

A number of alienations are made by way of lease, for the reason that the Native owners, although desirous of working their land, find that, after attempting this course, difficulties arise in the way of finance, which is necessary to assist them in working the land. Therefore they accept the rental as a means towards their subsistence. This is owing to the want of capital, as it is a fact that very few Natives are able to raise a loan or a mortgage on their land except at over the average rate of interest, except in the case of State loan Departments, where there must be collateral security in the way of other lands under lease, rentals for which have to be assigned.

Since the coming into operation of the 1909 Act, 1,483,048 acres have been alienated, of which 723,122 acres have been alienated by way of the fee-simple, thereby becoming Crown or European land, and so loses the Native freehold title.

The Department's expenditure for the past year has been £21,950 14s., while the amount paid into the Treasury and fees received from stamps, commission, &c., amounts to £14,235 18s. 10d.

THOS. W. FISHER, Under-Secretary.

TABLE A.—NATIVE LAND COURTS.

RETURN OF BUSINESS AND FEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1913.

Native Land Court.

Number of sittings	...	...	...	...	...	70
Number of cases notified	...	...	...	...	...	19,278
Number of cases for which orders made	...	...	...	...	...	7,070
Number of cases dismissed	...	...	...	...	...	3,110
Number of cases adjourned <i>sine die</i>	...	...	...	...	...	9,098
Number of partitions made	...	...	...	...	...	783
Area affected (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	383,642
Number of investigations of title	...	...	...	...	...	61
Area affected (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	52,253½
Number of succession orders made	...	...	...	...	...	5,065
Number of other orders made	...	...	...	...	...	2,059

Native Appellate Court.

Number of sittings notified	...	...	...	...	...	19
Number of cases notified	...	...	...	...	...	345
Native Land Court decisions varied	...	...	...	...	...	89
Native Land Court decisions affirmed	...	...	...	...	...	48
Native Land Court decisions referred back to Native Land Court	...	...	...	...	...	6
Native Land Court decisions annulled	...	...	...	...	...	2
Appeals dismissed or withdrawn	...	...	...	...	...	67
Appeals adjourned <i>sine die</i>	...	...	...	...	...	70
Applications under section 208 ordered	...	...	...	...	...	18
Applications under section 208 dismissed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Applications under section 208 adjourned <i>sine die</i>	...	...	...	...	...	21

Court Fees.

	£	s.	d.
Amount collected by Court	3,252	9	4
Amount collected by Registrar—			
For period	49	16	0
For previous periods	943	19	4
Amount outstanding	778	14	6
Search fees collected	510	14	11
Fees received in stamps	1,673	16	0
Fees on application under section 17/12	15	15	0