

1883.
—
VICTORIA.

R E P O R T

OF

PROCEEDINGS TAKEN UNDER THE PROVISIONS

OF

THE LAND ACT 1869, THE LAND ACT 1878, THE LAND ACTS
AMENDMENT ACT 1880, AND THE LAND ACT 1880,

DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER

1882.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.

By Authority :

JOHN FERRES, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

APPROXIMATE COST OF REPORT.

	£ s. d.	
Preparation—Not paid.		
Printing (300 copies)	24	0 0

REPORT.

To His Excellency The Most Honorable the Marquis of Normanby, G.C.M.G.,
Governor of Victoria, &c., &c., &c.

Department of Lands and Survey,
Melbourne, 9th April 1883.

MY LORD,

In accordance with the 111th section of *The Land Act* 1869, I have the honor to submit the following Report of proceedings taken under the provisions of that Act, *The Land Act* 1878, *The Land Acts Amendment Act* 1880, and *The Land Act* 1880, during the year 1882.

The classification of subjects is in the following order:—

- I.—Settlement.
- II.—Sales by auction.
- III.—Pastoral occupation.
- IV.—Departmental management.
- V.—Miscellaneous.

I.—SETTLEMENT.

The extent and method of alienation of Crown Lands in Victoria, from the first sales to the 31st December 1882, are shown in the following Table (A):—

TABLE A.

	BY AUCTION.				BY SELECTION.								General Total. Area.
	Country Lands.	Town Lands.	Suburban Lands.	Totals by Auction, &c.	Selection and Lease.		Certificate Selection.		42nd Section, Act 1865.				
					No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	
Under Imperial Acts	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	No.	Acres.	No.	Acres.	No.	Acres.	No.	Acres.	Acres.
... ..	...	...	...	3,944,237	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,944,237
” <i>Land Act</i> 1860	392,610	1,273	4,979	398,862	...	410,600	...	...	...	...	...	...	809,462
” ” 1862	422,610	2,800	31,295	456,705	...	701,322	...	59,992	...	...	...	...	1,879,940
” ” 1865	639,761	6,709	34,137	680,607	5,900	1,499,910	3,078	559,423	...	786,083	...	...	3,526,023
Totals ...	...	...	...	5,480,411	...	3,273,753	...	619,415	...	786,083	...	...	10,159,662
<i>Land Act</i> 1869.													
During year—					Section 19.		Section 49.		Section 11.		Section 10.		
1870	141,928	1,169	5,588	148,685	3,017	320,719	131	1,873	...	...	...	...	471,277
1871	112,601	1,737	4,102	118,440	4,575	477,685	673	9,751	...	...	...	...	605,876
1872	142,718	1,459	2,434	146,611	7,771	780,819	1,408	16,357	...	...	...	...	943,787
1873	15,072	1,442	3,415	19,929	6,689	1,041,779	1,455	21,287	...	...	...	...	1,082,995
1874	47,397	853	1,405	49,655	9,578	1,809,668	1,493	22,030	...	...	...	...	1,881,353
1875	79,124	1,663	2,608	83,395	6,320	1,171,849	771	11,671	...	...	...	...	1,266,915
1876	147,997	822	1,809	150,628	5,785	1,029,141	697	11,215	...	...	...	...	1,190,984
1877	73,756	1,304	946	76,006	6,240	1,113,266	777	13,226	...	...	...	...	1,202,498
1878	45,346	1,400	630	47,376	7,524	1,389,955	1,534	25,174	...	...	...	...	1,462,505
1879	51,817	1,607	3,006	56,430	5,726	1,006,024	887	13,760	75	12,430	...	...	1,088,644
1880	25,307	626	1,339	27,272	4,036	725,001	1,054	16,262	67	11,209	56	167	779,911
1881	22,336	698	1,719	24,753	3,110	564,306	1,151	18,176	42	6,122	106	318	613,675
1882	29,347	800	1,239	31,386	4,383	830,166	837	14,056	51	7,039	47	141	882,788
Totals under <i>Land Acts</i> 1869 & 1878	934,746	15,580	30,240	980,566	74,754	12,260,378	12,868	194,838	235	36,800	209	626	13,473,208

Auction 6,460,977 acres.
Selection *17,171,893 ”

Total alienation 23,632,870 acres.

* Of this area, 3,207,028 acres may be set down as having been forfeited or abandoned, and subsequently included in re-adjustments of selections re-licensed, sold by auction, or retained by the Crown.

Table B shows the progress of selection under sections 19 and 49 of *The Land Act 1869* :—

TABLE B.—LAND SELECTED.

Year.	Under 19th Section.				Under 49th Section.			
	Applications Approved.	Acreage.	Average to each Selection.	Fees payable yearly.	Applications Approved.	Acreage.	Average to each Selection.	Fees payable yearly.
			Acres.	£ s. d.			Acres.	£
1870 ...	3,017	320,719	106	32,071 18 0	131	1,873	14	442
1871 ...	4,575	477,635	104	47,768 0 0	673	9,751	14	2,208
1872 ...	7,771	780,819	100	78,081 0 0	1,408	16,407	12	2,836
1873 ...	6,689	1,041,779	156	104,177 0 0	1,455	21,287	15	2,543
1874 ...	9,578	1,809,668	189	180,966 0 0	1,493	22,030	15	2,632
1875 ...	6,320	1,171,849	185	117,184 0 0	771	11,671	15	1,242
1876 ...	5,785	1,029,141	176	102,914 0 0	697	11,215	16	1,278
1877 ...	6,240	1,113,266	178	111,329 0 0	777	13,226	17	1,691
1878 ...	7,524	1,389,955	185	138,995 10 0	1,534	25,174	16	2,954
1879 ...	5,726	1,006,024	176	58,161 6 0	887	13,760	15	2,387
1880 ...	4,036	725,001	180	37,112 17 0	1,054	16,262	15	2,483
1881 ...	3,110	564,306	181	28,402 0 0	1,151	18,176	16	2,390
1882 ...	4,383	830,166	189	41,806 5 0	837	14,056	17	1,668

Under section 19 of *The Land Act 1869*, the fee payable for occupation of land under the provisions of Part II. thereof was Two shillings per acre per annum for a period of three years from date of license.

Section 2 of *The Land Act 1878*, which came into operation on 1st January 1879, extended to six years the period of licenses under section 19 of the Principal Act, and reduced the fee per acre to One shilling per annum ; hence the reduced amount of fees payable yearly on account of the areas selected during 1879, 1880, 1881, and 1882.

Table C shows the extent of the operation of sections 19 and 49 during each month of the year :—

TABLE C.

1882.	Section 19.			Section 49.		
	Number of Applications made.	Number Approved.	Area Selected.	Number of Applications made.	Number Approved.	Area Selected.
			Acres.			Acres.
January ...	349	414	73,881	81	116	1,872
February ...	483	273	52,263	60	53	841
March ...	439	430	94,103	99	96	1,717
April ...	483	414	76,593	104	66	1,088
May ...	523	312	56,796	129	54	807
June ...	686	435	85,945	162	81	1,343
July ...	712	274	52,659	172	61	1,011
August ...	826	392	75,480	184	69	1,088
September ...	724	365	65,307	157	60	1,030
October ...	697	391	70,630	146	48	810
November ...	542	241	46,982	134	62	1,121
December ...	502	442	79,527	121	71	1,328
Totals ...	6,966	4,383	830,166	1,549	837	14,056

NOTE.—When in any month the applications approved exceed in number those made, the excess consists of applications lodged during previous months.

THE LAND ACT 1878.

Section 10 provides for licensees of residence sites obtaining Crown grants under certain conditions. During the year, 47 applications, representing an area of 141 acres, were allowed under this section.

Section 11 provides for issue of non-residence licenses for a period of six years, the fee payable being Two shillings per acre per annum, and for the issue of leases, on expiration of the term of licenses, for a period of fourteen years, at a rental of Two

shillings per acre per annum. Table D shows the transactions under this section during 1882:—

TABLE D.

Number of Applications.		Area Selected.	Average to each Selection.	Fees Payable Yearly.
Made.	Approved.			
82	51	Acres. 7,039	Acres. 138	£ s. d. 703 18 0

THE LAND ACTS AMENDMENT ACT 1880.

Section 4 provides for the holders of licenses under section 49 of the Principal Act obtaining Crown grants without competition; 396 applications, representing 6,677 acres, have been approved during the year, and the sum of £27,083 has been received under this section.

THE LAND ACT 1880.

Section 3 of this Act provides for alteration of the term and conditions of licenses under section 19 of *The Land Act* 1869, whereby holders thereof who are in arrear with their license fees may have their licenses endorsed for an extended term, not exceeding in the whole six years, in lieu of three, as provided by the Act of 1869, the fees being reduced from Two shillings per acre per annum to One shilling.

By this provision the payment of arrears due at the time of such endorsement is not required, but carried forward, the licensee paying his rent from the date of the endorsement only at the lower rate for the extended term. *See Illustration A.**

Considerable relief has thus been afforded, and, during this year, 794 licensees have brought their holdings under the provisions of this section of the Act, representing an area of 184,578 acres, the amount of arrears due on these licenses at the time of endorsement being £20,678.

Licensees who have taken advantage of this provision, and subsequently find themselves in a position to pay up their arrears, and are desirous of obtaining their titles, are allowed to revert to the provisions of *The Land Act* 1869.

Section 4 of this Act provides for the endorsement of leases, in like manner that section 3 provides for the endorsement of licenses. The advantages of this section have been secured by 1,958 lessees, holding in the aggregate 419,029 acres, and the amount due on these leases—viz., £59,442 13s. 6d.—is also carried forward, and will be realized by the reduced fee of One shilling per acre per annum being collected during the extended period of their leases. *See Illustration B.†*

Two hundred and forty-one licensees under the *The Land Act* 1869 applied for leases for 14 years, which were endorsed under the provisions of this section, representing 52,801 acres, in consequence of which the sum of £3,050 7s. 6d. is carried forward.

Section 6 of this Act provides that a lessee may give an “order” for the delivery of the Crown grant to any person who may have made an advance of money on the security of a lease, the mortgage being transferred from the lease to the Crown grant. Two hundred and twenty-two lessees have made application in accordance with the provisions of this section for the registration of such orders, representing in all an area of 43,256 acres.

* *A* holds a license for 3 years, dated 1st January 1878; he has only paid one half-year's rent of 1s. per acre up to 1st July 1878; on 1st January 1881, therefore, he is in arrear 5s. per acre. Under this section his license is endorsed from, say, 1st April 1881 for a term of 5 years, at a half-yearly rental of 6d. per acre, payable in advance, from 1st April 1881 to 1st April 1886. The charge for endorsement is 5s.

† *B* holds a lease for 7 years, dated 1st June 1879, and has only paid three half-yearly rentals of 1s. per acre up to 1st December 1880; therefore, on 1st December 1881 he is in arrear to the extent of 3s. per acre. On the last given date his lease is endorsed for 11 years, viz., to 1st December 1892, to which date he will have to pay 6d. per acre half-yearly, when his Crown grant will become due.

The following Table shows the number of licenses and leases revoked or declared expired during 1882 :—

TABLE E.

		Number.	Extent.
			Acres.
Licenses	Section 42, <i>Land Act</i> 1865 ...	13	590
	Section 19, <i>Land Act</i> 1869 ...	816	152,806
	Section 49, <i>Land Act</i> 1869 ...	135	2,042
Leases	Section 20, <i>Land Act</i> 1869 ...	26	1,682

NOTE.—The Treasury profited to the extent of £9,723 7s. through revocations and forfeitures during 1882.

Table F sets forth the grounds on which the licenses and leases referred to in Table E were revoked or declared expired, and the lands resumed by the Crown :—

TABLE F.

	At Licensee's request.	Non-payment of Fees.	Non-compliance with or Violation of Conditions.	For Re-license.	Issued in Error.	De-clared Expired	Land Sold.	Death of Licensee.	Insolvency of Licensee.	Amend-ed Sur-veys, &c.	Total.
Licenses—											
Section 42, <i>Land Act</i> 1865 ...	...	11	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	13
Section 19, <i>Land Act</i> 1869 ...	260	282	121	46	2	43	37	7	8	10	816
Section 49, <i>Land Act</i> 1869 ...	6	63	6	...	...	24	35	...	1	...	135
Leases—											
Section 20, <i>Land Act</i> 1869 ...	2	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Totals ...	268	380	128	46	2	68	72	7	9	10	990

Reports have been obtained from Land Officers as to the proceedings of selectors and the progress of settlement during the year in their respective districts, and a digest of their reports is given in Appendix A.

Appendix A.

Table G shows the estimated total area of Victoria, approximately the accessible extent thereof, lands alienated and otherwise appropriated, and the area remaining available for selection :—

TABLE G.

	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Total area of Victoria ...	...	...	56,245,760
Deduct mallee country ...	...	...	11,535,500
Total accessible area ...	...	...	44,710,260
Land alienated up to December 1864 ...	6,633,639		
Roads, &c., in connection therewith ...	331,682		
		6,965,321	
Land alienated under <i>Land Act</i> 1865 ...	3,526,023		
Roads, &c., in connection therewith ...	176,301		
		3,702,324	
Land alienated under <i>Land Acts</i> 1869 and 1878 ...	13,473,208		
Roads, &c., in connection therewith ...	673,660		
		14,146,868	
Land included in cities, towns, &c. ...	...	303,000	
Auriferous lands, available under section 49 only (about) ...	...	972,397	
Mountain forest lands ...	...	11,867,127	
State forests ...	...	926,105	
Timber reserves ...	...	222,230	
Other reserves ...	...	725,350	
		39,830,722	
		4,879,538	
Estimated area of lands abandoned or forfeited to the Crown ...	...	3,207,028	
Approximate area suitable for selection, January 1883 ...	...	8,086,566	

LOCAL LAND BOARDS.

During the year 1882, 418 sittings were held, at which applications for land and other business, comprising in all 9,090 subjects, were dealt with.

APPLICATIONS UNDER SECTION 20, LAND ACT 1869, FOR LEASES OR GRANTS.

The applications during 1882 for leases or grants had relation principally to lands selected under section 19 during 1879, in which year the total area selected under that section was 1,006,024 acres.

The following Table shows the transactions during 1882 :—

TABLE H.

Applications.		Grants Gazetted as Approved.	Leases Gazetted as Approved.	Purchase Completed.	Area Purchased.	Area Leased.	Balance of Purchase money paid by Licensees.	Area Leased and afterwards Purchased.	Amount Paid by Lessees as Balance of Purchase-money.
Lodged.	Dealt with.								
2,186	1,869	83	1,786	3,288	Aces. 397,865	Aces. 317,320	£ 2,703	Aces. 393,633	£ 59,491

Table I shows the number of Crown grants under section 20 of *The Land Act* 1869 of holdings varying in extent from 10 acres and under to 320 acres, the issue of which was approved during 1882 :—

TABLE I.

		10 acres and under ...	21		Brought forward ...	71	
Under 50 acres, 49	{	20 "	10	Over 150 and not exceeding 200, 4	{	160 acres and under ...	3
		30 "	4			170 "	0
		40 "	6			180 "	0
		50 "	8			190 "	0
					200 "	1	
Over 50 and not exceeding 100, 14	{	60 "	3	Over 200 and not exceeding 250, 2	{	210 "	1
		70 "	2			220 "	0
		80 "	6			230 "	0
		90 "	1			240 "	0
		100 "	2			250 "	1
Over 100 and not exceeding 150, 8	{			Over 250 and not exceeding 300, 2	{	260 "	1
						270 "	0
						280 "	1
						290 "	0
						300 "	0
		110 "	3	Over 300 and not exceeding 320, 4	{	310 "	0
		120 "	3			320 "	4
		130 "	1				
		140 "	0				
		150 "	1				
		Carried forward ...	71		Total ...	83	

Of the 83 grants approved, 71 were for holdings under 150 acres, and 12 for areas ranging from 150 to 320 acres.

The number of applications received and granted respectively, under sections 19 and 20 since the Act came into operation, and the areas so applied for and disposed of, are shown by Appendix B, which also contains a statement of other transactions Appendix B. under section 20.

Appendix C gives full information as to transfers and mortgages of Crown grants issued under section 20.

SECTION 31, LAND ACT 1869.

This section conferred on holders of licenses, obtained under the repealed Acts of 1862 and 1865, to occupy lands for other than pastoral purposes, the right to acquire the fee-simple of the lands so held, credit being given in the purchase for all moneys paid by them as rent and survey fees.

In cases in which purchase has not been allowed on account of the auriferous character of the land, or of portions thereof being required or likely to be required for railways or other public purposes, such of the licensees whose payments represent

an amount equivalent to the estimated value per acre of the land have continued in occupation at a nominal rental of One shilling per annum pending removal of objections or decision as to public requirements.

Table J shows the transactions during 1882 :—

TABLE J.

Number of Applications.		Purchases Completed.	Area Purchased.	Balances of Purchase-money Received.	Survey Fees Allowed.
Received.	Approved.				
34	57*	103	Acres. 4,570	£ s. d. 358 17 6	£ s. d. 221 2 6

* The surplus of applications approved over the number received during the year consists chiefly of applications the previous objections to which have been withdrawn.

SECTION 33, LAND ACT 1869.

The transactions under this section in favor of lessees under *The Amending Land Act 1865* were as follow :—

TABLE K.

Applications Received.	Purchases Completed.	Area Purchased.	Balances of Purchase-money Paid.
4	4	Acres. 610	£ s. d. 115 2 0

II.—SALES OF CROWN LANDS BY AUCTION.

The area of country lands sold at auction during 1882 was about 29,347 acres, of which about 15,804 acres were improved and subject to valuation, and 13,543 unimproved.

Table L shows the proceeds of sales by auction of country lands during each year of the operation of *The Land Act 1869* :—

TABLE L.

Year.						Area Sold.		Amount Realized.			Average per Acre.		
						A.	R. P.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1870	...	...	...	...	...	*141,928	0 0	179,939	0 0		1 5 4		
1871	...	...	...	...	...	†112,601	0 0	132,160	0 0		1 3 5		
1872—6 months ending 30th June—													
			Unimproved land	...	...	87,273	3 12	96,695	11 4		1 2 2		
			Improved	„	...	2,345	2 13	3,288	15 0		1 8 0		
„ 6 months ending 31st December—													
			Unimproved land	...	...	20,425	3 31	25,772	3 0		1 5 2		
			Improved	„	...	2,180	0 20	2,450	18 0		1 2 5		
1873—6 months ending 30th June—													
			Unimproved land	...	...	4,679	3 8	6,816	14 10		1 9 1		
			Improved	„	...	2,457	2 35	3,186	7 1		1 6 0		
„ 6 months ending 31st December—													
			Unimproved land	...	...	4,182	2 35	10,156	3 1		2 8 6		
			Improved	„	...	3,684	3 39	6,158	9 10		1 13 5		

* These figures include 11,523 acres passed at auction and afterwards purchased.

† These figures include 30,460 acres passed at auction and afterwards purchased.

TABLE L—continued.

Year.	Area Sold.		Amount Realized.			Average per Acre.		
	A.	R. P.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1874—6 months ending 30th June—								
Unimproved land	10,711	2 16	12,588	13	0	1	3	6
Improved „	8,772	0 15	11,293	18	7	1	5	9
„ 6 months ending 31st December—								
Unimproved land	16,586	0 17	23,480	1	10	1	8	3
Improved „	11,327	3 38	12,072	10	8	1	1	4
1875—6 months ending 30th June—								
Unimproved land	32,042	3 26	41,688	19	10	1	6	0
Improved „	20,175	0 10	26,845	15	10	1	6	7
„ 6 months ending 31st December—								
Unimproved land	2,079	0 6	3,002	10	8	1	8	10
Improved „	24,827	0 0	34,858	10	5	1	8	1
1876—6 months ending 30th June—								
Unimproved land	22,218	2 16	30,229	1	1	1	7	2
Improved „	60,986	1 39	76,355	9	6	1	5	0
„ 6 months ending 31st December—								
Unimproved land	7,372	1 11	11,830	5	7	1	12	1
Improved „	57,420	0 11	74,340	13	8	1	5	11
1877—6 months ending 30th June—								
Unimproved land	1,592	2 4	2,639	15	5	1	13	2
Improved „	45,262	1 24	57,049	3	7	1	5	3
„ 6 months ending 31st December—								
Unimproved land	1,001	0 15	2,186	11	9	2	3	8
Improved „	25,900	1 13	32,464	7	5	1	5	1
1878—6 months ending 30th June—								
Unimproved land	808	3 15	1,483	15	6	1	16	8
Improved „	19,256	1 24	22,402	15	2	1	3	3
„ 6 months ending 31st December—								
Unimproved land	2,653	0 7	3,635	11	1	1	7	5
Improved „	22,627	1 14	29,052	12	3	1	5	8
1879—6 months ending 30th June—								
Unimproved land	9,978	1 9	17,811	6	4	1	15	8
Improved „	25,359	2 9	32,776	17	11	1	5	10
„ 6 months ending 31st December—								
Unimproved land	4,544	0 38	5,800	14	2	1	5	6
Improved „	11,934	2 12	14,519	10	4	1	4	4
1880—6 months ending 30th June—								
Unimproved land	3,795	3 37	5,858	2	11	1	10	11
Improved „	10,309	0 6	13,313	3	5	1	5	10
„ 6 months ending 31st December—								
Unimproved land	3,571	2 3	5,208	8	4	1	9	2
Improved „	7,630	2 35	8,780	5	4	1	3	0
1881—6 months ending 30th June—								
Unimproved land	3,463	3 2	6,860	11	7	1	19	7
Improved „	8,235	3 0	12,370	14	1	1	10	0
„ 6 months ending 31st December—								
Unimproved land	3,418	0 39	5,384	18	0	1	11	6
Improved „	7,218	2 6	9,171	1	5	1	5	5
1882—6 months ending 30th June—								
Unimproved land	8,623	2 22	13,143	15	11	1	10	6
Improved „	9,758	1 21	15,002	15	7	1	10	9
„ 6 months ending 31st December—								
Unimproved land	4,919	1 32	8,012	19	6	1	12	7
Improved „	6,045	3 26	7,447	2	10	1	4	8

Table M shows the alienation by auction, during 1882, of town, suburban, and country lands, and the amounts derived therefrom :—

TABLE M.

Town Lands.			Suburban Lands.			Country Lands.					
Area.		Amount.	Average per Acre.		Area.		Amount.	Average per Acre.			
A.	R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	A.	R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	A.	R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
800	1 22	131,910 3 9	164 13 1	1,239	2 7	4,599 9 6	3 14 3	29,347	1 21	43,606 1 3	1 9 8

III.—PASTORAL OCCUPATION.

During the year, 51 runs were transferred. The fees for transfers amounted to £51. Penalties for delays in payment of pastoral rents produced £55 12s. 6d.

Fifty runs, comprising an area of about 816,000 acres, were either abandoned or forfeited during the year.

SECTION 78.

The area held under pastoral license was, during the year, reduced by sales, selections, reservations, and proclamation of commons, to the extent of 480,588 acres. In June 1882, 70 applications for reduction of pastoral rent were considered, and allowed to the amount of £3,986 12s., and in December 1882, 85 such applications were considered, and reductions allowed to the amount of £4,429 14s. The amount received for fees under this section was £750.

The pastoral revenue for the year amounted to £57,838 10s. 5d.

The sum of £15,624 0s. 9d. was received during the year for grazing licenses.

The area under pastoral license on 31st December 1882 was 10,120,730 acres.

Table N shows the amount of pastoral rent paid for each year, from the passing of *The Land Act* 1869 to the end of 1882 :—

TABLE N.

								£
1870	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	167,491
1871	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	172,228
1872	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	153,522
1873	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	140,791
1874	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	127,114
1875	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	139,304
1876	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	162,443
1877	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	146,043
1878	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	134,079
1879	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	107,732
1880	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88,065
1881	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	71,036
1882	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57,838

IV.—DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT.

No alteration of any importance has taken place in the management of the Department.

Several of the vacancies which have occurred through death, transfer, and retirement of officers have been left unfilled. Selection has been on a much more extensive scale during this year than during either of the two preceding years, and the work of the Department has increased in proportion, but no arrears have been allowed to accumulate, and few complaints have been made.

The report of the Assistant Surveyor-General on the work performed under his direction, relating to surveys, draughting, photo-lithography, and engraving is submitted in Appendix D.

SECTION 100.—PUBLIC HEARINGS.

One hundred and eighty-two cases were publicly heard by the Minister during the year.

V.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION 58.—COMMONS.

Commonage to the extent of 65,570 acres was proclaimed during the year. Of this area, 43,330 acres were added to existing commons, and 22,240 acres comprised in new commons.

Commons were diminished by proclamation to the extent of 3,950 acres.

SECTION 98.—PENALTIES.

Table O shows the amounts of penalties, at the rate of Five shillings per acre, received during 1882 and previous years for non-improvement by lessees under the Land Acts of 1862 and 1865, and interest on rents in arrear :—

TABLE O.

				£	s.	d.
Prior to 1st January 1873	...	...	...	2,826	0	0
From 1st January to 31st December 1873	...	...	...	3,869	0	0
" " 1874	...	...	...	13,327	5	0
" " 1875	...	...	...	25,477	0	0
" " 1876	...	...	...	72,160	14	3
" " 1877	...	...	...	24,796	18	0
" " 1878	...	...	...	4,613	5	4
" " 1879	...	...	...	1,323	10	1
" " 1880	...	...	...	1,886	2	6
" " 1881	...	...	...	2,457	11	0
" " 1882	...	...	...	1,698	3	2
				<hr/>		
				£154,435	9	4

CROWN GRANTS AND LEASES.

Six thousand five hundred and eleven Crown grants and 2,098 leases were prepared and passed from the head office during 1882, the fees payable on which may be set down at £9,785.

FEES AND CERTIFICATES.

The sum of £34,727 0s. 2d. was received during the year for certificates, transfers, and registrations under *The Land Act* 1869, and for miscellaneous fees, including those payable for grants, leases, and survey charges.

LEASES AND LICENSES FOR OTHER THAN AGRICULTURAL OR PASTORAL PURPOSES.

The amount payable during 1882 for occupation and use of land under sections 45 and 47 of *The Land Act* 1869 is shown in Table P :—

TABLE P.

				£	s.	d.
For sites on the banks of Yarra	...	...	...	619	10	0
" other factory sites	...	...	...	473	8	0
" sites of rural stores and inns	...	...	...	1,433	5	8
" sawmills	...	...	...	1,391	5	0
" ferries	...	...	...	151	0	0
" quarries	...	...	...	638	0	0
" brick licenses	...	...	...	434	10	0
" priced licenses	...	...	...	5,486	13	8
" all other licenses (tramways, races, &c.)	...	...	...	3,257	8	6
				<hr/>		
				£13,885	0	10

BOARD OF EXAMINERS.

During the year one examination for Land Surveyors and one for Pupil Draftsmen were held. At the Surveyors' examination 18 gentlemen presented themselves, of whom 11 succeeded in obtaining certificates of competency.

One gentleman, of whose professional qualifications the Board was fully assured, obtained a certificate without examination.

The fees received from candidates amounted to £23 2s.

REVENUE.

Table Q shows in detail the revenue contributed by the Department to the Treasury during 1882 :—

TABLE Q.

<i>Temporary Occupation.</i>				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Pastoral occupation and grazing licenses ...	...	...	...	73,462	11	2			
Rents under sections 45 and 47, <i>Land Act</i> 1869 ...	...	...	...	14,147	6	4			
Total ...				...			87,609	17	6
<i>Alienated in Fee-simple by Auction and Deferred Payments, also Rents received towards Alienation.</i>									
		A.	R. P.	£	s.	d.			
By auction—Town land ...	...	800	1 22	131,910	3	9			
„ Suburban land ...	...	1,239	2 7	4,599	9	6			
„ Country land ...	...	29,347	1 21	43,606	13	10			
				180,116 7 1					
Sundry payments on account of purchase in fee-simple ...	...	...	...	2,136	13	2			
By purchase under section 31, <i>Land Act</i> 1869 ...	...	...	...	355	2	6			
„ „ „ 33, „ „ ...	...	...	...	115	2	0			
„ „ „ 20, „ „ ...	...	...	...	62,194	3	6			
„ „ „ 4, <i>Land Acts Amendment Act</i> 1880 ...	...	...	...	2,708	3	0			
Rents under section 19, <i>Land Act</i> 1869 ...	...	...	...	12,590	15	0			
„ „ 49, „ „ ...	...	...	...	9,744	9	11			
„ „ 19, „ „ as amended by <i>Land Act</i> 1878 and section 3, <i>Land Act</i> 1880 ...	...	...	...	99,934	13	0			
„ „ 8, „ „ 1878 ...	...	...	...	13,816	5	0			
„ „ 11, „ „ ...	...	...	...	2,055	18	6			
„ „ 20, „ „ 1869 ...	...	...	...	213,030	4	0			
„ „ 3, <i>Land Acts Amendment Act</i> 1880 ...	...	...	...	28,258	5	6			
„ „ 4, <i>Land Act</i> 1880 ...	...	...	...	49,988	15	6			
				677,044 17 8					
Penalties under section 98, <i>Land Act</i> 1869, and interest ...	...	...	...	1,698	3	2			
Fees for grants, leases, licenses, &c. ...	...	...	...	34,727	0	2			
Sale of plans and sundries ...	...	...	...	1,226	6	5			
				37,651 9 9					
Total Revenue ...				...			802,306	4	11

EXTERMINATION OF RABBITS.

A full report on this subject will be found in Appendix E.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient servant,

A. L. TUCKER,

Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey,
and President of the Board of Land and Works.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX A.

DIGEST OF REPORTS OF LAND OFFICERS ON THE WORKING OF "THE LAND ACT 1869" IN THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS.

District.	Applications Approved.				Report as to the Working of Land Act on Holdings under Sections 19 and 40.	Report as to use made of Land granted or leased under Section 20.	Report as to Agriculture and new Rural Industries.	Remarks.
	Section 19.		Section 40.					
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.				
Alexandra ...	153	Acres. 27,655	35	Acres. 152	Working satisfactorily ...	Chiefly for grazing. A few lessees have transferred their holdings to neighbors.	An increased area under cultivation. Wheat crops yielding well. Oats under average. Potatoes scarce.	Difficult and expensive transit to markets bars the way to extensive cultivation at present.
Ararat ...	87	16,434	67	1,295	Satisfactorily. Land used chiefly for grazing purposes, although a larger area under cultivation than for the past 12 years, and the yield one of the best yet recorded.	Several leases have been transferred to adjoining selectors.	No new industry. Vine culture is on the increase.	There are large areas in this district withheld from selection by extensive mining reservations and State forests.
Bairnsdale ...	117	14,575	27	399	Selection steadily increasing, localities hitherto deemed too distant and inaccessible now being taken up.	Very few selections changing hands. Settlement <i>bonâ fide</i> .	Cultivation of hops rapidly extending on the flats of the Nicholson, Tambo, and Buchan rivers. The area under crop of maize largely increased. Tobacco and arrowroot still cultivated.	Value of land adapted to growth of hops quite doubled, because of the increasing demand and good prices obtained for that plant.
Ballarat ...	28	3,049	89	1,113	Settlement of a <i>bonâ fide</i> character. The 49th section useful in retaining miners on worked out goldfields.	Excepting in the parishes of Dean, Bungaree, and Learmonth, grazing appears to be taking the place of agriculture.	Crops throughout the district exceptionally good, and prices high. No new industries.	
Beechworth ...	270	35,968	73	1,244	The provisions of the Act fairly carried out, new selection chiefly by residents in the district.	Principally used for grazing. A few transfers of leases have been registered during the year.	Yield of cereals good, and that of wine and hops excellent. Tobacco for the most part a failure.	A large area of rangy country has been taken up for grazing.
Benalla ...	705	117,893	19	374	Satisfactory ...	Mostly still held by original selectors. A few transfers have been made to neighboring lessees, and a few to merchants, as security.	Cultivation still increasing; crops generally above the average. More attention is being given to the cultivation of the vine.	The success of agricultural industries has already shown a tendency to break up large estates. In two instances owners have offered their lands for sale in blocks suitable for general farming operations.
Castlemaine ...	78	11,236	43	646	Selection steadily progressing and <i>bonâ fide</i> .	In the majority of instances the land is still held by the original licensee. In some parts of the district grazing is superseding agriculture.	The yields have been fully up to the average of the district. In Tylden, Trentham, Bullarto, and Coliban crops have been very good. Watle culture has been introduced with good prospects.	The 47th section garden licenses have proved a great boon to many in the district.
Echuca ...	117	19,709	5	82	Generally satisfactory. In some few cases, principally through drought, persons have been compelled to sell out and leave the district.	Principally held for grazing purposes. The locality is too dry for profitable extensive agriculture.	The returns realized are below the estimate, in some places well nigh a failure. Vineyards are, however, doing well.	Several successful experiments have been made in irrigation, and results have exceeded expectations.
Geelong and... Camperdown	87	9,636	84	1,199	Increased activity in selection induced through prospects of railway extension.	Mostly used for grazing, but an increased area has also been brought under cultivation of cereals.	Crops of all kinds good, excepting immediately round Geelong. No new industries.	Very few blocks have changed hands or been abandoned during the year.

APPENDIX A—continued.

District.	Applications Approved.				Report as to the Working of Land Act on Holdings under Sections 19 and 49.	Report as to use made of Land granted or leased under Section 20.	Report as to Agriculture and new Rural Industries.	Remarks.
	Section 19.		Section 49.					
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.				
Hamilton ...	346	62,800	42	Acres. 753	All the good land having been alienated, that being selected now is of inferior quality, and is only fit for grazing purposes.	No new industries have been introduced ...	There is a desire to have the unalienated Crown lands classified, so that small farmers could lease grazing blocks of 2,000 acres or over.	
Horsham ...	834	206,074	Nil	Nil	The Act is working most satisfactorily. The applicants continue to be numerous, especially for land for wheat-growing purposes.	The land is mostly held for wheat-growing. Only poor crops have been obtained from the plains, but in the timbered districts fine yields are reported. Milling and the manufacture of mallee oil are the only rural industries.	The district has been well grassed this season. The rabbit pest is not so great as last year. There has been a large influx of South Australian farmers who have selected and settled here.	
Kerang ...	128	27,169	47	881	Both sections working well. Many are taking advantage of the 49th section to increase their holding.	Grazing and cultivation Transfers have been made by the lessees, principally to the large landholders.	Some useful work has been accomplished by the Waterworks Trust, and water will now be forced down numerous dry channels.	
Melbourne and Warragul	192	31,899	49	951	The Act is working well and satisfactorily.	As a rule the selectors are holding on to the land. There are exceptional cases where the leases have been parted with.	Wheat is the principal crop grown. Crops only poor, except in a few instances where irrigation has taken place.	
Omeo ...	83	14,888	26	428	Very satisfactorily ...	Crops, on the whole, are good, consisting of oats, pease, wheat, hay, potatoes, barley, hops, grass, tobacco, and fruits. No new industries. There are about twenty sawmills at work in the Warragul district, and here also gardens and orchards are being extensively formed, with good prospects.	The discovery of a rich reef near the township of Omeo has improved the district, and enhanced the value of land generally.	
Sale ...	275	33,802	52	765	Is still successful, and the provisions of the Amending Land Act 1880 have given practical relief to many struggling selectors.	Agriculture and sheep-farming combined. Very few transfers take place, and these only from one lessee to another.	There is still a large area of both grazing and agricultural land available for selection; the latter is heavily timbered.	
Sandhurst ...	36	6,708	17	250	Settlement under both sections progressing satisfactorily.	Principally for grazing. A few leaseholds have changed hands, but, as a rule, they are not passing into the hands of large landowners.	Labor is very scarce, and farmers have had considerable difficulty in securing their crops. The country generally is looking much better than last year.	
Seymour ...	286	67,139	46	849	These sections working most satisfactorily. A greater number of selections have been taken up than during any previous year except 1864.	An increased area under cultivation. Crops of wheat, oats, and hay are good. Vineyards looking remarkably well.	There is still a large area of good grazing land open for selection.	
St. Arnaud ...	465	104,741	102	1,930	Both sections working well. Family selections on the increase.	Land chiefly used for grazing by the original selectors. Very few transfers have taken place.	Scarcity of water and the rabbit pest have been serious difficulties to contend against, but the operations of Water Trust, rabbit extermination, and extension of railways give hope for the future.	
Stawell ...	96	18,731	14	245	Working satisfactorily ...	Sheep-grazing and agriculture. Comparatively few transfers being made.	The same remarks apply to this district as are made respecting the Ararat district.	

APPENDIX B.

APPLICATIONS for Licenses under Section 19, *The Land Act* 1869.

Year.	Number Received.	Area in Acres.	Number Granted.	Area in Acres.
1870	5,746	603,572	3,017	320,719
1871	10,771	970,680	4,575	477,685
1872	7,995	995,786	7,771	780,819
1873	9,587	1,606,389	6,689	1,041,779
1874	13,283	2,480,823	9,578	1,809,668
1875	8,732	1,375,072	6,320	1,171,849
1876	8,988	1,609,045	5,785	1,029,141
1877	10,967	2,043,830	6,240	1,113,266
1878	9,737	1,741,136	7,524	1,389,955
1879	7,033	1,215,024	5,726	1,006,024
1880	4,816	874,848	4,036	725,001
1881	5,873	1,115,282	3,110	564,306
1882	6,966	1,311,635	4,383	830,166
	110,494	17,943,122	74,754	*12,260,378

* Of the area selected under the several Land Acts, 3,207,028 acres may be set down as having been forfeited or abandoned, and subsequently included in re-adjustments of selections, re-licensed, sold by auction, or retained by the Crown.

TRANSACTIONS under Section 20, *The Land Act* 1869, to 31st December 1882.

No. of Applications for Leases and Grants.	Area in Acres.	No. of Applications for Leases Approved.	Area in Acres.	No. of Leaseholds converted into Freeholds.	Area in Acres.	No. of Grants Issued.	Area in Acres.	No. of Leaseholds Mortgaged.	Area in Acres.	No. of Leaseholds Transferred.	Area in Acres.
47,650	7,355,819	38,434	6,089,908	12,971	1,663,986	16,647	1,910,919	16,805	3,337,537	10,358	1,745,571

APPENDIX C.

"THE LAND ACT 1869."

TRANSACTIONS by Transfer of Grants under Section 20, prior to and during 1882.

Districts.	Large Landed Proprietors.		Farmers.		Storekeepers and Publicans.		Solicitors, Auctioneers, Accountants, Agents.		Banking Companies.		Graziers.		Miscellaneous.		Total.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
Ararat	18	2,648	45	4,967	14	1,572	10	971	8	1,055	19	1,818	5	976	119	14,007
Alexandra	6	1,375	35	3,605	6	257	3	473	1	320	24	2,709	7	453	82	9,192
Bairnsdale	1	259	1	20	...	...	3	498	19	2,332	26	1,892	34	2,555	84	7,556
Ballarat	19	1,393	78	5,938	15	571	11	1,091	1	80	3	370	41	2,287	168	11,730
Beechworth... ..	12	1,107	105	8,235	31	2,949	4	406	9	1,130	30	2,220	40	3,893	231	19,940
Benalla	12	1,716	73	7,978	10	1,540	5	1,132	5	664	3	719	20	2,985	128	16,734
Camperdown	8	981	39	2,590	6	250	2	238	...	...	11	879	11	652	77	5,590
Castlemaine	15	1,078	141	8,029	20	1,365	5	369	5	537	2	56	37	2,666	225	14,100
Echuca	41	8,865	112	16,781	21	2,432	14	2,559	5	450	10	2,316	56	4,853	259	38,256
Geelong	37	3,144	99	6,059	7	212	7	903	5	182	20	1,923	37	2,694	212	15,117
Hamilton	118	14,470	209	24,870	37	2,816	15	1,294	14	2,564	40	6,381	86	11,434	519	63,829
Dunolly	4	160	33	3,640	9	486	4	734	1	54	5	202	8	799	64	6,075
Horsham	20	4,123	69	15,060	15	3,742	...	...	4	846	7	1,710	21	4,004	136	29,485
Kerang	4	976	10	1,540	4	727	2	109	3	958	1	217	11	3,217	35	7,744
Melbourne	9	1,884	82	6,723	45	5,122	10	879	9	1,361	43	4,625	64	6,347	262	26,941
Sale	6	605	67	6,155	24	2,311	4	308	1	45	39	4,561	46	2,702	187	16,687
Omeo ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	112	...	...	1	320	3	113	1	10	7	555
Sandhurst	2	200	124	14,011	20	1,662	13	2,010	1	363	2	223	47	4,933	209	23,402
Seymour	8	829	96	8,453	28	2,594	10	751	5	591	16	1,525	36	2,632	199	17,375
St. Arnaud	15	3,480	36	6,428	10	1,699	3	716	5	678	15	4,038	19	2,286	103	19,325
Stawell	16	2,211	22	2,329	8	943	...	...	1	320	1	136	23	2,900	71	8,839
Warrnambool	10	1,484	40	2,829	10	430	2	192	1	10	22	1,623	5	403	90	6,971
	381	52,988	1516	156,240	342	33,792	127	15,633	104	14,860	342	40,256	655	65,681	3467	379,450

TRANSACTIONS by Mortgage of Grants under Section 20, prior to and during 1882.

Districts.	Large Landed Proprietors.		Farmers.		Storekeepers and Publicans.		Solicitors, Auctioneers, Accountants, Agents.		Banking Companies.		Graziers.		Miscellaneous.		Total.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
Ararat	1	17	5	548	5	467	8	1,234	17	1,444	3	229	...	...	39	3,939
Alexandra ... ..	...	...	1	120	5	897	4	365	14	1,409	...	...	13	1,844	37	4,635
Bairnsdale	1	259	1	20	...	...	3	498	19	2,332	5	468	6	469	35	4,046
Ballarat	2	33	5	408	7	329	27	1,589	27	1,845	...	...	22	2,415	90	6,619
Beechworth... ..	4	237	14	2,174	15	1,297	5	762	78	7,775	1	237	30	3,231	147	15,713
Benalla ... ..	...	...	6	1,219	8	1,161	6	1,210	43	5,290	...	...	22	4,086	85	12,966
Camperdown	2	418	2	60	4	508	4	177	11	905	4	199	25	1,951	52	4,218
Castlemaine... ..	3	310	18	1,242	16	1,283	7	607	46	4,826	...	...	53	4,456	143	12,724
Echuca	6	1,250	12	2,439	11	2,067	10	1,600	82	14,479	...	...	31	6,494	152	28,329
Geelong	7	658	10	451	10	888	16	1,149	12	666	2	259	26	1,579	83	5,650
Hamilton	22	5,166	16	1,742	23	3,332	14	2,894	71	15,020	28	5,491	13	2,031	187	35,676
Dunolly	1	175	3	310	4	241	1	89	21	2,604	2	163	16	1,663	48	5,245
Horsham	6	1,853	5	813	2	217	12	2,682	35	7,345	1	320	23	5,892	84	19,122
Kerang ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	320	...	...	4	968	1	320	...	...	6	1,608
Melbourne	12	2,645	6	566	16	2,506	20	2,333	35	5,054	1	320	43	7,377	133	20,801
Sale	3	313	7	795	11	1,597	17	1,893	35	3,145	24	1,715	17	2,753	114	12,211
Omeo ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sandhurst ... ..	...	...	11	1,663	15	1,148	10	1,087	52	5,834	...	...	39	5,059	127	14,791
Seymour	1	12	6	672	17	1,647	8	1,587	31	3,137	...	...	33	3,696	96	10,751
St. Arnaud	1	20	3	499	6	1,597	12	3,241	37	8,218	11	2,017	9	2,357	79	17,949
Stawell ... ..	...	...	1	80	3	158	11	725	2	187	..	...	7	636	24	1,786
Warrnambool	6	1,004	6	928	5	237	10	1,226	6	721	3	479	28	2,109	64	6,704
	78	14,370	138	16,749	184	21,897	205	26,948	678	93,204	86	12,217	456	60,098	1825	245,483

APPENDIX D.

I have the honor to submit the following report on the Survey branch for the Year ending 31st December 1882 :—

SURVEYS.

1. The whole of the surveys for selectors, as well as a considerable portion of the other field work required by the department, is now performed under contract at prices determined by public tender as stated in the first section of last year's Report. This system of contract continues to work fairly well, although, in a good many instances, the contract surveyors complain of the inadequacy of the rates. One surveyor abandoned his contract early in the year on this account, forfeiting his guarantee deposit; and three others have declined to undertake departmental work at the prices determined by their tenders, finding it did not pay. The departmental work in these cases has been assigned to other surveyors at a schedule of prices fixed by the department. Fresh tenders were called for the work of the abandoned district, and it was re-let at a price considerably in advance of the previous rate.

The number of contract districts in the colony is 50, in each of which a contract surveyor is employed, and the amount of work required during the past year has been such as to keep most of them fully occupied.

2. The only change in the departmental field staff during the year has been the dispensing with one of the temporary assistant surveyors. The staff now consists of 5 inspecting district surveyors, 1 classified assistant surveyor, and 7 temporary assistant surveyors.

3. Besides the work in connection with inspecting, the principal departmental surveys carried out during the year have been—

- (a) The completion of the 143rd meridian through the "Mallee" to the Murray River, and certain standard lines in connection therewith.
- (b) The completion of the re-survey of the town of Maryborough.
- (c) The re-survey of the boundaries of the towns of Castlemaine and Daylesford.
- (d) The continuation of the re-survey of the city of Sandhurst and Eaglehawk combined, which will be finished early next year.
- (e) Check and revision surveys, chiefly in the Castlemaine and Beechworth districts.
- (f) Various engineering and small surveys in and around the city of Melbourne.

4. The departmental expenditure on surveys has been as follows for the year :—

Subdivision of land for sale	...	...	...	...	£847	10	8
Main road surveys	...	...	...	...	804	15	7
Standard lines, parish boundaries, &c.	...	...	...	...	759	4	8
Check and connecting lines	...	...	...	...	1,978	3	1
Re-surveys	...	...	...	...	3,113	16	5
Topographical and engineering surveys	...	...	...	...	513	15	9
Survey of sites for public purposes	...	...	...	...	306	4	9
					£8,323 10 11		

The amount received as survey fees during the year, on account of surveys made by and at the expense of the department, was £7,433 15s. 2d.

The above return of expenditure shows a considerable reduction for the year compared with last return, viz., £2,700, while the receipts have increased by about £700. Since the return for 1878, there has been a decrease in the yearly expenditure of over £12,000, while the amount received has slightly increased.

COMPUTING AND ADJUSTING BRANCHES.

5. These branches continue to perform very important work. In the computing room 409 plans of various sizes have been examined with the fieldnotes, and the computations checked during the year; while, in the adjusting room, 2,309 cases of discrepancies have been investigated, and 928 certificates of error and 1,374 certified plans issued, involving, altogether, the preparation of 4,158 plans.

There has been a considerable reduction of the staff in both rooms during the year, the total number now employed being 13, inclusive of 2 pupils.

DRAUGHTING AND LITHOGRAPHIC BRANCH.

6. From various causes this branch has been materially reduced during the year. It numbers now 25, including one pupil. Seventy parishes have been compiled, photo-lithographed, and issued; the list of published plans of parishes (printed copies of which are obtainable) now numbers upwards of 1,000. Second editions of 35 parishes have been issued to the full scale (20 chains), and upwards of 100 of the half-scale parish plans have been posted up to date, photo-lithographed, and re-issued.

The sale of lithographs has materially increased, each year exceeding that preceding it; this is, no doubt, due in a measure to the greatly increased comprehensiveness of the lithographs now sold.

The roads in 75 additional parishes have been proclaimed.

The map of Victoria showing the names and boundaries of parishes in colors, was published in May; it has been found of great service to the various Government departments in town and country; a considerable sale to the public shows that its usefulness has been generally appreciated.

The branch performed the usual amount of work for other departments, more particularly in the preparation of sets of maps in elucidation of the Railway Bill during its progress through the Legislative Assembly.

ENGRAVING.

7. The engraving of the half-inch map of the colony, commenced in connection with the geodetic survey, was resumed at the beginning of the year. The work consists in revising and completing the plates up to date, and it is attended with a good deal of trouble, on account of the variation and alteration of the allotments, introduced into many of the original surveys (already on the plates) by the operations of the free selectors. Good progress is, however, being made; three plates covering a square degree and a half have been completed, and more of a similar size are in various stages of progress.

These plates are intended to be complete to the smallest details that can be shown on a map of this scale, and will be in accord with the parish plans issued by the department. The staff consists of two engravers.

A. BLACK,
Assistant Surveyor-General.

21st February 1883.

APPENDIX E.

RABBIT REPORT.

During the past twelve months active steps have been taken by this department to destroy the rabbits in all settled portions of the country infested by them, and a large amount of success has attended the efforts made, as is fully testified by the almost total absence of complaints from selectors, farmers, and others, whereas twelve months ago a great number were received every week. The settlers all agree that an immense amount of good has been effected by the distribution on Crown lands of poisoned oats, wheat, bran and arsenic, chaff and arsenic, and—during the winter months—of bisulphide of carbon, and by the use of exterminators.

The arrangement made with the shire councils by which this department gave a subsidy of 3d. per dozen on all skins purchased by the councils at an advance of 6d. per dozen on Melbourne prices (the department defraying the railway freight) has proved advantageous, as upwards of 61,562 dozen, equal to 738,744 skins, have been purchased by the different shires from March to December 1882.

The efforts of the department have been hitherto confined to the settled portions of the country only, and the preservation of the crops and grass; but it will be necessary to extend the operations and work the lands further north, bordering on the other colonies, in order to prevent the further spread of the pest; this will involve a large outlay, and can only be fairly attempted with an increased vote. I may here remark that, in consequence of the great number of rabbits on the lower Murray frontages, in the county of Millewa, and the complaints made by the South Australian Government, a party of men was despatched there and they have commenced work.

The expenditure incurred during the past financial year 1881-82 was £12,890 10s. 3d.; that of the present year 1882-83, £4,958 2s. 3d. to 31st December 1882.

As an instance of the extent of the rabbit pest, and the necessity for continued efforts to prevent its increase, I may state that the adjoining colony of South Australia has already expended over £100,000 in its endeavors to exterminate rabbits, and purposes to expend £25,000 during 1883. The Government of New South Wales has provided £35,000 on its estimates for a similar purpose.

In Victoria, after defraying the expenditure in excess of the vote for 1881-82, only £9,000 remained to carry on the work during 1882-83.

A. MORRAH,
Secretary for Lands.

21st February 1883.

The Honorable the Minister of Lands.