

1898.
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, 4th June, 1898.

I have the honour to submit herewith the annual reports on the operations of the Lands and Survey Department for the twelve months ending the 31st March, 1898.

I have, &c.,

S. PERCY SMITH,

Secretary of Crown Lands and Surveyor-General.

The Hon. John McKenzie, Minister of Lands.

LANDS.

DURING the past period no alterations have been made in the statutory laws under which the Crown lands are administered, nor have any regulations been made affecting Crown lands generally, except an alteration in those dealing with forests on ordinary Crown lands and in State forests. (See *New Zealand Gazette*, 6th January, 1898.)

The summary given below will show at a glance the various land transactions that have taken place during the past period, fuller details of which are given in the tables appended hereto. This table shows the gross transactions for the year, the forfeitures, lapses, &c., being referred to later on. One of its features is the considerable number of headings under which the dealings are shown, each one illustrating some special feature in the system of selection or tenure, which, to the general reader, are somewhat confusing. In reality the tenures have not much diversity, and can be shown under a few headings, as is done in a second table, but, for statistical purposes, are in this table separated.