

It is expected that these privileges and concessions will be largely taken advantage of by the tenants during the current year.

Special Districts for Roothing.

By the passing of section 50 of the Act of last year provision was made for the constitution of special districts for roading purposes. Under this authority all moneys accruing from the disposal of Crown lands within the district may, for any period not exceeding fifteen years, be applied in the formation or construction of roads and bridges either within or without the special district for the purpose of affording access to the lands within the district. Regulations to give full effect to the provisions of this section have been signed by the Governor, and came into force on the 19th March last. I have no doubt that advantage will be taken of the provisions of this section in many localities where the settlers consider that the roading of the district can be more expeditiously dealt with under this concession than in the ordinary manner.

Pastoral Runs.

The pastoral-run tenure was considerably improved by the provisions of Part III of the Act mentioned. Tenants holding land under this tenure now have, in cases where the runs are subdivided for closer settlement, a right to select one of the subdivisions. If a run is not subdivided before reletting, the licensee is entitled to a new lease of the whole run. A new departure in regard to these runs is the provision relating to residence. The Land Board now has the power under section 54 of the Act, in offering runs for selection, to impose residence conditions whenever it is deemed advisable. Pastoral tenants have every inducement given them to expend their capital in improving and bettering the land they hold to bring it up to its full carrying-capacity.

CROWN LAND OPENED FOR SELECTION DURING THE YEAR.

The area opened for selection during the year under all tenures was 474,586 acres, being an increase of about 137,000 acres over the area offered during the preceding twelve months. This area includes sixteen settlement estates subdivided and offered for selection on the renewable-lease tenure. Further particulars in regard to these estates appear in a later paragraph. Every effort is being made by the Department to render available for selection the remaining Crown lands.

The following table has been prepared to show the area opened in each district under the various tenures :—

TABLE A.—LAND OPENED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1914.

District.	Optional System.	Renewable Lease.			Cash by Auction on Deferred Payment.*	Cash by Auction.	Lease by Auction and Application.	Village Allotments.	Small Grazing-runs.		Pastoral Runs.		Total.
		Ordinary Crown Land.	National-endowment Land.	Land for Settlements.					Ordinary Crown Land.	National-endowment Land.	Ordinary Crown Land.	National-endowment Land.	
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Auckland ..	55,624	726	38,059	7,868	9	757†	1,319	1‡	..	..	2,317§	..	106,680
Hawke's Bay	6,530	..	4,690	7,192	..	11	..	7	13,868	2,746	..	..	35,044
Taranaki ..	70,668	..	7,837	757	9	14	72	..	..	..	..	..	79,357
Wellington ..	19,699	..	1,151	11,083	..	260	501	59	..	..	..	..	32,753
Nelson ..	1,953	3,542	933	..	..	..	211	..	..	..	..	..	6,639
Marlborough	645	..	..	96,751	..	..	986	..	..	..	787	..	99,169
Westland ..	..	220	621	..	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	853
Canterbury ..	1,417	..	..	8,894	..	16	993¶	10‡	..	..	..	25,460	36,790
Otago ..	3,799	43	1,573	3,699	..	..	551	..	2,833	11,716	..	..	24,214
Southland ..	21,802	3,930	604	25,846	..	123	782	..	..	..	..	..	53,087
Totals ..	182,137	8,461	55,468	162,090	18	1,193	5,415	77	13,868	5,579	14,820	25,460	474,586

* Land for settlement. † Includes 10 acres land for settlement. ‡ National endowment. § Hauraki pastoral leases. || Includes 43 acres national endowment. ¶ Includes 54 acres, Cheviot Estate.

LANDS SELECTED.

During the year an area of 500,396 acres of Crown land was selected under all tenures by 2,051 persons. Under renewable lease the total selections were 539, covering an area of 213,400 acres, of which 148,273 was settlement land, made up principally of the sixteen land-for-settlement estates opened for selection during the year.