

the maps prepared many years since, but wrinkled and faded, and practically useless for reference by the public. Similarly three new application maps of survey districts have been renewed. Forty-seven tracings have been drawn and lithographed at the Head Office as sale-posters, while 190 working and other tracings have been prepared. I find that seventy-two maps have been mounted, and at intervals during the year one of the draughtsmen has reduced and plotted on the record-maps a large number of blocks to keep pace with the recording of Land Transfer certificates, &c. I regret to state in this connection that I have not yet been able to undertake the systematic recording of the leases in perpetuity, which I found on taking charge had not been undertaken in this office, and thus there is an accumulation of work in this direction. I will, however, make an effort, with the officers at my disposal, during the next year to compile and have as many record-maps of all tenures brought up to date as time and circumstances will permit, as I have looked upon these maps as hardly of less importance than the working-plans. With a view to the better care and arrangement of the working-plans and records in the office-safe, I took advantage of the offer of the Head Office to supply new portfolios. A number—forty-eight in all—was requisitioned for, and in this way a large number of the old dilapidated folios have been set aside. I found also that a more direct method of indexing and arrangement of the many working-plans and records was necessary, and I have devoted one of the draughtsmen for some weeks to this work. I am again pleased to place on record my appreciation of the assistance tendered me by the officers here throughout the past year.

JOHN HAY, Chief Surveyor.

APPENDIX III.

REPORT ON VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS.

DURING the year fifty-one sections, with an area of 833 acres, were taken up under village-homestead regulations, and thirteen sections, with an area of 88 acres, under other tenure.

For the same period twenty sections, with an area of 463 acres, were forfeited or surrendered under village-homestead regulations, and twelve sections, with an area of 161 acres, under other tenure.

The number of village settlements in the colony is now 183, and the total number of settlers under all systems on the 31st March last was 2,019, the area held 42,043 acres, and the annual rent and interest £6,153 7s. 11d., classified as under :—

Number of Settlers.

			Resident.	Non-resident.	Total.
Under village-homestead regulations	...	...	992	437	1,429
Under other tenure	...	...	337	253	590
Totals	...	...	1,329	690	2,019
In the North Island	...	...	601	250	851
In the Middle Island	...	...	728	440	1,168
Totals	...	...	1,329	690	2,019

Area held on the 31st March, 1902.

				A.	R.	P.
Under village-homestead regulations	...	...	...	30,469	1	10
Under other tenure	...	...	...	11,574	1	3
Total	...	...	...	42,043	2	13
In the North Island	...	...	...	17,966	0	29
In the Middle Island	...	...	...	24,077	1	24
Total	...	...	...	42,043	2	13

Annual Rent and Interest.

				£	s.	d.
Under village-homestead regulations	...	...	...	4,732	8	7
Under other tenure	...	...	...	1,416	19	4
Total	...	...	...	6,149	7	11
In the North Island	...	...	...	2,347	18	11
In the Middle Island	...	...	...	3,801	9	0
Total	...	...	...	6,149	7	11