

1891.

VICTORIA.

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# REPORT

OF

PROCEEDINGS TAKEN UNDER THE PROVISIONS

OF

THE LAND ACT 1884, THE MALLEE PASTORAL LEASES ACT  
1883, THE LAND ACT 1890, AND THE WATTLES ACT 1890,

DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER,

1890.

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

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# REPORT.

*To His Excellency the Right Honorable JOHN ADRIAN LOUIS, Earl of Hopetoun, Viscount Aithrie, and Baron Hope, in the Peerage of Scotland; Baron Hopetoun of Hopetoun, and Baron Niddry of Niddry Castle, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom; Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Victoria and its Dependencies, &c., &c., &c.*

Department of Lands and Survey,  
Melbourne, 22nd June, 1891.

MY LORD,

I have the honour to submit the following Report of proceedings taken under the provisions of *The Land Act 1884, The Mallee Pastoral Leases Act 1883, the Land Act 1890 (consolidated), and the Wattles Act 1890* during the year 1890.

The Report has reference to the undermentioned subjects, which are dealt with in the order indicated:—

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p>I.—Settlement.<br/>II.—Sales by auction.<br/>III.—Pastoral occupation.</p> |  | <p>IV.—Departmental management.<br/>V.—Miscellaneous.</p> |
|---|--|---|

## I.—SETTLEMENT.

The general methods of alienation of Crown lands in Victoria, from the first sales to the 31st December, 1890, are shown in the following Table (A):—

TABLE A.

	BY AUCTION.				BY SELECTION.								General Total.	
	Country Lands.	Town Lands.	Suburban Lands.	Totals by Auction, &c.	Selection and Lease.		Certificate Selection.		42nd Section, Act 1865.		—			Area.
					No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.		
Under Imperial Acts	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	
„ <i>Land Act 1860</i>	392,610	1,273	4,979	3,944,237	...	410,600	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,944,237	
„ „ 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	
<b>Totals ...</b>	...	...	...	5,480,411	...	3,273,753	...	619,415	...	786,083	...	...	10,159,662	
<b>During year—</b>	<i>Land Act 1869.</i>				<i>Land Act 1869.</i>				<i>Land Act 1878.</i>					
					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	1,309	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	
1883 ...	18,317	699	1,069	20,085	4,453	814,863	1,070	18,428	58	10,614	22	66	864,056	
1884 ...	33,112	950	1,384	35,446	3,918	705,326	1,002	16,533	71	12,200	11	33	769,538	
1885 ...	<i>Land Act 1884.</i>				3,930	699,749	714	12,922	68	10,603	83	249	750,423	
1886 ...	23,917	2,106	877	26,900	943	178,465	173	3,008	25	6,576	49	147	207,477	
1887 ...	16,661	2,800	104	19,565	64	11,029	39	708	83	11,310	15	45	42,657	
1888 ...	15,549	4,373	102	20,024	21	2,950	...	...	296	50,758	10	30	73,762	
1889 ...	10,601	2,244	835	13,680	...	...	41	5,383	418	65,862	2	6	84,931	
1890 ...	8,941	3,094	166	12,201	...	...	33	4,409	518	94,898	...	...	111,508	
<b>Totals under Land Acts 1869, 1878, 1884, &amp; 1890</b>	1,078,571	33,980	35,197	1,147,748	88,083	14,672,760	15,940	256,229	1,772	299,621	401	1,202	16,377,560	
	Auction ...				...				6,628,159 acres.					
	Selection ...				...				*19,909,063 „					
	Total ...				...				26,537,222 acres.					

\* Of this area, 4,168,008 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.

## SECTION 20, LAND ACT 1869.

This section, the rights of which were preserved by section 2 of *The Land Act* 1884, and are continued by section 2 of the *Land Act* 1890, bestowed on licensees under Part II. of *The Land Act* 1869 the right to acquire, on expiration of the term of their licences, the fee-simple of their selections, either by paying the balance of purchase money in one sum, or by deferred payments under lease.

The following Table shows the transactions during 1890 :—

TABLE B.

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.						£	s.	d.		Acres.	£	s.
3,586	3,407	90	3,317	1,253	230,346	603,474	346	0	0	229,991	48,814	0	0

NOTE.—The transactions of a like nature under section 11, *Land Act* 1878 are included in this Table.

Table C shows the number of Crown grants under section 20 of *The Land Act* 1869 of licensed holdings varying in extent from 10 acres and under to 320 acres, the issue of which was approved during 1890 :—

TABLE C.

	10 acres and under ...	22		Brought forward ...	81
	20       "       " ...	19		170 acres and under ...	1
	30       "       " ...	5		180       "       " ...	1
80 acres and under, 73	40       "       " ...	9	Over 160 and not exceeding 240,	190       "       " ...	0
	50       "       " ...	7		200       "       " ...	0
	60       "       " ...	7		210       "       " ...	0
	70       "       " ...	1		220       "       " ...	0
	80       "       " ...	3		230       "       " ...	0
	90       "       " ...	2		240       "       " ...	0
	100       "       " ...	1		250       "       " ...	0
Over 80 and not exceeding 160, 8	110       "       " ...	0	Over 240 and not exceeding 320,	260       "       " ...	0
	120       "       " ...	1		270       "       " ...	0
	130       "       " ...	2		280       "       " ...	2
	140       "       " ...	1		290       "       " ...	0
	150       "       " ...	0		300       "       " ...	0
	160       "       " ...	1		310       "       " ...	1
					320       "       " ...
Carried forward ...	81		Total ...	90	

NOTE.—This Table includes particulars of a like nature under section 11, *Land Act* 1878.

Appendix B gives full information as to transfers and mortgages during 1890 of Crown grants issued under section 20 of *The Land Act* 1869.

## SECTION 31, LAND ACT 1869.

This section, the rights of which were preserved by section 2 of *The Land Act* 1884, and are continued by section 2 of the *Land Act* 1890, conferred on holders of licences, 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 D shows the transactions during 1890:—

TABLE D.

Number of Applications.		Purchases Completed.	Area Purchased.	Balances of Purchase money Received.	Survey Fees Allowed.
Received.	Approved.				
15	59*	59	Acres. 1,518	£ s. d. 106 17 6	£ s. d. 130 3 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.

### THE LAND ACT 1878.

Under section 10 of this Act, any licensee of a residence site not situate within a city, town, or borough, who so occupied same during a continuous period of not less than three years, and paid all licence fees then due, was, at the expiration of such period, or at any time within thirty days thereafter, entitled to obtain a Crown grant of the site, if it were not auriferous or required for mining purposes, or for any public purposes. The rights conferred by this section are preserved by section 2 of *The Land Act 1884–1890*. During the year, however, no applications under this section were granted.

### THE LAND ACT 1884 AND THE LAND ACT 1890.

#### Part I. (Division 1, Part I., Land Act 1890.)

Sections 18 of these Acts confer on licensees under section 49 of *The Land Act 1869* the exclusive right of purchasing their holdings at a price to be determined by the Board of Land and Works. Two hundred and thirty-nine (239) applications, representing 4,626 acres, were approved during the year, and the sum of £2,278 was received.

#### Part III.—Agricultural and Grazing Lands. (Division 3, Part I., Land Act 1890.)

Under this Part provision is made for the occupation of Crown lands for the combined purposes of grazing and agriculture.

Section 32 empowers the Governor in Council to grant leases of "Grazing Areas" for any term of years, provided that the term for which the land is so leased shall expire not later than fourteen years after the commencement of *The Land Act 1884*. Table E shows the extent of the operation of this section during each month of the year:—

TABLE E.

1890.	Number of Applications.		Area Leased.
	Received.	Approved.	
January ... ..	169	285	Acres. 95,565
February ... ..	1,648	47	15,570
March ... ..	211	189	66,438
April... ..	160	29	12,182
May ... ..	241	215	79,532
June ... ..	1,064	163	68,665
July ... ..	293	149	63,721
August ... ..	169	191	71,732
September ... ..	212	163	47,419
October ... ..	175	107	41,314
November ... ..	219	27	15,759
December ... ..	153	47	28,288
Totals ... ..	4,714	1,612	606,185*

\* The annual rent payable in respect of this area is £8,314.

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

Sections 42 and 49 provide for the issue to grazing area lessees of licences for agricultural allotments not exceeding 320 acres in extent. Table F shows the transactions under these sections during the year:—

TABLE F.

Section.	Number of Applications.		Area Applied for.	Area Licensed.	Fees Payable Yearly.
	Received.	Approved.			
42	612	518	Acres. 109,503	Acres. 94,898	£ s. d. 4,744 18 0
49	49	33	6,373	4,409	440 18 0

Under section 56 a lessee of an agricultural allotment of land under *The Land Act* 1884–1890, or of an allotment under Part II. of *The Land Act* 1869 or any Act amending such Part, can give an “order” for the delivery of the Crown grant to any person who has made an advance of money on the security of a lease, the mortgage being transferred from the lease to the Crown grant. Sixty-six (66) orders, representing in all an area of 14,765 acres, were registered during the year.

Section 57 empowers licensees under Part II. of *The Land Act* 1869, and licensees of agricultural allotments under *The Land Act* 1884–1890, to register liens at the Crown Lands Office upon the security of the permanent improvements effected on their holdings up to half the value of such improvements. Two hundred and sixteen (216) liens, comprising an area of 46,467 acres, were registered during the year, representing, as advanced on this kind of security, £25,244.

*Part IV., Land Act 1884, and Division 4, Part I., Land Act 1890.—Auriferous Lands.*

This Division provides for the occupation of Crown lands denominated “Auriferous.” Under section 65, licences for the purpose of residence or cultivation may be issued for lands not included within any city or town, and not exceeding 20 acres in extent. Under section 67, licences may be issued for grazing purposes only up to 1,000 acres.

No alienation of auriferous land can take place; therefore, all occupiers of the public estate under this Part of the Act are in the relation of annual tenants, and their occupation is subordinate to that for mining purposes.

The transactions during the year under sections 65 and 67 are shown in table G:—

TABLE G.

Section 65.			Section 67.		
Number of Applications.		Area Licensed.	Number of Applications.		Area Licensed.
Received.	Approved.		Received.	Approved.	
869	1,057*	Acres. 19,154	366	111	Acres. 47,148

\* The surplus of approvals over applications received is due to applications lodged but not dealt with during previous year.

## PROGRESS OF SELECTION.

Table H shows the progress of selection under sections 32, 42, 49, and 65, of *The Land Act 1884*—1890 :—

TABLE H.—LAND SELECTED.

Year.	Under Section 32.		Under Section 42.		Under Section 49.		Under Section 65.	
	Applications Approved.	Acreage.	Applications Approved.	Acreage.	Applications Approved.	Acreage.	Applications Approved.	Acreage.
1886	1,493	591,138	...	...	...	...	48	937
1887	3,621	1,328,169	83	11,310	...	...	198	3,742
1888	3,813	1,545,612	296	50,758	...	...	421	7,936
1889	2,348	925,939	418	65,862	41	5,383	627	11,578
1890	1,612	606,185	518	94,898	33	4,409	1,057	19,154

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.

## LICENCES AND LEASES REVOKED OR DECLARED EXPIRED.

The following Table shows the number of licences and leases, under the sections specified, revoked or declared expired during 1890 :—

TABLE I.

—		No.	Extent.
Licences—			Acre.
Section 42, <i>Land Act 1865</i>	... ..	—	—
Section 19, <i>Land Act 1869</i>	... ..	51	17,336
Section 49, <i>Land Act 1869</i>	... ..	25	405
Section 42, <i>Land Act 1884</i>	... ..	9	1,956
Section 65, <i>Land Act 1884</i>	... ..	12	225
Section 67, <i>Land Act 1884</i>	... ..	81	35,335
Leases—			
Section 20, <i>Land Act 1869</i>	... ..	4	368
Section 32, <i>Land Act 1884</i>	... ..	274	127,788

NOTE.—The Treasury profited to the extent of £3,647 through revocations and forfeitures during 1890.

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

TABLE J.

—		At Licensee's or Lessee's request.	Non-payment of Rent.	Non-compliance with Conditions.	For Re-licence.	Declared Expired.	Land Sold.	Death or Insolvency of Licensee.	Amended Surveys, &c.	Total.
Licences—										
Section 42, <i>Land Act 1865</i>	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Section 19, <i>Land Act 1869</i>	... ..	2	20	5	11	7	5	1	...	51
Section 49, <i>Land Act 1869</i>	... ..	...	20	1	...	2	2	...	...	25
Section 42, <i>Land Act 1884</i>	... ..	1	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	9
Section 65, <i>Land Act 1884</i>	... ..	...	6	...	4	...	...	...	2	12
Section 67, <i>Land Act 1884</i>	... ..	6	57	...	13	...	...	...	5	81
Leases—										
Section 20, <i>Land Act 1869</i>	... ..	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Section 32, <i>Land Act 1884</i>	... ..	33	129	18	...	...	4	3	87	274
Totals	... ..	42	240	24	32	9	11	4	94	456

## II.—SALES OF CROWN LANDS BY AUCTION.

The principle of deferred payments was introduced in Part V. of *The Land Act 1884*, now Division 5, Part I., *Land Act 1890*, one-fourth of the price bid being paid at the time of sale, and the remaining three-fourths spread over three years, payable quarterly, in instalments of equal amounts, bearing interest at the rate of £6 per centum per annum.

Many of the purchasers only partially availed themselves of this concession, the balances having been paid during the year, in order to obtain the Crown grants.

During the year, 12,200 acres 3 rood 20 perches were sold for £84,532 19s. 11d., and interest to the amount of £5,817 was paid with the instalments as they fell due.

The area of country lands sold at auction during 1890 was 8,941 acres, of which about 5,267 acres were improved and subject to valuation, and 3,674 unimproved.

Table K shows the proceeds of sales by auction of country lands during each year of the operation of *The Land Act 1869*, *The Land Act 1884*, and the *Land Act 1890* :—

TABLE K.

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
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

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

† These figures include 30,400 acres passed at auction and afterwards purchased.



TABLE K—continued.

Year.	Area Sold.		Amount Realized.		Average per Acre.	
	A.	R. P.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1877—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	13,318	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
1883—6 months ending 30th June—						
Unimproved land ... ..	4,104	2 20	5,431	13 1	1 6	6
Improved „ ... ..	2,518	0 33	3,560	8 10	1 8	3
„ 6 months ending 31st December—						
Unimproved land ... ..	6,416	3 27	9,141	1 9	1 8	6
Improved „ ... ..	5,276	3 31	6,518	5 2	1 4	8
1884—6 months ending 30th June—						
Unimproved land ... ..	7,522	2 9	14,106	18 2	1 17	6
Improved „ ... ..	6,076	2 2	8,717	2 1	1 8	8
„ 6 months ending 31st December—						
Unimproved land ... ..	13,254	2 0	22,971	18 6	1 14	8
Improved „ ... ..	6,258	3 22	8,856	6 4	1 6	8
1885—6 months ending 30th June—						
Unimproved land ... ..	4,268	1 12	7,731	10 6	1 16	2
Improved „ ... ..	6,833	0 15	9,522	10 7	1 7	10
„ 6 months ending 31st December—						
Unimproved land ... ..	4,742	1 24	8,941	15 8	1 17	8
Improved „ ... ..	8,073	1 16	13,441	16 10	1 13	3

TABLE K—continued.

Year.	Area Sold.			Amount Realized.			Average per Acre.		
	A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1886—6 months ending 30th June—									
Unimproved land ... ..	3,626	3	12	7,757	1	3	2	2	9
Improved „ ... ..	5,510	2	5	9,402	12	3	1	14	1
„ 6 months ending 31st December—									
Unimproved land ... ..	3,360	3	20	9,466	18	3	2	16	4
Improved „ ... ..	4,228	3	1	5,473	3	0	1	5	10
1887—6 months ending 30th June—									
Unimproved land ... ..	4,988	3	33	14,302	14	1	2	17	4
Improved „ ... ..	3,756	2	1	5,243	3	5	1	7	11
„ 6 months ending 31st December—									
Unimproved land ... ..	3,693	0	11	8,160	15	1	2	4	2
Improved „ ... ..	4,222	0	31	7,931	16	3	1	17	7
1888—6 months ending 30th June—									
Unimproved land ... ..	4,717	3	37	5,920	4	0	1	5	1
Improved „ ... ..	5,002	0	7	8,055	18	4	1	12	2
„ 6 months ending 31st December—									
Unimproved land ... ..	3,247	2	21	7,607	15	3	2	6	10
Improved „ ... ..	2,581	0	37	7,331	8	4	2	16	9
1889—6 months ending 30th June—									
Unimproved land ... ..	2,000	0	17	7,674	8	8	3	16	8
Improved „ ... ..	1,853	1	20	2,605	17	6	1	8	1
„ 6 months ending 31st December—									
Unimproved land ... ..	2,657	0	19	6,274	18	5	2	7	2
Improved „ ... ..	4,090	0	7	5,326	15	0	1	6	1
1890—6 months ending 30th June—									
Unimproved land ... ..	2,782	3	9	5,999	7	3	2	3	2
Improved „ ... ..	2,333	2	1	3,055	3	5	1	6	3
„ 6 months ending 31st December—									
Unimproved land ... ..	891	0	29	3,141	15	6	3	10	6
Improved „ ... ..	2,933	0	35	3,842	14	6	1	6	2

Table L shows the alienation by auction, during 1890, of town, suburban, and country lands, and the amounts derived therefrom :—

TABLE L.

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.									
3,094	1	13	66,276	10	9	21	8	5	165	3	13	2,217	8	6	13	7	5	8,940	2	34	16,039	0	8	1	15	10

## III.—PASTORAL OCCUPATION.

*The Land Act* 1884 came into operation on the 29th December, 1884, and the occupation of runs, under pastoral licence, under *The Land Act* 1869 ceased on the 31st December, 1884.

Section 3 of *The Land Act* 1884–1890 provided, however, for the continuation, under grazing licence, of the occupation of such runs until the lands comprised therein were required for the purposes of the Act.

Five (5) areas, comprising 6,215 acres, and being remnants of areas formerly held as pastoral runs under *The Land Act* 1869, were forfeited or abandoned during the year.

The sum of £23,429 was received during the year for grazing licences, under sections 3, 67, and 119 of *The Land Act* 1884, and section 123 of the *Land Act* 1890.

The area of runs formerly held under pastoral licence under *The Land Act* 1869, and occupation of which was renewed under the provisions of section 3 of *The Land Act* 1884, was on the 31st December, 1890, 360,234 acres.

Table M shows the amount of pastoral rent paid for each year from the passing of *The Land Act* 1869 to the end of 1890 :—

							TABLE M.		
							£	s.	d.
1870	...	...	...	...	...	167,491	0	0	
1871	...	...	...	...	...	172,228	0	0	
1872	...	...	...	...	...	153,522	0	0	
1873	...	...	...	...	...	140,791	0	0	
1874	...	...	...	...	...	127,114	0	0	
1875	...	...	...	...	...	139,304	0	0	
1876	...	...	...	...	...	162,443	0	0	
1877	...	...	...	...	...	146,043	0	0	
1878	...	...	...	...	...	134,079	0	0	
1879	...	...	...	...	...	107,732	0	0	
1880	...	...	...	...	...	88,065	0	0	
1881	...	...	...	...	...	71,036	0	0	
1882	...	...	...	...	...	57,838	0	0	
1883	...	...	...	...	...	43,983	0	0	
1884	...	...	...	...	...	35,485	0	0	
1885	...	...	...	...	...	28,900	0	0	
1886	(Section 21, <i>Land Act</i> 1884)	...	...	...	...	3,634	6	6	
1887	"	"	...	...	...	3,983	0	0	
1888	"	"	...	...	...	4,040	0	0	
1889	"	"	...	...	...	3,803	0	0	
1890	"	"	...	...	...	5,428	0	0	

It may be remarked that the statutory assessment is, in a large majority of cases, far in excess of the pastoral value of the land, and that, consequently, a small portion only of the area available under section 21 of *The Land Act* 1884–1890 has been leased. Many of the allotments have, however, been licensed under section 119, *Land Act* 1884, and section 123, *Land Act* 1890, for grazing purposes at much lower rents.

Ten (10) leases, comprising 290,200 acres, were declared void during the year for non-payment of rent.

For further particulars, reference is invited to Table N.

TABLE N.

## PASTORAL ALLOTMENTS—SECTION 21, LAND ACT 1884-1890.

Number of applications received from 1st January to 31st December, 1890	...	19
Number of applications approved from 1st January to 31st December, 1890	...	5
Area leased	...	69,302 acres
Area available on 1st January, 1891, for application	...	4,768,298 "

## MALLEE LANDS.

*The Mallee Pastoral Leases Act 1883*, now Part II. of the *Land Act 1890*, deals with about 11,571,995 acres of land in the north-western district of the colony.

During the year, leases of 10 mallee blocks, containing 747,829 acres, were issued; 228 leases, comprising 338,933 acres, were issued to applicants for mallee allotments.

The leases of 5 mallee blocks, comprising 147,908 acres, and of 297 mallee allotments, containing 431,904 acres, were transferred during the year.

The leases of 2 mallee blocks, comprising 170,218 acres, and of 22 mallee allotments, containing 90,046 acres, were cancelled for non-payment of rent and other causes.

During the year 1890 11 mallee blocks, containing 292,513 acres, were subdivided into mallee allotments and made available for application.

Section 203 of the *Land Act 1890*, Part II., enables the lessee of a mallee allotment, and any assignee of such lessee, to select, at any time within three years after the passing of *The Mallee Act 1889*, out of such allotment an area the total acreage of which, with any land previously selected by him, shall not exceed 320 acres, and any area so selected will be subject to the same conditions as agricultural allotments are subject to under Division 3, Part I., of the *Land Act 1890*. This concession has, no doubt, tended in a great measure to produce the spirited competition for leases of the mallee allotments which have been rendered available for application since *The Mallee Act 1889* came into force.

On 1st January, 1891, the areas available for occupation were as under :—

Mallee blocks	...	1,511,040 acres
Mallee allotments	...	147,984 "

The revenue derived was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Assessments on blocks	3,399	13	8
Rents of allotments	3,724	15	0
Total	£7,124	8	8

## VERMIN RATES.

Vermin rates, proclaimed by the Governor in Council on the recommendations of local committees elected or appointed for the destruction of vermin, were collected and remitted to local committees as under :—

	£	s.	d.
Northern Vermin District	403	0	0
North-Eastern Vermin District	419	6	2
North-Western	362	0	9
Eastern	393	19	7
Western	361	5	3
Middle	266	7	2
Warracknabeal	213	4	9
Total	£2,419	3	8

There has been a large number of applications to transfer during the year, but the transferees generally are believed to be *bonâ fide* farmers, who are likely to become permanent settlers. The area of mallee land under cultivation has greatly increased, and large tracts are now being rapidly cleared with a view to cultivation. It may therefore be fairly assumed that the settlement of the mallee country will prove to be of a permanent character.

#### IV.—DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT.

As Mr. Arthur Morrah was appointed in the early part of the year a Commissioner of Audit, he resigned the position of Secretary for Lands, which he had filled with marked ability for about twelve years, and consequently severed his connexion with the Department after a most efficient service of more than 36 years. Mr. Nehemiah Wimble, the Chief Clerk of the Department, was thereupon promoted to the office of Secretary for Lands, and Mr. Jas. J. Blundell was appointed on the 1st July, 1890, to the vacancy created by Mr. Wimble's promotion.

During the year Assistant Surveyors have been placed in charge of the Land Offices at Sale and Bairnsdale, and have been appointed Land Officers. These officers continue their professional duties in the field, and, in addition, perform the ordinary duties of land officers.

A report by the Surveyor-General on the work performed under his direction will be found in Appendix C.

The Conservator of Forests in Appendix D reports as to the work of the Forest Branch.

#### SECTION 125, LAND ACT 1884. SECTION 128, LAND ACT 1890.—PUBLIC HEARINGS.

During the year 1890, 322 sittings of Local Land Boards were held, at which applications for land and other business, comprising in all 6,461 subjects, were dealt with.

One hundred and eighty-four (184) cases were publicly heard by the Minister during the year.

#### THE WATTLES ACT 1890.

The Wattles Act was passed with a view to afford special facilities for the cultivation of the various species of acacia which have a commercial value; but its provisions were not largely availed of during the year. It is, moreover, now difficult to find available Crown lands which are suitable for the cultivation of this tree. During the twelve months 97 applications for leases, embracing an area of 25,050 acres, were received; and nine lessees under section 32 of *The Land Act 1884* applied to convert their holdings into Wattles leaseholds. No applications for leases under this Act were granted during the year, most of the applications received having been for land which is not available under the Wattles Act.

#### V.—MISCELLANEOUS.

##### SECTION 100, LAND ACT 1884. SECTION 102, LAND ACT 1890.—COMMONS.

Additional commonage, to the extent of 1,120 acres, was proclaimed during the year. Commons were diminished by proclamation to the extent of 4,075 acres.

Thirteen (13) commons which were found to be no longer required were abolished.

## SECTION 98, LAND ACT 1869, SECTION 113, LAND ACT 1884, AND SECTION 117, LAND ACT 1890.—PENALTIES.

Table O shows the amounts of penalties, at the rate of Five shillings per acre, received during 1890 and previous years for non-improvement by lessees under the Land Acts of 1862 and 1865, and interest on rents in arrear :—

			£	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
"	"	1883	1,485	13	8
"	"	1884	578	5	7
"	"	1885	96	0	0
"	"	1886	997	0	0
"	"	1887	399	0	0
"	"	1888	1,245	0	0
"	"	1889	372	0	0
"	"	1890	1,097	0	0
			<u>£160,705</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>

## CROWN GRANTS AND LEASES.

Four thousand four hundred and one Crown grants and 5,096 leases were prepared and passed from the head office during 1890.

## FEES AND CERTIFICATES.

The sum of £29,508 was received during the year for certificates, transfers, and registrations under *The Land Act 1884–1890*, and for miscellaneous fees, including those payable for grants, leases, and survey charges.

## LEASES AND LICENCES FOR OTHER THAN AGRICULTURAL OR PASTORAL PURPOSES.

The amount payable during 1890 for occupation and use of land under sections 45 and 47 of *The Land Act 1869*, Part VIII. of *The Land Act 1884*, and Division 8 of Part I., *Land Act 1890*, is shown in Table P.

			£
For factory, storage, and other like sites	...	...	21,895
" sites of rural stores and inns	...	...	498
" saw-mills	...	...	1,925
" ferries	...	...	95
" quarries	...	...	2,362
" brick licences	...	...	482
" priced licences...	...	...	12,834
" all other licences (tramways, races, &c.)	...	...	2,090
			<u>£42,181</u>



# APPENDICES.

## APPENDIX A.

### REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1890.

District.	Applications Approved.										Report as to the Working of Land Act 1884 on Holdings under Sections 49 and 65.	Remarks.				
	Land Act 1884.															
	Section 32.		Sections 42 & 49.		Section 65.		Section 42 & 49.		Section 65.							
No.	Area in Acres.	No.	Area in Acres.	No.	Area in Acres.	No.	Area in Acres.	No.	Area in Acres.	No.	Area in Acres.					
Alexandra	35	14,496	18	3,973	17	325						Satisfactory ...	Being of a hilly nature and not well suited for agriculture, the land is mostly used for grazing	Report as to use made of Land leased under Section 32 of Land Act 1884.		
Ararat ...	15	4,384	5	713	95	1,687						Satisfactory ...	Chiefly grazing			The area under cultivation is about the same as in preceding years. Some of the grain crops, oats especially, yielded fairly well. No new industries to report
Bairnsdale	246	133,213	5	394	...	...						No licences under section 65. Section 42 satisfactory	Grazing and dairying ...			The area under fruit trees and vines is still increasing, and satisfactory results are in most cases obtained. General cultivation has been carried on wherever the land proved suitable.
Ballarat ...	3	244	1	179	56	907						Satisfactory ...	Chiefly grazing, the lessees in most cases being the adjacent farmers			A larger area has been put under maize, chicory, and hops, and there is a prospect of very large yields. A new industry for the manufacture of ice for purposes of cool storage of dairy produce, fish, &c., has been started in the town of Bairnsdale
Beechworth	134	74,122	12	2,760	65	1,238						Satisfactory ...	Wherever the land is suitable the lessees stock with sheep; generally the land is used for grazing cattle			A splendid yield has been obtained from all crops, and some very good samples of fruit have been shown. The potato paddocks are looking excellent
Benalla ...	23	8,181	56	15,065	...	...						Section 42 working well. No holdings under section 65	Grazing. Good and substantial improvements in many instances made			No large extent of additional land cultivated. Cereal crops gave very good yields. The hop crop is also very good, but tobacco is a failure owing to too much moisture, consequent on the wet season

Remarks.

Report as to Agriculturists and New Rural Industries.

There is a large extent of rough country still open for application under section 32.

The Act is working satisfactorily in the district, and there is a fair demand for land in the new country thrown open for selection during the year.

The past season has been an exceptionally good one, and the locusts did very little damage, but bush fires unfortunately devastated a large area of grass country. A strong desire to acquire land in the south-western portion of the district has been shown.

The season, notwithstanding the ravages of the locusts, promises to be one of the best experienced for years past.

Butter factories and creameries are also proving useful



Castlemaine	7	2,037	2	35	47	840	Very satisfactory	...	Grazing principally ...	...	The crops this season have been very good throughout. A scent farm, which gives promise of success, has been established	Selection under the 65th section (20-acre allotments) and also the 99th section (garden sites) has been rather on the increase, and in the majority of instances payable returns have been obtained from gardens and orchards so selected.
Echuca and Kerang	28	6,582	7	823	...	...	Satisfactory	...	Principally grazing ...	...	Generally speaking the returns have exceeded expectations, and farmers have, consequently, every reason to be satisfied with the season's yields	There is an upward tendency in the values of all agricultural lands in this district, as is manifested by the keen competition of selectors when any such lands are made available. A number of applications have been lodged for lands coming within the area known as mallee country.
Geelong	134	36,632	40	7,817	30	599	Both sections have worked smoothly and satisfactorily	...	Chiefly devoted to grazing purposes	...	The crops of all descriptions have been unusually heavy. Grain is still abundant, and stock looking well everywhere.	A very good season as regards grass has been experienced, and settlement is brisk; land is eagerly sought after, if of any value at all.
Camperdown and Warrnambool	...	(Included in Geelong)	...	...	...	...	Satisfactory	...	Mostly grazing	...	Scarcely any agriculture is done upon the land not alienated, as it will not pay; even where the land is good, the labour of clearing and distance from market are effectual deterrents.	
Hamilton	63	30,173	13	2,297	...	...	Generally satisfactory. No 65th in this district	...	The land is used principally for grazing	...	The area under cultivation in this district is small compared with other districts, but where cultivation is carried on the results are generally satisfactory.	A good number of applications under section 93 for garden and residence sites have been lodged. The new township of Milltown has been created at the Myamyn Railway Station.
Horsham	124	38,992	44	7,771	7	111	No 65th section holdings in this district. Section 42 satisfactory	...	Agriculture and grazing	...	No new industries. Several applications have been received for 1,000 acres each under the Watties Act. The country applied for is naturally adapted for wattle-growing, and requires very little attention beyond protection from bush fires	Throughout the district, particularly in the northern areas, the wheat yield has been most favorable. A large extent of the country held under mallee lease has been cleared and cultivated, the result of which has proved so uniformly satisfactory that a considerable increase of wheat-growing in this territory is sure to follow.
Melbourne and Warragul	379	96,730	233	37,230	683	12,374	Generally satisfactory	...	Grazing, cultivation, and fruit growing	...	The area under cereal crops has not largely increased, but considerable attention is being devoted to fruit growing.	Evidence of <i>bona fide</i> settlement is not wanting, but, in the Warragul district especially, distance from market, bad roads, and want of railway facilities are a serious drawback to the selector.
Omeo	45	31,824	3	959	...	...	Satisfactory	...	Chiefly grazing	...	The yield from the wheat and oats crops promises to be a very good one	The district generally has been in a prosperous condition. The rainfall has been good. The crops have yielded well, and there has been a plentiful supply of grass for the stock. The tin-fields are causing considerable attention, and afford employment for a large number of men.

APPENDIX A—continued.

District.	Applications Approved.						Report as to the Working of Land Act 1884 on Holdings under Sections 49 and 65.	Report as to use made of Land leased under Section 52 of Land Act 1884.	Report as to Agriculture and New Rural Industries.	Remarks.
	Land Act 1884.									
	Section 52.	Sections 49 & 49.		Section 65.						
No.	Area in acres.	No.	Area in acres.	No.	Area in acres.					
Sale ...	221	91,314	36	5,825	3	58	In the open land the country is generally used for grazing. In the scrub country the selectors are making improvements in the shape of ringing and scrub cutting	...	The crops this season have been fairly good, but in some places the caterpillars have been very destructive. Four or five creameries have been started in the district	There is an excellent supply of water and grass this season, consequent on the exceptional fall of rain.
Sandhurst	10	853	7	1,257	18	316	Cultivation and grazing	...	The yield throughout the district averages about fifteen bushels, and this must be considered very satisfactory	Attention has been directed to the cultivation of the lands comprised within the areas designated as "abandoned diggings," and the results so far give every promise of success. Large sums have to be expended in reclaiming such lands, but the reputation which the district has acquired for wine producing and fruit growing has, nevertheless, induced several enterprising persons to secure such lands under the garden-licence system, as appears best adapted to carrying on the industries referred to, no doubt in the hope of gaining such success as the undertaking deserves.
Seymour ...	67	16,758	39	7,032	9	171	Principally grazing	...	Not much agriculture upon any of the selections, as dairying is found to pay much better than the growth of cereal or root crops. The Danish system of butter-making has been adopted at several of the leading dairies in this district	The wire netting erected by the land-holders in the rabbit-infested portion of the district has been found to act very satisfactorily.
St. Arnaud	60	13,064	15	2,175	16	320	Principally grazing	...	The area under cultivation is still increasing, and a fair yield has been obtained throughout the greater portion of the district. There has been a material increase in the area placed under vines. The Fresh Food and Frozen Storage Company have started a creamery at Beazley's-bridge.	
Stawell ...	18	6,586	15	3,002	11	208	Grazing	...	The area under cultivation is greater than for some seasons past, and the yield for the whole good. A considerable increase is noticeable in the area under vines and fruit trees in various parts of the district. The fruit crops have been very abundant.	

## APPENDIX B.

## THE LAND ACT 1869.

## TRANSACTIONS by Transfer of Grants under Section 20 during 1890.

District.	Large Landed Proprietors.		Farmers.		Storekeepers and Publicans.		Solicitors, Accountants, Auctioneers, Agents.		Banks.		Miscellaneous.		Graziers.		Total.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
Ararat ... ..	...	...	9	1,664	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	847	3	681	20	3,192
Alexandra ... ..	...	...	8	1,112	2	222	1	85	...	...	14	1,812	1	55	26	3,286
Ballarat ... ..	1	81	11	790	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	873	4	223	24	1,967
Bairnsdale ... ..	...	...	9	1,494	...	...	2	610	...	...	22	3,589	2	28	35	5,721
Beechworth... ..	...	...	29	3,031	...	...	1	55	...	...	14	1,039	8	1,783	52	5,908
Benalla ... ..	1	313	67	12,262	11	2,420	9	3,247	1	320	58	3,127	1	320	148	22,009
Castlemaine ... ..	...	...	26	3,436	...	...	1	63	...	...	13	1,172	2	190	42	4,861
Echuca ... ..	...	...	44	9,355	5	263	2	958	1	445	25	8,387	3	653	80	20,061
Geelong ... ..	...	...	18	1,670	2	283	1	4	...	...	12	1,717	5	336	38	4,010
Hamilton ... ..	1	144	33	5,171	...	...	...	...	4	982	33	10,066	8	1,252	79	17,615
Horsham ... ..	...	...	70	16,611	2	638	...	...	1	44	57	11,071	1	47	131	28,411
Kerang ... ..	...	...	18	4,150	2	258	...	...	1	270	23	6,796	2	798	46	12,272
Melbourne ... ..	...	...	36	5,637	6	570	18	2,190	3	201	133	24,409	2	593	198	33,600
Sale ... ..	...	...	16	2,221	1	233	2	219	...	...	48	5,796	14	2,683	81	11,152
Sandhurst ... ..	...	...	33	4,434	2	287	...	...	...	...	20	3,421	2	480	57	8,622
Seymour ... ..	...	...	11	1,331	3	141	...	...	...	...	23	4,295	2	412	39	6,179
Stawell ... ..	...	...	10	780	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1,111	1	619	16	2,510
St. Arnaud ... ..	...	...	37	7,356	...	...	2	325	...	...	15	3,546	5	2,845	59	14,072
Total ... ..	3	538	485	82,505	36	5,315	39	7,756	11	2,262	531	93,074	66	13,998	1171	205,448

## TRANSACTIONS by Mortgage of Grants under Section 20 during 1890.

District.	Large Landed Proprietors.		Farmers.		Storekeepers and Publicans.		Solicitors, Accountants, Auctioneers, Agents.		Banks.		Miscellaneous.		Graziers.		Total.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
Ararat ... ..	...	...	1	293	...	...	...	...	3	422	10	781	...	...	14	1,496
Alexandra ... ..	...	...	2	316	...	...	1	192	2	640	6	956	...	...	11	2,104
Ballarat ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	114	7	696	2	319	...	...	10	1,129
Bairnsdale ... ..	...	...	2	407	...	...	1	371	8	820	11	1,838	...	...	22	3,436
Beechworth... ..	...	...	5	392	2	102	1	47	29	4,885	16	2,977	3	736	56	9,139
Benalla ... ..	...	...	8	1,641	2	300	19	5,795	41	7,678	57	15,757	4	1,616	131	32,787
Castlemaine... ..	...	...	1	51	...	...	2	464	12	1,489	3	530	...	...	18	2,534
Echuca ... ..	...	...	3	968	1	203	5	1,701	45	12,396	36	9,348	...	...	90	24,616
Geelong ... ..	...	...	2	217	1	100	3	392	1	194	13	2,891	1	200	21	3,994
Hamilton ... ..	...	...	5	621	...	...	3	611	13	1,827	20	8,653	1	1,648	42	13,360
Horsham ... ..	1	150	3	758	2	792	9	3,058	30	7,267	44	21,188	...	...	89	33,213
Kerang ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	510	6	1,312	6	2,583	...	...	15	4,405
Melbourne ... ..	...	...	1	319	1	96	13	2,316	14	1,534	36	8,104	...	...	65	12,369
Sale ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	7	1	24	23	1,901	23	4,554	4	991	52	7,477
Sandhurst ... ..	...	...	1	51	...	...	5	1,042	21	3,870	14	2,999	...	...	41	7,962
Seymour ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	320	2	954	9	1,447	10	3,004	...	...	22	5,725
Stawell ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	320	2	424	1	160	...	...	4	904
St. Arnaud ... ..	...	...	1	320	1	318	2	688	19	6,208	12	5,071	1	885	36	13,490
Total ... ..	1	150	35	6,354	12	2,238	72	18,599	285	55,010	320	91,713	14	6,076	739	180,140

## APPENDIX C.

## SURVEY BRANCH.

I have the honour to report as follows as to the work performed by the Survey Branch of the Department during the year ending 31st December, 1890:—

## SURVEYS.

1. The principal part of the surveys required in connexion with the selection and occupation of land continues to be effected by surveyors authorized to perform the work at schedule prices fixed by the Department, and the system works satisfactorily, both from a public and a departmental point of view.

2. During the year the inspecting district surveyors have made the usual periodical inspections of the authorized surveyors' work, and report that, on the whole, these gentlemen have performed their duties satisfactorily, and that generally the surveys are fairly up to the standard of accuracy. They have also performed the usual administrative duties of reporting and advising on all important matters affecting their respective districts.

3. The practice of appointing non-professional officers to the position of land officers, and placing them in charge of district survey offices, having been found to work unsatisfactorily in cases where the survey business of the district is large and important, a change of system was considered necessary, and at the beginning of the year the non-professional land officers at Sale and Bairnsdale were transferred to other positions and replaced by two of the older assistant surveyors, who combine the duties of land officers and surveyors in charge.

The other assistants have been chiefly employed on the survey of main roads, subdivision of land for sale, assisting in inspecting and checking the work of the authorized surveyors, and other work as specified under the following heads:—

- (a) Topographical surveys.
- (b) Survey of roads.
- (c) Check surveys and re-surveys in the several districts.
- (d) Subdivision of town and country lands.
- (e) Check surveys for the Office of Titles, &c.

4. Expenditure on departmental surveys for the year 1890 has been as follows:—

Subdivision of land for sale, &c.	...	...	...	£3,176	10	8
Main road surveys	...	...	...	4,107	2	9
Standard lines, boundaries, &c.	...	...	...	792	6	10
Check surveys and connexion lines	...	...	...	462	10	3
Re-surveys, &c.	...	...	...	1,172	0	1
Topographical and engineering surveys, including cost of surveys for Titles Office	...	...	...	967	14	9
Surveys of sites for public purposes	...	...	...	145	18	2
				£10,824		3 6

5. The amount received as survey fees during the year on account of surveys made by and at the expense of the Department was £4,658 19s. 10d.

6. The Department has also to be credited with the following amounts for work performed for other departments:—

Titles Office	...	...	...	£30	9	5
Department of Agriculture	...	...	...	9	7	0
Chief Secretary's Department	...	...	...	32	16	0
Defence Department	...	...	...	1	10	0
Government Printer	...	...	...	7	15	0
Mines Department	...	...	...	20	10	0
Public Works Department	...	...	...	54	7	0
Victorian Water Supply Department	...	...	...	17	0	0
Crown Law Department	...	...	...	30	0	0

7. The amount expended to cover the cost of grazing area surveys, where survey fees exceeded £10 (as per clause 4 of Special Regulations, dated 9th December, 1885, *Land Act 1884*), has been £1,749.

## COMPUTING AND ADJUSTING.

8. There were 576 plans examined and checked, varying from 1 to 213 lots. Four mallee block plans were designed and prepared for subdivisional survey, as well as several tracings made for departmental use.

During the year the officer in charge of the Computing room made special surveys for the Crown Law Department—29 days were spent in making such surveys and attending court.

The staff consists of one officer in charge and three assistants.

9. In the Adjusting room 3,884 cases of discrepancies have been investigated, and 199 certificates of error prepared and issued, involving altogether the preparation of about 4,550 plans and diagrams. The staff consists of one officer in charge and nine assistants, including three pupils.

#### DRAUGHTING AND LITHOGRAPHY.

10. The staff has been principally employed in compiling new locality and record plans of parishes, where a large amount of selection has taken place; also, in recording surveys of leases under the 32nd section, *Land Act* 1884-1890.

A large number of parish plans on the half scale have been posted up and reprinted. Additional plans have been compiled and published, and a large amount of miscellaneous work has been done for other Departments in the preparation of maps, &c.

Technical descriptions for gazettal of reserves, temporary and permanent, have been prepared; and the usual number of sale and miscellaneous plans photographed and printed.

The staff, including lithographers, printers, plan-mounters, and pupil surveyors, numbers 39.

#### ENGRAVING.

11. The plate of the Geodetic Survey of Victoria, "Q," north division, has been completed and printed; also, plates "J," north and south, posted to date; "H 1" is ready for the printer, and "R," north, is in hand.

The staff is limited, one engraver only.

A. BLACK,  
Surveyor-General.

## APPENDIX D.

### DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND SURVEY, FOREST BRANCH.

31st December, 1890.

The forest work of the year has progressed very favorably in all its branches. The saw-mill industry has now for some time declined through the general commercial depression, and has suffered much from low prices and foreign competition in American and Baltic timber. The Tasmanian competition was also keen in spite of the duty, and these causes, combined with the after effects of the collapse of the land boom and consequent cessation of building operations, caused a large number of mills to cease work.

#### FIRES.

The first part of the year was free from fires in the forests of the colony. At Sandhurst little or no damage was done. Upon the Murray frontages the damage done was slight, excepting at Barmah, where the timber on about 1,000 acres, in patches, was destroyed.

In the Heathcote district about 300 acres of Crown lands were devastated, and at Maryborough a few acres only. In the Ballarat State Forest, under the charge of Mr. Gear, twelve outbreaks occurred, but, owing to the practice of having two or three men employed in the work of forest pruning, but little damage was done.

The Creswick State Forest was affected to the extent of several hundred acres, but in consequence of the sharp look-out kept and the speedy presence of the employés after each outbreak, extensive forest fires were prevented.

In the Macedon district extensive fires occurred. At Cape Otway and in Gippsland the damage done was slight.

Fires in the Victoria State Forest, near Fernshaw, were both numerous and destructive, and gave great trouble to the forester.

#### TREE DISTRIBUTION.

Six hundred and twenty-nine (629) applications for trees from the State Nurseries were received, and, owing to the extensive demands for trees from shire councils and water trusts, the strain upon the resources of the Nursery at Macedon was very great. Eighty-two thousand two hundred were allotted to applicants, and from the returns received to date, of these 32,600 are reported as thriving in various parts of the colony, the percentage of successful planting being 39½. Shires and boroughs received 20,000 trees, and farmers and private persons 18,600. The return of those thriving from the former are 8,950, or 44½ per cent.; and from the latter, 9,100, or 48½ per cent.

The result of the tree distribution cannot be called satisfactory; but when delays in delivering packages containing trees, destruction by drought and locusts and careless planting, are considered and duly weighed, the result is far from discouraging.

## ARBOR DAY.

The results of the first "Arbor Day" in Victoria are certainly discouraging. Seventeen shires were supplied with 13,600 trees, but out of this large number the return of successful planting only amounts to 2,300.

The "Arbor Day" planting having resulted in a complete *fiasco*, it is not intended for some time to come to devote trees to such an occasion.

## YOU YANGS PLANTATION.

The work of this plantation has been one of steady progress. The making of fire-breaks to protect the railway and in the plantation, together with the destruction of rabbits, occupied the first quarter of the year.

In April, May, and June extensive fencing operations were carried out, and upwards of five miles of wire-netting fencing was erected. The months of June, July, and August were devoted to digging holes and tree-planting, with the result that 62,100 trees were planted, in addition to which a large number of blanks, numbering several thousands, in last year's ground were replaced.

The last quarter of the year was devoted to general work, in looking after rabbits, digging round trees, and the formation of fire-breaks round wattles in the Railway Reserve and in the plantations. The general result of the planting has been favorable, and the trees generally show good growth.

## SAW-PIT GULLY PLANTATION.

At the Saw-pit Gully Plantation about 20 acres have been added and planted with about 42,000 trees in all. The removal of the nursery from Saw-pit to the Australasian Paddock was effected, and in the forest a large area was pruned and cleared up; several small enclosures were made for experimental planting, and altogether much good work has been done under Mr. Forester La Gerche's supervision.

## THE NURSERIES.

These consist of Macedon, Havelock, Creswick, and Tintarra. The two latter are intended to be subsidiary to Macedon and Havelock. The Creswick Nursery will be used chiefly for the raising of deciduous trees, whilst Tintarra will be the chief source of supply for the mallee districts of the sugar gum, and pines and deciduous trees for plantation use will be raised largely.

Macedon will, however, continue to be the chief depôt for trees for public distribution, the other nurseries being chiefly intended for the purposes of the Department.

During the year great progress has been made in all the nurseries. At Macedon a McComas water-lifter has been erected and the nursery reticulated, so that the whole of the area is practically irrigated, and a vast saving of labour is the result.

The officers of the Forest Branch have worked with considerable zeal. The inspectors, Messrs. Blackburne and Wyndham, have done excellently in general supervision of the forests, and a very large number of convictions for forest offences is the direct result of their work. Reports on forest lands of a very important character have been received from these officers.

The foresters, with very few exceptions, have done good work, and their efforts for the preservation of the timber have borne good fruit. A number of young men have passed through a course of training at Macedon. Of these, five—viz., Messrs. Semmens, Ingle, Freyer, Harvey, and Jenkin—have received appointments as foresters.

The training of these men extended from a period of eight months to two years, and was of a practical nature. Books on forestry are also supplied at Macedon and Gunbower, from which much technical information may be obtained by the trainees. The Superintendents and Chief-Forester La Gerche have given the trainees every assistance in learning the duties of a forester, under direct instructions from me.

## SAW-MILLS.

Strict supervision has been carried out by the various foresters, the result being that a satisfactory amount of revenue has been collected. Very few unlicensed mills are at work, and when started are quickly suppressed. In certain parts of the colony where supervision does not obtain, destruction of timber takes place, but as all the important places are now well looked after, the destruction is not very great. The saw-milling industry is in a bad way, and many of the mills did little or no work during the year.

Upon the whole, the forest work of the year is decidedly encouraging. The revenue exceeds the expenditure by a few hundreds of pounds sterling. This result must be deemed satisfactory, in view of the fact that the assets of the Department are rapidly assuming an amount in money value which would fairly startle those unacquainted with the results of forestry. The value of the trees, calculated at one-third of nursery rates paid by outside persons, raised at Macedon alone, is sufficient to pay one-half of the whole cost of forest cultivation, whilst the value of the plantations already in hand is year by year assuming proportions which must become a large factor with the Legislature in determining the amount of the annual vote in view of enlarged operations.

GEO. S. PERRIN,  
Conservator of State Forests.

## APPENDIX E.

## VERMIN DESTRUCTION ACT 1890, No. 1153.

I have the honour to submit the following as regards the administration of the Vermin Destruction Act for the year ending 31st December, 1890:—

Provision having been made in the present Act for the Government taking the administration of same, thereby relieving the shire councils of an annual expenditure of fully £14,000, operations were commenced on the 1st January, and the results have so far proved fairly successful, and there is every reason for believing that by the end of the year 1891 a more satisfactory report may be submitted.

I may state that of late years the extent of infested country has increased very much, especially in the Midland and North-Eastern districts, where the pest has obtained a firm hold in the localities favorable for burrowing, and where log and brush fences which provide harbor are to be found in the timbered districts.

Little or no action was taken by the shire councils in these districts to carry out the provisions of the former Act so as to check the pest; the task of enforcing the present Act has consequently been a difficult and arduous one.

In the Northern districts, where the rabbits were so great a plague some years ago, the number is now greatly reduced, and very seldom is a complaint made of the destruction of crops; whereas previously such complaints were very numerous, and the damage done was ruinous to the farmers.

The area more or less infested throughout the colony I estimate at 37,750,000 acres. A staff of 68 inspectors has been appointed to carry out the provisions of the Act; 20,800 notices under section 14 have been served on owners and occupiers to destroy rabbits; 152 convictions under the penal clauses of the Act have been obtained; the fines and costs awarded amount to £1,210, and for charges and expenses under section 17 the sum of £700 has been received.

Two thousand five hundred notices, as required under section 18 of the Act, have been served on owners and occupiers to destroy log and brush fences, stone walls, and live hedges, and I am pleased to state that many holders have complied with the notices. No steps have yet been taken by any of the inspectors to destroy fences in accordance with section 19. It is to be hoped, however, that all such fences will soon be destroyed, and replaced by post and wire fences, for until this be done the rabbits cannot be kept down.

The unoccupied Crown lands have received all necessary attention, and where practicable, with a view to economy, the work of rabbit extirpation has been let by contract. A large saving has thereby been effected; but, in consequence of the inspectors having to enforce the provisions of the Act, lands held as commons, and under leases, grazing licences, and mallee lands are being relinquished, owing to the great expense of keeping the land clear of rabbits. The expenditure therefore is increasing every month, and a much larger sum will be required next year for the work on Crown lands.

During the year the sum of £150,000, voted by Parliament for loans to shire councils to purchase wire netting, has been allocated amongst 54 shires. The majority of the shires have delivered the wire netting to farmers and others, and no doubt the erection of wire netting will tend to confine the rabbits within limited areas, where they can be more easily destroyed. It is satisfactory to report that a large majority of the shire councils are well satisfied with the working of the Act, and I have no doubt but that, with the aid of wire netting and vigorous administration, the rabbit plague will, in a few years, be reduced to a minimum. The South Australian border fence (150 miles in length) has been periodically inspected, and is in good order.

One thousand one hundred and sixty-five wild dogs and 1,247 foxes have been destroyed during the year, at a cost of £1,550, the shire councils and vermin boards paying one-half of the amount.

A large number of schemes and inventions for the destruction of rabbits have been submitted, principally from America, Germany, Great Britain, and India, but none of them are of any practical value.

The means of destruction carried out have been the same as heretofore, viz., poisoning, trapping, impregnating the burrows with bisulphide of carbon or other gases, and digging out. Poisoning and trapping no doubt cause a large percentage of rabbits to be destroyed, but unless the work is followed up by the burrows being dug out, and all cover, such as log and brush, fallen timber, &c., being destroyed, there is very little hope of the pest being effectively kept down.

The following is the expenditure for the year ending 31st December, 1890:—

Salaries of inspectors (68) ... ..	£14,328	18	8
Subsidy to shire councils, &c., for destruction of wild dogs and foxes ... ..	775	10	0
Wages of men working on Crown lands, material, contracts, &c. ... ..	24,002	11	8
Total ... ..	£39,107	0	4

With reference to the cost of destroying rabbits on Crown lands, I may state that the strictest economy is exercised, and the expenditure is curtailed where it possibly can be done. The Crown lands infested cover an area of fully 1,250,000 acres, scattered all over the colony in blocks of from 10 to 20,000 acres, so that the expense of keeping down the pest is greater than it would otherwise be if in large and compact areas.

SAML. J. BLACK,

Chief Inspector *Vermin Destruction Act 1890.*