

LANDS BEING PREPARED FOR SETTLEMENT.

On the 31st March, 1909, the Lands Department had under survey and being prepared for opening for settlement no less an area than 1,046,682 acres, made up as follows :—

	Acres.
Ordinary Crown lands (optional system)	372,941
National endowment (renewable lease)	347,672
Native lands for Maori Land Boards, Native land settlement	326,069
Total	1,046,682

The areas given as above were distributed in the following proportions :—

Land District.	Ordinary Crown Lands.	National Endowment.	Maori Lands, chiefly for Settlement.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Auckland	53,410	31,878	170,547
Hawke's Bay	26,800	7,750	41,390
Taranaki	63,070	17,930	58,930
Wellington	50,561	Nil	26,702
Nelson	28,300	31,405	Nil
Marlborough	450	47,122	"
Westland	1,000	23,091	"
Canterbury	Nil	Nil	"
Otago	138,000	188,496	"
Southland	11,350	Nil	28,500
Totals	372,941	347,672	326,069

LANDS SELECTED UNDER ALL TENURES, 1908-9.

The number of selectors who took up land during the past year exceeds the total number of last year's selectors by 378, the figures for this year being 2,603, and the area selected under all conditions 916,521 acres. Including town, suburban, and rural lands offered by auction or opened under the optional system, the selectors who have paid cash number 350, and the total area selected by these amounts to 42,129 acres. Of this area 7,672 acres are held under conditional-purchase tenure, as set forth in section 166 of "The Land Act, 1908," the condition being that the improvements so set down must be completed within seven years. If the selector fails to do this, then, under section 168 of "The Land Act, 1908," the area may be forfeited and reverts to the Crown. In the area of 42,129 acres is also included an area of 31,880 acres of Crown lands which was transferred to the Otekaikē Estate and was dealt with as part of that estate under Land for Settlement conditions. Occupation-with-right-of-purchase selectors numbered 382, selecting 123,116 acres, whilst renewable-lease selectors of national endowment lands numbered 440, occupying 124,238 acres. As the subjoined Table B gives the full particulars of all transactions, it is only necessary to refer to the Land for Settlements selectors, who numbered 288, selecting 95,698 acres. The twenty-one cash sales refer solely to areas sold under the powers conferred by section 70 of "The Land for Settlements Act, 1908," as sites for dairy factories, religious institutions, and other purposes.

Table B.—Return showing Selections during the Year, together with the Net Area held at 31st March, 1909.

Tenure.	Selections during the Year.			Net Area held at 31st March, 1909.		
	Number.	Area.		Number of Selectors.	Area.	
<i>Ordinary Crown Lands,—</i>		A.	R. P.		A.	R. P.
Cash lands	350	42,129	1 22	..	..	..
Deferred payment .. .. .	..	..	..	46	16,961	3 19
Perpetual lease .. .. .	..	..	..	494	86,908	3 16
Occupation with right of purchase	382*	123,116	1 30	4,897	1,656,308	3 24
Lease in perpetuity	193†	106,184	1 15	5,174	1,528,657	1 5
Renewable lease, town and rural (N.I.M.T. Railway)	81	940	2 26	81	940	2 26
Agricultural lease .. .. .	..	..	..	16	521	1 29
Homestead .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mining districts land occupation leases	36	1,490	0 2	580	24,633	0 13
Village settlement, cash	11	16	2 18	..	..	..
.. deferred payment .. .. .	..	..	..	9	164	3 3
.. perpetual lease .. .. .	..	..	..	102	1,459	2 16
.. occupation with right of purchase .. .. .	..	..	..	31	62	2 14
.. lease in perpetuity .. .. .	..	..	..	1,095	22,919	0 14
.. renewable lease (N.I.M.T. Railway)	109	689	1 29	111	691	2 13

* This number includes 45 selectors of 23,386 acres 1 rood 29 perches who selected unsurveyed lands in previous years, but which had not been returned owing to want of surveys.

† This number includes 189 selectors of 105,899 acres 3 roods 15 perches who selected unsurveyed lands in previous years, but which had not been returned owing to want of surveys.