

New Zealand Trust and Loan Company (Limited). Part of the block, consisting of 206 acres of very fine plantation, has been reserved as a State Forest. The remainder was opened for application on the 25th June, 1901, as one lease-in-perpetuity allotment of 538½ acres, at a rental of 3s. 2d. per acre per annum. The successful applicant at the first ballot was subsequently found to be disqualified from holding the lease, and the land was therefore reopened on the 13th November 1901, and a suitable tenant was selected by ballot from forty-five applicants.

The *Tarawahi Hamlet*, comprising 31½ acres of suburban land to the south of Christchurch, was acquired from James Freeman, Esq., and opened for application on the 25th June, 1901, in thirty-seven lease-in-perpetuity workmen's homes allotments, varying in size from half an acre to 2 acres, at rentals from £6 12s. to £7 per acre. There has been very little demand for holdings in this settlement. Up to the end of the year twelve allotments (nearly all the larger areas) had been selected, and twenty-four still remain available for selection.

The *Puhuka Hamlet*, comprising 39 acres 2 roods 7 perches of suburban land between Timaru and Washdyke, was acquired from Thomas Howley, Esq., and opened for application on the 29th July, 1901, in eleven lease-in-perpetuity workmen's homes allotments, varying in size from 2 to 5 acres, at rentals from £1 10s. 8d. to £1 12s. 8d. per acre per annum. There has been only a moderate demand for sections in this settlement; six sections have already been taken up, and five still remain available for disposal.

The *Kaimahi Settlement*, comprising 100½ acres of good agricultural land about four miles north-west of Christchurch, was acquired from Sir W. B. Perceval, and opened for application on the 15th October, 1901, in twelve lease-in-perpetuity allotments, varying in size from 5 to 10 acres, at rentals from £1 18s. 3d. to £2 12s. 3d. per acre per annum. There has been a fair demand for the sections in this settlement; up to the end of the year all but one of the sections had been selected, and that has since been taken up.

The *Kaputohe Hamlet*, comprising 49 acres 3 roods 37 perches, situated in the Village of Belfast, about five miles and three-quarters northward from Christchurch, was purchased from A. B. Cambridge, Esq., and opened for application on the 15th October, 1901, in eighteen lease-in-perpetuity workmen's homes allotments, varying in size from half an acre to 5 acres, and one lease-in-perpetuity small farm of 12 acres, the rentals varying from £1 10s. to £4 per acre per annum. Up to the end of the year two of the five-acre sections and the twelve-acre farm had been selected. There has been no demand for the half-acre allotments, private enterprise having possibly already furnished a sufficient number of small holdings for the occupation of the workers employed at the Belfast Freezing-works and the allied industries.

The *Rapuwai Settlement*, comprising 2,247 acres 2 roods 11 perches of good downs agricultural and pastoral land, about eight and a half miles north-westerly from Pleasant Point, South Canterbury, was acquired from James Sullivan, Esq., and opened for application on the 9th December, 1901, in five lease-in-perpetuity allotments, varying in size from 265 to 630 acres, at rentals ranging from 3s. 9d. to 5s. per acre per annum. Thirty-five persons lodged applications for allotments, and the whole of the settlement was disposed of at the first ballot.

The miscellaneous allotments offered during the year comprise two allotments of 1 acre each in the Hamlet of Tamai, close to Christchurch; two allotments, comprising 5 acres 2 roods 35 perches, in the Pawaho Hamlet, at Heathcote Valley; ten allotments, comprising 8 acres, in the Morven Township, Waikakahi Settlement; one fifty-acre rural allotment in the same settlement; and the Takitu Homestead Small Grazing-run Block, comprising 1,494 acres, on the Waitaki River, between Glenarry and Hakataramea.

*Land for Future Disposal.*—At the end of the year negotiations had been concluded for the acquisition of the following properties, and the arrangements for placing them in the market had been nearly completed: (1) The Lyndon No. 2 Settlement, comprising 15,755 acres of the western portion of the Lyndon Estate, near Waiau, North Canterbury, acquired from Messrs. D. D. and A. Macfarlane, to be opened for selection on the 21st April, 1902; (2) the Maytown Settlement, comprising 391 acres 2 roods 16 perches, close to Waimate, South Canterbury, acquired from Messrs. McGoverin and Hardie, to be opened for selection in small areas on the 28th April, 1902; (3) the Eccleston Settlement, near Otaio, South Canterbury, comprising 1,246 acres 1 rood 5 perches, acquired from E. P. Chapman, Esq., to be opened for selection on the 12th May, 1902.

*Payments of Rents.*—The total amount of revenue collected during the year on land-for-settlement estates under all tenures was £38,772 1s. 1d. The total amount of arrears of rent due at the 31st March, 1902, was £2,695 19s. 11d., owing by 100 tenants, out of a total annual rental of £41,404 4s. 6d., payable by 787 tenants. About half of these arrears belong to the Waikakahi Settlement, on which the arrears appear to be heavier than is warranted by the difficulties inseparable from the establishment of new homesteads. The Highbank and Albury Settlements contribute the next largest proportions to the total of arrears. It is more than probable that the unfavourable weather experienced in South Canterbury during the last two months of the year accounts to some extent for the large amount of arrears, settlers having been seriously delayed in harvesting and realising on their crops.

*Transfers, Forfeitures, and Surrenders.*—The number of transfers of land-for-settlement holdings completed during the year was fifty, representing an area of 4,914 acres, all under the lease-in-perpetuity system. The figures quoted in the two preceding paragraphs are also embodied in the figures previously quoted above regarding arrears and transfers, but are referred to again here for the purposes of further comparison. The forfeitures and surrenders during the year numbered twelve, comprising an area of 1,331 acres 3 roods 37 perches. Out of this an area of 546 acres and 7 perches has been reoffered for selection, and 545 acres 1 rood 25 perches of this is again taken up.

*Condition of Established Settlements.*—The following notes will serve to summarise briefly the condition and progress of the established settlements, as disclosed by the Rangers' reports at the close of the period under review:—