

I have nothing further to add, but to tender my sincere thanks to those gentlemen who have assisted me in the task of administering the Department; a task which, so far as I am concerned, has been rendered comparatively light, by the complete manner in which the Department was originally organized by my predecessor.

I append returns—(A) of the business transacted under the Act during the past year; (B) of the fees received during the same period; and (C) of the amount secured by mortgage under the Land Transfer Act on 30th of June last.

Deeds Registry.

The estimated revenue for this Department for the past year was £13,500; the actual receipts were £13,434.

The amount voted for the year's expenditure was £9,186 10s.; the amount expended about £8,700.

For the ensuing year I anticipate a falling off in the receipts, mainly from the fact that the number of Crown grants registered will be further diminished owing to the grants of land bought from the Crown since the beginning of 1871 being under the Land Transfer Act.

Apart from this, the general revenue of the Deeds Registry keeps up steadily. The greatly increased number of transactions consequent on the prosperity of the Colony tends to replace the business that has been diverted by the Land Transfer Act.

I estimate the revenue for the ensuing year at £12,500; the expenditure at £8,360.

I have, &c.,

JOSHUA STRANGE WILLIAMS,
Registrar-General of Land.

(For Return A, see next page.)

B.—FEES received under the LAND TRANSFER ACT for the YEAR ending the 30th JUNE, 1873.

DISTRICT.	General Fees.	Land Assurance.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland	701 18 0	250 12 7	952 10 7
Otago	1,996 17 6	614 19 1	2,611 16 7
Canterbury	1,750 2 0	434 13 6	2,184 15 6
Wellington	606 18 0	162 11 9	769 9 9
Nelson	575 16 4	124 12 2	700 8 6
Southland	427 3 4	93 14 7	520 17 11
Hawke's Bay	331 19 0	83 16 2	415 15 2
Taranaki	58 5 6	5 6 6	63 12 0
Westland	201 18 6	12 9 10	214 8 4
Marlborough	264 19 10	46 13 5	311 13 7
Land Brokers' Licenses	210 0 0	...	210 0 0
Total	7,125 18 0	1,829 9 7	8,955 7 7

C.—RETURN showing Total Amount of MONEY remaining secured by MORTGAGE under the LAND TRANSFER ACT on the 30th JUNE, 1873.

DISTRICT.	Total amount secured by Mortgage under the Land Transfer Act from the date of its coming into operation to the 30th June, 1873.	Less total amount of Mortgages paid off during same period.	Balance, being total amount remaining secured by Mortgage under the Land Transfer Act, on the 30th June, 1873.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland	99,423 4 10	19,686 3 9	79,737 1 1
Otago	231,167 13 4	20,428 16 9	210,738 16 7
Canterbury	212,264 9 1	4,599 10 0	207,664 19 1
Wellington	41,733 11 6	2,760 0 0	38,973 11 6
Nelson	23,368 10 0	560 0 0	22,808 10 0
Southland	100,913 0 4	7,532 0 0	93,380 5 11
Hawke's Bay	7,030 0 0	1,060 0 0	5,970 0 0
Taranaki	2,057 0 0	100 0 0	1,957 0 0
Westland	2,542 19 6	306 19 6	2,476 0 0
Marlborough	4,874 0 0	100 0 0	4,774 0 0
Total	725,374 8 7	57,133 10 0	668,240 18 4