

We are of opinion that, in view of the large area acquired by the Crown, and which will be available for settlement on the optional system, the strict enforcement of section 11 with regard to the area offered for lease and included in the schedules to this report would be harsh and unjust to the Native owners.

We have no general remarks to add to what is contained in our former report.

Portions of the following counties are dealt with in this present report : Waitomo, Awakino, Kawhia, West Taupo.

The following is a summary of the information contained in the schedule :—

	Waitomo.			Awakino.			Kawhia.			West Taupo.		
	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.
Lands leased ...	138,923	2	27	48,094	2	30	13,326	0	22	28,239	0	19
Lands for Maori occupation ...	78,130	0	13½	10,175	0	8	6,754	1	29	19,284	3	32½
General Settlement,—												
(1.) For lease ...	104,999	2	5	5,204	3	33	10,665	0	23	44,726	0	10
(2.) For sale ...	3,007	2	31½	3,891	3	26	186	3	0	2,000	0	0
Special recommendation	3	3	0	...			...			...		
	325,064	2	37	67,366	2	19	30,932	1	34	94,250	0	21½

RECAPITULATION.

	A.	R.	P.
Land leased ...	228,583	2	18
Lands for Maori occupation ...	114,344	2	3
Lands for general settlement,—			
(1.) Lease ...	165,595	2	31
(2.) Sale ...	9,086	1	17½
Special recommendation ...	3	3	0
	517,613	3	29½

It will be seen that the area leased or under negotiation for lease is 228,853 acres. We should point out that about 66,000 acres of this are under timber and coal-prospecting leases, leaving about 163,000 acres under pastoral leases. This area is liable to further reduction when the leases are finally completed and the interests of non-lessors partitioned.

We have the honour to be
Your Excellency's most humble and obedient servants,
ROBERT STOUT,
A. T. NGATA,
Commissioners.