

The SECRETARY for CROWN LANDS and SURVEYOR-GENERAL to the Hon. the MINISTER
of LANDS.

SIR,—

Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, 23rd June, 1902.

During the year eighteen estates, containing 85,023 acres, were, after survey and valuation, duly advertised by public advertisement, distribution of plans and pamphlets, as open in allotments for selection at fixed upset rentals (5 per cent. on capital value), on the lease-in-perpetuity system, conflicting applications being determined by ballot.

Though ten other estates were acquired during the financial year, there was not time to carry out the necessary surveys, &c., and place them on the market before the 31st March. These comprised the Cradock, Hetana, Kitchener, Methuen, Plumer, and Waari Workmen's Homes in the Auckland Land District; Forest Gate and Kumeroa Estates in Hawke's Bay; the Maungaraki Settlement (a further portion) in Wellington; and the Maytown and Lyndon No. 2 Estates in Canterbury.

Of the eighteen estates opened for selection, 69,929 acres, in 230 holdings, were leased, including the North Bank property, which was let temporarily as one run, in order that gold-miners might be allowed to continue their operations.

The Hatuma, Forest Gate, and Kumeroa properties were acquired under the compulsory provisions of the Land for Settlements Act, which method has not resulted in low valuations or capital values as finally determined. The 709½ acres undisposed of in the former was not available for disposal till recently, and is now advertised for lease.

The 4,348 acres unselected in the Manga-a-toro Settlement includes two small grazing-runs.

The balance of Toka-ora Settlement is expected to be quitted shortly.

Maungaraki is already sold.

The following table shows the estates offered for the first time, and how they were disposed of:—

ESTATES OFFERED for SELECTION during the Year ending 31st March, 1902, under "The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900."

Land District, and Name of Estate.	Area of Estate.	Number of Selectors.	Area unselected, 31st March, 1902.	Annual Rental payable on Lands leased.	Date of Opening.
Hawke's Bay—					
Hatuma	A. R. P. 26,522 3 20	59	A. R. P. 709 2 0	£ s. d. 7,627 3 10	25 April, 1901.
Manga-a-toro	19,581 3 12	21	4,348 0 0	3,921 13 10	21 Jan., 1902.
Taranaki—					
Tokaora	1,505 2 8	6	845 0 22	670 19 10	20 Nov., 1901.
Wellington—					
Mangawhata	1,240 2 36	7	..	826 10 0	14 May, 1901.
Epuni Hamlet	100 3 14	42	2 1 24	480 5 8	25 June, 1901.
Maungaraki	470 3 4	10	194 2 22	125 17 2	20 Dec., 1901.
Marlborough—					
North Bank	12,895 0 0	1	..	300 0 0	1 April, 1901.
Canterbury—					
Kohika	3,864 1 10	16	..	1,451 14 2	13 May, 1901.
Tarawahi	81 3 0	12	11 0 23	122 5 8	25 June, 1901.
Raincliff	745 2 0	1	..	85 3 10	25 June, 1901.
Puhuka	39 2 7	6	14 0 0	36 9 4	29 July, 1901.
Kaimahi	100 2 1	12	6 1 14	236 9 10	15 Oct., 1901.
Kapuatohe	49 3 37	4	19 2 0	82 19 2	15 Oct., 1901.
R.S. 36278	618 2 0	1	..	25 1 8	14 Nov., 1901.
Rapuwai	2,247 2 11	5	..	480 16 8	9 Dec., 1901.
Otago—					
Earnsleugh	1,269 3 5	10	..	170 3 6	18 Dec., 1901.
Southland					
Ringway	2,253 2 8	7	..	460 9 0	20 Dec., 1901.
Glenham	11,484 2 10	10	8,943 1 24	591 5 2	24 March, 1902.
	85,023 0 23	230	15,094 0 9	17,695 8 4	

SUMMARY of SELECTORS, RESIDENCES, and the CONDITION of ESTATES ACQUIRED and DEALT WITH,
at 31st March, 1902.

Land District and Name of Settlement.	Selectors.	Residences.	Condition, Progress, and Prospects.
Auckland—			
Opouriao	61	64	Very satisfactory.
Okauia	9	9	Very little progress.
Rangiatea	19	16	Fairly satisfactory.
Karapiro	17	14	Thriving (dairy farms).
Fencourt	35	27	Progressive and sound (dairy farms)
Whitehall	8	6	Hopeful; chiefly grazing.
Hawke's Bay—			
Raureka	19	18	Prosperous.
Elsthorpe	46	27	"
Waimarie	18	16	Thriving.
Pouparae	9	6	Progress good; dairying extending.
Tomoana	13	11	Good.
Mahora	32	25	"
Willows	22	17	Good (dairy farms).
Hatuma	59	34	Satisfactory.
Manga-o-toro	21	..	Only selected last January