

Sections 42, 43, and 44 allow of the exemption of lessees from conditions as to cropping, the postponement of rent of pastoral runs, and the postponement of rent of small grazing-runs respectively. It was deemed advisable to enact such legislation owing to the European war.

LANDS OPENED.

More than double the area of land was opened during the year than during the preceding twelve months, and the attached table shows the areas offered in each district under the various tenures.

Land opened during the Year ended 31st March, 1915.

District.	Optional System.	Renewable Lease.			Sale at Auction for Cash or on Deferred Payment.	Pastoral Licenses in Mining Districts under Special Regulations.	Lease by Auction and Application.	Small Grazing-runs: Ordinary Crown Land.	Pastoral Runs.		Total.
		Ordinary Crown Land.	National-endowment Land.	Land for Settlements.					Ordinary Crown Land.	National-endowment Land.	
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Auckland ..	67,556	..	10,397	8,535	*630	†358	379	7,150	..	..	95,005
Hawke's Bay ..	4,285	132	..	867	57	..	1	13,640	5,328	..	24,310
Taranaki ..	18,381	649	5,809	129	85	..	69	..	..	..	25,122
Wellington ..	21,624	11	5,309	1,703	64	..	277	2,397	..	..	31,385
Nelson ..	22,389	22	11,309	10,124	1	..	72	..	14,800	..	58,717
Marlborough ..	4,302	..	..	11,785	†155	..	99	..	143,000	..	159,341
Westland ..	..	..	814	..	1	\$9,155	78	..	544,790	102,870	657,708
Canterbury ..	..	..	..	‡7,284	¶330	..	**866	..	..	47,900	56,380
Otago ..	2,888	593	537	4,177	200	..	25	7,748	23,450	..	39,618
Southland ..	4,040	5	41	434	424	..	194	..	..	..	5,138
Totals ..	145,465	1,412	34,216	45,038	1,947	9,513	2,060	30,935	731,368	150,770	1,152,724

* Includes 12 acres land for settlements. † Ordinary Crown lands. ‡ Includes 7 acres land for settlements. § National-endowment lands. ¶ Includes 14 acres, Cheviot Estate. ** Includes 43 acres land for settlements, and 7 acres Cheviot Estate. ** Includes 270 acres land for settlements, and 1 acre Cheviot Estate.

In addition an area of 49,536 acres of educational and other endowment lands was opened for selection, making the grand total of 1,202,260 acres opened during the year under all classes.

LANDS TO BE OPENED.

During the current year it is expected to place in the market the following areas of land in the Dominion, some of which comprise pastoral runs subdivided and reopened for selection:—

	Acres.
Auckland District ..	107,676
Hawke's Bay District ..	121,376
Taranaki District ..	56,840
Wellington District ..	59,000
Nelson District ..	90,000
Marlborough District ..	13,000
Westland District ..	16,300
Canterbury District ..	33,200
Otago District ..	460,000
Southland District ..	12,000
Total ..	969,392

In addition, Surveyors have as "work on hand" a considerable area which it is hoped to survey, subdivide, and place on the market later.

LANDS SELECTED.

During the year the total area selected was 957,049 acres by 1,880 selectors. Of this about two-thirds comprised ordinary Crown land, the balance being made up of land-for-settlement holdings and national and educational endowments. This shows a marked increase over the previous year's figures of 503,737 acres, and it is hoped that the coming year will show an equally satisfactory area added to settlement. Full details of the selections, giving the various tenures, will be found in Table 3 published in the appendix.

LANDS MADE FREEHOLD.

The lands made freehold under the Land Laws Amendment Acts of 1912, 1913, and 1914 aggregated 93,547 acres, held by 494 selectors, the purchase price being £174,412. From the date of passing of the Amendment Act of 1912 up to the 31st March, 1914, a total of 628