1874.

NEW ZEALAND.

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL OF LAND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1874.

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

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL OF LAND to the Hon. the MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

Office, Registrar-General of Land, Christchurch, 13th July, 1874. SIR,-I have the honor to lay before you the result of the working of the Land Transfer Act for the year ended the 30th June, 1874.

The revenue for the year, exclusive of Assurance Fund, has been rather over £9,500; the expenditure about £8,100; so that the department is more than self-supporting.

The total revenue for the past year is 33 per cent in excess of the revenue for the year preceding, while the expenditure has been slightly diminished.

I estimate the receipts for the year ending the 30th June, 1875, at £10,500; the expenditure at £8,825.

The rapid extension of business will explain and justify the increase of expenditure.

I would again respectfully call your attention to the unsatisfactory state of the surveys in many

parts of the colony.

The first practical step in dealing with this matter would appear to me to be the appointment of one or more highly-qualified and independent professional men to inspect and report on the condition of existing surveys, and the mode in which surveys are conducted throughout the colony.

The Government would thus be placed in full possession of the facts, and have detailed information

to guide their future action.

The want of some responsible officer, to whom questions of survey can be referred, is much felt by the Land Transfer Department. I have occasionally questions of the kind referred to me, which I am obliged to determine with such aid as I may be able to procure. I have also to decide upon the qualifications of persons who apply to be licensed as surveyors under the Land Transfer Act. These are responsibilities which, in the Australian Colonies, devolve upon the Surveyor-General of the

Colony, and which certainly should not be imposed on any non-professional man.

The question of the appointment of some such officer, who would also inspect the local Survey Offices, gradually organize some uniformity of system, and perhaps ultimately carry out the major

triangulation of the colony, seems worthy of serious consideration.

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 amounts secured by mortgage under the Land Transfer Act during the past year, and remaining secured on the 30th June last.

Deeds Registry.

The estimated revenue for this department for the past year was £13,500. The actual receipts were £15,103, against an expenditure of about £8,700.

I estimate the revenue for the ensuing year at £14,000; the expenditure at £8,490.

I have, &c.,

JOSHUA STRANGE WILLIAMS, Registrar-General of Land.

The Hon. the Minister of Justice, Wellington.

A.—STATEMENT of Business Transacted under the Land Transfer Acts for the Year ending 30th June, 1874.

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B.—FEES received under the Land Transfer Act for the Year ending 30th June, 1874.

ı	District.			General Fees.	Land Assurance.	Totals.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland		•••		741 7 4	106 1 9	847 9 1
Otago				2,450 8 4	827 1 7	3,277 9 11
Canterbury				2,869 4 0	690 5 9	3,559 9 9
Wellington				1,032 9 0	242 18 8	1.275 7 8
Nelson				518 17 9	100 18 7	619 16 4
Southland		•••		696 12 1	111 19 3	808 11 4
Westland	•••	••••		334 8 4	17 13 0	$352 \ 1 \ 4$
Hawke's Bay	•••			487 12 0	131 16 6	619 8 6
Faranaki				179 11 5	26 7 4	205 18 9
Marlborough	•••	•••		258 7 0	39 3 10	297 10 10
DIMITION ON BIL	•••	•••				207 10 10
	Total			9,568 17 3	2,294 6 3	11,863 3 6

C.—RETURN showing Total Amount in Money remaining secured by Mortgage under the Land Transfer Act, on the 30th June, 1874.

	District.			Total Amount secure by Mortgage under At Land Transfer At during the year ende the 30th June, 1874	et,	Amount of Mort paid off during same period.	Total Amount remaining secured by Mortgage under the Land Transfer Act, on the 30th June, 1874.		
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,				£ s. d		£ s.	d.	£ s.	d.
Auckland				43,743 10 0		$12,285 \stackrel{\text{s.}}{0}$	0	111,195 11	1
Otago				216.770 10 0)	53,236 13	$\check{2}$	374,272 13	$\bar{5}$
Canterbury				443,919 16 4	4	25,394 0	0	626,190 15	
Wellington		•••		104,562 15 10)	25,148 6	2	118,388 1	2
Nelson		•••		19,107 10 0)	1,962 12	9	39,953 7	3
Southland	•••		•••	124,303 16 9)	17,690 0	0	199,994 17	1
Hawke's Bay	•••			77,695 0 0)	3,400 0	0	80,265 0	0
Taranaki				13,531 10 0)	2,695 0	0	12,793 10	0
$\mathbf{Westland}$		•••		3,324 16 0)	950 17	0	4,609 19	0
Marlborough	•••	•••		5,492 9 0)	1,000 0	0	9,266 9	0
Total		•••	•••	1,052,451 13 11		143,762 9	1	1,576,930 3	5

By Authority: GEORGE DIDSBURY, Government Printer, Wellington.-1874.

Price 3d.]