

SOUTHLAND.

The results of the transactions during the year are shown by the table hereunder:—

SUMMARY of LAND TRANSACTIONS, 1901–2.

Nature of Selections, &c.	Transactions during the Year.				Area held under Lease at 31st March, 1902.				Gross Revenue received during the Year.		
	Number.	Area.			Number.	Area.					
		A.	R.	P.		A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
Cash	79	606	0	15	...	...	...	...	1,173	10	6
Deferred payments	...	...	...	...	72	15,284	2	37	1,053	9	1
Deferred payments made freehold	9	1,346	1	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Perpetual leases	...	...	...	...	93	16,433	2	0	534	2	8
Perpetual leases made freehold	5	960	0	25	...	...	...	...	764	8	8
Occupation with right of purchase	50	7,443	1	8	216	44,459	2	26	1,028	10	3
Lease in perpetuity (new) ...	8	1,675	0	15	229	73,845	0	24	1,542	10	2
Lease in perpetuity (exchanged from other tenures)	2	952	2	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Occupation leases (Mining Districts Land Occupation Act)	8	173	2	28	40	1,529	1	1	89	15	10
Village settlements—											
Deferred payments	...	...	...	...	12	239	3	23	103	2	4
Deferred payments made freehold	3	87	1	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Perpetual leases	...	...	...	...	104	1,451	2	26	176	12	7
Perpetual leases made freehold	7	178	3	23	...	...	...	...	345	12	5
Occupation with right of purchase	...	...	...	...	4	4	0	24	1	12	1
Lease in perpetuity	21	368	3	4	251	3,858	1	16	315	9	3
Village-homestead special settlement	...	...	...	...	54	579	3	5	123	11	0
Improved-farm settlement ...	...	173	2	26	45	5,240	3	17	284	5	3
Small grazing-runs	1	8,824	0	21	18	61,293	0	13	796	19	9
Pastoral runs	6	57,379	0	0	91	1,282,907	1	0	3,816	7	0
Miscellaneous leases and licenses	53	4,713	0	7	274	38,141	0	38	687	16	5
Timber-cutting	...	31,543,650	s. ft.	...	...	...	...	...	7,679	12	6
Other miscellaneous revenue ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	484	6	5
Total ordinary Crown lands	252	84,882	0	33	1,503	1,545,268	2	10	21,001	14	2
Land for settlements—											
Lease in perpetuity	18	4,915	1	34	74	20,397	3	9	2,012	17	3
Miscellaneous	2	1,165	1	35	7	4,089	2	10	170	16	9
Total land for settlements	20	6,080	3	29	81	24,487	1	29	2,183	14	0
Endowments	...	...	...	...	74	48,338	0	13	1,298	13	3
Grand totals	272	90,963	0	22	1,658	1,618,094	0	12	24,484	1	5

Revenue.—The gross revenue for the year may be considered as very satisfactory, the amount being £24,484 1s. 5d., which, while only slightly in excess of the previous years, is considerably in advance of the years ending the 31st March, 1899 and 1900, the total receipts in those years being £20,878 8s. 5d. and £22,853 11s. 2d. respectively.

Lands opened for Selection.—A total area of 189,612 acres of Crown land was opened for sale or selection during the year, as against 109,559 acres last year. With the exception of two blocks in Longwood and Winton districts, most of the lands opened were forfeited and surrendered leases and licenses of pastoral runs which had expired by effluxion of time. As regards lands to be opened to selection during the year, I do not anticipate that any new land upon the mainland will be offered except a block now under survey in the Longwood and Waiau districts, and a few isolated pieces of Crown land applied for by settlers adjoining. It is proposed that a portion of the block of unsurveyed land in Stewart Island now open to application as such should be surveyed and roaded, but, owing to the pressure of other work and the inclemency of the season, I have been unable to visit the island in connection with this and other matters requiring attention there.

The bulk of the land now open in the Land Guide for this district is poor second-class land, which has been open to selection for many years. I contemplate a revision of the Land Guide, and a revaluation of all such lands as the Land Board may deem it advisable to recommend to the Hon. the Minister of Lands to reoffer at a reduced rate, and so encourage the selection of these waste lands of the Crown.