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NEW ZEALAND
Official
Year-Book,
1899.

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PREFACE.

EVERY effort has been made on this occasion, and with some success, to complete the preparation of the Year-book at an earlier date than previously.

The work was expedited subject to the disadvantage that some of the departmental reports presented to Parliament were not available for purposes of the statistical sections.

The latest figures are, however, mostly given throughout, and eleven new special articles introduced into Part III.

To meet the requirements of the Agent-General for the colony, extra copies of the sections have been made up into a number of small pamphlets, and these forwarded to London as early as possible without waiting for the completion of the book.

So far full evidences of the usefulness of the Year-book are forthcoming from time to time, and there is a large demand for it.

E. J. VON DADELSZEN.

Registrar-General's Office.

Wellington, N.Z., 12th August, 1899.

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THE
NEW ZEALAND
OFFICIAL YEAR-BOOK
1899.

It will be seen that the value of imports, exclusive of specie, rose from £5,430,050 in 1888 to £6,742,544 in 1892, then fell to £5,990,177 in 1894, after which there ensued a steady advance year by year to £8,211,409 in 1898. The movement for the period 1894-98 is a rise at the rate of 37 per cent. in money value, or a sum of £2,221,232. In quantities of various imports the increases vary, and full particulars of every kind of article imported in 1898 are to be found in detail further on, which may be critically examined with those in similar tables for 1897 and 1896, given in the previous Year-books.

It is desirable to consider not only the total value of the import trade for different years by comparing these figures, but to ascertain the rates *per capita* of population, to judge whether the imports are relatively greater or less than they have been. And the calculations must be made after deducting specie imported, for in the year 1894, as an instance, no less than £797,843 was brought to the colony in coin.

The figures for each year from 1888 stand thus:—

Years.	Imports per head of mean Population, excluding Maoris.			
	Including Specie.		Excluding Specie.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1888	9	16 4	8	19 5
1889	10	5 6	9	15 6
1890	10	0 2	9	11 0
1891	10	6 6	10	4 3
1892	10	16 3	10	9 11
1893	10	9 0	9	16 5
1894	9	19 11	8	16 5
1895	9	4 10	8	16 8
1896	10	1 11	9	19 1
1897	11	3 3	11	1 7
1898	11	3 7	11	3 1

Using the figures exclusive of the specie, it will be seen that, though comparisons for years since 1888 do not show by any means a steady rise since that year, the position is that whereas the imports proper were only £8 19s. 5d. per head of population in the first period of the table, they had increased by £2 3s. 8d. per head in 1898, and increase is observed in each year's figures since 1894, amounting to £2 6s. 8d. in the last four years.

By means of the accompanying table, in which the articles imported are arranged in groups according to their nature, the increases in value can be traced to their specific heads:—

IMPORTS FOR FIVE YEARS.

Group of Principal Articles imported.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£
Apparel and slops ..	301,774	316,179	370,516	362,389	354,940
Boots and shoes ..	139,455	122,462	127,985	132,203	130,912
Cotton piece-goods ..	342,446	374,366	434,673	414,673	417,733
Drapery ..	294,800	288,995	336,839	344,539	343,820
Haberdashery ..	71,505	84,625	68,473	70,853	85,985
Hats and caps ..	46,785	54,193	58,310	63,310	66,416
Hosiery ..	59,237	62,237	82,984	83,796	75,736
Linen manufactures ..	43,851	48,029	57,325	57,039	56,572
Millinery ..	23,480	24,591	28,866	32,245	36,074
Silks ..	57,965	59,189	69,742	74,400	79,910
Woolens ..	178,668	187,782	254,580	293,449	286,911
Totals ..	1,559,966	1,622,648	1,890,293	1,928,896	1,935,009
Agricultural imple- ments ..	3,942	4,599	6,894	11,095	17,234
Outlery ..	16,913	15,658	17,384	19,636	22,722
Hardware and iron- mongery ..	171,179	164,745	182,313	228,465	248,665
Iron rails and railway bolts, &c. ..	33,954	41,301	29,592	90,489	42,773
Iron, pig, wrought, wire, &c. ..	344,434	318,362	502,725	529,204	554,124
Steel and steel rails ..	10,164	12,152			
Machinery ..	156,199	131,843	251,905	368,416	422,011
Nails ..	27,968	25,965	32,304	33,279	36,792
Railway plant ..	8,843	5,687	3,062	46,082	57,224
Sewing-machines ..	21,797	22,166	24,641	21,542	30,613
Tools, artificers' ..	41,196	39,124	44,386	57,903	70,631
Totals ..	836,589	781,602	1,095,206	1,406,111	1,502,794
Sugar ..	460,071	389,609	422,134	373,407	425,270
Tea ..	136,986	173,343	166,860	178,350	183,717
Totals ..	597,057	562,952	588,994	551,757	608,987
Beer ..	39,393	42,676	35,123	39,614	37,844
Spirits* ..	153,560	164,166	160,648	178,344	187,020
Tobacco ..	124,757	123,843	149,905	164,889	161,836
Wine ..	40,412	41,109	40,879	50,202	48,514
Totals ..	358,122	371,794	386,555	433,049	435,214

* Includes methylated and perfumed spirits, and spirits of wine.

IMPORTS FOR FIVE YEARS—*continued.*

Group of Principal Articles imported.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£
Paper	117,259	110,539	117,577	127,980	133,901
Printed books	105,597	101,958	111,344	116,485	109,961
Stationery	71,524	77,595	86,628	92,871	98,469
Totals.. ..	294,380	290,092	315,549	337,336	342,331
Bags and sacks	62,497	69,985	55,961	104,401	111,116
Coals	105,191	97,621	94,138	98,139	105,223
Fancy goods	71,257	71,273	89,072	100,824	103,786
Fruits (including fresh, preserved, bottled, dried)	133,829	125,250	145,016	183,133	181,447
Oils	111,654	134,913	128,138	163,793	162,523
Other imports (excluding specie)	1,859,635	1,987,873	2,246,457	2,636,762	2,722,979
Total Imports (excluding specie)	5,990,177	6,115,953	7,035,379	7,994,201	8,211,409
Specie imported	797,843	284,176	101,941	61,022	19,191
Total Imports	6,788,020	6,400,129	7,137,320	8,055,223	8,230,600

Of £8,211,409 the total value of goods imported during 1898, the chief items were as under:—

Articles.	Value. £	Proportion per Cent.
Clothing, drapery, &c.	1,935,009	23.56
Metal, machinery, and implements.. ..	1,502,794	18.30
Tea and sugar	608,987	7.42
Wine, beer, spirits, and tobacco	435,214	5.30
Paper and books	342,331	4.17
Other imports	3,387,074	41.25
	8,211,409	100.00

The declared value of the clothing, drapery, &c., imported increased from £1,928,896 in 1897 to £1,935,009 in 1898. In 1894 the value of the import was £1,559,966. The iron, machinery, and implements imported in 1898 were valued at £1,502,794, an increase of £721,192 on the corresponding figures for 1895 (£781,602).

To the total value of "Other imports (excluding specie)," in 1898 (£2,722,979), shown in the table above, arms, ammunition, and explosives contributed a sum of £99,259; bicycles, tricycles, and fittings, £141,451; drugs, chemicals, and druggists' wares, £166,212; patent medicines, £36,137; manures, £112,846; musical

instruments, £81,947; glass and glassware, £87,912; earthenware, £38,917; floorcloth and oilcloth, £56,167; furniture, cabinetware, and upholstery, £46,210; cement, £41,221; leather, £73,476; seeds, £78,183; and timber, £68,440.

Goods imported by means of the "Parcels Post" system during 1898 were valued at £57,627.

VALUE OF FREE AND DUTIABLE IMPORTS.

The values of the imports into New Zealand during the year 1898 are given in the next table, classified according to the duties to which they were liable, and are arranged so as to show the declared value of goods on which specific or *ad valorem* duties at various rates are payable and of those admitted free of duty:—

Duties to which Imports liable.	Value of Imports, 1898.	
	£	£
Specific duties .. ..	..	2,126,685
<i>Ad valorem</i> duties—		
5 per cent... ..	254,409	
10 per cent... ..	131,685	
15 per cent... ..	37,684	
20 per cent... ..	1,857,460	
22½ per cent... ..	131,091	
25 per cent... ..	775,219	
40 per cent... ..	37,219	
Various	2,284	
Parcels-post (various)	57,627	
		3,284,678
Duty-free (excluding specie) .. ..	..	2,800,046
Specie imported .. ..	..	19,191
Totals .. ..	..	£8,230,600

The proportions of free and dutiable goods imported during 1897 and 1898 are compared with similar figures for 1894, the year preceding that in which the altered tariff came into force:—

	1894. £	1897. £	1898. £
Merchandise—			
Free	1,871,772	2,675,931	2,800,046
Dutiable	4,118,405	5,318,270	5,411,363
Imports (less specie)	5,990,177	7,994,201	8,211,409
Total net duty received	1,572,467	1,915,693	1,965,404
Duty, per cent. of imports—	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
(a.) On dutiable imports	38.18	36.02	36.32
(b.) On all merchandise	26.25	23.95	23.94

SUGAR.

The value of sugar (including glucose, molasses, and treacle) imported in 1898 was £425,270, an increase of £51,863 on the amount for 1897 (£373,407). This import for the last three years has

The following are the values of imports from different countries or places in 1897 and 1898, given in the order of the increase or decrease from each:—

Country.	1897. £	1898. £	Increase. £
United States, East Coast ..	521,939	700,555	178,616
Fiji	223,663	320,886	97,223
New South Wales	547,424	641,804	94,380
Victoria	290,619	332,422	41,803
Queensland	105,695	119,743	14,048
Bengal	188,676	201,843	13,167
Japan	30,155	39,476	9,321
Canada	47,303	54,434	7,131
Malden Island	9,511	14,100	4,589
Belgium	33,471	38,013	4,542
France	16,382	20,693	4,311
Tasmania	31,610	35,821	4,211
Singapore	12,122	16,303	4,181
British Columbia	13,622	17,057	3,435
South Australia	25,599	28,802	3,203
Burmah .. .. .	..	2,508	2,508
Denmark	268	1,352	1,084
Hongkong	26,030	26,615	585
Sweden	5,352	5,896	544
Austria	966	1,321	355
Norfolk Island	404	750	346
Western Australia	56	273	217
Norway	22	146	124
Newfoundland .. .. .	..	98	98
Bombay	30	67	37
New Brunswick .. .. .	..	19	19
Russia .. .. .	..	14	14
Falkland Islands	2	4	2
Natal	6	7	1

Country.	1897. £	1898. £	Decrease. £
United Kingdom	5,392,738	5,148,833	243,905
Mauritius	25,564	..	25,564
China	17,360	6,301	11,059
Pacific Islands	50,015	43,450	6,565
United States, West Coast ..	106,105	99,856	6,249
Holland	15,398	10,780	4,618
Germany	157,066	153,102	3,964
Philippine Islands	9,018	5,251	3,767
Greece	8,590	6,077	2,513
Switzerland	5,403	3,756	1,647
West Indies	1,862	423	1,439
Asia Minor	9,996	9,043	953
Italy	5,423	4,519	904
Madras	771	385	386
Ceylon	114,147	113,813	334
Egypt	611	301	310
Portugal	2,347	2,154	193
Spain	1,625	1,453	172
Canary Islands	73	15	58
Malta	54	..	54
Java	48	1	47
Cape Colony	77	63	14
South African Republic	4	2	2
Argentine Republic	1	..	1

IMPORTS, BY PROVINCIAL DISTRICTS.

The values of imports in each provincial district during 1890 and 1898 were as under:—

	1890. £	1898. £
Auckland	1,406,477	2,223,366
Taranaki	24,575	69,265
Hawke's Bay	162,097	181,486
Wellington	1,282,821	2,071,184
Marlborough	19,547	12,053
Nelson	151,422	152,897
Westland	93,426	53,082
Canterbury	1,269,572	1,471,504
Otago	1,836,754	1,933,116

The value of imports by parcel-post (£13,834 in 1890 and £57,627 in 1898) must be added to the above figures in order to make up the totals (including specie) of £6,260,525 and £8,230,600 for the respective years.

IMPORTS, NORTH AND MIDDLE ISLANDS.

Separating the value of the imports for the North Island from that of the Middle Island, it is found that whereas in 1890 the former received imported goods to the value of £2,875,970, against £3,370,721 for the Middle Island, in the year 1898 the North Island imports far exceeded those of the other, the values being respectively £4,550,321 and £3,622,652, or an excess for the North of 25.61 per cent.

DETAILS OF ALL ARTICLES OF IMPORT.

Details of all imports for 1898, giving quantities and values of articles introduced into the colony, with the amounts entered for Home consumption, and the amount of duty received, are next shown:—

GENERAL IMPORTS INTO THE COLONY OF NEW ZEALAND DURING THE YEAR 1898.
(For rates of Duty, see Tariff, p. 66.)

Articles.	Total Quantities Imported.	Value of Total Imports.	Entered for Home Consumption on Importation and ex Warehouse.	Amount of Duty received.
Acid—		£		£ s. d.
Acetic	209,230 lb.	2,562	286,975 lb.	1,793 11 10
Carbolic	34,057 "	613	..	..
Salicylic	1,987 "	209	..	..
Sulphuric	281,904 "	2,301	..	..
Tartaric	72,772 "	4,147	60,222 lb.	250 18 6
Unenumerated	95,071 "	1,640	..	..
Alkali—				
Potash and caustic potash ..	1,716 cwt.	2,033	..	..
Soda ash	11,781 "	3,883	..	..
Soda, carbonate and bi-carbonate	9,601 "	4,024	9,846 cwt.	492 5 10
Soda, caustic	12,516 "	7,457	..	..
Soda, crystals	78 "	26	96 cwt.	9 11 9
Soda, silicate	3,614 "	1,364	..	..
Unenumerated	4,342 "	2,278	..	..

portion for 1898 being higher than in any year since 1883. Details for ten years are given:—

CUSTOMS REVENUE PER HEAD OF EUROPEAN POPULATION.													
					£	s.	d.						
1889	2	7	10	1894	..	..	..	2	6	4
1890	2	9	3	1895	..	..	..	2	6	9
1891	2	9	7	1896	..	..	..	2	9	11
1892	2	11	6	1897	..	..	..	2	13	0
1893	2	10	4	1898	..	..	..	2	13	3

Dating from 1890, the taxation by way of Customs and excise duties together only increased from £2 11s. 2d. in that year to £2 11s. 11d. in 1896, to £2 15s. 1d. in 1897, and to £2 15s. 4d. in 1898.

There was an alteration of tariff in 1895 in certain items, but the amount of duty paid for 1898 does not bear a higher proportion to the total value of imports (less specie) for that year than the duty paid in 1894, prior to the new tariff, to the imports of that year.

Under these circumstances a rise in revenue from Customs taxation would seem to indicate a greater import of taxable articles, and show that purchasing power had increased. It is at least certain that the value of imports rose from £5,990,177 (excluding specie), in 1894, to £8,211,409 in 1898, notwithstanding the change of tariff.

The new tariff of 1895 has been given in full in this book (see page 66). The rates of duty levied during the year included 16s. per gallon on spirits; 30s. per gallon on perfumed spirits; 7s. per pound on cigars and snuff; 17s. 6d. per 1,000 of 2½lb. and under, and 6d. per ounce weight over 2½lb. per 1,000, on cigarettes; 3s. 6d. per pound on manufactured and 2s. on unmanufactured tobacco. Sparkling wine is charged 9s. a gallon; Australian, 5s.; other kinds, 6s.; ale and beer, 2s. The duty on tea is 4d. the pound; on cocoa, chocolate, and chicory, 3d.; raw coffee, 2d.; roasted, 5d. Sugar, molasses, and treacle pay ½d., and glucose 1d. per pound. Opium is charged 40s. per pound. The remainder of the Customs revenue, with small exception, is made up of charges on goods by weight, *ad valorem* duties, ranging from 5 to 40 per cent., and receipts from the foreign parcels post. There is also an excise duty of 1s. per pound on tobacco; 1s. 6d. per pound on cigars, cigarettes, and snuff; 3d. per gallon on beer; 9d. per pound on tinctures, &c., manufactured in the colony, containing more than 50 per cent. of proof spirit, and 3d. per pound when less than 50 per cent.

By "The Tobacco Excise Duties Act, 1896," the excise duty on cigarettes made in the colony is now (from the 31st December, 1896) 2s. 6d. per pound on machine-made and 1s. per pound on hand-made cigarettes.

"The Tobacco Act Amendment Act, 1896," enacts that all packages of manufactured tobacco shall be labelled before leaving the manufactory, and provides for the issue of warrants to use cutting-machines for cutting duty-paid manufactured tobacco for sale (or to be used in the manufacture of cigarettes by hand), and to manufacture cigarettes by hand, under certain conditions.

SECTION XI.—EXPORTS AND TOTAL TRADE.

THE value of all the exports in 1898 was £10,517,955; the value of New Zealand produce exported, £10,324,988: being at the rate of £13 17s. 9d. per head of population, against £13 6s. for the previous year. The increase in the value of exports of New Zealand produce for 1898 over that for 1897 amounts to £728,721, or at the rate of 7.59 per cent. This is a considerably higher rate of increase than the results for the year 1897 showed over those of 1896, when the amount was £418,931, and the percentage 4.56.

A comparative statement of exports according to value for the two years is given, showing the amounts for various principal articles, being the produce or manufacture of the colony, classified according to their nature into groups:—

	Year 1897.	Year 1898.	Increase in 1898.	Decrease in 1898.
	£	£	£	£
THE MINE.				
Coal	69,595	50,381	..	19,214
Gold	980,204	1,080,691	100,487	..
Silver, and minerals	31,144	43,471	12,327	..
Total	1,080,943	1,174,543	93,600	..
THE FISHERIES.				
Fish	17,198	15,609	..	1,589
Oysters	1,644	4,373	2,729	..
Other	185	358	173	..
Total	19,027	20,340	1,313	..
THE FOREST.				
Fungus	10,240	7,093	..	3,147
Kauri-gum	398,010	586,767	188,757	..
Timber—				
Sawn and hewn	154,169	164,722	10,554	..
Other	2,120	2,787	667	..
Total	564,539	761,370	196,831	..

	Year 1897.	Year 1898.	Increase in 1898.	Decrease in 1898.
	£	£	£	£
ANIMALS AND PRODUCE.				
Bacon and hams	13,560	8,211	..	5,349
Beef (salted)	6,151	6,379	228	..
Butter	402,605	403,690	1,085	..
Cheese	150,517	135,776	..	14,741
Hides	10,021	27,232	17,211	..
Live-stock	11,974	19,708	7,734	..
Preserved meats	78,235	97,171	18,936	..
Frozen meat	1,566,286	1,698,750	132,464	..
Rabbit-skins	47,472	51,607	4,135	..
Sausage-skins	45,328	45,539	..	2,789
Sheepskins and pelts	188,121	244,579	56,458	..
Tallow	259,964	302,141	42,177	..
Wool	4,443,144	4,645,804	202,660	..
Other	5,953	7,493	1,540	..
Total	7,232,331	7,694,080	461,749	..
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.				
Bran and sharps	30,279	3,690	..	26,589
Chaff	6,082	33	..	6,049
Flour	104,214	5,946	..	98,268
Grain—				
Barley	5,353	456	..	4,897
Beans and peas	15,128	6,933	..	8,195
Maize	2,054	12,476	10,422	..
Malt	30,962	25,868	..	5,094
Oats	167,229	87,924	..	79,305
Wheat	14,703	2,463	..	12,240
Hops	13,565	6,252	..	7,313
Oatmeal	19,022	17,001	..	2,021
Potatoes	20,992	141,077	120,085	..
Seeds (grass and clover)	46,947	78,519	31,572	..
Other	18,645	22,039	3,394	..
Total	495,175	410,677	..	84,498
MANUFACTURES.				
Apparel	4,418	2,331	..	2,087
Leather	98,155	103,838	5,683	..
Phormium (New Zealand hemp)	30,674	74,556	43,882	..
Woollen manufactures	12,370	9,634	..	2,736
Other manufactures	51,984	63,446	11,462	..
Total	197,601	253,805	56,204	..
Miscellaneous	6,651	10,173	3,522	..
Total exports (colonial produce and manufactures)	9,596,267	10,324,988	728,721	..
Specie	275,771	68,117	..	207,654
Other exports (British and foreign)	144,955	124,850	..	20,105
Total exports	£10,016,993	10,517,955	500,962	..

The class designated "Animals and Produce" shows by far the greatest value, the sum being for 1898 £7,694,080, which includes £4,645,804 for wool and £1,698,750 for frozen meat. The total value of exports in this class increased during the year by £461,749 on a total of £7,232,331 in 1897.

"The Mine" takes second place among the classes, with an export of coal, gold, silver, and other minerals amounting to £1,174,543 for 1898, being an increase of £93,600 on £1,080,943, the export for the previous year.

"The Forest" shows the export for last year to be £761,370, which, on account of the development of the kauri-gum industry, gives an increase of £196,831, or 34.87 per cent. since 1897.

"Agricultural Products," principally grain, potatoes, and seeds, compose the fourth group, and here a decrease has to be noticed of £84,498, or 17.06 per cent. on £495,175 of exports in 1897, the value for 1898 amounting to £410,677. This decline is attributable to the fall in the export of grain, which was so considerable as to effect the above result, notwithstanding the enormous increase in value of potatoes sent out of the colony, which advanced from £20,992 in 1897 to £141,077 in 1898.

"Manufactures" returned £253,805 in 1898, being £56,204 more than in the previous year. Leather is the most important item, the export for 1898 being £103,838. Phormium shows an excellent advance on the operations for 1897, with an increase of £43,882 on an export of only £30,674 in 1897. Woollen manufactures sent abroad receded.

The smallest group in respect to value is "The Fisheries," which shows an advance in the export of oysters, but a decrease in other fish. The total for the group is only £20,340 for last year.

The exports of New Zealand produce or manufacture for the two last years have also to be considered in relation to quantity, and the articles are again grouped in the next table according to the same classification as that used for purposes of comparing the values.

QUANTITIES OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF NEW ZEALAND PRODUCE EXPORTED.

Items.	Year 1897.	Year 1898.	Increase in 1898.	Decrease in 1898.
The Mine:—				
Coal Tons	76,073	56,332	..	19,741
Gold Oz.	251,647	280,175	28,528	..
Silver "	183,892	293,851	109,959	..
Minerals Tons	2,957	3,532	575	..
The Fisheries:—				
Fish Cwt.	10,191	8,794	..	1,397
Oysters Doz.	235,654	787,240	551,586	..
The Forest:—				
Fungus Cwt.	6,384	4,526	..	1,858
Gum (kauri) Tons	6,641	9,905	3,264	..
Timber (sawn and hewn) Ft.	39,326,396	40,721,632	1,395,236	..

III.—LANDS TAKEN UP UNDER SETTLEMENT CONDITIONS DURING EACH OF THE YEARS ENDED 31st MARCH, 1891-99 (EXCLUSIVE OF PASTORAL RUNS AND MISCELLANEOUS LEASES AND LICENSES).*

Land District.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
Auckland	95,510	105,120	115,454	134,992	99,313	67,831	49,522	56,295	90,160
Hawke's Bay	45,603	36,008	49,831	24,356	20,141	16,353	22,853	19,876	36,232
Taranaki	33,785	55,237	49,064	13,954	35,113	55,860	22,002	16,786	13,867
Wellington	103,053	82,511	156,297	84,871	49,586	79,478	63,801	48,909	63,746
Nelson	23,808	12,992	17,797	36,739	34,906	19,421	14,462	13,600	13,673
Marlborough	11,023	3,016	8,055	8,227	18,353	15,858	20,858	54,581	51,973
Canterbury	133,761	62,831	12,777	94,861	33,744	14,827	22,654	75,041	52,839
Westland	313	1,010	162	1,346	1,826	1,765	3,865	437	852
Otago	47,450	141,565	90,043	159,050	80,439	70,238	79,212	77,345	40,559
Southland	13,328	29,630	44,673	109,668	25,076	20,263	9,347	21,579	20,893
Totals	512,634	529,720	544,153	668,064	398,497	361,904	308,581	384,449	394,324

IV.—HOLDINGS TAKEN UP UNDER SETTLEMENT CONDITIONS DURING EACH OF THE YEARS ENDED 31st MARCH, 1891-99 (EXCLUSIVE OF PASTORAL RUNS AND MISCELLANEOUS LEASES AND LICENSES), CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO SIZE.

Size.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
Under 1 acre	170	214	154	176	256	259	154	103	293
1 to 50 acres	531	581	727	739	696	719	588	496	571
51 to 250 acres	603	617	1,253	933	737	1,138	709	616	633
251 to 500 acres	307	255	264	341	169	232	178	197	277
501 to 1,000 acres	173	187	104	155	40	70	84	63	128
1,001 acres and upwards	97	99	76	115	40	26	22	64	51
Totals	1,881	1,953	2,578	2,454	1,968	2,504	1,735	1,539	1,953

* See notes as to forfeitures and surrenders on previous tables.

SECTION XX.—LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS.

A FULL description is given, in a special article belonging to Section 1, Part III., of the objects and method of the Land for Settlements Acts, under which the acquirement by Government is authorised, through purchase from private owners, of properties for subdivision into small farms to meet the want felt of Crown lands for disposal in places where they are specially in demand.

The report of the Chairman of the Board of Land Purchase Commissioners on the transactions for the twelve months ended the 31st March, 1899, states:—

Fifty-one estates, of a total area of 534,682 acres, were offered during the year. Of that area 47,192 acres were declined, not recommended, or withdrawn, leaving 487,490 acres, of which an area of 271,905 acres is under consideration, and an area of 215,585 acres was recommended for purchase. Including with this latter area part of the land offered in the previous year, twenty-four estates were recommended for purchase, with the result that the offers were accepted for thirteen, of an aggregate area of 102,204 acres, for the sum of £532,115. Of the other eleven estates, the owners of three declined the prices offered; the owners of five have the offers made them under consideration; and in the case of three estates no offers have yet been made.

The names of the estates purchased are:—Karapiro, Willows, Mahora, Starborough, Richmond Brook, part of Flaxbourne, Waikakahi, Tamai, R.S. 20184, R.S. 2632, R.S. 36223, R.S. 36469, and part of Elderslie. With the exception of Richmond Brook, Tamai, and Elderslie, now under survey, possession of all was given within the year under review.

The total purchases under the Land for Settlements Act since its commencement are sixty-two estates, containing an area of 256,829 acres, at a cost of £1,250,647 for land, and £53,862 for road formations, surveys, and administration. In all, a total of £1,304,509.

The limit of appropriation fixed by statute, which expires on 31st March, 1900, is £2,000,000. There is therefore a balance of £695,491 available for additional purchases up to that date, after which no new business can be entered on. Recently there have been several large estates offered, which if purchased will, together with the price to be paid for Hatuma Estate, and the offers to purchase now under consideration by several landowners, if accepted, absorb the greater portion of the above sum.

The Surveyor-General's report to the Hon. the Minister of Lands on the condition and settlement of the lands acquired and handed over to his department under the above-mentioned Acts gives the particulars of the estates offered for selection as follows:—

There have been fewer estates dealt with during the year ended the 31st March last than in the previous period, the number for 1899 being seven, containing an area of 90,708 acres 1 rood 4 perches, whilst that for 1898 was fourteen, of a total area of 53,691 acres 1 rood 31 perches.

SECTION XXI.—FINANCE.

SUBSECTION A.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

FOR the year ended 31st March, 1899, the receipts from all sources amounted to £5,258,228, while the actual expenditure, excluding £425,000 transferred to the Public Works Fund in terms of section 17 of "The Appropriation Act, 1898," was £4,858,511. Including as expenditure the sum of £425,000 which was handed over from the Consolidated Fund for purposes of public works, the total was £5,283,511, or £25,283 in excess of the receipts, but the amount in hand at the beginning of the year was £521,144, leaving a credit balance on the 31st March, 1899, of £495,861.

The chief heads of revenue and expenditure are shown in the following table:—

REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
£	£	£	£
Balance on 31st March, 1898	521,144	His Excellency the Governor	5,000
Customs duties	1,965,018	Legislative	46,369
Beer duty	76,213	Ministers' salaries and allowances	8,510
Stamps	779,399	Interest and Sinking Fund charges	1,767,468
Land-tax	298,053	Exchange and commission	25,324
Income-tax	115,480	Pensions and allowances	34,337
Railways	1,465,507	Railways	968,917
Registration and other fees	73,822	Public instruction	475,218
Marine dues	25,490	Postal and telegraph services	388,546
Miscellaneous	113,647	Judicial and legal	246,434
Territorial revenue	273,799	Hospitals and charitable institutions	86,901
Other receipts—		Defence	119,051
Proceeds of debentures for Sinking Fund accretions	54,300	Subsidies to local bodies	72,640
Net recoveries from Government Advances to Settlers' Office Management Account	17,500	Department of Agriculture	60,792
		Lunatic Asylums	53,095
		Valuation Department	26,721
	5,186,428	Customs	36,428
		Marine (Harbours and Lights)	29,353
		Printing and Stationery	26,387
		Land and Income Tax Department	23,130
		Registration of Land and Deeds, Births, Deaths, and Marriages	20,398
		Public Buildings and Domains	16,071
		Old-age Pensions	3,124
		Miscellaneous expenditure	102,106
		Territorial expenditure	315,591
			4,858,511
		Other expenditure—	
		Paid to Public Works Fund	425,000
		Balance on March 31, 1899	495,861
			£5,779,372

TERRITORIAL REVENUE.

Ordinary Revenue.

With the exception of "Stamps" the chief heads of ordinary revenue show increases for the year 1898-99 over the figures for 1897-98. Taking these items in order of their magnitude, the advance is shown below:—

Heads of Revenue.	Ordinary Revenue.				Increase.	
	1898-99.	Per Cent. of Total.	1897-98.	Per Cent. of Total.	Numerical.	Centesimal.
Customs duties	£ 1,965,018	40·00	£ 1,935,252	40·97	£ 29,766	1·54
Railways... ..	1,465,507	29·83	1,370,572	29·01	94,935	6·93
Stamps	779,399	15·87	780,232	16·51	- 833*	- 0·11*
Land-tax... ..	298,053	6·07	287,287	5·66	30,766	11·51
Income-tax	115,480	2·35	115,310	2·44	170	0·23
Beer duty	76,213	1·55	72,179	1·53	4,034	5·59
Registration and other fees	73,822	1·50	51,289	1·08	22,533	43·97
Marine	25,490	0·52	23,960	0·51	1,530	6·39
Miscellaneous	113,647	2·31	108,353	2·29	5,294	4·69
Ordinary revenue... ..	4,912,629	100·00	4,724,334	100·00	188,295	3·99

* Decrease.

Though the receipts from Customs duties only increased by 1·54 per cent. during the year, the amount derived from Land-tax was 11·51 per cent. greater than that shown for 1897-98, and Railway revenue shows an advance of 6·93 per cent. While the population of the colony increased at the rate of 1·98 per cent. during the year, the ordinary revenue advanced at the higher rate of 3·99, as shown above.

The Customs and excise duties constituted in 1898-99 £41 11s. out of every £100 of ordinary revenue collected; railways, £29 16s. 7d.; and stamps, £15 17s. 5d. Of other items the land-tax yielded 6·07 per cent., and income-tax 2·35 per cent.

Territorial Revenue.

Territorial revenue increased from £263,296 in 1897-98 to £273,799 in 1898-99, or at the rate of 3·99 per cent. In the previous year, 1897-98, there was a decline of 3·54 per cent. Details for the last two years are as under:—

	Territorial Revenue.				Increase or Decrease, 1898-99.	
	1898-99.	Per Cent. of Total.	1897-98.	Per Cent. of Total.	Numerical.	Centesimal.
Cash land sales	£ 81,384	29·72	£ 66,622	25·30	£ 14,762	22·16
Deferred payment land sales	21,911	8·00	25,956	9·86	- 4,045	- 15·58
Pastoral runs, rents, miscellaneous	170,504	62·28	170,718	64·84	- 214	- 0·13
Territorial revenue	273,799	100·00	263,296	100·00	+10,503	+3·99

By the above table the cash land sales for 1898-99 are shown to have increased by more than 22 per cent., and to supply nearly 30 per cent. of the whole territorial revenue; while rents and miscellaneous, which constitute about 62 per cent. thereof, have slightly declined.

Moneys received for lands sold under deferred-payment regulations show a decrease of £4,045, or 15.58 per cent., when compared with the figures for 1897-98.

Ordinary and Territorial Revenue.

The total ordinary and territorial revenue is found to have increased from £4,987,630 in 1897-98 to £5,186,428 in 1898-99, at the rate of 3.99 per cent., or almost exactly twice the rate at which the population has increased:—

	Ordinary. £	Territorial. £	Total Revenue. £
Year 1898-99	4,912,629	273,799	5,186,428
" 1897-98	4,724,334	263,296	4,987,630
Increase	188,295	10,503	198,798

After allowing for alteration in system of charging interest and sinking fund, the charges of the public debt in proportion to the ordinary and territorial revenue are found to have fallen from 41.6 per cent. in 1890-91 to 34.1 per cent. in 1898-99.

If the sum of £103,295, the amount of territorial revenue received by way of land sales in 1898-99, is deducted from the total revenue, the charges of the public debt will be found to have absorbed 34.77 per cent. of the revenue, reduced by the sum derived from relinquishment of real estate of the Crown.

Ordinary Revenue Expenditure.

The expenditure for 1898-99 (exclusive of expenditure properly belonging to territorial purposes) amounted to £4,642,920, of which the largest item, after the charges of the public debt, £1,767,468, was on account of railways, £968,917. Public instruction cost £475,218, of which £398,129 was for carrying on the Board schools; £16,392 for technical and higher education; £16,923 for Native schools; £12,679 for industrial schools; and £25,000 for school buildings. The postal and telegraph services cost £388,546. Under the heading "Judicial and Legal" the total sum expended was £246,434, of which the largest item was the police, £115,293; the next, District and Magistrates' Courts, £45,630; and, thirdly, prisons, £30,168. Hospitals and charitable institutions cost £86,901, and the lunatic asylums £53,095. Defence required £119,051; the Department of Agriculture £60,792; and the Valuation Department £26,721. Payments of Old-age Pensions absorbed £3,124 up to 31st March, 1899.

Territorial Expenditure.

The chief items of expenditure under this head are the Lands and Survey Department, £114,469, and Mines, £11,790; while there was paid to local bodies £83,839 (£37,776 being "thirds" and "fourths" under the Land Act; and £10,462 for the Greymouth, £6,326 for the New Plymouth, and £29,275 for the Westport Harbour Boards); besides £4,864 expended in management of water-races, and £629 in rates on Crown lands.

Loan Account Expenditure, 1898-99.

In addition to the expenditure above referred to, there were also disbursements during the financial year ended 31st March, 1899, out of the Public Works Fund to the amount of £916,327, chiefly for roads, railway construction, and for public buildings; also out of the Land for Settlements Account the large sum of £518,459 for purchase of estates to be cut up for close settlement. The Loans to Local Bodies Account, which deals with moneys used chiefly for roading the more inaccessible country, shows an expenditure of £92,400; and for interest on debentures, surveys, roads, &c., in connection with the Cheviot Estate £16,497 was paid. Details of all these are given. The total expenditure out of loan account was £1,548,683, but, as previously explained, this account was aided by a transfer from revenue of £425,000 to the Public Works Fund.

EXPENDITURE OUT OF LOAN ACCOUNT, 1898-99.

	£	£
Public Works Fund—		
Immigration	105	
Public Works, Departmental	10,090	
Railways	374,141	
Roads	295,534	
Development of goldfields	17,354	
Purchase of Native lands	53,183	
Telegraph extension	28,551	
Public buildings	107,267	
Lighthouses, harbour-works, and defences	15,662	
Rates on Native lands	348	
Contingent defence	13,867	
Charges and expenses of raising loans	225	
		916,327
Cheviot Estate Account—		
Interest (including arrears)	15,850	
Surveys, Roading, &c.	534	
Expenses	113	
		16,497
Land for Settlements Account—		
Purchase of Estates	501,773	
Expenses	16,686	
		518,459
Loans to Local Bodies Account—		
Grants to Local Bodies	75,428	
Roads to open up Crown Lands	16,972	
		92,400
Total		£1,548,683