

WELLINGTON.

Lands offered and disposed of during the Year.—The principal areas of Crown lands thrown open for disposal and selected or exchanged during the year are as under :—

Date.	Name of Block.	District.	Area offered.	Number of Sections selected.	Area disposed of up to 31st March, 1897.
<i>Surveyed.</i>					
April 28, 1896 ...	Te Ngaue ...	Momahaki ...	1,546	...	...
Aug. 12, " ...	Awarua ...	Hautapu ...	7,462	23	7,462
Dec. 9, " ...	Otamakapua-Pakihikura	Ohinewairua ...	654½	3	654½
Mar. 24, 1897 ...	Wainuioru ...	Apiti ...	5,630	5	2,977
<i>Unsurveyed.</i>					
April 28, 1896 ...	Kaitieke ...	Kaitieke ...	46,550	...	Nil.
Oct. 14, " ...	White Rock ...	Kaiwaka ...	13,700	2	3,000
		Haurangi ...			

It is proposed to complete the survey of Kaitieke Block, and to draw the attention of the inland settlers of Waikato, Taupo, &c., to its capabilities. In addition to the foregoing, the following lands were reopened: Thirty-seven forfeited sections in the Palmerston North Knights of Labour, Wanganui United East, Marton Nos. 1 and 2, Hall, Stirling, and other blocks, and in Pongaroa, Mangamahu, Pa Creek, and other village settlements, comprising an area of 6,460 acres, of which 6,078 acres have been reselected; also twenty-eight revalued sections in the Makuri district, of an area of 12,576 acres; and six revalued sections in the Momahaki Village Settlement, of an area of 466 acres. All of the revalued sections have been reselected, with the exception of six sections in the Makuri district, of an area of 2,618 acres, which are about to be reopened at a reduced valuation.

Four lots of totara timber, comprising an area of 601 acres, in the Eketahuna Forest Reserve, were offered by auction, with the result that three, containing 441 acres, realised £7,115 12s.

The unsold portions of the White Rock Block, in South-east Wairarapa district, opened for selection last October, and of the Kaiparoro, Kaitangata, and Te Mare Blocks, west of Carterton, which were opened for selection in September, 1893, were all recently withdrawn from sale, with a view to their being more fully explored, back-lines defined, road-access provided, and new schemes of subdivision submitted for approval by the Land Board prior to being reopened for selection.

The total number of formal applications for land received and dealt with during the year was as follows :—

System.	Number of Applications received.	Number of Applications approved.
Cash ...	71	49
Occupation with right of purchase ...	459	72
Lease in perpetuity* ...	389	140
Village homestead, lease in perpetuity ...	86	21
Perpetual lease ...	21	21
Miscellaneous licenses ...	13	13
	1,039	316

The following summary of land transactions gives fuller particulars of sales, &c.:—

Class of Selection.	Transactions during the Year.				Area under Lease at 31st March, 1897.				Revenue received during the Year.		
	Number.	Area.			Number.	Area.					
		A.	R.	P.		A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
Cash, rural	9	2,313	3	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" suburban	8	32	0	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" town	32	8	0	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	49	2,354	0	14	...	...	...	...	2,859	10	10
Deferred-payment holders...	...	...	...	...	75	17,498	0	19	†304	10	10
Deferred payment made free- hold	26	4,489	3	32	...	...	...	...	3,932	1	6
Perpetual-lease holders ...	19	9,105	2	28	390	156,041	2	25	†1,918	4	0
Perpetual lease made free- hold	73	34,741	2	26	...	...	...	...	9,420	18	5
Occupation with right of purchase	72	20,392	1	28	321	90,009	2	15	31,523	2	6
									3,230	6	6

* Inclusive of farm-homestead and improved-farm selections.

† Endowment revenue.