

SUMMARY of Crown Lands now open for Selection—*continued*.

System.	Area.	Block.	Locality.
	Acres.	<i>Unsurveyed: First Class.</i>	
Optional...	22,975	Kaitieke ...	North Waimarino Block.
" ...	5,400	Waimarino ...	South Waimarino Block.
" ...	1,060	Rangataua ...	South-east of Waimarino Block.
" ...	1,920	Waimarino-Atuahae ...	South Waimarino Block.
" ...	1,300	Kawatau ...	East of Mangaweka.
Total	32,655		
		<i>Unsurveyed: Second Class.</i>	
Optional...	23,275	Kaitieke ...	North Waimarino Block.
" ...	1,060	Rangataua ...	South-east of Waimarino Block.
" ...	1,670	Wharita ...	North-east of Ashurst.
" ...	320	North Puketoi ...	North of Makuri Township.
" ...	3,850	Waiohine South ...	North of Featherston.
Total	30,175		

		Acres.	Acres.
Surveyed, first class	...	22,242	
" second class	...	34,429	
			56,671
Unsurveyed, first class	...	32,655	
" second class	...	30,175	
			62,830

Total area of land open 31st March, 1897 ... 119,501

CROWN LANDS being prepared for Disposal.

Class.	Area.	Block.	Locality.
	Acres.		
First and second	20,000	Awarua ...	Between Mangaweka, Taihape, &c.
First	10,800	Rangiwaea ...	Between Wangaehu and Turakina Rivers.
Second	26,700	Tauakira ...	Near Athens, on Wanganui River.
Second	5,800	Mangapapa ...	East of Waitotara River.
Second	6,700	East Puketoi ...	East of Puketoi Range.
Second	20,000	Retaruke ...	On Wanganui River.
First and second	42,000		Forfeited farm-homestead sections in various localities.
Second	4,000	North-east Puketoi	In North-east Wairarapa.
Second	10,000	Kaiparoro ...	West of Eketahuna.
Second	15,000	Te Mare ...	West of Mauriceville.
Second	13,900	Kaitangata ...	West of Carterton.
Second	10,700	White Rock ...	East of Cape Palliser.
Total	185,600		

Clerical Branch.—The correspondence shows a large increase during the year, as the following figures show: The number of letters, &c., received and despatched was 46,245, and during the year 1895-96 42,500, being an increase of 3,745, and an average of about 150 per day. This statement includes circular notices *re* payments and improvements, &c., to selectors; Surveyors' and Rangers' reports, circulars, various returns, records received from other departments, &c. 981 vouchers were passed for payment, to the amount of £18,064 10s. 5d., and 358 cheques were drawn on the Chief Surveyor's imprest account for wages, &c., representing a sum of £2,858 12s. 2d.

There are 2,362 selectors now registered on the books on settlement conditions. This is a slight decrease on last year's figures, due principally to the large number of farm-homestead sections which were forfeited or surrendered and are not yet reselected.

I have much pleasure in stating that since I took charge last November I have received the most cordial assistance and advice from the Chief Draughtsman, Chief Clerk, and the other principal officers and staff generally. The arrangements for carrying on the vast business of the offices are admirable in many respects, and reflect great credit on the staff and upon Mr. J. H. Baker, my predecessor.

J. W. A. MARCHANT,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.