

LANDS FOR SELECTION.

During the year 463,178 acres were taken up on various tenures, the number of selections being 1,342 under all headings. These figures include some 707 sections, comprising altogether an area of 64,813 acres taken up under miscellaneous leases and licenses, so that the selections on permanent tenures numbered 635 sections, covering a total area of 398,365 acres. The following table gives the selections of Crown lands for the last five years :—

Selections under all Tenures.

Year ending				Number.	Area (Acres).
31st March, 1933	..	..	..	1,354	280,518
31st March, 1934	..	..	..	1,118	285,166
31st March, 1935	..	..	..	1,036	302,915
31st March, 1936	..	..	..	1,037	210,026
31st March, 1937	..	..	..	1,342	463,178

The total of 463,178 acres selected during the year includes lands taken up under both permanent and temporary tenures, and also town and suburban lands. The permanent selections of rural lands only were as follows :—

Class of Land.	Number of Rural Sections selected.	Total Area selected.
Crown and national-endowment land	214	Acres. 215,158
Settlement land	50	7,465
Education reserves, &c.	18	2,799
Grand totals	282	225,422

The lands dealt with above comprise both areas offered for the first time and areas which became available for reoffering through various reasons. The figures for entirely new rural areas selected during the year are as follows :—

Class of Land.	Number of New Rural Sections selected.	Total Area selected for the First Time.
Crown and national-endowment land	64	Acres. 59,853
Settlement land	13	2,664
Educational reserves, &c.	11	2,256
Grand totals	88	64,773

RECEIPTS.

The receipts for the year from all sources (excluding, of course, Discharged Soldiers Settlement Account receipts) totalled £1,402,596, an increase of £126,086 on last year's figures.

The receipts for the last five years have been as follows: Year ending 31st March, 1933, £742,820; 1934, £1,020,198; 1935, £1,259,790; 1936, £1,276,510; 1937, £1,402,596.

POSTPONEMENTS, REMISSIONS, AND ARREARS OF RENT.

Rents, the payment of which remained postponed at the 31st March, amounted to £98,593. Arrears of rent at the 31st March (including arrears in respect of the current half-yearly charge) totalled £942,858, while remissions for the year totalled £170,977.

REBATES.

For prompt payment of rent 17,195 Crown tenants were granted the usual rebates in terms of section 123 of the Land Act, 1924, and section 59 of the Land for Settlements Act, 1925. These rebates amounted to a total of £41,798.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT.

Of the area in the national endowment, 6,449,230 acres were held under lease or license at the 31st March by 4,311 tenants paying an annual rental of £137,582, while a very large area (partly, however, covered by existing leases) had been set aside as provisional State forests. For further particulars *re* the national endowment see parliamentary paper C.—14.

EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENTS.

An area of approximately 797,292 acres of education endowments under the administration of the various Land Boards is leased to some 4,147 tenants, who pay a total annual rental of £125,610