

Summary of Land Transactions for 1898-99.—Following the practice of previous years, the statement below is submitted for consideration :—

System.	Transactions during the Year.				Area under Lease at 31st March, 1899.				Revenue received during the Year.					
	Number.	Area.			Number.	Area.								
Cash—			A.	R.	P.			A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.	
Rural	12		1,984	3	13	...		...			...			
Suburban	30		98	0	2	...		...			...			
Town	106		33	0	7	...		...			...			
	148		2,115	3	22	...		...			3,734	15	6	
Deferred-payment holders...	...		...			29		10,256	2	17	1,685	11	8	
Deferred payment made freehold	24		3,548	1	28	...		...			*732	19	1	
Perpetual-lease holders ...	1		640	0	0	203		81,601	1	15	5,201	6	11	
Perpetual lease made freehold	85		35,481	3	25	...		...			31,685	5	9	
Occupation with right of purchase	120		32,106	3	0	493		139,876	0	3	6,752	9	2	
Lease in perpetuity	87		24,241	2	36	369		106,226	3	14	3,896	17	2	
Conversions to lease in perpetuity	3		1,052	0	0									
Village settlement—														
Deferred payment	...		...			7		14	0	28	...			
Perpetual lease	...		...			3		29	1	27	4	15	8	
Perpetual lease made freehold	2		9	0	0	...		...			38	0	0	
Lease in perpetuity	65		1,554	2	33	333		6,397	3	1	{	+779	2	6
Conversions to village settlement, lease in perpetuity ...	7		90	2	4									
Village - homestead special settlement	1		1	3	36	120		1,440	2	26	{	+280	12	1
Special settlement, deferred payment	...		...			62		6,029	2	15	{	+155	17	8
Special settlement, deferred payment made freehold ...	39		3,914	3	4	...		...			{	1,096	7	8
Farm homestead, lease in perpetuity	5		607	1	10	479		88,835	0	15				
Improved farm	43		2,404	0	36	\$124		10,881	2	32	{	+520	14	4
Small grazing-runs	...		...			74		72,284	3	4	{	+30	13	6
Pastoral runs	...		...			21		26,791	0	0		1,840	14	8
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	26		4,483	2	3	79		31,118	0	6	{	186	5	2
Land for settlement, lease in perpetuity	13		72	3	31	32		285	1	21	{	824	11	3
Ditto, miscellaneous	...		...			...		...			{	*7	8	3
Native townships	29		109	2	34	44		163	2	1		146	12	9
State forests	...		...			...		...				23	6	0
Survey-fees which form part payment for land	...		...			...		...				250	18	10
Survey-fees which do not form part payment for land ...	...		...			...		...				1,978	19	6
Other sources	...		...			...		...				63	3	11
	...		...			...		...				1,132	12	5
	...		...			...		...				1,012	7	7
Total	698		112,435	1	22	2,472		582,231	3	25		70,092	19	8

* Endowment revenue. † Rent. ‡ Interest. § Not including 47 selections balloted for but not registered.

NOTE.—Excluding freeholds under deferred payment and perpetual lease and conversions, the new transactions are reduced to: Number, 538; area selected, 68,338 acres 3 roods 1 perch; the annual rental payable being £3,880 15s. 10d.

The chief points calling for notice in the foregoing statement are that the transactions—698—exceed those of the previous year by 200, made up principally of town and suburban cash sales in Baetihi and Taihape, and the increase in sections on the occupation-with-right-of-purchase, lease-in-perpetuity, and village-settlement systems. The gross area dealt with shows a falling-off of about 7,000 acres compared with the year 1897-98, but the revenue collected increased by £5,621, notwithstanding the fact that 140 holdings on the deferred-payment and perpetual-lease systems were made freeholds. The number of settlers whose names stand on the Land Office registers is 2,472, a net increase of 111. Touching the question of annual revenue, it will be noticed that nearly one-half, £33,680, was derived from the sale of the freeholds of deferred-payment and perpetual-lease holdings. This aid to revenue has been a feature of the transactions for several years past.