

STAMP DEPARTMENT.

For the first time in the history of the Stamp Department, which has been in existence since 1867, the revenue for the financial year has exceeded one million pounds sterling. The revenue of the Department, which was formerly shown in conjunction with the Post and Telegraph revenue, has during the last three years been shown separately, the gross receipts being as follows :—

	£
1910-11	872,862
1911-12	952,999
1912-13	1,062,487

LAND AND INCOME TAX.

The net receipts for the past year in this Department were—

	£
Land-tax	728,636
Income-tax	462,994
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Total	£1,191,630
The estimate was—	
	£
Land-tax	650,000
Income-tax	450,000
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	1,100,000
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The estimate was therefore exceeded by	<u>£91,630</u>

LAND-TAX.

The land-tax receipts for the financial year 1912-13 as compared with the year 1911-12 are—

	£
Receipts, 1912-13	728,636
„ 1911-12	647,016
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An increase of	<u>£81,620</u>

The following figures show the increases in the net assessed taxable value of land and mortgages, the yield of land-tax, and the number of taxpayers, in the last four years :—

Year.	Taxable Value.	Tax.	Number of
	£	£	Taxpayers.
1908-9	106,198,550	604,900	30,855
1912-13	130,675,949	728,636	38,232
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Increases	£24,477,399	£123,736	7,377

As it has been freely stated that the subdivision of the large estates of the Dominion is not being sufficiently accelerated, I may here refer to the alteration which has taken place in recent years in the areas held by certain landowners. A reference to Table No. 3, published under B.-17A, 1911, will show that on the 31st March, 1910, there were 171 owners of freehold lands in the Dominion whose individual holdings reached 10,000 acres or more. The aggregate area held by these 171 owners was at that date 3,509,471 acres.

An examination of the assessments of these same owners on the 31st March, 1912, or two years after the date of the return, showed that no less an area than 811,202 acres had been disposed of during that period. For the year ended 31st March, 1913, details of all subdivisions which have taken place are not yet to hand, but from present indications I think I am warranted in saying that the process of subdivision has of late been considerably accelerated.