

you and your family can efficiently work ; grow everything you possibly can on your own place for home use ; do not neglect the small industries such as gardening, poultry, rearing bees, and many others ; and do not depend entirely on sheep or cattle rearing, but adopt a mixed system of farming. Above all, never work away from your own place when by doing so you will lose the season for some important operation, or unless absolutely obliged to do so.

Forfeitures and Surrenders.—Forty-nine holdings under the various systems of tenure have been determined by forfeiture and surrender, under somewhat similar circumstances to those described in the foregoing copy of letter.

Transfers.—Forty-five transfers have been given effect to, and many of these had their origin in hasty and ill-considered applications, which would have resulted in forfeiture in the absence of transferees.

Exchanges of Tenure.—Forty-five leases and licenses were exchanged for forty-one leases in perpetuity.

Residence and Improvements.—The Ranger has furnished the following information, as the result of the year's inspections :—

SUMMARY OF CROWN LANDS RANGERS' REPORTS, 1894-95.

Reports, Term, and Tenure.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Partial Default.	Total Default.	Absent.	Double Improvements in lieu of Residence.	Living Adjoining.	Residing on Selection.
Deferred-payment—								
Second year ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fourth year ...	43	1,695	9	...	9	...	16	18
Final year ...	36	1,475	2	...	1	...	10	25
Total ...	79	3,170	11	...	10	...	26	43
Perpetual lease—								
Second ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fourth ...	204	26,018	18	11	70	41	50	84
Final ...	75	13,749	4	...	10	6	25	40
Total ...	279	39,767	22	11	80	47	75	124
Lease in perpetuity—								
First year ...	32	9,014	9	12	21	...	1	10
Second year ...	113	31,270	22	17	39	...	29	45
Total ...	145	40,284	31	29	60	...	30	55
Occupation with right of purchase—								
First year ...	8	1,735	4	2	6	...	...	2
Second year ...	42	18,459	3	6	17	...	4	21
Total ...	50	20,194	7	8	23	...	4	23
Small grazing-runs ...	24	71,473	3	1	4	...	4	16
Grand totals ...	577	174,888	74	49	177	47	139	261

In his report the Ranger expresses the opinion that, if the settlers are to live by their land, they would require to make at least four times the improvements they have done, and that the incidence of local taxation militates against improvements, inasmuch as the more they do the more they are taxed. The principal of taxing improvements is certainly open to argument ; but, as the weakness of these bodies' finances is notorious, and settlers are ever increasing their demands for works, it is hard to see in what way the rates could be reduced.

Of forest-land taken up during the period under review, 132 acres have been felled.

Small Grazing- and Pastoral-runs.—Some of the small grazing-runs offered about two years ago have not yet found tenants. In some cases the tenants have so far failed to comply with conditions, and three have been surrendered. It has been found expedient to let some of these runs for short terms, and at low rents, in order to relieve the country from the burthen and cost of keeping down the rabbit-pest. There is reason for believing that some of the large runs held under pastoral license, situated in high and inferior country, will be left on our hands before very long, owing to the rabbits, unless merino wool advances in price.

During the year the Auckland and Campbell Islands were offered for pastoral license, and most of these have found purchasers. A syndicate of Gisborne men have joined the lessee of Campbell Islands for the purpose of exploiting these, and developing their pastoral capacities, and the pioneers of the party have just chartered a schooner and sailed for the islands.