

The comparative statement below shows to some extent how the yearly increase of work in the department affects this branch :—

Year.	Number of Vouchers.	Gross Amount authorised for Payment, Credit, &c.	Number of Appropriations.	Number of Agreements with Local Bodies prepared.	Amount granted to Local Bodies.	Payments to Local Bodies under Agreements.
		£			£	£
1890-91 ...	9,810	152,775	210	80	17,782	Not compiled.
1891-92 (9 months)	8,355	177,903	219	87	23,391	13,448
1892-93 ...	10,676	260,498	252	108	21,568	20,388
1893-94 ...	13,071	353,772	440	181	42,847	22,704
1894-95 ...	14,367	420,531	592	215	52,892	45,302
1895-96 ...	15,422	578,778	682	203	33,761	42,813
1896-97 ...	15,689	711,660	932	248	59,712	32,419
1897-98 ...	17,719	587,422	1,112	228	53,950	55,586
1898-99 ...	18,620	990,063	1,498	382	74,799	47,977

AUDIT.

Mr. W. G. RUNCIE, Auditor of Land Revenue, reports as follows :—

I beg to state that the gross receipts for the year have been as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Territorial revenue ...	273,799	7	4
Government loans to local bodies (interest and principal) ...	13,255	17	2
Land for Settlements ...	38,804	10	2
Cheviot Estate ...	17,043	8	1
State forests ...	5,844	6	6
Endowments ...	15,117	18	4
North Island Main Trunk Railway...	11,282	19	8
Thermal springs ...	1,351	13	6
Lakes Ellesmere and Forsyth ...	1,740	8	11
Lands and Survey vote ...	1,853	15	4
Crown-grant fees ...	1,228	12	0
Hanmer Sanatorium ...	796	5	5
Hanmer baths ...	376	6	2
Miscellaneous ...	2,649	12	2
	£385,145	0	9

It is satisfactory to know that the territorial revenue exceeds last year's revenue by £10,503 5s. 1d. In the comparative statement (Table 1) you will observe that there has been an increase in territorial revenue in Canterbury, Taranaki, Hawke's Bay, Otago, Nelson and Westland, and a falling-off in Marlborough, Wellington, and Southland in the order named, leaving an increase of £10,503 5s. 1d. Besides the increase above mentioned, there has been a substantial swelling of receipts all round, notably under the heading of "Land for Settlements," seven new estates having been added during the year to the number already rent-producing.

Table No. 2 is a comparative statement of the gross revenue for the years 1897-98 and 1898-99. There has been included in this year's gross revenue the receipts from the Hanmer Plains Sanatorium and baths, the increase in favour of this year's transactions being £26,058 7s.

TABLE No. 1.—Comparative Statement of Territorial Revenue for Years 1897-98 and 1898-99.

Land District.	1897-98.			1898-99.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Auckland ...	30,889	19	2	29,182	2	0	...	...	...	1,707	17	2
Taranaki ...	21,407	12	5	26,066	14	10	4,659	2	5	...	...	...
Hawke's Bay ...	14,512	16	1	17,765	18	2	3,253	2	1	...	...	...
Wellington ...	49,284	8	4	48,751	3	10	...	...	...	533	4	6
Marlborough ...	13,689	16	7	9,903	18	11	...	...	...	3,785	17	8
Nelson ...	15,134	11	4	15,553	16	2	419	4	10	...	...	...
Westland ...	1,159	18	1	1,313	4	10	153	6	9	...	...	...
Canterbury ...	47,503	4	6	54,518	13	4	7,015	8	10	...	...	...
Otago ...	55,286	13	10	56,525	6	3	1,238	12	5	...	...	...
Southland ...	14,427	1	11	14,218	9	0	...	...	...	208	12	11
	263,296	2	3	273,799	7	4	16,738	17	4	6,235	12	3
	...	...	...	263,296	2	3	6,235	12	3	...	...	...
Increase for 1898-99 ...	...	...	...	10,503	5	1	10,503	5	1	...	...	...