

1881.
NEW ZEALAND

LAND TRANSFER AND DEEDS REGISTRATION.

(ANNUAL REPORT OF DEPARTMENTS FOR 1880-81.)

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

The SECRETARY for STAMPS to the Hon. the COMMISSIONER of STAMPS.

Head Office, Stamp Department,

Wellington, 7th June, 1881.

SIR,—

I have the honor to submit the usual report on the working of the Land Transfer and Deeds Registration Departments for the financial year 1880-81.

The transactions of this period have increased upon those of the previous year to a much larger extent than I was justified in thinking they would, and the revenue collected is in excess of the estimate by £6,617 16s. 1d.

The fees received under the Land Transfer Acts for the twelve months ended the 31st March last, exclusive of the Assurance Fund, amounted to £20,636 0s. 7d., whilst the receipts under the Deeds Registration Act were £17,931 15s. 6d., making a total of £38,617 16s. 1d.

The fees received for Crown grants issued under the Land Transfer system amounted to £1,762 1s., whilst the receipts for the same under the Deeds Registration system were £906 3s. 10d. This latter amount is for nine months only, since the custody of the grants was transferred from the Commissioners of Crown Lands to the Registrars of Deeds.

The balance to credit of the Assurance Fund in the books of the Public Trustee on the 31st March last was £28,348 0s. 5d. Fees amounting to £5,166 1s. 2d. were received during the twelve months.

The expenditure during the same period was £17,059 11s. 11d., showing a saving upon the estimates of £540 8s. 1d.

The returns appended show—(A) the business transacted under the Land Transfer Acts; (B) the fees received thereunder; (C) the mortgages and discharges of mortgages, and the amount remaining secured on mortgage under the said Acts on the 31st March last; (D) the arrears existing in the various offices at the close of business on the same date; (E) the number of deeds received for registration and those remaining unregistered on the 31st March, and also the receipts from this branch of the department; and (F) comparative statement of the working of the Land Transfer system in the Australasian Colonies, from which it will be seen that New Zealand occupies the second position as regards the number of transactions, whilst on the basis of population its position is second only to South Australia. In connection with this it must be borne in mind that the New Zealand returns have been made up to a date later than has been found possible as regards the other colonies.

The Hon. the Commissioner of Stamps,
Wellington.

I have, &c.,

R. C. HAMERTON,
Secretary for Stamps.