

RECEIPTS

The receipts for the year from all sources totalled £3,752,988. The receipts for the previous year totalled £3,249,531. Details are as follows :—

Heading.	Year ended 31st March, 1948.	Year ended 31st March, 1947.
Rents, royalties, and interest	£ 1,063,727	£ 906,133
Rates and miscellaneous receipts from drainage areas	52,134	39,843
Administration charges, and other departmental receipts	120,262	110,165
Sales of land, improvements, repayment of advances, &c.	1,046,513	1,228,114
Farming receipts from development schemes	1,453,660	955,787
Miscellaneous	16,692	9,489
	3,752,988	3,249,531

POSTPONEMENTS, REMISSIONS, AND ARREARS OF RENT AND INTEREST

Rents and interest the payment of which remained postponed at 31st March, 1948, amounted to £4,410. Arrears of rent and interest (including arrears in respect of the current half-yearly charge) totalled £123,344, while remissions for the year totalled £5,601.

SERVICEMEN'S SETTLEMENT AND LAND SALES ACT, 1943

APPLICATIONS

Applications for consent to transactions filed during the year ended 31st March, 1948, numbered 41,352, which was 5,643 less than the total in the previous year and 2,547 less than in the year ending 31st March, 1946.

Rural lands accounted for 5,466 applications, while those made in respect of urban properties numbered 35,886.

It is considered that the present drop in applications is indicative of a return to normal conditions. The two years ending 31st March, 1947, were peak years. During that period the majority of servicemen returned to civilian life, and as a large percentage of them were prospective purchasers of properties they absorbed to a considerable extent any surplus properties available.

DESPATCH OF WORK

Applications disposed of during the year numbered 41,652, which is 300 more than were received. The result of this is that the number of applications outstanding at 31st March, 1948, is 300 less than the number outstanding at the corresponding period last year. The fact that the Committees dealt with more applications during the year than were received shows that the work is being kept well up to date.

REDUCTIONS IN CONSIDERATION-MONEYS

Reductions in consideration-moneys directed by Land Sales Committees for the year ended 31st March, 1948, amounted to £2,733,005, which shows an increase of £207,440 on the corresponding figures for the previous year.

APPEALS

During the year 259 appeals were lodged, as against 342 in the preceding year, Appeals which had not been disposed of at the end of the current year numbered 32, which is 2 less than the number brought forward from the previous year.