

1895.
NEW ZEALAND.

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND SURVEY

(ANNUAL REPORT ON).

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

The SECRETARY of CROWN LANDS and SURVEYOR-GENERAL to the Hon. the MINISTER of LANDS.
SIR,—

Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, 15th July, 1895.

I have the honour to transmit herewith the annual reports on the operations of the Lands and Survey Department for the twelve months ending the 31st March, 1895.

I have, &c.,

S. PERCY SMITH,

Secretary for Crown Lands and Surveyor-General.

The Hon. John McKenzie, Minister of Lands.

LANDS.

THE changes in the laws relating to dealings with Crown lands since the date of last annual report are those embodied in the following Acts: "The Lands Improvement and Native Lands Acquisition Act, 1894," under which power was given to form and regulate settlements on conditions of occupation, with assistance given to the selectors in the way of paying them for the clearing of their lands, &c., regulations for which purpose were published in the *New Zealand Gazette*, 13th December, 1894. "The Mining Districts Land Occupation Act, 1894," provides for a better system of occupation of lands within mining districts. Under this Act a selector can select land up to 100 acres, at a rental of not less than 6d. per acre, the term being twenty-one years, with right of renewal; residence is compulsory. The Act has not been taken advantage of to any great extent at present. Amendments of "The Land for Settlements Act, 1892," were also made, which are more particularly referred to under a special report dealing with that Act, already forwarded (see C.-5, 1895).

The operation of "The Land Act Amendment Act, 1893," under which deposits with application for land were done away with until the successful applicant was known, has worked well on the whole, and has greatly decreased the clerical work and account-keeping in the Receivers' branches of the department. This, together with the vigorous action of the Auditor of Land Revenue, has been the means of reducing the various deposit accounts to a smaller amount than has prevailed for some years.

There have been no very prominent features in the dealings with Crown lands during the period under consideration, but settlement has gone on steadily. The following table will give at a glance a summary of the year's transactions, full particulars of which will be found in the tables attached:—

Nature and Tenure of Lands selected.	No. of Purchasers or Selectors.	Area.			Cash received on Past and Current Transactions.		
		A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
Town lands	144	66	0	9	20,598	17	2
Suburban lands	24	123	3	1			
Rural lands	174	33,323	0	23			
Deferred payment	47	5,453	3	15	48,626	0	8
Perpetual lease and small areas	3	1,263	1	38	67,076	18	8
Lease in perpetuity	386	87,374	0	22	6,152	3	4
Occupation with right of purchase	398	75,477	3	1	6,441	8	7
Agricultural lease	2	44	2	5	204	0	0
Village settlement, cash	23	23	3	38	190	10	0
" deferred payment	..	..	..	..	975	13	5
" perpetual lease	..	..	..	..	819	6	2
" occupation with right of purchase	30	23	1	26	8	5	0
" lease in perpetuity	232	4,050	1	6	787	6	7
Village-homestead special settlement (lease in perpetuity)	30	1,692	1	34	2,388	10	11
Special settlement associations	262	51,345	2	22	11,723	15	1
Small grazing-runs	48	100,240	3	28	20,003	0	7
Pastoral runs	63	468,053	3	11	101,938	1	7
Improved-farm selections	107	9,730	2	18	..	..	..
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	440	147,056	0	37	15,484	10	2
Cheviot Estate—							
Cash	50	5,182	0	39	26,613	16	7
Lease in perpetuity	10	694	0	2	4,879	5	2
Village-homestead special settlements (lease in perpetuity)	30	1,050	3	15	763	3	2
Grazing farms	12	17,605	2	0	3,636	1	1
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	57	1,907	2	19	572	9	0
Land for Settlements Act—							
Lease in perpetuity	25	3,630	3	19	423	3	10