	43	1,527 3 2	924	862	246	..	67 19 0	2,565 14 1	2,633 13 1	97 5 8	512 12 4	2,563 18 8
Moturimu ..	670	14	10	46	609 0 35	188	193	37	..	210 0 0	395 11 10	605 11 10	44 15 11	273 4 7	1,074 0 0
Totals ..	5,067	59	47	169	5,000 1 20	3,260	3,155	806	..	902 1 0	11,155 14 2	12,057 15 2	293 9 10	1,778 6 1	9,278 8 7
Grand totals ..	94,791	818	603	1,809	74,396 1 2	36,749	38,823	30,558	..	8,597 15 4	49,750 19 5	58,348 14 9	4,706 10 0	32,308 9 11	164,157 1 6

Table 33 (Part I).—RETURN OF LANDS ACQUIRED AND LEASED UNDER THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACTS UP TO THE YEAR WHICH ENDED 31st MARCH, 1907.

Name of Settlement.	Date when Land opened for Selection.	Area acquired, including ascertained Surplus or Deficiency.		Area occupied by Roads and Reserves and unlet.		Area of Land unlet, including Land forfeited, resumed, or let, and also Land not yet offered for Selection.		New Selections and Addition to Holdings during the Year.			Total Lands leased at Date.			
		A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rent payable.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rent now payable.	
Auckland—														
Opouriao	Feb. 12, 1896.	7,604	0 0	258	1 29			280	2 0	104	7,943	0 11	1,484	3 4
Okauia	Feb. 21, 1898.	5,920	0 0	1,598	0 10	755	3 30			7	3,566	0 0	135	3 10
Rangiatea	June 22, 1898.	4,004	0 0	48	2 31			64	1 15	19	3,914	1 0	712	8 2
Karapiro	Oct. 21, 1898.	2,385	0 24	50	3 33					18	2,286	1 33	442	3 2
Fencourt	Mar. 12, 1900.	7,105	3 5	1	0 0					34	7,054	3 12	1,770	14 4
Whitehall	April 9, 1900.	8,959	0 0	532	3 19	3,451	2 20	1,954	2 0	10	8,958	0 0	984	17 0
Bickerstaffe	Dec. 7, 1903.	12,480	0 19	283	3 13	848	3 26	706	3 0	31	8,495	2 20	1,779	4 2
Matamata	June 2, 1904.	42,738	3 2							178	41,597	1 7	6,990	3 4
Selwyn ..	Dec. 18, 1905.	159,302	6 0	2,756	3 32	110,027	0 28	34,877	0 36	58	46,515	3 20	2,091	10 4
Cradock Hamlet	April 23, 1906.	33	0 9	3	3 14	9	3 37	2	2 8	9	19	0 38	47	13 2
Hetana Hamlet	April 22, 1902.	451	1 34	42	3 9	298	1 30	8	3 8	22	110	0 35	89	16 0
Kitchener Hamlet	April 22, 1902.	26	3 35	3	2 21			4	2 29	11	23	1 14	52	12 4
Methuen Hamlet	April 22, 1902.	77	3 14	6	2 22	9	0 31	23	3 9	25	62	0 1	173	9 0
Plumer Hamlet	April 22, 1902.	74	0 0	9	2 12	371	3 32	16	2 4	16	60	1 36	52	9 6
Waari Hamlet	April 22, 1902.	427	2 32	28	0 26	2,550	0 33	3	3 20	7	27	2 12	10	7 4
Mangawhero	Mar. 25, 1907.	2,572	1 13	22	0 20	4,841	1 14			..	..	..	..	..
Mangawhero	Mar. 25, 1907.	5,001	0 0	159	2 26					..	..	..	..	..
Totals		259,113	0 27	5,896	3 37	123,168	2 35	37,943	2 9	72	1,913	12 0	16,216	15 0
Hawke's Bay—														
Raureka	May 6, 1896.	427	2 0	11	1 2					..	416	0 38	543	2 0
Elsthorpe	June 24, 1896.	9,740	0 0	145	1 27	2	2 8	0	1 0	44	9,592	0 5	2,312	13 0
Waimarie	Sept. 9, 1896.	430	2 10	4	2 16					18	425	3 34	463	0 0
Pouparae	April 21, 1897.	337	3 4	1	1 32					9	336	1 12	405	8 0
Tomoana	Mar. 2, 1898.	111	3 38	1	3 35					13	110	0 3	135	2 0
Mahora	Mar. 22, 1899.	1,133	3 0	17	1 5			17	2 18	34	1,116	1 35	1,638	2 2
Willows..	Mar. 22, 1899.	775	1 36							22	775	1 36	758	10 2
Hatuma	April 25, 1901.	26,523	3 20	649	1 2					62	25,873	2 18	7,841	10 10
Manga-a-toro	Jan. 21, 1902.	19,581	3 12	159	3 12					26	19,422	0 0	4,727	16 4
Kumeroa	May 12, 1902.	3,774	2 38	29	2 38					15	3,745	0 0	1,688	13 6
Forest Gate	May 19, 1902.	8,892	0 13	65	0 15	596	0 0			28	8,160	3 38	2,475	2 10
Argyll ..	June 23, 1903.	33,705	1 30	102	2 37			296	0 0	62	33,602	2 33	8,464	0 4
Wigan ..	Dec. 15, 1903.	10,072	1 37	27	2 1					17	10,044	3 36	2,799	12 10
Lindsay	April 11, 1905.	18,574	0 0	290	2 18			2	1 0	67	18,283	1 22	5,406	17 0
Mangatahi	Feb. 5, 1907.	12,391	1 37	119	1 3			12,272	0 34	22	12,272	0 34	4,245	3 4
Totals		141,401	9 35	1,626	0 3	598	2 8	12,588	1 12	26	4,305	11 6	43,904	14 4

Table 33 (Part I).—RETURN of LANDS acquired and leased under the Land for Settlements Acts, &c.—continued.

Name of Settlement.	Date when Land opened for Selection.	Area acquired, including ascertained Surplus or Deficiency.		Area occupied by Roads and Reserves and unlet.		Area of Land unlet, including Land forfeited, resumed and not relet, and also Land not yet offered for Selection.		New Selections and Addition to Holdings during the Year.		Total Lands leased at Date.		Annual Rent now payable.				
		A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	A.	R. P.	No. of Selectors.	Area.	A.	R. P.	£	s.	d.
Canterbury—																
Pareora..	Jan. 18, 1894..	620	2 13	8	2 38	..	..	..	..	28	611	3 15	396	18	6	
Studholme Junction	Jan. 18, 1894..	109	0 7	4	1 39	..	..	..	..	4	104	2 8	73	4	6	
Kapua ..	Mar. 24, 1894..	574	1 22	2	0 0	..	..	..	..	12	572	1 22	270	3	4	
Rosebrook ..	June 26, 1895..	600	1 8	..	2 21	..	..	..	..	14	600	1 8	307	13	6	
Otao ..	June 26, 1895..	373	3 14	6	2 21	..	..	..	..	9	367	0 33	216	14	6	
Patea ..	Nov. 27, 1895..	4,535	3 14	17	3 26	..	..	..	..	4	4,517	3 28	196	12	6	
The Peaks ..	Aug. 1, 1895..	2,811	0 9	12	0 0	..	..	..	..	12	2,799	0 9	186	15	4	
Roimata ..	Aug. 14, 1895..	48	3 27	4	0 4	..	..	..	..	27	44	1 10	82	18	0	
Kereta ..	Dec. 14, 1895..	105	2 29	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	105	2 29	136	15	4	
Braco ..	Nov. 27, 1895..	27	2 4	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	27	2 4	72	8	4	
Epworth ..	Nov. 27, 1895..	21	0 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	21	0 3	13	11	2	
Ashley Gorge ..	Dec. 4, 1895..	1,165	3 6	4	2 4	..	..	..	..	10	1,161	1 2	258	1	0	
Omihi Valley ..	June 28, 1899..	20	0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	20	0 0	13	5	0	
Orakipaoo ..	June 22, 1896..	384	0 31	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	384	0 31	397	10	8	
Highbank ..	June 24, 1896..	9,121	3 8	85	3 30	5	0 0	30	0 0	3	9,030	3 18	3,041	18	4	
Otarakaro ..	Mar. 24, 1897..	39	3 9	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	39	3 9	111	18	0	
Wharenui ..	Mar. 24, 1897..	73	1 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	73	1 10	274	8	0	
Bakitairi ..	Mar. 22, 1897..	3,526	1 26	3	3 23	..	..	..	..	22	3,521	0 28	1,069	18	0	
Waiapi ..	Mar. 22, 1897..	1,124	2 36	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	1,124	2 36	518	19	10	
Horsley Down ..	May 31, 1897..	3,982	3 35	33	2 16	..	..	..	..	27	3,948	3 30	1,072	5	10	
Albury ..	April 12, 1897..	19,539	1 24	139	2 33	..	..	26	2 0	1	19,398	0 39	3,435	4	8	
R.S. 1862 ..	Oct. 21, 1897..	20	0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	20	0 0	3	7	4	
Pt. R.S. 2682 ..	June 29, 1899..	6	2 4	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	6	2 4	2	1	6	
Adj. R.S. 36469 ..	June 29, 1899..	154	3 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	154	3 2	25	14	0	
Adj. R.S. 36231 ..	Dec. 14, 1899..	98	3 30	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	98	3 30	17	15	6	
Adj. R.S. 36056-7 ..	Dec. 30, 1899..	58	0 16	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	58	0 16	14	18	10	
Adj. R.S. 36228 ..	May 17, 1900..	100	3 23	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	100	3 23	12	11	4	
R.S. 36278 ..	Nov. 14, 1901..	618	2 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	618	2 0	25	1	8	
Pt. R.S. 30791 ..	April 23, 1902..	100	0 0	0	3 21	..	..	..	..	1	99	0 19	17	0	0	
Pt. R.S. 36226 ..	Oct. 16, 1902..	46	1 26	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	46	1 26	5	3	0	
Marawiti ..	May 7, 1897..	2,028	2 33	2	0 0	..	..	..	..	13	2,026	2 33	748	15	10	
Hekeao ..	Mar. 9, 1898..	2,254	2 11	53	1 26	..	..	..	..	16	2,201	0 25	631	5	2	
Pawaho ..	April 9, 1898..	52	0 18	1	3 14	..	..	..	..	25	50	1 4	149	4	6	
Waikakahi ..	Mar. 20, 1899..	48,262	2 34	151	3 38	4	2 0	2	3 0	5	48,096	2 9	16,338	7	4	
Tamai ..	June 26, 1899..	41	0 28	3	2 32	..	..	..	..	40	37	1 36	251	8	10	
Takitu ..	Mar. 1, 1900..	9,713	0 37	39	0 1	..	..	..	..	5	9,674	0 36	1,250	16	2	
Pareora No. 2 ..	Mar. 22, 1900..	8,132	0 31	54	0 14	..	..	..	..	33	8,078	0 17	3,700	0	8	
Rautawiri ..	April 19, 1900..	113	0 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	113	0 7	132	17	8	
Papaka ..	April 19, 1900..	1,561	2 25	7	2 0	..	..	..	..	9	1,554	0 25	947	6	0	
Punaroa ..	April 19, 1900..	7,029	3 5	8	2 18	..	..	..	..	17	7,021	0 27	1,681	16	6	
Lyndon ..	Mar. 5, 1901..	4,243	3 28	27	0 0	..	..	..	..	10	4,216	3 28	847	3	8	
Kohika ..	May 13, 1901..	3,864	1 10	35	1 25	..	..	..	..	17	3,828	3 25	1,450	4	2	

Table 33 (Part II).—RETURN of LANDS acquired and leased under the Land for Settlements Acts up to the Year which ended 31st March, 1907.

Name of Settlement.	Yearly Value of Unlet Land at 31st March, 1907.		Occupied Land.		Amount advanced to Selectors for Buildings, &c.			Arrears on 31st March, 1907.			Rent and other Payments received during the Year.		Total Receipts from Inception to 31st March, 1907.			
	£ s. d.		No. of Houses on Holdings.	No. of Souls resident on Holdings.	Value of Improvements.	£ s. d.	During previous Years.	£ s. d.	During Year.	£ s. d.	No.	Area	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
	£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
Auckland—																
Opouriao	151	4	0	78	361	30,450	5	9	..	..	..	..	1,428	14	3
Okauia .. .. .	..	..	..	7	14	2,864	14	0	..	..	..	..	138	11	1
Rangiatea .. .. .	..	..	..	18	108	9,697	0	0	..	..	..	..	638	4	2
Karapiro .. .. .	..	..	..	11	52	4,943	18	0	..	..	..	..	404	11	4
Fencourt .. .. .	..	..	..	33	166	12,388	5	0	..	..	..	..	1,885	12	11
Whitehall .. .. .	..	..	..	10	40	5,343	6	0	..	..	..	..	399	16	9
Bickersstaffe	286	10	0	22	84	4,262	16	0	..	..	..	..	1,504	2	8
Matamata	132	4	10	128	459	38,456	9	6	..	..	..	..	6,095	19	7
Selwyn	2,461	0	6	26	94	8,204	5	0	..	..	..	..	2,811	6	1
Gradock .. .. .	..	..	..	8	29	1,079	0	0	80	0	0	..	90	12	6
Hetana	285	7	2	15	63	1,046	7	0	102	0	0	..	48	11	2	
Kitchener .. .. .	..	..	..	10	46	1,065	17	0	184	0	0	..	63	3	7
Methuen .. .. .	..	..	..	15	54	2,004	5	0	250	0	0	..	226	8	1
Plumer .. .. .	..	..	..	13	21	1,081	3	9	137	10	0	..	63	4	11
Waari	136	17	2	4	13	409	13	0	92	10	0	..	12	0	7	
Totals	3,395	5	5	398	1,604	113,292	5	0	846	0	0	1,849	0	15,810	19	8
Hawke's Bay—																
Raureka .. .. .	..	..	..	18	95	4,298	15	0	..	..	..	..	512	0	7
Elsthorpe .. .. .	..	..	..	26	102	13,350	10	0	..	..	..	..	2,151	0	2
Waimarie .. .. .	..	..	..	16	60	3,468	0	0	..	..	..	..	376	14	6
Pouparae .. .. .	..	..	..	9	53	4,062	1	0	..	..	..	..	329	14	11
Tomoaia .. .. .	..	..	..	12	64	3,453	0	0	..	..	..	..	123	5	10
Willows .. .. .	..	..	..	31	140	9,527	0	0	..	..	..	..	1,196	11	4
Mahora .. .. .	..	..	..	14	87	6,056	15	0	..	..	..	..	675	12	7
Hatuna .. .. .	..	..	..	59	280	38,729	8	0	..	..	..	..	1,617	17	0
Manga-a-toro .. .. .	..	..	..	25	121	28,167	17	9	..	..	..	..	7,249	0	6
Kumeroa .. .. .	..	..	..	14	75	5,863	7	0	..	..	..	..	4,868	7	6
Forest Gate .. .. .	..	..	..	25	108	12,218	1	7	..	..	..	..	1,681	11	8
Argyll	127	7	10	60	251	36,900	10	6	..	..	..	..	2,314	19	9
Wigan .. .. .	..	..	..	12	42	8,782	1	11	..	..	..	..	8,134	6	6
Lindsay .. .. .	..	..	..	55	211	14,673	0	0	..	..	..	..	2,384	3	10
Mangatahi* .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,262	11	6
Totals	131	5	10	376	1,689	185,080	7	9	..	..	..	..	2,242	10	6
Taranaki—																
Tokaora .. .. .	..	..	..	14	74	4,180	0	0	..	..	..	..	39,923	17	4
Spotswood	661	4	10	8	38	1,885	0	0	..	..	..	..	2,089	19	0
Clandon .. .. .	..	..	..	5	25	715	0	0	337	10	0	..	273	2	0
Huinga	316	16	8	6	23	99	0	0	..	..	..	..	754	18	1
Totals	978	1	6	33	160	6,829	0	0	337	10	0	..	561	8	11	
Totals .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,629	8	0
Totals .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,082	11	4

Table 34.—COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of SELECTORS and LANDS selected under SETTLEMENT CONDITIONS for the Ten Years ended 31st March, 1907.

Year ending 31st March,	Cash.		Deferred Payment.		Perpetual Lease.		Lease in Perpetuity.		Occupation with Right of Purchase.		Agricultural Lease.		Occupation Leases.*	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
1898†	272	Acres. 22,525	..	Acres. ..	2	Acres. 651	599	117,938	380	Acres. 81,414	5	Acres. 258	23	Acres. 1,285
1899†	534	37,400	1	13	1	640	675	159,415	458	109,950	2	114	31	1,449
1900†	491	23,936	..	..	2	624	656	153,531	395	117,771	3	70	64	2,295
1901†	362	58,703	..	..	3	2,499	489	144,205	673	262,729	1	23	53	2,123
1902†	489	27,290	1	52	1	10	501	116,125	447	128,898	1	28	71	2,507
1903†	374	17,194	..	..	..	..	573	161,745	403	118,557	3	36	52	2,434
1904†	435	22,481	..	..	..	..	894	194,515	402	146,953	2	13	97	4,972
1905†	371	18,990	..	..	..	..	751	173,811	330	138,206	3	218	40	1,914
1906†	229	11,132	..	..	1	127	706	158,018½	388	157,432½	..	..	30	1,194
1907†	447	20,357	..	..	..	..	597	154,237	412	215,530	..	..	26	1,044

Year ending 31st March,	Village Settlement: Cash.		Village Settlement: Occupation with Right of Purchase.		Village Settlement: Lease in Perpetuity.		Village- homestead Special Settlement.		Special- settlement Associations.		Improved Farms.		Small Grazing-runs and Grazing-farms.		Totals.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
1898†	2	Acres. 1	2	Acres. 2	92	1,426	9	Acres. 42	5	Acres. 442	77	Acres. 9,007	71	Acres. 149,458	1,539	Acres. 384,449
1899†	21	30	3	2	106	2,115	12	134	5	607	64	4,823	40	77,632	1,953	394,324
1900†	6	4	3	2	80	1,762	6	31	1	2	41	7,393	64	155,109	1,812	462,530
1901†	35	22	..	..	96	1,082	7	376	..	..	13	1,936	35	86,076	1,767	559,774
1902†	21	10	1	1	33	456	30	469	..	..	..	1,618	36	112,947	1,632	390,406
1903†	19	9	..	..	40	619	34	1,512	29	5,761	30	4,032	45	113,925	1,602	425,824
1904†	10	8	1	0½	21	514	23	272	4	729	106	19,436	58	144,786	2,053	534,679
1905†	2	1	1	0½	14	208	8	111	2	223	14	1,459	45	67,271	1,581	402,412
1906†	39	40	2	41	55	1,936	49	287	..	..	3	547	34	68,587	1,536	399,342
1907†	15	20	..	..	32	1,012	17	173	1	4	46	5,622	51	114,854	1,644	512,853

* "Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894."

† Inclusive of Cheviot Estate, and lands disposed of under the Land for Settlements Acts.

Table 35.—TRANSACTIONS under "The Bush and Swamp Crown Lands Settlement Act, 1903," during the Year ended 31st March, 1907.

District.	Heavy-bush Land.						Light bush Land.						Scrub Land.						Swamp Land.						Totals.												
	Area opened during Year.			Selections during Year.			Area opened during Year.			Selections during Year.			Area opened during Year.			Selections during Year.			Area opened during Year.			Selections during Year.			Total Area opened during Year.			Total Selections during Year.									
	No.	Area.	Amount of Rental remitted per annum.	No.	Area.	Amount of Rental remitted per annum.	No.	Area.	Amount of Rental remitted per annum.	No.	Area.	Amount of Rental remitted per annum.	No.	Area.	Amount of Rental remitted per annum.	No.	Area.	Amount of Rental remitted per annum.	No.	Area.	Amount of Rental remitted per annum.	No.	Area.	Amount of Rental remitted per annum.	No.	Area.	Amount of Rental remitted per annum.										
	A.	R. P.	£ s. d.	A.	R. P.	£ s. d.	A.	R. P.	£ s. d.	A.	R. P.	£ s. d.	A.	R. P.	£ s. d.	A.	R. P.	£ s. d.	A.	R. P.	£ s. d.	A.	R. P.	£ s. d.	A.	R. P.	£ s. d.										
Auckland ..	71,373	2 39	134	67,744	2 27	2,893	0 8	3,341	0 38	15	4,757	1 20	147	7 0	13,974	2 3	83	29,515	1 8	778	14 10	320	1 14	4	520	1 14	17	18	0	89,009	3 14	286	102,537	2 29	3,927	0 6	
Hawke's Bay	1,075	0 0	1	1,075	0 0	20	3 2											1,075	0 0	1	1,075	0 0															
Paraoaki ..	35,130	2 19	89	70,900	3 38	2,867	17 8	6,392	2 35	15	8,342	2 35	367	5 10	686	0 0	2	686	0 0	25	6 4																
Wellington ..	528	0 0	19	24,057	0 0	347	19 2								512	2 4	2	903	0 4	27	9 4																
Nelson ..	41,953	2 21	21	7,168	1 21	152	1 8	807	0 19	26	5,960	2 20	100	0 2	4,541	2 14	3	1,885	2 2	23	6 4																
Marlborough	2,646	0 0	5	3,341	0 0	65	9 8																														
Westland ..	5,823	0 0	25	5,150	3 14	83	10 8	1,887	0 0	15	3,053	0 27	49	12 8	549	0 0	12	3,453	0 30	51	1 8																
Canterbury																																					
Otago ..	3,431	3 37	6	1,815	1 0	33	18 8	1,282	3 87	19	4,277	3 21	84	11 2	585	0 0	4	1,427	0 38	18	14 2																
Southland ..																																					
Totals ..	161,961	3 36	301	181,378	1 16	5,567	8 2	13,711	0 9	90	36,391	3 37	48	16 10	20,348	2 21	106	37,870	1 2	924	12 8	320	1 14	91	1,130	0 3	27	14	0	195,842	0 0	504	246,359	1 9	8,345	15 4	

District.	Heavy-bush Land.						Light-bush Land.						Scrub Land.						Swamp Land.						Totals.											
	Area held.			Annual Rental (remitted).			Area held.			Annual Rental (remitted).			Area held.			Annual Rental (remitted).			Area held.			Annual Rental (remitted).			Area held.			Annual Rental (remitted).								
	No. of electors.	Area.	R. P.	£ s. d.	No. of electors.	Area.	R. P.	£ s. d.	No. of electors.	Area.	R. P.	£ s. d.	No. of electors.	Area.	R. P.	£ s. d.	No. of electors.	Area.	R. P.	£ s. d.	No. of electors.	Area.	R. P.	£ s. d.	No. of electors.	Area.	R. P.	£ s. d.								
	A.	R. P.	£ s. d.	A.	R. P.	£ s. d.	A.	R. P.	£ s. d.	A.	R. P.	£ s. d.	A.	R. P.	£ s. d.	A.	R. P.	£ s. d.	A.	R. P.	£ s. d.	A.	R. P.	£ s. d.	A.	R. P.	£ s. d.									
Auckland	356	148,833	2 16	6,225	16 4	54	773	12 0	1	1,667	0 0	37	10 2	162	50,932	1 38	1,443	16 4	8	63	16 8	580	219,319	0 19	8,254	6 8										
Hawke's Bay	16	24,158	0 0	5,110	3 2	61	4,087	3 8	15	11,845	0 0	651	7 6	3	6,990	0 0	113	17 10	20			20	32,815	0 0	925	0 0										
Taranaki	208	149,644	2 14	4,087	3 8	15	11,845	0 0	2	1,528	0 0	54	3 8	4	1,528	0 0	27	9 4	273	188,829	2 39	273	188,829	2 39	6,579	12 5										
Wellington	107	91,830	2 37	4,087	3 8	15	11,845	0 0	8	903	0 4	27	9 4	2	2,408	1 0	34	1 0	124	104,578	3 1	124	104,578	3 1	4,766	0 6										
Nelson ..	38	10,482	1 10	245	6 0	41	15,744	0 21	8	2,408	1 0	34	1 0	1	173	0 0	3	9 2	1	408	684	2 31	1	408	684	2 31	544	18 4								
Marlborough	6	3,637	0 0	72	8 2	63	14,761	1 39	1	173	0 0	3	9 2	1	173	0 0	103	15 2	7	8,810	0 0	7	8,810	0 0	75	17 4										
Westland	66	14,050	3 22	228	5 4	63	14,761	1 39	25	5,832	1 30	103	15 2	13	4,410	3 14	79	1 0	167	39,055	2 25	167	39,055	2 25	755	7 4										
Canterbury																																				
Otago ..	5	942	2 19	24	5 7	3	368	0 33				8	6 0																							
Southland	18	5,127	0 26	101	17 2	63	13,524	3 14	9	1,980	2 22	25	19 8	14	3,017	1 11	43	5 10	104	23,599	3 33	104	23,599	3 33	443	9 6										
Totals	820	448,706	3 24	16,868	17 5	301	112,872	0 9	3,514	15 5	214	70,697	3 14	1,806	12 2	37	9,804	0 25	187	18 0	1372	642,080	3 32	22,378	2 2											

TOTAL AREA held at 31st March, 1907.

Table 36.—REBATES of RENT granted under "The Crown Tenants' Rent Rebate Act, 1900," and "The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900," during the Year ended 31st March, 1907.

Land District.	Number of Tenants who have been granted Rebate.	Area held.			Amount of Rebate granted.		
		A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
ORDINARY CROWN LANDS.							
Auckland	2,223	613,524	0	35	1,515	19	2
Hawke's Bay	476	221,358	0	33	996	12	9
Taranaki	753	205,877	1	11	891	17	8
Wellington	2,084	396,673	0	0	2,017	12	9
Nelson	204	62,457	0	0	56	19	3
Marlborough	293	132,761	2	18	324	9	4
Westland	245	26,316	3	0	50	4	3
Canterbury	361	85,920	0	15	481	0	3
Otago	1,076	239,783	1	13	619	17	8
Southland	630	111,465	3	13	271	4	9
Totals	8,345	2,096,137	1	18	7,225	17	10
LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS.							
Auckland	408	92,311	1	31	1,120	4	0
Hawke's Bay	389	214,017	1	18	3,560	15	11
Taranaki	22	2,012	2	28	153	2	5
Wellington	230	34,754	0	0	478	17	1
Marlborough	300	97,368	3	0	1,812	10	1
Westland	20	3,756	2	0	20	12	4
Canterbury	1,082	245,526	2	1	6,629	4	11
Otago	449	95,983	2	30	2,304	6	7
Southland	155	31,749	3	23	674	1	7
Totals	3,055	817,480	3	11	16,753	14	11
CHEVIOT ESTATE.							
Canterbury	201	26,398	3	20	683	10	3
Grand totals	11,601	2,940,017	0	9	24,663	3	0

Table 37.—CROWN LANDS PROCLAIMED under the Local Bodies' Loans Acts, the AMOUNT BORROWED, and the AMOUNT REPAID to the Public Account up to 31st March, 1907.

Land District.	Area proclaimed.	Amount borrowed.			Amount repaid to Public Account at 31st March, 1907.		
		Acres.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Auckland	980,784	163,669	0	0	38,200	16	11
Hawke's Bay	294,038	44,540	7	6	15,920	17	8
Taranaki	523,053	127,663	0	0	51,483	9	2
Wellington	539,893	123,848	0	0	88,803	10	7
Nelson	273,755	31,576	0	0	250	2	10
Marlborough	171,805	20,915	9	6	12,623	7	6
Westland	5,017	1,441	0	0	633	18	3
Canterbury	2,135	456	0	0	453	4	8
Otago	174,477	21,290	0	0	20,520	15	10
Southland	112,900	25,708	0	0	10,483	9	10
Totals	3,077,357	561,106	17	0	239,378	13	3

Table 38.—STATEMENT showing the BLOCKS of LAND which have been proclaimed under "The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act Amendment Act, 1891," and "The Local Bodies' Loans Act, 1901," and the Report of the Surveyor-General on the Value of such Blocks, and on the Necessary Works, and the Estimated Cost of the Works, and on the Moneys expended in respect of such Blocks out of Moneys borrowed under the said Acts.

Name of Block.	Area of Block.	Gazetted.			Surveyor-General's Report.			Expenditure.		
		No.	Page.	Date.	Valuation of Block.	Works required to open up such Block.	Estimated Cost proposed to be borrowed.	To Mar. 31, 1906.	From April 1, 1906, to March 31, 1907.	Total to March 31, 1907.
AUCKLAND LAND DISTRICT.										
	Acres.				£		£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Ahuroa	4,000	23	479	18 Mar., 1892	2,500	Road-works	500	497	..	497 2 5
Akaaka Swamp	2,935	72	1273	15 Sept., 1892	2,093	Drainage ..	920	917	..	916 12 1
Auckland Special Settlement	8,995	78	1665	24 Oct., 1895	3,698	Road-works	899	898	..	898 0 1
Avoca	3,668	24	482	29 Mar., 1894	1,834	"	458	458	..	458 0 0
Awakino	1,210	97	2995	22 Nov., 1906	985	"	482	..	..	..
Awaroa No. 2	3,767	20	495	24 Mar., 1898	2,185	"	400	400	..	400 0 0
Hauturu	63,186	{ 1	1	5 Jan., 1899	29,585	"	10,469	10,000	432 5 7	10,431 18 2
		81	750	28 Mar., 1901						
Huehue	4,134	59	1620	23 July, 1903	2,911	"	827	826	0 12 3	827 0 0
Kaikokopu	7,397	16	435	23 Feb., 1899	2,774	"	739	739	..	738 18 2
Kaimarama	3,182	71	1372	21 Sept., 1893	1,580	"	318	318	..	318 0 0
Karioi-Alexandra	12,912	10	{ 269	13 Feb., 1896	4,837	"	1,662	1,662	..	1,661 14 6
			270							
Karioi Parish	550	20	495	24 Mar., 1898	206	"	55	55	..	55 0 0
Kauaeranga	3,556	91	2021	20 Dec., 1898	1,770	"	445	299	90 6 8	389 3 5
Kawaka	3,420	34	1152	28 April, 1904	1,332	"	684	425	205 4 0	630 9 4
Kawhia	4,927	70	1498	22 Sept., 1898	2,819	"	616	514	101 19 4	615 18 1
Kenana	773	50	1755	22 June, 1906	425	"	155	..	7 5 7	7 5 7
Ketetangariki	1,070	16	529	23 Feb., 1905	663	"	268	..	129 7 4	129 7 4
Kinohaku West	73,795	100	2198	1 Dec., 1899	55,346	"	19,224	11,300	2,030 19 8	13,331 2 2
Kinohaku West No. 2	23,004	72	1572	1 Aug., 1901	7,589	"	5,758	3,899	402 15 10	4,301 7 0
Kiokio	4,349	66	1726	21 Aug., 1902	3,812	"	545	545	..	545 0 0
Kohumarū	4,880	83	1846	17 Nov., 1898	1,700	"	600	200	..	199 17 1
Kopua	4,263	73	2109	1 Sept., 1904	2,264	"	894	..	309 4 2	309 4 2
Kowaunui	3,464	63	2034	26 July, 1906	1,595	"	520	..	135 8 4	135 8 4
Mahoenui	6,471	73	1602	8 Aug., 1901	5,366	"	990	990	..	989 19 5
Maioiro Swamp	722	80	1365	13 Oct., 1892	451	Drainage ..	225	225	..	225 0 0
Maire	2,659	81	2343	6 Oct., 1904	931	Road-works	399	201	76 12 0	277 6 4
Mamaku	7,684	24	564	7 April, 1898	3,842	"	700	700	..	700 0 0
Manawahe	43,248	83	2221	14 Sept., 1905	25,909	"	6,190	23	1,496 13 6	1,519 5 10
Mangakahia	10,190	20	495	24 Mar., 1898	4,548	"	2,000	833	561 2 6	1,394 11 7
Mangakahia No. 2	1,109	91	2032	2 Nov., 1899	671	"	111	111	..	111 0 0
Mangamahoe	344	56	1447	15 June, 1905	356	"	112	..	..	..
Manganuiowae	4,599	{ 23	479	18 Mar., 1892	1,745	"	500	500	..	500 0 0
		77	2113			1 Oct., 1903				
		54	1047			6 July, 1892				
Mangaokahu	3,525	{ 22	629	13 Mar., 1902	1,743	"	424	232	..	232 0 0
		73	2109			1 Sept., 1904				
Mangawhara	9,669	73	2109	1 Sept., 1904	6,073	"	2,416	371	1,435 16 0	1,806 6 8
Mangorewa-Kaharoa	23,987	91	2032	2 Nov., 1899	9,997	"	3,552	2,260	409 16 6	2,669 18 11
Mareikura No. 1	950	77	1716	27 Oct., 1898	493	"	120	120	..	120 0 0
Mareikura No. 2	584	79	1773	3 Nov., 1898	292	"	70	70	..	70 0 0
Mareketu	5,060	23	479	18 Mar., 1892	1,976	"	395	395	..	395 0 0
Marlborough	4,670	46	939	21 June, 1894	2,043	"	467	467	..	467 0 0
Maropu	5,343	24	667	11 Mar., 1897	2,712	"	656	641	1 16 6	642 10 6
Mauroko	9,978	54	1517	2 July, 1903	5,729	"	1,496	1,496	..	1,495 19 7
Maungaru	4,368	20	494	24 Mar., 1898	2,184	"	460	460	..	460 0 0
Maungataniwha	4,000	23	479	18 Mar., 1892	1,500	"	500	499	..	499 1 6
Maungataniwha No. 2	1,220	47	955	18 June, 1896	487	"	120	120	..	119 19 9
Maungataniwha No. 3	470	84	2270	21 Sept., 1905	235	"	94	..	26 17 6	26 17 6
Moeatua	2,930	68	1959	18 Aug., 1904	2,322	"	738	..	121 7 6	121 7 6
Motatau	5,803	{ 23	479	18 Mar., 1892	2,349	"	600	599	..	598 10 7
		24	885			2 April, 1903				
Ngaurua	3,461	97	2879	8 Dec., 1904	2,153	"	849	707	141 18 10	848 19 11
Ngunguru	6,216	{ 46	973	20 June, 1895	3,417	"	772	772	..	772 0 0
		16	529			23 Feb., 1905				
Ngutunui	1,657	54	1518	2 July, 1903	1,053	"	210	..	8 16 0	8 16 0
Oamaru No. 1	15,027	17	648	1 Mar., 1906	9,821	"	3,734	..	1,060 18 5	1,060 18 5
Okohiriki	13,277	91	2021	20 Dec., 1898	5,094	"	1,550	1,547	..	1,547 8 1
Okohiriki No. 1E	2,626	70	1858	4 Sept., 1902	1,050	"	260	259	..	259 2 3
Omanawa	3,380	90	2694	10 Nov., 1904	2,047	"	845	844	..	844 0 0
Omawhake	5,094	75	2154	8 Sept., 1904	2,135	"	637	..	..	..
Opanake	2,508	24	563	7 April, 1898	1,254	"	100	99	..	99 1 0
Opuateke	12,240	{ 1	29	8 Jan., 1903	7,991	"	3,248	..	..	..
		25	923			5 April, 1906				
Opuatea No. 1	5,720	9	254	2 Feb., 1899	2,288	"	858	858	..	858 0 0
Opuatea No. 2	8,030	83	1847	17 Nov., 1898	2,735	"	1,000	799	200 11 7	1,000 0 0
Opuatea No. 3	4,337	83	1846	17 Nov., 1898	1,976	"	600	600	..	600 0 0
Opuawhanga No. 1	4,815	{ 23	412	30 Mar., 1893	1,917	"	500	500	..	500 0 0
		77	2114			1 Oct., 1903				
Opuawhanga-Whangarei No. 1	5,140	{ 34	571	1 May, 1893	2,300	"	500	500	..	500 0 0
		16	528			23 Feb., 1905				
Carried forward	496,548	..	..	..	265,688	..	86,426	52,750	9,387 15 7	62,136 9 3

* The figures give the totals to the nearest pound for the year ending 31st March, 1906.

STATEMENT showing the BLOCKS of LAND which have been proclaimed under "The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act Amendment Act, 1891," and "The Local Bodies' Loans Act, 1901," &c.—*continued.*

Name of Block.	Area of Block.	Gazetted.			Surveyor-General's Report.			Expenditure.		
		No.	Page.	Date.	Valuation of Block.	Works required to open up such Block.	Estimated Cos. proposed to be borrowed.	To Mar 31, 1906.	From April 1, 1906, to March 31, 1907.	Total to March 31, 1907.
AUCKLAND LAND DISTRICT—<i>continued.</i>										
Brought forward	Acres. 496,548				£ 265,688		£ 86,426	£ 52,750	£ s. d. 9,387 15 7	£ s. d. 62,136 9 8
Otaenga	1,630	81	2343	6 Oct., 1904	1,019	Road-works	326	..	..	..
Otanake Special Settlement	7,253	62	1727	6 Aug., 1903	5,440	"	1,813	1,037	93 14 1	1,130 17 1
Otau	18,510	71	1255	8 Sept., 1892	6,941	"	2,350	2,350	..	2,350 0 0
Otepo	463	16	528	23 Feb., 1905	232	"	115	..	..	..
Otukai	10,000	83	1845	17 Nov., 1898	3,360	"	1,000	626	70 9 11	696 3 11
Oumauku	9,770	77	2114	4 Sept., 1902	2,931	"	1,465	1,110	353 7 2	1,463 6 0
Ouruwhero	2,615	49	1433	25 June, 1903	2,347	"	680	638	28 9 9	666 4 7
Owai	3,378	73	1602	8 Aug., 1901	1,008	"	340	340	..	340 0 0
Paekotare	752	20	494	24 Mar., 1898	296	"	80	76	..	75 14 6
Pakanae	992	73	1601	8 Aug., 1901	291	"	124	92	5 7 6	97 10 0
Pakeho	9,613	91	2032	2 Nov., 1899	5,720	"	1,800	1,794	..	1,793 10 9
Pakiri	4,125	85	2335	5 Nov., 1903	1,607	"	369	369	..	369 0 0
Papamo No. 2	1,443	7	273	1 Feb., 1906	715	"	180	..	177 5 1	177 5 1
Parahaki	1,933	73	1601	8 Aug., 1901	568	"	193	11	..	10 15 0
Pareokawa	7,645	96	2148	7 Nov., 1901	3,557	"	950	944	..	944 8 7
Pirongia West	16,960	14	361	15 Feb., 1900	10,874	"	2,121	2,083	7 11 0	2,091 0 8
Pukemiro	1,111	68	1959	18 Aug., 1904	450	"	167	..	..	..
Pukenui	1,600	77	2113	1 Oct., 1903	1,200	"	240	155	46 7 5	201 0 4
Puketarata	5,347	1	1	4 Jan., 1900	2,177	"	535	533	..	532 11 7
Puketarata No. 2	3,027	104	2261	14 Dec., 1899	1,487	"	378	378	..	377 19 4
Puketarata No. 3	2,370	65	1702	14 Aug., 1902	2,371	"	296	296	..	295 19 4
Puketititi	603	17	680	1 Mar., 1906	737	"	151	..	..	..
Puriri	1,856	91	2022	20 Dec., 1898	791	"	186	180	5 15 0	185 6 0
Raeata	686	5	152	21 Jan., 1904	349	"	137	..	..	..
Rotokakahi	4,022	99	2638	16 Nov., 1905	3,371	"	1,207	..	405 11 9	405 11 9
Roto Ngaro	14,841	112	2949	21 Dec., 1905	4,655	"	2,225	16	2 0 0	18 5 0
Ruapekapeka	10,355	77	1345	6 Oct., 1892	3,382	"	500	495	..	494 13 4
Taeore	340	55	1428	8 June, 1905	136	"	68	..	..	..
Tahora No. 2 North	6450 of 62,699	24	522	28 Feb., 1901	4,291	"	1,612	..	..	..
Takahue	1,993	23	479	18 Mar., 1892	946	"	300	300	..	300 0 0
Takahue and Whangape	12,200	89	1864	5 Dec., 1895	4,270	"	1,800	1,800	..	1,800 0 0
Tangihua	4,660	104	2261	14 Dec., 1899	2,106	"	466	466	..	466 0 0
Tauhoa, Sections 184 to 201	4,069	15	336	18 Feb., 1892	1,675	"	449	447	1 17 0	449 0 0
Tauhoa-Komokoriki	2,650	35	573	4 May, 1893	1,000	"	325	325	..	325 0 0
Taumata	3,423	20	495	24 Mar., 1898	2,188	"	428	428	..	428 0 0
Taumata-Whakauma	3,269	62	1727	6 Aug., 1903	2,100	"	817	815	..	815 6 2
Taupiri	7,442	45	860	8 June, 1893	3,755	"	920	623	297 1 9	919 18 10
Te Kauri	3,570	14	544	18 Feb., 1904	2,616	Roads and bridges	916	..	668 13 2	668 13 2
Te Kuiti	3,506	70	1498	25 July, 1901	2,927	Road-works	777	776	..	776 7 0
Te Pahu	3,228	3	80	18 Jan., 1906	1,711	"	491	..	443 1 10	443 1 10
Te Puhi	4,505	73	2109	1 Sept., 1904	4,352	"	1,689	34	1,033 1 10	1,067 3 0
Te Puroa	8,600	83	1846	17 Nov., 1898	3,440	"	1,000	1,000	..	1,000 0 0
Te Rerenga	7,991	97	2880	8 Dec., 1904	4,730	"	1,599	796	757 11 9	1,553 2 3
Tokatoka	11,653	38	911	26 May, 1898	20,712	Drains and roads	9,073	..	..	..
Tokatoka	4,090 of 11,653	38	911	26 May, 1898	10,226	Tramway and road-works	1,200	9,535	724 11 6	10,259 10 4
Tokatoka No. 2	1,733	73	1601	8 Aug., 1901	3,934	Road-works	1,474	1,474	..	1,473 19 4
Tokatoka No. 3	448	14	544	18 Feb., 1904	896	Roads and drains	448	437	10 17 1	448 0 0
Tumu-Kaituna	3,187	12	495	19 Feb., 1903	2,550	Drainage-works and bridges over drains	1,275	1,274	..	1,274 7 7
Turoto	1,783	97	2879	8 Dec., 1904	1,689	Road-works	539	..	22 0 0	22 0 0
Umurua	4,866	24	564	7 April, 1898	2,433	"	480	479	..	478 14 11
Waiawa	20,000	5	94	27 Jan., 1896	8,000	"	2,500	2,500	..	2,499 19 0
Waiharakeke	2,116	27	758	23 Mar., 1905	1,979	"	318	..	180 4 11	180 4 11
Waimana	14,292	46	973	20 June, 1895	5,402	"	2,000	2,000	..	2,000 0 0
Waimatanui	15,723	20	496	24 Mar., 1898	10,847	"	4,258	2,770	226 6 5	2,996 0 11
Waiotahi	6,050	71	2073	25 Aug., 1904	2,273	"	756	751	..	750 13 9
Waiotira	3,226	62	1214	10 Aug., 1893	1,613	"	322	..	26 15 10	26 15 10
Waipoua	58,200	74	1419	5 Oct., 1893	29,100	"	5,800	5,799	..	5,799 5 5
Waipu	6,257	65	1398	1 Sept., 1898	1,570	"	790	790	..	790 0 0
Wairere	1,930	79	2299	29 Sept., 1904	1,641	"	483	..	269 1 8	269 1 8
Waitoa	5,108	75	2287	30 Aug., 1906	9,332	"	3,830	..	..	..
Waoku	20,000	74	1298	22 Sept., 1892	10,000	"	2,000	2,240	..	2,240 0 0
Whaia	2,543	17	301	9 Mar., 1893	1,462	"	395	..	..	..
Whangaingatakupu	975	73	1602	8 Aug., 1901	439	"	170	170	..	169 18 4
Whareorino	16,600	73	1603	8 Aug., 1901	14,525	"	3,075	982	383 16 7	1,366 4 10
Wharepungu	31,700	45	1137	7 Feb., 1901	8,907	"	2,828	..	..	..
Whititiri No. 1	5,628	51	1113	14 June, 1900	4,830	"	844	843	..	843 6
Totals	956,552	..	..	..	530,967	..	164,869	106,127	15,628 15 7	121,753 7 4

* The figures give the totals to the nearest pound for the year ending 31st March, 1906.

STATEMENT showing the BLOCKS of LAND which have been proclaimed under "The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act Amendment Act, 1891," and "The Local Bodies' Loans Act, 1901," &c.—*continued.*

Name of Block.	Area of Block.	Gazetted.			Surveyor-General's Report.			Expenditure.		
		No.	Page.	Date.	Valuation of Block.	Works required to open up such Block.	Estimated Cost proposed to be borrowed.	To Mar. 31, 1906.	From April 1, 1906, to March 31, 1907.	Total to March 31, 1907.
TARANAKI LAND DISTRICT.										
Aorangi	Acres. 3,807	75	2153	8 Sept., 1904	£ 2,631	Road-works	£ 1,160	..	£ s. d. 431 5 2	£ s. d. 431 5 2
Autawa	4,725	21	393	23 Mar., 1893	4,276	"	1,153	1,153	..	1,153 0 0
Eao	17,218	77	2191	2 Oct., 1902	13,890	"	6,361	4,160	1,565 16 8	5,725 9 9
Edmont, Block VI	1,683	57	1163	26 July, 1894	1,721	"	421	421	..	421 0 0
Eltham	3,200	19	340	16 Mar., 1893	3,150	"	800	800	..	800 0 0
Gaiton	3,800	19	340	16 Mar., 1893	3,860	"	950	950	..	950 0 0
Huroa	6,433	72	1273	15 Sept., 1892	5,318	"	2,093	2,093	..	2,093 0 0
Hurimoana	3,190	79	1774	3 Nov., 1898	2,981	"	797	797	..	797 0 0
Kaimanuka	9,987	72	1273	15 Sept., 1892	5,350	"	2,665	2,665	..	2,665 0 0
Kaipikari	4,273	79	1775	3 Nov., 1898	2,136	"	582	582	..	582 0 0
Kaitangiwhenua No. 2	33,430	27	510	5 April, 1894	15,667	"	6,393	6,312	81 8 1	6,393 0 0
Kaitangiwhenua Special Settlement	7,747	1	4	7 Jan., 1904	4,209	"	1,491	1,448	4 10 8	1,452 8 4
Kaupokonui	230	62	1215	10 Aug., 1893	230	"	58	58	..	58 0 0
Kohuratahi	3,548	79	1774	3 Nov., 1898	3,019	"	738	738	..	738 0 0
Kuraiti	4,465	14	360	15 Feb., 1900	1,855	"	617	617	..	617 0 0
Kui	13,989	75	2153	8 Sept., 1904	4,921	"	1,985	919	1,003 15 9	1,923 3 0
Kururau	11,808	86	2323	28 Sept., 1905	7,568	"	3,490	40	1,482 16 1	1,523 4 11
Lepperton	2,775	83	1383	20 Oct., 1892	2,998	"	966	966	..	966 0 0
Llewellyn	4,594	15	397	9 Mar., 1896	3,445	"	862	862	..	862 0 0
Maben	4,650	65	1871	4 Aug., 1904	2,341	"	900	900	..	900 0 0
Makahu	6,551	66	1361	27 Aug., 1896	6,180	"	1,468	1,468	..	1,468 0 0
Makino	8,608	24	521	28 Feb., 1901	3,787	"	1,860	73	..	73 0 4
Mangaehu	492	72	1273	15 Sept., 1892	604	"	301	301	..	301 0 0
Mangaere	7,432	30	526	27 April, 1893	9,485	"	4,144	4,144	..	4,144 0 0
Mangamingi	6,629	15	336	18 Feb., 1892	9,040	"	4,286	4,286	..	4,286 0 0
Manganui-Edmont	2,833	72	1510	4 Oct., 1894	3,597	"	894	894	..	894 0 0
Mangaowata	10,501	77	2191	2 Oct., 1902	6,577	"	2,140	991	821 4 7	1,812 0 1
Mangaroa	4,969	77	2192	2 Oct., 1902	4,560	Roads and bridges	1,225	1,200	3 10 6	1,203 12 2
Mangatawa	6,804	2	3	9 Jan., 1902	3,796	Road-works	1,270	1,270	..	1,269 19 8
Marco	6,467	13	382	16 Feb., 1899	4,040	"	1,027	1,027	..	1,027 0 0
Mataro	1,486	42	953	18 May, 1899	668	"	260	260	..	260 0 0
Mauku	1,893	91	2031	2 Nov., 1899	1,136	"	284	284	..	284 0 0
Milsom	6,686	21	374	23 Mar., 1893	6,238	"	1,750	1,750	..	1,750 0 0
Mokau-Ohura	41,475	30	1007	14 April, 1904	27,175	"	12,595	5,217	6,815 10 4	12,032 19 5
Moki	8,734	99	2178	6 Dec., 1900	4,708	"	1,822	1,822	..	1,822 0 0
Ngatimaru, Blocks V, IX	4,565	23	412	30 Mar., 1893	4,745	"	1,940	1,940	..	1,940 0 0
Okoke	13,893	51	1049	5 July, 1894	9,275	"	2,369	2,367	..	2,366 11 1
Opaku-Kapara	18,620	4	26	12 Jan., 1893	10,455	"	2,793	2,793	..	2,793 0 0
Oxford	4,000	4	23	12 Jan., 1893	3,550	"	1,200	1,200	..	1,200 0 0
Patua	9,692	24	667	11 Mar., 1897	6,542	"	1,636	1,636	..	1,635 19 10
Patupuremu	17,966	77	2190-1	2 Oct., 1902	8,160	"	3,580	3,434	132 4 1	3,565 18 8
Piko	10,276	43	1009	25 May, 1899	6,928	"	1,784	1,782	..	1,782 7 9
Poarangi	3,835	14	361	15 Feb., 1900	2,419	"	550	550	..	550 0 0
Puniwhakau	10,695	19	340	16 Mar., 1893	7,604	"	1,926	1,926	..	1,926 0 0
Putiki	6,595	64	1358	27 July, 1899	3,620	"	1,144	1,143	..	1,143 7 2
Putikituna	4,229	14	360	15 Feb., 1900	2,664	"	789	789	..	789 0 0
Rangiwhakaoma	10,005	72	1501	4 Oct., 1894	4,428	"	1,421	1,421	..	1,421 0 0
Rawhitiroa	736 of 32,746	1	5	7 Jan., 1897	3,680	"	46	46	..	46 0 0
Rerekapa-Moanatairi	21,375	77	2189	2 Oct., 1902	12,182	Roads and bridges	5,835	4,139	1,017 18 7	5,156 14 8
Rimuputa	5,609	77	1715	27 Oct., 1898	3,229	Road-works	799	799	..	799 0 0
Ross	1,912	34	760	9 May, 1895	2,564	"	478	476	..	476 2 6
Tahora	2,311	90	1977	17 Oct., 1901	1,422	"	471	471	..	471 0 0
Tangitu	11,805	90	1977	17 Oct., 1901	7,463	"	2,140	2,140	..	2,140 0 0
Tanner	5,200	78	1361	10 Oct., 1892	5,950	"	1,780	1,780	..	1,780 0 0
Taumata	8,223	84	2261	21 Sept., 1905	3,812	"	1,616	..	60 7 11	60 7 11
Taurangi	21,500	77	2191	2 Oct., 1902	12,976	{ Roads and bridges }	5,865	4,624	1,128 1 0	5,751 16 1
Terrace End	11,118	60	1245	15 Aug., 1895	8,950	Road-works	2,173	2,173	..	2,173 0 0
Tirangi	8,098	77	2192	2 Oct., 1902	3,563	"	1,620	1,511	102 7 0	1,613 6 6
Upper Waitara	840	13	240	23 Feb., 1893	1,914	"	126	126	..	126 0 0
Vera	2,575	77	2189	2 Oct., 1902	1,573	"	320	320	..	320 0 0
Waiaraia	16,797	81	2343	6 Oct., 1904	9,163	"	4,010	1,649	2,345 19 5	3,995 2 8
Waikaka	4,016	77	2190	2 Oct., 1902	3,254	Roads and bridges	960	946	Cr.325 1 5	620 10 10
Waiekeheho	590	72	1522	16 Aug., 1900	1,178	Road-works	419	419	..	418 16 9
Waikiekie	600	78	1698	15 Oct., 1896	788	"	150	150	..	150 0 0
Waingarara	1,634	78	1666	6 Sept., 1900	1,111	"	373	373	..	372 16 4
Waitangata	10,628	77	2190	2 Oct., 1902	8,683	"	2,575	2,402	38 8 6	2,440 15 6
Waro	11,244	52	1620	23 July, 1903	6,678	"	3,210	3,097	109 0 2	3,206 8 7
Whenuakura	10,927	19	340	16 Mar., 1893	5,652	"	1,690	1,690	..	1,690 0 0
Totals	539,251	..	..	..	359,332	..	127,596	101,780	16,819 3 1	117,599 5 8

* The figures give the totals to the nearest pound for the year ending 31st March, 1906.

STATEMENT showing the BLOCKS of LAND which have been proclaimed under "The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act Amendment Act, 1891," and "The Local Bodies' Loans Act, 1901," &c.—continued.

Name of Block.	Area of Block.	Gazetted.			Surveyor-General's Report.			Exp-nditure.		
		No.	Page.	Date.	Valuation of Block.	Works required to open up such Block.	Estimated Cos proposed to be borrowed.	To Mar. 31, 1906.	From April 1, 1906, to March 31, 1907.	Total to March 31, 1907.
HAWKE'S BAY LAND DISTRICT.										
Hikurangi No. 2	4,115	82	1663	16 Nov., 1894	3,217	Road-works	520	497	£ s. d.	497 5 5
Huiarua	7,750	90	{ 1901 1902 }	21 Oct., 1897	2,695	"	1,000	639	97 4 3	736 10 7
Liberal	2,800	83	1888	20 Oct., 1892	2,500	"	400	400	..	400 0 0
Mangapoike	14,627	24	521	28 Feb., 1901	8,260	"	1,834	1,828	6 0 0	1,833 18 2
Mangatoro, Block I	1,700	38	857	3 May, 1900	1,329	"	425	425	..	424 19 5
Mangatoro 1A No. 1	5,017	60	1537	29 June, 1905	82,104	"	1,348	109	616 12 2	725 13 5
Moanui	24,865	59	1620	23 July, 1903	14,000	"	3,108	1,001	844 7 9	1,845 0 10
Motu	33,045	23	479	18 Mar., 1892	16,778	"	2,475	2,475	..	2,475 0 0
Ngapaeruru	44,816	86	1914	1 Dec., 1898	26,370	"	11,000	11,000	..	11,000 0 0
Ngapaeruru No. 2		20	548	15 Mar., 1900		"	"	"	"	"
Nuhaka North	9,549	80	1365	13 Oct., 1892	4,632	"	568	568	..	568 0 0
Nuhaka No. 2	777	68	1324	7 Sept., 1893	486	"	58	58	..	58 0 0
Nuhaka No. 3	4,138	24	522	28 Feb., 1901	5,351	"	1,034	1,031	..	1,030 18 5
Pohui	4,306	90	1521	11 Nov., 1892	3,655	"	538	538	..	538 0 0
Ruahine	4,800	61	1291	16 Aug., 1894	2,225	"	840	824	..	824 1 9
Ruakituri	4,855	46	{ 939 955 }	21 June, 1894	4,624	"	364	364	..	364 0 0
Tahora No. 2 South	43,037	24	522	28 Feb., 1901	16,139	"	4,304	..	..	..
Tamaki	3,443	{ 41 88 }	{ 1042 2222 }	{ 4 May, 1905 14 Sept., 1905 }	{ 48,345 .. }	"	3,440	1,601	1,738 10 4	3,340 0 0
Tauwharetoi	9,404	68	1324	7 Sept., 1893	4,975	"	1,175	1,169	..	1,169 0 0
Tuahu	16,759	67	1859	27 Aug., 1903	6,288	"	2,352	1,179	1,107 11 5	2,286 5 2
Umutaoroa	1,461	49	939	22 June, 1893	956	"	100	100	..	100 0 0
Waiiau	8,961	23	412	30 Mar., 1893	5,621	"	1,405	1,137	45 10 0	1,182 14 6
Waitahaia	14,380	52	1619	23 July, 1903	8,462	"	2,990	1,217	922 4 7	2,139 4 4
Whakapaupakihi	14,379	52	1619	23 July, 1903	12,498	"	1,798	1,798	..	1,797 18 8
Whakarara, Section 14, Block XIII	508	16	342	1 Mar., 1894	406	"	38	38	..	38 0 0
Wharekopae-Tahora No. 2	14,401	24	522	28 Feb., 1901	11,869	"	1,440	1,432	..	1,431 18 0
Woodville	254	49	939	22 June, 1893	286	"	25	25	..	25 0 0
Totals	294,147	..	..	..	244,066	..	44,579	31,453	5,378 0 6	36,831 8 8

WELLINGTON LAND DISTRICT.

Ahuahu	28,999	61	1682	30 Aug., 1907	15,115	Roads and Bridges	7,250	..	..	..
Awarua 1B	18,291	104	2723	23 Nov., 1905	16,132	D to ..	6,610	..	767 19 4	767 19 4
Clifton No. 1	4,650	28	539	31 Mar., 1892	4,081	Road-works	1,163	1,163	..	1,163 0 0
Dannevirke Centennial	11,022	19	340	16 Mar., 1893	5,233	"	2,494	2,494	..	2,493 19 10
East Puketoi	83,500	23	479	18 Mar., 1892	83,500	"	19,375	19,375	..	19,375 0 0
Gladstone	7,597	24	482	28 Mar., 1894	5,822	"	1,899	1,898	..	1,898 8 3
Hall	3,175	19	340	16 Mar., 1893	4,871	"	794	794	..	794 0 0
Hautapu, Blocks XI, XIV, XV	6,188	92	1567	24 Nov., 1892	5,469	"	1,573	1,567	..	1,567 0 0
Hautapu No. 2	6,856	65	1272	24 Aug., 1894	8,860	"	1,714	1,714	..	1,713 15 10
Hautapu-Ruahine	19,804	74	1297	22 Sept., 1892	22,154	"	6,931	6,932	..	6,931 12 3
Hautapu-Ruahine No. 2	16,771	87	1841	28 Nov., 1895	11,152	"	4,192	4,192	..	4,192 0 0
Horopito	400	72	1505	2 Oct., 1894	850	"	100	..	..	..
Kaiparoro	9,409	60	1245	15 Aug., 1895	6,414	"	1,174	1,174	..	1,174 0 0
Kaiparoro No. 2	400	30	773	1 April, 1897	150	"	50	50	..	50 0 0
Kaitangata	7,105	89	1863	5 Dec., 1895	4,215	"	884	884	..	884 0 0
Kaitieke	45,500	12	283	14 Feb., 1895	41,700	"	11,375	7,883	3,010 13 10	10,893 5 10
Kaiwaka, Blocks IV, VIII, XI	4,789	4	56	10 Jan., 1901	1,768	"	598	598	..	598 0 0
Kakariki	5,000	23	413	30 Mar., 1893	5,786	"	1,562	1,562	..	1,562 0 0
Kawhatau	5,700	94	1951	21 Dec., 1894	6,588	"	1,425	1,425	..	1,425 0 0
Makotuku, Block III	1,608	1	4	7 Jan., 1904	1,860	"	402	402	..	402 0 0
Malton Farm Homestead	1,208	80	1637	8 Oct., 1894	944	"	302	302	..	302 0 0
Manganui and Ruapehu	7,350	46	958	21 June, 1894	6,337	"	1,838	1,838	..	1,838 0 0
Mangairoa-Coal Creek	6,500	74	1297	22 Sept., 1892	8,204	"	2,031	2,030	..	2,030 0 0
Marton No. 3	9,078	79	2162	8 Oct., 1903	8,050	"	2,270	2,270	..	2,270 0 0
Maungakaretu	508	7	273	1 Feb., 1906	571	"	254	..	192 7 8	192 7 8
Mecalickstone	6,011	19	339	16 Mar., 1893	4,834	"	1,503	1,503	..	1,503 0 0
Momahaki	526	72	1274	15 Sept., 1892	440	"	156	156	..	156 0 0
Momahaki Village Settlement	824	7	131	25 Jan., 1894	6,311	"	1,360	1,360	..	1,360 0 0
Mount Baker	8,291	15	336	18 Feb., 1892	8,710	"	2,487	2,487	..	2,487 0 0
Mowhanau Village Settlement	380	7	255	29 Jan., 1903	5,320	"	380	378	..	378 7 9
Ngamatea-Maungakaretu	8,315	4	55	10 Jan., 1901	6,491	"	2,078	2,078	..	2,078 0 0
Ngaurukehu	1,092	4	55	10 Jan., 1901	1,092	"	409	409	..	408 19 2
North-east Puketoi	13,300	15	336	18 Feb., 1892	16,455	"	3,990	3,990	..	3,990 0 0
Ohinewairua	7,462	11	242	28 Jan., 1897	7,491	"	1,865	1,864	..	1,864 1 3
Ohinewairua, Block XIII	876	4	55-6	10 Jan., 1901	2,734	"	481	481	..	481 0 0
Carried forward	358,485	..	..	..	335,204	..	92,969	75,253	3,971 0 10	79,223 17 2

* The figures give the totals to the nearest pound for the year ending 31st March, 1906.

STATEMENT showing the BLOCKS of LAND which have been proclaimed under "The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act Amendment Act, 1891," and "The Local Bodies' Loans Act, 1901," &c.—*continued.*

Name of Block.	Area of Block.	Gazetted.			Surveyor-General's Report.			Expenditure.		
		No.	Page.	Date.	Valuation of Block.	Works required to open up such Block.	Estimated Cos. proposed to be borrowed.	To Mar. 31, 1906.	From April 1, 1906, to March 31, 1907.	Total to March 31, 1907.
WELLINGTON LAND DISTRICT—<i>continued.</i>										
Brought forward ..	Acres. 358,485				£ 335,204		£ 92,969	£ 75,253	£ s. d. 3,971 0 10	£ s. d. 79,223 17 2
Ohinewairua-Pukeokahu ..	9,785	4	56	10 Jan., 1901	9,330	Road-works	2,935	2,342	583 15 6	2,925 15 5
Omahine, Block I ..	455	8	152	2 Feb., 1893	341	"	114	114	..	114 0 0
Onslow ..	2,405	34	640	28 April, 1892	1,327	"	601	600	..	600 0 0
Oraukura ..	4,456	78	1803	21 Sept., 1899	6,691	"	1,114	1,114	..	1,114 0 0
Oroua-Coal Creek ..	5,630	15	336	18 Feb., 1892	6,178	"	1,050	1,050	..	1,050 0 0
Palmerston North Knights of Labour ..	10,995	28	539	31 Mar., 1892	12,222	"	2,749	2,749	..	2,749 0 0
Pohangina ..	4,722	28	539	31 Mar., 1892	4,250	"	1,181	1,181	..	1,181 0 0
Pohonuiatane ..	27,754	19	340	16 Mar., 1893	26,476	"	6,959	6,958	..	6,958 6 0
Pukeokahu ..	11,379	87	1841	28 Nov., 1895	11,957	"	2,844	2,844	..	2,844 0 0
		10	283	13 Feb., 1896						
Puketoi-Aohanga ..	1,277	92	1933	19 Dec., 1895	1,027	"	319	319	..	319 0 0
Raupiu ..	3,080	49	1433	25 June, 1903	2,457	"	385	260	124 15 2	385 0 0
Ruatiti ..	18,500	85	2649	11 Oct., 1906	18,875	"	4,625	..	..	..
Salisbury and Delaware ..	13,392	28	539	31 Mar., 1892	14,257	"	3,348	3,348	..	3,348 0 0
Sommerville ..	8,566	28	539	31 Mar., 1892	9,085	"	2,142	2,142	..	2,142 0 0
Stirling ..	4,770	28	539	31 Mar., 1892	6,678	"	1,193	1,192	..	1,192 0 0
Taibape Village Settlement Extension ..	117	1	3, 4	7 Jan., 1904	278	"	117	117	..	117 0 0
Taonui-Maraetaua-Pukewhaka ..	9,799	49	1186	25 May, 1905	8,893	"	2,450	..	..	..
Tapui Settlement ..	1,267	85	2486	27 Oct., 1904	1,724	"	474	..	..	..
		15	560	14 Feb., 1907						
Tararua ..	3,993	19	340	16 Mar., 1833	4,592	"	998	998	..	998 0 0
Tauakira ..	20,736	72	1522	16 Aug., 1900	16,551	"	2,592	2,592	..	2,592 0 0
Te Mara ..	3,549 of 18,700	56	1092	13 July, 1893	2,384	"	436	428	..	427 16 3
Te Ngaue ..	1,470	54	1106	16 July, 1896	1,286	"	367	367	..	367 0 0
Te Ruanui ..	1,545	4	55	10 Jan., 1901	4,256	"	386	386	..	386 0 0
Tiriraukawa-Hautapu ..	5,622	4	56	10 Jan., 1901	5,250	"	1,686	1,686	..	1,686 0 0
Tupapanui ..	2,614	65	2090	2 Aug., 1906	2,614	"	653	..	..	..
Umutoi ..	2,200	28	539	31 Mar., 1892	1,675	"	550	550	..	550 0 0
Upper Makohine ..	14,201	24	564	7 April, 1898	15,851	"	3,230	3,215	15 0 0	3,229 19 11
Waimarino ..	20,900	15	336	18 Feb., 1892	16,880	"	7,837	7,836	..	7,835 10 6
Waiwera ..	3,900	23	413	30 Mar., 1893	4,101	"	1,460	1,460	..	1,460 0 0
Wanganui ..	6,222	19	340	16 Mar., 1893	6,046	"	1,556	1,556	..	1,556 0 0
Wellington Fruit-growers' Association ..	2,608	72	1274	15 Sept., 1892	8,543	"	1,304	1,313	..	1,313 0 0
Totals ..	586,394	..	..	..	562,279	..	150,624	123,970	4,694 11 6	128,664 5 3

NELSON LAND DISTRICT.

Big Bush ..	14,309	73	2229	23 Aug., 1906	4,469	Road-works	715	..	..	..
Brewerton ..	3,757	107	2815	7 Dec., 1905	939	"	197	..	157 15 7	157 15 7
Brighton ..	29,124	86	2323	28 Sept., 1905	11,457	"	3,348	..	..	..
Heaphy ..	13,030	109	2862	14 Dec., 1905	4,029	"	1,344	..	..	..
Hope ..	3,311	99	2638	16 Nov., 1905	828	"	248	..	121 11 6	121 11 6
Inangahua ..	3,184	90	2423	19 Oct., 1905	1,658	"	781	..	472 1 11	472 1 11
Kongahu ..	15,794	90	2424	19 Oct., 1905	6,152	"	2,735	..	..	..
Maruia ..	22,554	90	2122	19 Oct., 1905	7,652	"	3,164	..	892 2 2	892 2 2
Maruia North ..	19,311	60	1946	19 July, 1906	6,220	"	3,110	..	11 19 0	11 19 0
Matiri ..	11,711	90	2423	19 Oct., 1905	4,420	"	1,547	..	506 3 10	506 3 10
		15	569	14 Feb., 1907						
Matiri East ..	9,361	3	80	18 Jan., 1906	2,819	{ Roads and Bridges }	701	..	259 4 3	259 4 3
		17	649	1 Mar., 1906						
Mokihinui ..	7,944	90	2425	19 Oct., 1905	2,935	Road-works	1,133	..	..	..
Mount Arthur ..	4,350	90	2423	19 Oct., 1905	1,087	"	326	..	109 0 5	109 0 5
Mount Arthur No. 2 ..	14,454	90	1523	11 Nov., 1892	4,345	"	1,086	..	..	..
Murchison Village Settlement ..	31	2	12, 13	10 Jan., 1907	249	"	62	..	..	..
Orarara ..	19,635	99	2638	16 Nov., 1905	7,076	"	2,699	..	..	..
Orikaka ..	20,052	95	2528	2 Nov., 1905	5,184	"	2,506	..	..	..
Otumahana ..	20,824	90	2424	19 Oct., 1905	6,069	"	2,603	..	..	..
Owen ..	5,233	95	2528	2 Nov., 1905	1,538	"	623	..	416 17 7	416 17 7
Owen East ..	7,707	109	2862	14 Dec., 1905	2,473	"	549	29	221 13 3	251 3 1
Rainy River ..	9,685	95	2528	2 Nov., 1905	2,700	"	726	..	12 2 0	12 2 0
Spooner Range ..	3,841	75	2257	30 Aug., 1906	1,106	"	96	..	..	..
Tadmor ..	2,109	14	592	22 Feb., 1906	537	"	116	..	108 9 7	108 9 7
Totaranui ..	7,546	99	2639	16 Nov., 1905	2,037	"	566	..	..	..
		17	649	1 Mar., 1906						
Totaranui No. 3 ..	1,990	104	3150	18 Dec., 1906	497	"	100	..	..	..
Wareatea ..	829	112	2950	21 Dec., 1905	326	"	163	..	..	..
Westport ..	2,276	104	2723	23 Nov., 1905	791	"	332	..	228 12 0	228 12 0
Totals ..	273,982	..	..	..	89,598	..	31,576	29	3,517 13 1	3,547 2 11

* The figures give the totals to the nearest pound for the year ending 31st March, 1906.

STATEMENT showing the BLOCKS of LAND which have been proclaimed under "The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act Amendment Act, 1891," and "The Local Bodies' Loans Act, 1901," &c.—*continued.*

Name of Block.	Area of Block.	Gazetted.			Surveyor-General's Report.			Expenditure.		
		No.	Page.	Date.	Valuation of Block.	Works required to open up such Block.	Estimated Cost proposed to be borrowed.	To Mar. 31, 1906.	From April 1, 1906, to March 31, 1907.	Total to March 31, 1907.
MARLBOROUGH LAND DISTRICT.										
	Acres.				£		£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bartlett's Creek	4,481	46	1357	11 June, 1903	1,617	Road-works	404	..	69 9 1	69 9 1
Hundalee	38,329	30	773	1 April, 1897	24,540	"	7,500	7,500	..	7,500 0 0
		97	2081	18 Nov., 1897		"	"
Kaitao	9,436	30	729	6 April, 1899	5,676	"	2,500	2,000	..	2,000 0 0
Pine Valley	19,744	68	1477	10 Aug., 1899	7,452	"	1,863	1,189	..	1,188 15 7
Pubipuhi	24,800	91	2022	20 Dec., 1898	16,675	"	4,169	4,169	..	4,169 0 0
Stag and Spey	12,246	34	821	4 April, 1901	11,148	"	2,787	2,787	..	2,787 0 0
Tinlinc	1,650	18	527	6 Mar., 1902	805	"	201	201	..	200 18 6
Waipapa	49,410	2	4	9 Jan., 1902	17,662	"	1,766	1,764	..	1,764 0 0
Totals	160,096	..	..	..	85,575	..	21,190	19,610	69 9 1	19,679 3 2
WESTLAND LAND DISTRICT.										
Mount Bonar	747	73	2226	23 Aug., 1906	250	Road-works	100	..	..	..
Waitaha	4,270	52	1160	23 May, 1901	5,362	"	1,341	1,342	..	1,341 10 6
Totals	5,017	..	..	..	5,612	..	1,441	1,342	..	1,341 10 6
CANTERBURY LAND DISTRICT.										
Ruapuna	847	80	1640	8 Nov., 1894	1,270	Road-works	106	75	..	75 0 0
Waimate Reserve No. 1126 ..	634	72	1273	15 Sept., 1892	6,269	"	300	300	..	300 0 0
Waimate Reserve No. 1128 ..	516	72	1273	15 Sept., 1892	7,268	"	25	25	..	25 0 0
Waimate Reserve No. 1178 ..	157	72	1273	15 Sept., 1892	2,198	"	25	25	..	25 0 0
Totals	2,154	..	..	..	17,000	..	456	425	..	425 0 0
OTAGO LAND DISTRICT.										
Blackstone	22,535	10	233	7 Feb., 1895	24,748	Road-works	500	500	..	500 0 0
Catlin's (Blocks IV, V, VI, VII)	8,580	16	530	23 Feb., 1905	3,828	"	1,057	1,057	..	1,056 17 9
Catlin's, Block II	196	13	246	23 Feb., 1893	196	"	50	50	..	50 0 0
Gimmerburn	8,682	24	481	29 Mar., 1894	6,152	"	1,032	1,032	..	1,032 0 0
Glenomaru, Blocks III, IV, V, VII, IX, X	1,495	95	1606	8 Dec., 1892	946	"	237	237	..	237 0 0
		13	246	23 Feb., 1893		"
Glenomaru, Block VI	25	62	1211	10 Aug., 1893	80	"	25	25	..	25 0 0
Lauder-Blackstone	3,809	24	481	29 Mar., 1894	3,608	"	476	476	..	476 0 0
Lauder-Tiger Hill	28,823	24	481	29 Mar., 1894	22,112	"	1,000	1,000	..	1,000 0 0
Lower Wanaka	3,368	34	714	10 May, 1894	1,250	"	101	101	..	101 0 0
Maniototo	277	24	481	29 Mar., 1894	245	"	104	100	..	100 0 0
Maniototo No. 2	6,916	10	233	7 Feb., 1895	5,911	"	907	600	..	600 0 0
Maniototo No. 3	6,295	12	284	14 Feb., 1895	6,001	"	300	300	..	300 0 0
Maruenua	49,116	15	336	18 Feb., 1892	72,246	"	7,000	7,000	..	7,000 0 0
		23	479	18 Mar., 1892		"
Naseby, No. 2	2,444	10	234	7 Feb., 1895	2,038	"	313	313	..	313 0 0
Naseby, Maniototo, and Gimmerburn	5,277	79	1774	3 Nov., 1898	3,677	"	910	910	..	910 0 0
Rankleburn, Block VI	544	102	1744	29 Dec., 1892	409	"	136	136	..	136 0 0
		13	246	23 Feb., 1893		"
Swinburn	1,790	40	656	18 May, 1893	1,610	"	288	288	..	288 0 0
Tahaukupu	2,817	13	245	23 Feb., 1893	2,256	"	675	675	..	675 0 0
Tautuku, Block I	3,850	77	1346	6 Oct., 1892	2,800	"	555	555	..	555 0 0
Tuapeka West, Blocks I, II, III, IV, VII, VIII	2,545	102	1742	29 Dec., 1892	1,681	"	367	367	..	367 0 0
		13	246	23 Feb., 1893		"
Woodlands, Blocks II, V, VI, VIII	13,400	15	336	18 Feb., 1892	11,225	"	4,950	4,950	..	4,950 0 0
Woodlands, Blocks VII, X, XI	1,693	74	1297	22 Sept., 1892	1,384	"	307	307	..	307 0 0
Totals	174,477	..	..	..	174,403	..	21,290	20,979	..	20,978 17 9
SOUTHLAND LAND DISTRICT.										
Ackers	351	68	1327	7 Sept., 1893	702	Road-works	220	217	..	216 16 3
Alton No. 2	2,722	21	831	22 Mar., 1906	1,269	"	317	..	..	..
Hillend	856	112	2950	21 Dec., 1905	433	"	108	..	..	..
Hokonui	404	7	149	30 Jan., 1896	253	"	95	85	..	85 7 10
		39	1021	27 April, 1905		"
Hokonui No. 2	1,181	81	2182	7 Sept., 1905	714	"	152	..	151 17 2	151 17 2
Invercargill Hundred, Block XXIII	1,403	72	1273	15 Sept., 1892	1,840	"	400	382	17 12 0	400 0 0
Lillburn, Monowai, and Alton	30,745	83	1389	20 Oct., 1892	23,059	"	8,000	8,000	..	8,000 0 0
Longwood	2,830	16	529	23 Feb., 1905	1,322	"	330	..	..	..
Carried forward	40,492	..	..	..	29,592	..	9,622	8,684	169 9 2	8,854 1 3

* The figures give the totals to the nearest pound for the year ending 31st March, 1906.

STATEMENT showing the BLOCKS of LAND which have been proclaimed under "The Government Loans to Local Bodies Act Amendment Act, 1891," and "The Local Bodies' Loans Act, 1901," &c.—*continued.*

Name of Block.	Area of Block.	Gazetted.			Surveyor-General's Report.			Expenditure.		
		No.	Page.	Date.	Valuation of Block.	Works required to open up such Block.	Estimated Cos. proposed to be borrowed.	To Mar. 31, 1906.*	From April 1, 1906, to March 31, 1907.	Total to March 31, 1907.
SOUTHLAND LAND DISTRICT—<i>continued.</i>										
	Acres.				£		£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward ..	40,492	..	..	..	29,592	..	9,622	8,684	169 9 2	8,854 1 3
Longwood, Blocks XVI and I ..	5,659	90	1529	11 Nov., 1892	2,829	Road-works	1,400	1,400	..	1,400 0 0
Lora ..	2,913	73	1884	3 Aug., 1905	1,330	"	332	..	..	..
Mabel ..	343	73	1883	3 Aug., 1905	231	"	58	..	58 0 0	58 0 0
Mokoreta ..	7,400	23	411	30 Mar., 1893	3,700	"	1,850	493	..	492 13 2
Otapiri ..	616	73	1883	3 Aug., 1905	313	"	78	..	69 6 10	69 6 10
Oteramika ..	6,253	71	1377	21 Sept., 1893	2,006	"	625	245	21 5 6	265 16 1
Paterson, Block I ..	633	23	411	30 Mar., 1893	317	"	158	158	..	158 0 0
Waiau, Blocks XIII and XIV, Waiau Survey District ..	5,472	83	2221	14 Sept., 1905	2,070	"	732	4	727 13 5	732 0 11
Waikawa ..	6,000	23	412	30 Mar., 1893	3,000	"	1,500	1,500	..	1,500 0 0
Waikawa No. 1 ..	1,194	84	2260	21 Sept., 1905	663	"	331	..	107 0 4	107 0 4
Waikawa, Block II ..	307	90	1901	21 Oct., 1897	643	"	186	..	57 4 8	57 4 8
Waikawa-Otara ..	31,000	23	411	30 Mar., 1893	15,500	"	7,750	7,750	..	7,749 12 5
Waikawa-Otara Extension ..	1,647 of 3,466	67	1919	11 Aug., 1904	664	"	199	..	..	..
Winton ..	2,023	77	2019	24 Aug., 1905	1,515	"	379	326	53 1 6	379 0 0
Totals ..	111,952	..	..	..	64,373	..	25,200	20,560	1,263 1 5	21,822 15 8

SUMMARY.

Auckland Land District ..	955,452	..	..	..	530,967	..	164,869	106,127	15,628 15 7	121,753 7 4
Taranaki ..	539,251	..	..	..	359,332	..	127,596	101,780	16,819 3 1	117,599 5 8
Hawke's Bay ..	294,147	..	..	..	244,066	..	44,579	31,453	5,378 0 6	36,831 8 8
Wellington ..	586,394	..	..	..	562,279	..	150,624	123,970	4,694 11 6	128,664 5 3
Nelson ..	273,982	..	..	..	89,593	..	31,576	29	3,517 13 1	3,547 2 11
Marlborough ..	160,096	..	..	..	85,575	..	21,190	19,610	69 9 1	19,679 3 2
Westland ..	5,017	..	..	..	5,612	..	1,441	1,342	..	1,341 10 6
Canterbury ..	2,154	..	..	..	17,000	..	456	425	..	425 0 0
Otago ..	174,477	..	..	..	174,403	..	21,290	20,979	..	20,978 17 9
Southland ..	111,952	..	..	..	64,373	..	25,200	20,560	1,263 1 5	21,822 15 8
Totals ..	3,102,922	..	..	..	2,133,200	..	588,821	426,275	47,370 14 3	472,642 16 11

* The figures give the totals to the nearest pound for the year ending 31st March, 1906.

Table 39.—SUMMARY of WORK DONE for other DEPARTMENTS and for LOCAL BODIES during the Year ended 31st March, 1907.

District in which Work was executed.		Cost.		District in which Work was executed.		Cost.	
		£	s. d.			£	s. d.
Auckland ..	..	3,659	18 11	Marlborough ..	..	479	9 0
Hawke's Bay ..	..	1,552	7 1	Westland ..	..	881	14 11
Taranaki ..	..	3,386	2 7	Canterbury ..	..	1,964	5 6
Wellington ..	..	7,718	15 10	Otago ..	..	1,099	17 2
Nelson ..	..	1,871	7 3	Southland ..	..	339	12 10
Carried forward ..	..	£18,188	11 8	Total ..	..	£22,953	11 1

Table 40.—CROWN GRANTS, CERTIFICATES of TITLE, LEASES, and other INSTRUMENTS of TITLE from the CROWN prepared from 1st April, 1906, to 31st March, 1907.

District.	Number.					Cost.
	Singly.	In Duplicate.	In Triplicate.	In Quadruplicate	Total Copies.	
Auckland	6	143	354	188	2,106	£ s. d. 210 12 0
Hawke's Bay .. ..	..	5	61	20	273	37 6 0
Taranaki .. ..	..	..	57	79	487	10 16 5
Wellington	100	37	329	110	1,601	195 2 0
Nelson .. ..	..	84	27	90	609	45 13 6
Marlborough	1	30	17	48	304	19 19 4
Westland .. ..	..	34	28	137	700	126 9 0
Canterbury	2	66	19	102	599	44 18 6
Otago .. ..	..	99	169	..	705	35 5 0
Southland	12	40	28	83	508	62 10 0
Totals	121	538	1,089	857	7,892	788 11 9

Table 41.—SUMMARY showing PAYMENTS to LOCAL BODIES during the Twelve Months ended 31st March, 1907, from "Thirds" of Deferred-payment, Perpetual-lease, Occupation-with-right-of-purchase, and Lease-in-perpetuity Lands, and "Fourth" of Small Grazing-runs.

District.	For Details see Statements Nos.	"Thirds," Deferred-payment, Perpetual-lease, Occupation-with-right-of-purchase, and Lease-in-perpetuity Lands.		"Fourth," Small Grazing-runs.		Total Payments.		Length, Locality, Description, and Particulars of Work authorised by Land Board.						
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	Bush-clearing.	Scrub-clearing.	Formation.	Bridges.	Culverts.	Maintenance.	
Auckland	1	5,957	12 0	138	13 10	6,096	5 10	626	2,461	2,912	342 14 8	277 14 0	2,582	9 10
Hawke's Bay	2	4,583	2 6	572	19 8	5,156	2 2	315	..	3,073	312 2 11	29 11 2	1,682	15 5
Taranaki	3	2,111	10 2	15	4 7	2,126	14 9	..	20	131	8 7 7	9 13 0	1,040	2 6
Wellington	4	6,069	18 4	141	2 7	6,211	0 11	194	..	1,056	99 14 7	59 14 0	1,930	7 2
Nelson	5	1,081	5 0	33	11 5	1,114	16 5	42	..	235	23 16 2	18 3 6	845	1 5
Marlborough	6	1,510	8 4	966	11 1	2,476	19 5	..	80	817	100 0 0	..	1,896	7 11
Westland	7	542	5 8	..	..	542	5 8	..	..	..	..	..	3,611	11 9
Canterbury	8	641	5 10	524	3 3	1,165	9 1	..	..	904 ¹ / ₂	722 7 11	10 3 6	937	16 5
Otago	9	1,367	6 0	1,570	19 2	2,938	5 2	..	12	2,866 ¹ / ₂	30 14 0	262 18 4	947	13 3
Southland	10	1,026	0 4	210	4 3	1,236	4 7	20	15	1,922	42 11 1	88 12 7	695	19 3
Totals .. ..	..	24,890	14 2	4,173	9 10	29,064	4 0	1,197	2,588	13,917 ¹ / ₂	1,682 8 11	756 10 1	16,170	4 11

Table 41.—STATEMENT showing PAYMENTS to LOCAL BODIES during the Twelve Months ended 31st March, 1907, from "Thirds" of Deferred-payment, Perpetual-lease, Occupation-with-right-of-purchase, and Lease-in-perpetuity Lands, and "Fourth's" of Small Grazing-runs.

Local Bodies.	"Thirds," Deferred- payment, Perpetual-lease, Occupation- with-right-of- purchase, and Lease-in-per- petuity Lands.	"Fourth's," Small Grazing- runs.	Total Payments.	Length, Locality, Description, and Particulars of Work authorised by Land Board.					
				Bush- clearing.	Scrub- clearing.	For- mation.	Bridges.	Culverts.	Main- tenance.
STATEMENT No. 1.—AUCKLAND.									
Albertland Nth. R.B.	£ s. d. 7 13 9	£ s. d.	£ s. d. 7 13 9	Ch. ..	Ch. ..	Ch. 14	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Albertland Sth. R.B.	5 19 2	.. ..	5 19 2	..	..	..	..	..	5 19 2
Awakino County ..	194 14 1	.. ..	194 14 1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bay of Islands C.C.	1,265 1 11	53 5 5	1,318 7 4	173	997	1373	132 10 1	107 16 2	130 11 7
Coromandel C.C. ..	44 12 2	.. ..	44 12 2	..	5	4	3 19 8	..	33 13 5
East Taupo County	1 4 2	.. ..	1 4 2	..	..	..	..	..	1 4 2
Great Barrier Island	2 12 1	.. ..	2 12 1	..	..	..	..	..	2 12 1
Hobson C.C. ..	258 0 3	.. ..	258 0 3	60	..	103	44 12 2	3 0 0	30 6 1
Hokianga C.C. ..	567 11 11	.. ..	567 11 11	180	432	87	9 16 4	14 18 8	340 4 0
Huntly R.B. ..	33 1 0	.. ..	33 1 0	..	..	25	..	..	2 5 10
Hunua R.B. ..	17 6 4	.. ..	17 6 4	..	..	..	5 13 0	4 19 10	6 13 6
Kawhia C.C. ..	84 18 5	.. ..	84 18 5	..	..	..	..	..	84 18 5
Katikati R.B. ..	3 6 0	.. ..	3 6 0	..	..	..	..	..	3 6 0
Kirikiriroa R.B.	12 7 8	.. ..	12 7 8	..	98	..	..	..	7 9 9
Manukau County ..	35 1 3	.. ..	35 1 3	..	..	..	..	..	35 1 3
Mangonui C.C. ..	313 8 1	.. ..	313 8 1	55	595	305	20 2 3	80 12 0	114 19 10
Mareretu R.B. ..	27 15 8	.. ..	27 15 8	..	80	..	..	..	21 14 9
Marua R.B. ..	60 11 10	.. ..	60 11 10	..	32	32	..	..	21 6 7
Maunua R.B. ..	274 7 6	.. ..	274 7 6	10	..	115	26 0 0	13 15 0	77 17 7
Mauku R.B. ..	22 11 4	.. ..	22 11 4	..	..	2	10 14 9	3 4 0	4 5 6
Matakohe R.B. ..	7 5 3	.. ..	7 5 3	..	..	10	0 11 6	..	2 3 8
Mangatawhiri R.B.	5 12 7	.. ..	5 12 7	..	..	..	..	..	5 12 7
Opaheke R.B. ..	2 15 10	.. ..	2 15 10	..	..	..	..	..	2 15 10
Opotiki C.C. ..	57 18 11	.. ..	57 18 11	..	..	16	..	1 10 2	35 7 4
Otamatea C.C. ..	125 15 1	.. ..	125 15 1	..	6	110	..	2 3 8	21 13 1
Otonga R.B. ..	3 0 0	.. ..	3 0 0	..	..	..	..	0 16 4	2 3 8
Parua R.B. ..	13 18 4	.. ..	13 18 4	..	..	..	..	..	13 18 4
Puhoi R.B. ..	3 5 11	.. ..	3 5 11	..	..	..	..	..	3 5 11
Raglan C.C. ..	756 3 0	.. ..	756 3 0	65	..	147	27 15 9	17 17 1	576 6 9
Rodney C.C. ..	211 18 6	.. ..	211 18 6	14	47	108	3 13 4	5 14 0	133 18 4
Rotorua County ..	90 6 0	1 18 9	92 4 9	..	..	21	..	..	57 5 7
Ruarangi R.B. ..	21 15 1	.. ..	21 15 1	..	..	49	..	..	0 17 6
Tauranga C.C. ..	113 7 11	49 19 4	163 7 3	..	..	..	..	..	163 7 3
Tauhoa R.B. ..	16 0 6	.. ..	16 0 6	..	6	13	4 3 5	..	0 9 9
Warkworth R.B. ..	5 7 9	.. ..	5 7 9	16	..	..	..	..	1 6 1
Waipipi R.B. ..	31 7 5	.. ..	31 7 5	..	..	14	..	..	12 9 8
Waipu North R.B.	22 10 5	.. ..	22 10 5	..	37	3	..	..	13 13 0
Waikiekie R.B. ..	12 9 0	.. ..	12 9 0	..	..	..	1 18 0	..	10 11 0
Waioa R.B. ..	17 10 7	.. ..	17 10 7	..	..	..	..	..	17 10 7
Waiuku R.B. ..	15 2 6	.. ..	15 2 6	..	..	10	..	..	12 10 0
Waitemata C.C. ..	62 19 11	.. ..	62 19 11	..	6	..	..	..	62 2 3
Whangaroa C.C. ..	16 15 1	.. ..	16 15 1	..	..	..	..	..	16 15 1
Whareora R.B. ..	8 19 10	.. ..	8 19 10	..	17	..	3 15 0	..	2 3 7
West Taupo County	51 12 2	.. ..	51 12 2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whangamarino R.B.	78 19 4	.. ..	78 19 4	..	..	6	3 16 6	2 2 6	68 1 3
Whakatane C.C. ..	532 16 0	33 10 4	566 6 4	21	..	183	..	1 13 8	159 19 1
Whangarei C.C. ..	327 10 8	.. ..	327 10 8	32	53	112	43 12 11	17 10 11	172 6 0
Waitomo C.C. ..	112 3 10	.. ..	112 3 10	..	50	50	..	..	89 2 2
Totals ..	5,957 12 0	138 13 10	6,096 5 10	626	2461	2912	342 14 8	277 14 0	2,582 9 10

STATEMENT No. 2.—HAWKE'S BAY.

Waipawa C.C. ..	1,964 4 1	1 8 7	1,965 12 8	..	..	24	71 17 11	2 1 3	1,114 1 7
Hawke's Bay C.C. ..	191 7 1	11 5 0	202 12 1	60	..	89	..	16 3 8	37 5 6
Cook C.C. ..	845 3 5	331 7 7	1,176 11 0	255	..	1857	166 19 10	11 6 3	320 14 2
Wairoa C.C. ..	695 14 6	191 13 4	887 7 10	..	..	387	52 2 8	..	51 14 9
Waipuu C.C. ..	469 9 1	30 19 6	500 8 7	..	..	432	..	..	..
Weber C.C. ..	64 5 1	4 7 8	68 12 9	..	..	31	16 10 7	..	16 18 3
Woodville C.C. ..	13 4 9	.. ..	13 4 9	..	..	8	..	..	3 14 2
Opotiki C.C. ..	194 1 11	.. ..	194 1 11	..	..	141	..	..	..
Waimata R.B. ..	1 0 9	.. ..	1 0 9	..	..	..	..	..	1 0 9
Norsewood R.B. ..	130 3 9	.. ..	130 3 9	..	..	4	4 11 11	..	120 19 4
Te Arai R.B. ..	1 11 4	.. ..	1 11 4	..	..	..	..	..	1 11 4
Patutahi R.B. ..	1 9 8	.. ..	1 9 8	..	..	..	..	..	1 9 8
Porangahau R.B. ..	11 7 1	1 18 0	13 5 1	..	..	..	..	..	13 5 1
Ngatapa R.B. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	4,583 2 6	572 19 8	5,156 2 2	315	..	3073	312 2 11	29 11 2	1,682 15 5

Table 41.—Showing PAYMENTS to LOCAL BODIES, &c.—continued.

Local Bodies.	"Thirds," Deferred- payment, Perpetual-lease, Occupation- with-right-of- purchase, and Lease-in-per- petuity Lands.	"Fourth," Small Grazing- runs.	Total Payments.	Length, Locality, Description, and Particulars of Work authorised by Land Board.					
				Bush- clearing.	Scrub- clearing.	For- mation.	Bridges.	Culverts.	Main- tenance
STATEMENT No. 3.—TARANAKI.									
Clifton C.C. ..	£ 1,118 13 0	£ 10 14 10	£ 1,129 7 10	Ch. ..	Ch. ..	Ch. 71	£ 8 7 7	£ 3 12 10	£ 683 0 6
Egmont C.C. ..	1 6 11	..	1 6 11	..	..	25	..	..	..
Hawera C.C. ..	249 5 7	0 5 0	249 10 7	..	..	..	..	6 0 2	76 17 5
Manganui R.B. ..	109 15 3	..	109 15 3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Moa R.B. ..	57 13 9	..	57 13 9	..	..	3½	..	..	42 10 11
Motoroa R.B. ..	12 15 4	..	12 15 4	..	..	..	..	..	12 15 4
Oakura R.B. ..	61 7 0	..	61 7 0	..	..	10	..	..	53 7 0
Okato R.B. ..	34 17 6	..	34 17 6	..	..	..	..	..	34 17 6
Patea East R.B. ..	19 8 2	4 4 9	23 12 11	..	..	..	..	..	23 12 11
Patea West R.B. ..	3 16 5	..	3 16 5	..	20	3	..	..	..
Stratford C.C. ..	255 11 11	..	255 11 11	..	..	..	..	..	12 10 10
Tatarainaka R.B. ..	86 9 3	..	86 9 3	..	..	18	..	..	..
Wairoa R.B. ..	57 14 10	..	57 14 10	..	..	..	..	..	57 14 10
Waiwakaiho R.B. ..	42 15 3	..	42 15 3	..	..	..	..	..	42 15 3
Totals ..	2,111 10 2	15 4 7	2,126 14 9	..	20	181	8 7 7	9 13 0	1,040 2 6

Also interest on loans, £722 4s. 0d.

STATEMENT No. 4.—WELLINGTON.									
Eketahuna C.C. ..	219 7 9	..	219 7 9	..	..	..	..	..	..
Featherston C.C. ..	51 12 7	..	51 12 7	..	..	19	..	1 10 0	39 1 3
Horowhenua C.C. ..	256 13 3	..	256 13 3	38	..	25	5 7 11	4 19 3	35 13 4
Hunternville T.B. ..	1 18 0	..	1 18 0	..	..	..	..	..	1 18 0
Kairanga C.C. ..	32 2 4	..	32 2 4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kiwitea C.C. ..	630 2 0	..	630 2 0	..	..	54	..	..	293 13 7
Levin B.C. ..	51 8 7	..	51 8 7	..	..	57	..	..	17 15 11
Masterton C.C. ..	46 6 1	..	46 6 1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mauriceville C.C. ..	40 13 7	8 17 0	49 10 7	1	..	..	..	..	4 12 6
Pahiatua C.C. ..	437 4 10	..	437 4 10	..	..	45	..	17 5 10	269 15 6
Petone B.C. ..	61 5 6	..	61 5 6	..	..	..	..	..	61 5 6
Pohangina C.C. ..	625 17 10	..	625 17 10	..	..	60	..	..	195 17 0
Rangitikei C.C. ..	2,578 18 10	12 11 7	2,591 10 5	..	..	493	70 0 0	21 16 0	402 12 7
Taihape B.C. ..	4 2 4	..	4 2 4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Te Horo R.B. ..	90 9 7	..	90 9 7	..	..	25	..	10 6 4	20 11 7
Upper Wangaehu R.B. ..	154 8 8	..	154 8 8	..	..	..	..	..	129 1 4
Waimarino C.C. ..	270 16 5	58 10 0	329 6 5	..	..	315	18 0 0	..	25 2 9
Wairarapa So'th C.C. ..	307 9 11	9 14 5	317 4 4	155	..	3	6 6 8	3 16 7	267 17 1
Waitotara C.C. ..	74 7 7	9 18 4	84 5 11	..	..	20	..	..	..
Waitotara - Moma- haki R.B. ..	134 12 8	41 11 3	176 3 11	..	..	..	..	..	165 9 3
Totals ..	6,069 18 4	141 2 7	6,211 0 11	194	..	1056	99 14 7	59 14 0	1,930 7 2

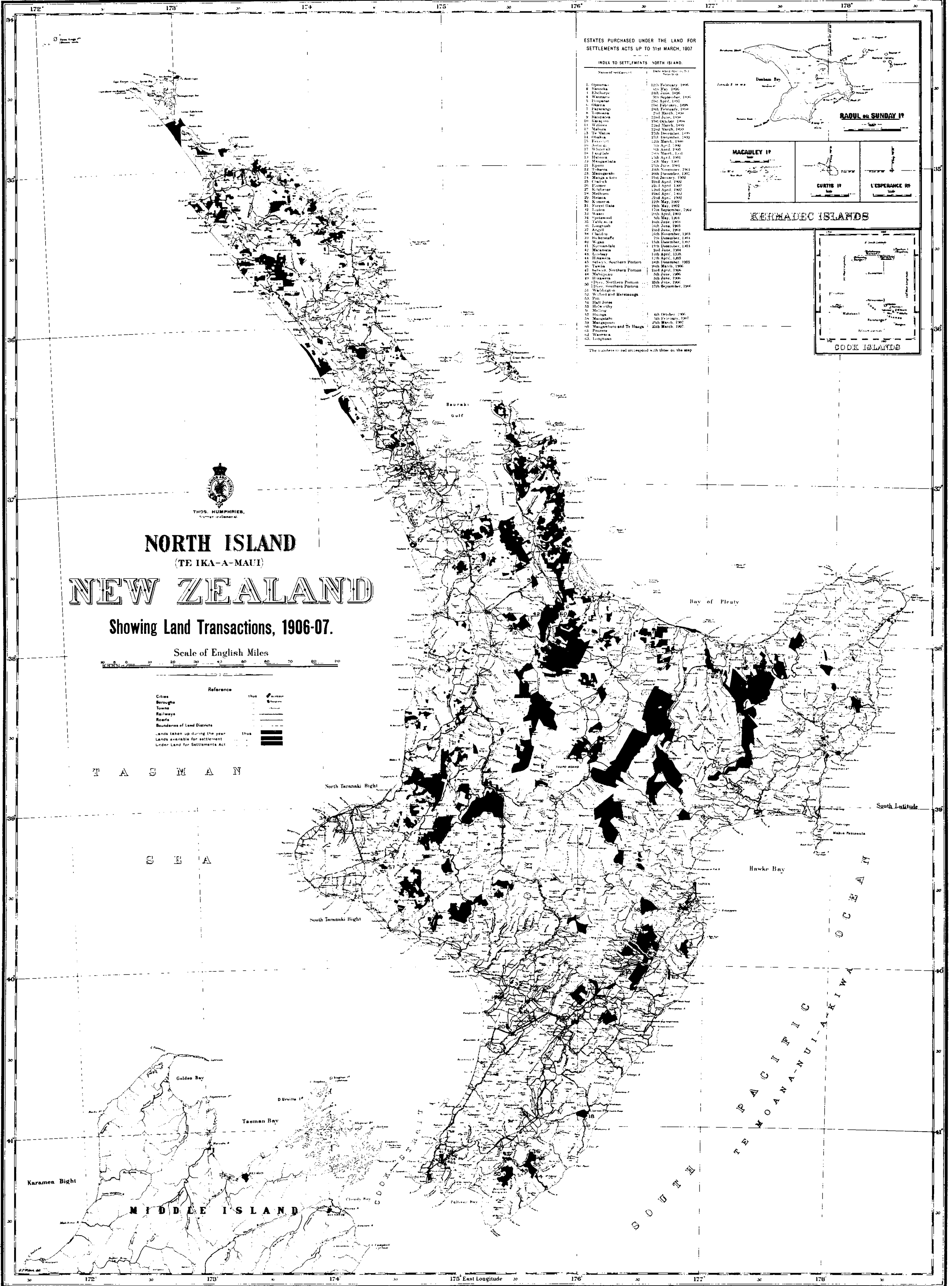
NOTE.—The payments of "thirds" and "fourths" include the amounts under "Certificates of Hypothecation."

STATEMENT No. 5.—NELSON.									
Collingwood C.C. ..	81 10 7	..	81 10 7	..	..	20	..	5 17 8	39 6 0
Takaka C.C. ..	115 9 1	..	115 9 1	40	..	10	..	4 13 0	95 19 3
Inangahua C.C. ..	114 1 10	..	114 1 10	..	..	..	13 0 11	..	101 0 11
Buller C.C. ..	39 2 1	..	39 2 1	..	..	..	..	..	39 2 1
Waimea C.C. ..	595 8 1	33 11 5	628 19 6	..	..	94	10 15 3	7 12 10	478 11 1
Riwaka R.B. ..	93 17 2	..	93 17 2	2	..	44	..	..	70 8 6
Stoke R.B. ..	18 6 1	..	18 6 1	..	..	10	..	..	8 0 1
Dovedale R.B. ..	6 5 1	..	6 5 1	..	..	1	..	..	4 12 1
Upper Moutere R.B. ..	17 5 0	..	17 5 0	..	..	56	..	..	8 1 5
Totals ..	1,081 5 0	33 11 5	1,114 16 5	42	..	235	23 16 2	18 3 6	845 1 5

STATEMENT No. 6.—MARLBOROUGH.									
Wairau R.B. ..	151 13 2	262 15 2	414 8 4	..	..	150	..	..	351 18 0
Pelorus R.B. ..	339 2 4	30 12 3	379 14 7	..	..	230	..	..	250 0 0
Picton R.B. ..	165 19 11	8 15 9	174 15 8	..	80	45	..	..	125 16 0
Awatere R.B. ..	..	202 6 6	202 6 6	..	..	62	..	..	164 11 10
Kaikoura C.C. ..	486 10 2	437 2 1	923 12 3	..	..	130	..	..	872 0 0
Sounds County (No Local Body) ..	357 2 9	24 19 4	382 2 1	..	..	200	100 0 0	..	132 2 1
Totals ..	1,510 8 4	966 11 1	2,476 19 5	..	80	817	100 0 0	..	1,896 7 11

Table 41.—Showing PAYMENTS to LOCAL BODIES, &c.—continued.

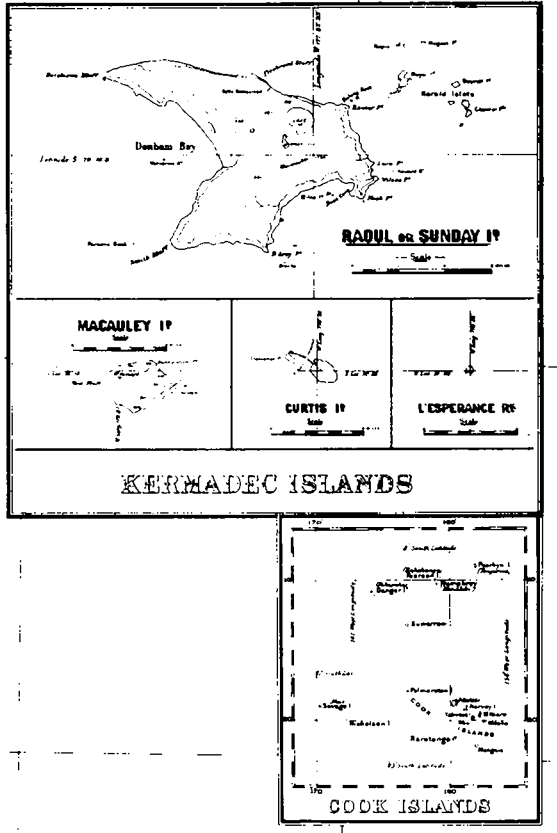
Local Bodies.	"Thirds," Deferred- payment, Per- petual-lease, Occupation- with-right-of- purchase, and Lease-in-per- petuity Lands.	"Fourth," Small Grazing- runs.	Total Payments.	Length, Locality, Description, and Particulars of Work authorised by Land Board.					
				Bush- clearing.	Scrub- clearing.	Forma- tion.	Bridges.	Culverts.	Main- tenance.
STATEMENT No. 7.—WESTLAND.									
Westland C.C. ..	£ s. d. 339 14 4	£ s. d. ..	£ s. d. 339 14 4	Ch. ..	Ch. ..	Ch. ..	£ s. d. ..	£ s. d. ..	£ s. d. 1,212 15 11
Grey C.C. ..	202 11 4	..	202 11 8	..	..	..	..	..	2,390 15 10
Totals ..	542 5 8	..	542 5 8	..	..	..	..	..	3,611 11 9
STATEMENT No. 8.—CANTERBURY.									
Anama R.B. ..	27 12 0	24 4 8	51 16 8	..	..	..	..	..	..
Arowhenua T.B. ..	9 3 0	..	9 3 0	..	..	7	..	4 16 0	..
Coldstream R.B. ..	19 14 7	..	19 14 7	..	..	168	1 10 0	..	..
Ellesmere R.B. ..	3 14 6	..	3 14 6	..	..	..	..	..	..
Geraldine R.B. ..	33 4 7	..	33 4 7	..	..	34	..	..	179 2 4
Hampstead T.B. ..	0 19 4	..	0 19 4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Levels C.C. ..	6 16 8	..	6 16 8	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mackenzie C.C. ..	64 2 11	143 14 11	207 17 10	..	..	95	..	2 17 4	205 14 6
Mount Hutt R.B. ..	10 7 8	..	10 7 8	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mount Peel R.B. ..	4 19 4	..	4 19 4	..	..	..	5 0 0	..	55 0 11
Mount Somers R.B. ..	4 15 8	20 3 6	24 19 2	..	..	..	..	..	46 18 4
Oxford R.B. ..	81 5 5	41 13 2	122 18 7	..	..	..	2 7 7	1 15 2	182 16 6
Rakaia R.B. ..	67 6 8	..	67 6 8	..	..	..	..	..	1 15 0
Rangitata R.B. ..	109 18 6	..	109 18 6	..	..	341	24 18 6	..	81 2 0
Springs R.B. ..	2 18 2	..	2 18 2	..	..	..	1 14 0	..	2 6 6
South Rakaia R.B. ..	6 8 4	..	6 8 4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Temuka R.B. ..	44 5 0	..	44 5 0	..	..	13½	..	0 15 0	28 10 3
Upper Ashburton R.B. ..	81 13 5	..	81 13 5	..	..	219½	..	..	46 10 2
Waimate C.C. ..	17 19 10	..	17 19 10	..	..	27	..	..	..
Waipara R.B. ..	44 0 3	294 7 0	338 7 3	..	..	..	686 17 10	..	158 0 3
Totals ..	641 5 10	524 3 3	1,165 9 1	..	..	904½	722 7 11	10 3 6	937 16 5
STATEMENT No. 9.—OTAGO.									
Taieri C.C. ..	67 4 10	252 1 4	319 6 2	..	..	119	..	5 8 11	32 0 6
Maniototo C.C. ..	786 9 11	592 19 9	1,379 9 8	..	..	2093	..	213 14 5	122 15 2
Vincent C.C. ..	28 13 0	137 16 3	166 9 3	..	..	168½	..	..	..
Waitaki C.C. ..	15 15 6	119 3 4	134 18 10	..	..	10	..	..	83 18 4
Waihemo C.C. ..	53 3 10	83 8 6	136 12 4	..	..	..	..	..	116 12 4
Waikouaiti C.C. ..	8 9 0	280 7 8	288 16 8	..	..	172	29 7 0	31 0 5	81 8 5
Clutha C.C. ..	277 2 6	6 12 0	283 14 6	..	..	260	1 7 0	..	299 12 1
Bruce C.C. ..	24 10 9	..	24 10 9	..	..	12	9	..	24 10 9
Tuapeka C.C. ..	64 17 8	98 10 4	163 8 0	..	..	..	..	..	168 10 6
Lake C.C. ..	39 8 5	..	39 8 5	..	..	53	..	12 14 7	18 5 2
Southland C.C. ..	1 10 7	..	1 10 7	..	..	2	..	..	..
Totals ..	1,367 6 0	1,570 19 2	2,938 5 2	..	12	2866½	30 14 0	262 18 4	947 13 3
STATEMENT No. 10.—SOUTHLAND.									
Southland C.C. ..	310 3 7	2 9 1	312 12 8	..	..	260½	..	..	119 0 8
Southland C.C. on account Tuturau R.B. ..	95 11 11	35 16 10	131 8 9	..	15	10½	..	2 6 6	124 0 1
Wallace C.C. ..	518 8 3	171 18 4	690 6 7	20	..	1605	33 9 9	74 9 11	403 0 5
Lake C.C. ..	28 18 9	..	28 18 9	..	..	5	9 1 4	11 16 2	1 4 7
Stewart Island C.C. ..	23 14 6	..	23 14 6	..	..	..	..	..	23 14 6
Invercargill R.B. ..	49 3 4	..	49 3 4	..	..	41½	..	..	24 19 0
Totals ..	1,026 0 4	210 4 3	1,236 4 7	20	15	1922	42 11 1	88 12 7	695 19 3



ESTATES PURCHASED UNDER THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACTS UP TO 31st MARCH, 1907

INDEX TO SETTLEMENTS NORTH ISLAND.

Name of settlement	Date of purchase
1. Opaona	12th February 1906
2. Manukau	10th May 1906
3. Kihikuri	24th June 1906
4. Manawatu	20th September 1906
5. Teapapa	24th April 1907
6. Hauraki	24th February 1906
7. Hauraki	24th February 1906
8. Teapapa	24th April 1907
9. Teapapa	24th April 1907
10. Karapiro	24th March 1906
11. Waikato	24th March 1906
12. Waikato	24th March 1906
13. Waikato	24th March 1906
14. Waikato	24th March 1906
15. Waikato	24th March 1906
16. Waikato	24th March 1906
17. Waikato	24th March 1906
18. Waikato	24th March 1906
19. Waikato	24th March 1906
20. Waikato	24th March 1906
21. Waikato	24th March 1906
22. Waikato	24th March 1906
23. Waikato	24th March 1906
24. Waikato	24th March 1906
25. Waikato	24th March 1906
26. Waikato	24th March 1906
27. Waikato	24th March 1906
28. Waikato	24th March 1906
29. Waikato	24th March 1906
30. Waikato	24th March 1906
31. Waikato	24th March 1906
32. Waikato	24th March 1906
33. Waikato	24th March 1906
34. Waikato	24th March 1906
35. Waikato	24th March 1906
36. Waikato	24th March 1906
37. Waikato	24th March 1906
38. Waikato	24th March 1906
39. Waikato	24th March 1906
40. Waikato	24th March 1906
41. Waikato	24th March 1906
42. Waikato	24th March 1906
43. Waikato	24th March 1906
44. Waikato	24th March 1906
45. Waikato	24th March 1906
46. Waikato	24th March 1906
47. Waikato	24th March 1906
48. Waikato	24th March 1906
49. Waikato	24th March 1906
50. Waikato	24th March 1906
51. Waikato	24th March 1906
52. Waikato	24th March 1906
53. Waikato	24th March 1906
54. Waikato	24th March 1906
55. Waikato	24th March 1906
56. Waikato	24th March 1906
57. Waikato	24th March 1906
58. Waikato	24th March 1906
59. Waikato	24th March 1906
60. Waikato	24th March 1906
61. Waikato	24th March 1906
62. Waikato	24th March 1906
63. Waikato	24th March 1906



THOS. HUMPHRIES,
Survey-General

NORTH ISLAND

(TE IKA-A-MAUI)

NEW ZEALAND

Showing Land Transactions, 1906-07.

Scale of English Miles

Reference

Cities

Boroughs

Towns

Railways

Roads

Boundaries of Land Districts

Lands taken up during the year

Lands available for settlement Under Land for Settlements Act

T A S M A N

S E A

MIDDLE ISLAND

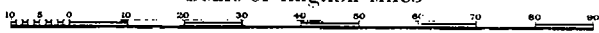
THOS. HUMPHRIES,
Surveyor-General.

SOUTH ISLAND (TE WAI-POUNAMU)

NEW ZEALAND

Showing Land Transactions, 1906-07.

Scale of English Miles



- Reference
- Cities
 - Boroughs
 - Towns and villages
 - Railways and stations
 - Roads
 - Boundaries of Land Districts
 - Lands taken up during the year
 - Lands available for settlement
 - Unsettled Land for Settlements Act

ESTATES PURCHASED UNDER THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACTS UP TO 31st MARCH 1907

INDEX TO SETTLEMENTS SOUTH ISLAND

No.	Name of Estate	Date of Purchase
1
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The numbers refer to the map with flow on the map.

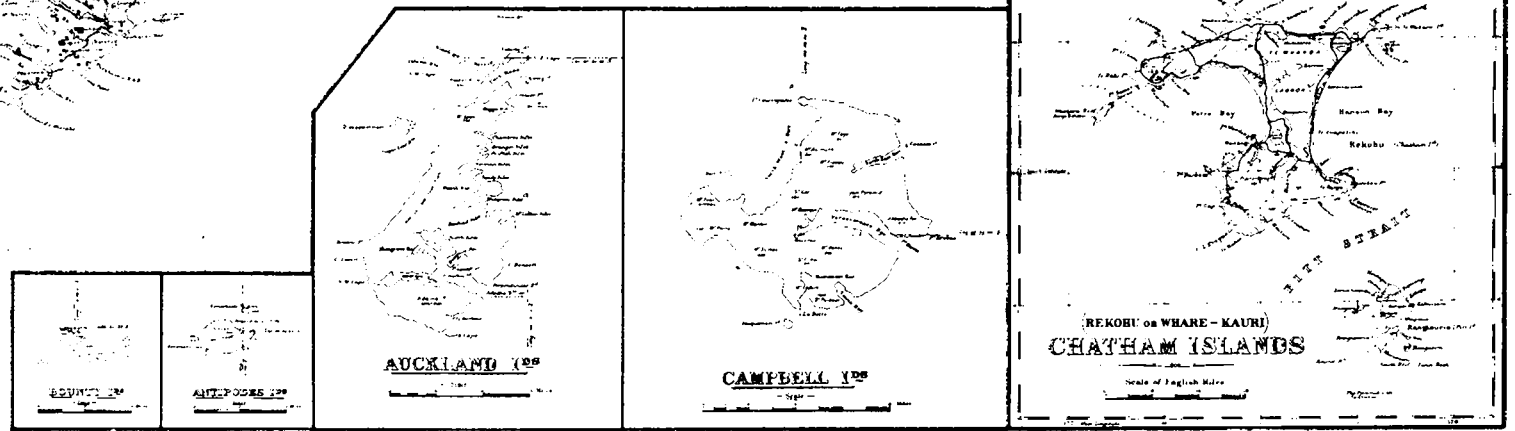
T A S M A N S E A

South Latitude

Canterbury Bight

FOURTEENTH SEAS

Stewart Island





THOS. HUMPHRIES
Geographical Engineer

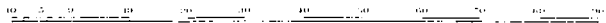
SOUTH ISLAND

(TE WAI-POUNAMU)

NEW ZEALAND

SHOWING THE LAND-TENURE, 1905-07.

Scale of English Miles



Reference.

- Lines of the streamlets, as found on the ground, or in the rivers. Embankments, or in any other manner, shall be shown.
- Rivers, streams, Grazing Gullies and other Pastoral Landmarks shall be shown.
- The boundaries of the Native Land shall be shown.



W A I M A T A I

T E M O A N A N U I A K I W A

(TE MOANA-NUI-A-KIWA)

O C E A N

South Latitude

Stewart Island

