

purchase the fee-simple of their farms before that date. The total area made freehold under these two headings for the year ended the 31st March last was 124,641 acres, the purchase price £196,174, and the number of holdings thus alienated 670. The conversions to freehold under the Land Laws Amendment Acts, 1912, 1913, and 1914, were 377, covering an area of 54,093 acres, with a purchase price of £131,865.

This now brings the total freeholds acquired under these enactments to 480,563 acres, in 2,614 holdings; purchase price, £884,475.

RECEIPTS.

The gross revenue received was as under :—

	£
Auckland	214,219
Hawke's Bay	200,197
Taranaki	72,323
Wellington	156,610
Nelson	33,312
Marlborough	57,163
Westland	19,098
Canterbury	267,068
Otago	158,971
Southland	67,887
Total	£1,246,848

The following analysis shows the sources from which the revenue was derived :—

	£
Cash sales and purchase of freeholds	176,389
Deferred-payment instalments	92,921
Perpetual-lease rents	1,713
Occupation-with-right-of-purchase rents	109,143
Lease-in-perpetuity rents	195,505
Renewable-lease rents	215,088
Pastoral licenses in mining districts under regulations—Rents	3,917
Small-grazing-run rents	91,508
Mining districts land-occupation leases—Rents	1,550
Pastoral-run rents	182,999
Educational and other endowments	125,332
Other leases and licenses and miscellaneous receipts	150,983
Total	£1,246,848

The revenue has exceeded the amount received last year by more than £30,000.

EXPENDITURE.

The amount appropriated on the Consolidated Fund for the purpose of the Lands and Survey Department amounted to £274,574, against which the net expenditure charged up amounted to £209,403, being £65,171 less than estimated requirements. The administration, management, survey, and other expenditure out of Consolidated Fund upon works controlled by the Department or incidental to departmental activities amounted to £254,239, against which the sum of £44,836 was recovered for services rendered to other Departments and for charges upon expenditure of loan funds administered by the Department. The net expenditure was therefore £209,403, being an increase of £49,571 on the expenditure of the previous year.

The main items contributing towards the increase are—

	£
Waimarino bush-fire relief	10,500
Contribution towards cost of forest-tree growing and planting	9,500
War bonus (increase)	9,360
Rangitaiki Land Drainage—Grant on account construction main arterial road	2,250
Remission to members of Expeditionary Force (increase)	2,591
Maintenance and construction of roads before handing over to local bodies (increase)	2,368

During the current year a considerable increase in salaries will be incurred, owing to the return of officers absent with the Expeditionary Forces and the reclassification of officers as at 31st March last. On the other hand, a higher standard of efficiency will now be maintained, and it will be possible to carry out many activities which during the war could not be considered.

The Discharged Soldiers Settlement Account shows £594,920 charged during the year, as against £113,694 charged for the previous year. Statements of accounts in connection with these transactions appear in the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Report.

The gross amount charged up by the Department shows an increase of £492,432 over that of the previous year, operations on the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Account, the Hauraki Plains Settlement Account, the Rangitaiki Land Drainage and Swamp Land Drainage Accounts, and the Waimarino bush-fire relief loans being principally responsible for the increase.