

1895.
—
VICTORIA.

REPORT

OF

PROCEEDINGS TAKEN UNDER THE PROVISIONS

OF

THE LAND ACTS AND THE WATTLES ACT 1890,

DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER,

1894.

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

By Authority:

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REPORT.

To His Excellency the Honorable SIR JOHN MADDEN, Knight, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Colony of Victoria, and Administrator of the Government of the said Colony, &c., &c., &c.

Department of Lands and Survey,
Melbourne, 15th October, 1895.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I have the honour to submit the annexed Report by the Secretary for Lands of proceedings taken under the provisions of the Land Acts and the *Wattles Act* 1890 during the year 1894.

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

I.—Settlement.	III.—Pastoral occupation.
II.—Sales by auction.	IV.—Miscellaneous.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT.

Towards the end of the year Mr. J. J. Blundell retired from the position of Secretary of Lands after a continuous and efficient service of 27 years in connexion with the Department. He has been succeeded by Mr. T. F. Morkham, who, until lately, combined the duties of the position with those of Secretary for Public Works.

Mr. Morkham having been relieved of the latter position is now devoting his attention to a re-organization of the Department. This, it is anticipated, will insure a more satisfactory collection of the territorial revenue, and greater expedition in the dealings of the Department with the public.

Appendices B and C give a detailed account of the work done in the Survey and Forest Branches of the Department.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

R. W. BEST,

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

To the Honorable Robert Wallace Best, Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey.

Department of Crown Lands and Survey,
Melbourne, 15th October, 1895.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the following Report of proceedings taken under the provisions of the Land Acts and the *Wattles Act* 1890 during the year 1894.

I.—SETTLEMENT.

The general methods of alienation of Crown lands in Victoria, from the first sales to the 31st December, 1894, are shown in the following Table (A); and Table B shows the number of licences current on 31st December, 1894, with the area and rental:—

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 1863, &c.		
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	
Under Imperial Acts ...	...	...	...	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	...	1,363,243	...	59,992	...	...	1,879,940
„ „ 1865 ...	639,761	6,709	34,137	680,607	5,900	1,499,910	3,078	559,423	...	753,574	3,493,514
„ „ 1869 ...	986,175	17,229	32,693	1,036,097	Section 19. 66,089 10,536,608		...	...	Section 49. 11,714 183,606		11,756,311
„ „ 1878 ...	...	...	...	...	Section 11. 454 76,415		...	...	Section 10. 401 1,202		77,617
Totals ...	...	...	...	6,516,508	...	13,886,776	...	619,415	...	938,382	21,961,081
During year—	<i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890.				<i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890.						
1885 ...	23,917	2,106	877	26,900	...	...	...	...	...	...	26,900
1886 ...	16,727	2,134	420	19,281	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,281
1887 ...	16,661	2,800	104	19,565	Section 42. 83 11,310		...	...	...	...	30,875
1888 ...	15,549	4,373	102	20,024	290	49,745	...	...	...	...	69,769
1889 ...	10,601	2,244	835	13,680	Section 49. 409 63,906		41	5,383	...	...	82,969
1890 ...	8,941	3,094	166	12,201	505	91,974	33	4,409	...	...	108,584
1891 ...	4,989	1,801	563	7,353	507	88,610	26	2,069	...	...	98,032
1892 ...	7,681	2,336	603	10,620	482	74,841	16	1,960	...	...	87,421
1893 ...	3,448	2,844	254	6,546	702	99,795	13	1,554	<i>Land Act</i> 1891. Section 22. 13 58		107,953
1894 ...	4,737	2,111	...	6,848	990	112,368	99	4,635	78	363	124,214
Totals under <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890 ...	113,251	25,843	3,924	143,018	3,968	592,549	228	20,010	91	421	755,998

Auction 6,659,526 acres.
 Selection 16,057,553 „
 Total 22,717,079 acres.

NOTE.—Forfeitures have in each case been deducted from the area selected.

TABLE B.—LEASES AND LICENCES UNDER LAND ACTS 1869, 1878, 1890, AND 1891 CURRENT ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1894.

Section of Act.	No.	Area.	Annual Rental.
<i>Progress Payments.</i>			
		Acres.	£
Licences—Section 19, <i>Land Act</i> 1869–1878 ...	713	83,071	4,153
Section 42, <i>Land Act</i> 1890 ...	3,816	560,223	28,012
Section 203, <i>Land Act</i> 1890 ...	22	6,931	346
Section 17, <i>Land Act</i> 1891 ...	70	724	72
Section 22, <i>Land Act</i> 1891 ...	91	421	33
Section 9, <i>Wattles Act</i> 1890 ...	1	131	7
Leases—Section 20, <i>Land Act</i> 1869–1878 ...	30,688	5,356,966	267,848
Section 44, <i>Land Act</i> 1890 ...	388	65,481	3,274
Non-residence Licences—Section 11, <i>Land Act</i> 1878	5	3,085	309
Section 49, <i>Land Act</i> 1890	242	21,507	2,150
„ Leases—Section 20, <i>Land Act</i> 1869–1878	398	57,808	5,781
Section 50, <i>Land Act</i> 1890	9	1,461	146
Leases and Licences (other than Agricultural or Pastoral)—Section 49, <i>Land Act</i> 1869 ...	2,171	33,468	3,244
Section 65, <i>Land Act</i> 1890 ...	4,073	74,657	6,000
Section 99, <i>Land Act</i> 1890 ...	3,145	12,790	26,145
Pastoral Occupation—			
Section 32, <i>Land Act</i> 1890 ...	10,227	4,099,889	39,265
Section 5, <i>Wattles Act</i> 1890 ...	17	6,083	51
Section 10, <i>Wattles Act</i> 1890 ...	1	548	17
Section 21, <i>Land Act</i> 1890 ...	86	1,407,663	4,670
Section 67, <i>Land Act</i> 1890 ...	1,324	441,294	3,697
Section 123, <i>Land Act</i> 1890 ...	3,469	4,342,705	16,036
Mallee ...	3,385	3,032,106	11,500
Swamps—Section 85, <i>Land Act</i> 1890 ...	78	3,436	1,822
	64,419	19,612,448	424,578

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 1894 :—

TABLE C.

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.								
190	170	3	167	1,542	Acres. 307,889	Acres. 34,587	£ s. d. 495 7 6	Acres. 307,178	£ s. d. 42,298 19 4

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

Table D shows the number of applications under section 20 of *The Land Act* 1869 of holdings varying in extent from 80 acres and under to 320 acres, which were approved during 1894, inclusive of three grants which were issued in cases where the licensees paid the balance of purchase money at the expiry of their licences :—

TABLE D.

80 acres and under ...	37
Over 80 and under 160 ...	35
Over 160 and not exceeding 240 ...	20
Over 240 and not exceeding 320 ...	78
Total ...	170

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

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 E shows the transactions during 1894:—

TABLE E.

Number of Applications.		Purchases Completed.	Area Purchased.	Balances of Purchase Money Received.			Survey Fees Allowed.		
Received.	Approved.			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
8	23*	23	Acres. 188	10	0	0	41	18	0

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

THE LAND ACT 1890.

Division 1, Part I.

Section 18 of this Act confers 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. Three hundred and four (304) applications, representing 5,447 acres, were approved during the year, and the sum of £813 2s. 3d. was received.

Division 3, Part I.—Agricultural and Grazing Lands.

Under this Division 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 29th December, 1884. Table F shows the extent of the operation of this section during each month of the year:—

TABLE F.

1893.	Number of Applications.		Area Leased.
	Received.	Approved.	
January	71	70	Acres. 20,888
February	78	20	5,733
March	54	53	17,510
April	108	75	16,469
May	128	94	25,536
June	111	28	8,144
July	102	58	25,911
August	73	46	17,386
September	74	15	2,679
October	71	116	33,312
November	107	34	9,675
December	41	27	6,631
Totals	1,018	636	189,874*

* The annual rent payable in respect of this area is £1,761 6s. 9d.
NOTE.—With respect to the applications received it should be noted that in many instances several applications are made for the same Grazing Area.

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

TABLE G.

Section.	Number of Applications.		Area Applied for.	Area Licensed.	Fees Payable Yearly.
	Received.	Approved.			
42—Residence	1,512	990	Acres. 152,223	Acres. 112,368	£ s. d. 5,618 8 0
49—Non-residence	290	99	14,869	4,635	463 10 0

Section 44 enables licensees under section 42 of this Division of the Land Act to acquire, on expiration of the term of their licences, the fee-simple of their licensed holdings either by paying the balance of purchase money in one sum or by deferred payments under lease. The following Table shows the transactions during 1894:—

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.								
230	310	16	294	6	Acres. 589	Acres. 48,433	£ s. d. 422 18 0	Acres. Nil.	£ s. d. Nil.

NOTE.—The excess of applications *dealt with* over applications *lodged* is caused by applications lodged during last year not having been dealt with till this year.

Table I shows the number of Crown Grants under section 44 of the *Land Act* 1890 of Licensed holdings varying in extent from 80 acres and under to 320 acres, the issue of which was approved during 1894:—

TABLE I.

80 acres and under ...	...	...	...	...	6
Over 80 and under 160 ...	...	...	...	...	3
Over 160 and not exceeding 240 ...	...	...	...	...	6
Over 240 and not exceeding 320 ...	...	...	...	...	1
					—
Total ...	...	...	...	...	16
					—

NOTE.—This Table includes particulars of a like nature under section 50 *Land Act* 1890.

Under section 56 a lessee of an agricultural allotment of land under *The Land Acts* 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. One hundred and twenty-four (124) orders, representing in all an area of 26,077 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 Acts* 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. Fifty-three (53) liens, comprising an area of 9,765 acres, were registered during the year, representing, as advanced on this kind of security, £5,457.

Division 4, Part I.—Auriferous Lands.

This Division provides for the occupation of Crown lands classed “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 Division 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 J :—

TABLE J.

Section 65.			Section 67.		
Number of Applications.		Area Licensed.	Number of Applications.		Area Licensed.
Received.	Approved.		Received.	Approved.	
539	646*	Acres. 11,474	309	273	Acres. 80,861

* The excess of approved applications over applications received is caused by applications renewed in previous year not having been dealt with till 1894.

WORKED-OUT AURIFEROUS LANDS.

By the 22nd section of the *Land Act* 1891 it is provided that whenever it appears to be no longer profitable to mine for gold within 50 feet of the surface of any unalienated lands of the Crown, such lands may, after inquiry by a warden, be declared to be "worked-out auriferous lands," and licensed in allotments not exceeding five (5) acres in extent. Every licensee who shall have complied with the conditions of his licence will, at the expiration of seven (7) years, be entitled to the fee-simple of the land at a price to be fixed by the Board of Land and Works, and the amount paid as annual licence-fees will be deducted from the purchase money payable.

During the year 18 applications under this section were received whilst 78 applications, including applications made in previous years, were approved for 363 acres.

PROGRESS OF SELECTION.

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

TABLE K.—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
1891	1,288	479,667	539	95,634	37	3,597	560	10,220
1892	949	347,201	538	84,924	30	3,799	524	9,530
1893	584	211,401	799	115,126	25	2,403	597	11,002
1894	636	189,874	990	112,368	99	4,635	646	11,474

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 1894 :—

TABLE L.

				No.	Extent.
					Acres.
Licences—	Section 19, <i>Land Act</i> 1869	...	...	54	8,755
	Section 49, <i>Land Act</i> 1869	...	...	15	212
	Section 11, <i>Land Act</i> 1878	...	...	4	412
	Section 42, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890	...	...	97	15,331
	Section 49, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890	...	...	12	849
	Section 65, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890	...	...	60	1,110
	Section 67, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890	...	...	69	39,022
Leases—	Section 20, <i>Land Act</i> 1869	...	...	18	2,252
	Section 21, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890	...	...	7	136,900
	Section 32, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890	...	...	641	286,845

NOTE.—The Treasury profited to the extent of £4,884 3s. 6d. through revocations and forfeitures during 1894.

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

TABLE M.

				At Licensee's or Lessee's request.	Non-payment of Rent.	Non-compliance with Conditions.	Declared Expired.	Land Sold.	Land Abandoned.	Amended Surveys, &c.	Total.	
Licences—	Section 19, <i>Land Act</i> 1869	...	...	...	3	...	47	4	...	...	54
	Section 49, <i>Land Act</i> 1869	...	...	...	4	1	7	2	...	...	15
	Section 11, <i>Land Act</i> 1878	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	4
	Section 42, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890	...	...	...	26	54	...	1	8	8	97
	Section 49, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890	...	...	...	1	3	4	1	2	1	12
	Section 65, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890	...	...	...	6	49	4	...	...	1	60
	Section 67, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890	...	...	...	2	40	...	...	1	...	69
Leases—	Section 20, <i>Land Act</i> 1869	...	...	...	...	15	...	...	3	...	18
	Section 32, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890	...	...	...	54	464	83	...	36	4	641
	Section 21, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	2	...	7
Totals				...	90	641	92	80	8	52	14	977

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, 6,848 acres were sold for £28,295. Interest to the amount of £2,742 4s. 3d. was paid with the instalments of purchase money as they fell due.

The area of country lands sold at auction during 1894 was 4,737 acres, of which about 2,057 acres were improved and subject to valuation, and 2,680 acres unimproved.

Table N shows the proceeds of sales by auction of country lands during the years 1892, 1893, and 1894. Similar particulars for each year from the commencement of *The Land Act* 1869 will be found in the departmental Report for 1891 :—

TABLE N.

Year.				Area Sold.			Amount Realized.			Average per Acre.		
				£	s.	d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
1892—	6 months ending 30th June—											
	Unimproved land	...	...	1,297	1	36	3,045	17	10	2	6	11
	Improved	...	...	2,738	0	24	3,265	9	6	1	3	10
"	6 months ending 31st December—											
	Unimproved land	...	...	886	0	4	1,725	3	6	1	13	10
	Improved	...	...	2,759	1	31	3,167	0	10	1	2	11
1893—	6 months ending 30th June—											
	Unimproved land	...	...	923	2	24	1,826	14	0	1	19	6
	Improved	...	...	1,426	1	26	2,017	13	8	1	8	3
	6 months ending 31st December—											
	Unimproved land	...	...	625	2	35	880	18	9	1	8	2
	Improved	...	...	472	0	38	1,264	18	4	2	13	6
1894—	6 months ending 30th June—											
	Unimproved land	...	...	1,648	0	0	2,472	0	0	1	10	0
	Improved	...	...	920	0	0	1,058	0	0	1	3	0
"	6 months ending 31st December—											
	Unimproved land	...	...	1,032	0	0	1,651	0	0	1	12	0
	Improved	...	...	1,137	0	0	1,279	2	6	1	2	6

Table O shows the alienation by auction, during 1894, of town and country lands, and the amounts derived therefrom :—

TABLE O.

Town Lands.			Country Lands.					
Area.		Amount.	Average per Acre.	Area.		Amount.	Average per Acre.	
A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
2,111	0	0	21,834	17	6	10	6	10
4,737	0	0	6,460	2	6	1	7	3

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 Acts* 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.

Six areas, comprising 40,080 acres, and being areas formerly held as pastoral runs under *The Land Act* 1869, were forfeited during the year.

The sum of £19,481 8s. 10d. was received during the year for grazing licences, under sections 3, 67, and 123 of *The Land Acts* 1884–1890.

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, 1894, 224,922 acres.

The amount of pastoral rent paid during the years 1892, 1893, and 1894 was £3,363 3s. 2d., £3,329 2s. 5d., and £2,661 17s. 9d. respectively. Similar information for each year from the passing of *The Land Act* 1869 up to the end of 1891 is contained in the departmental Report for 1891.

Seven (7) leases, comprising 136,900 acres, were declared void during the year. For further particulars, reference is invited to Table P.

TABLE P.

PASTORAL ALLOTMENTS—SECTION 21, LAND ACT 1884–1890.

Number of applications received from 1st January to 31st December, 1894	...	18
Number of applications approved from 1st January to 31st December, 1894	...	6
Area leased	...	149,574 acres
Area available on 1st January, 1895, for application	...	1,604,992 „

THE LAND ACT 1891.

This Act came into operation on the 29th December, 1891.

During the current year many applicants for land have availed themselves of the provision made in section 7, whereby grazing areas of 320 acres and less in extent may be at once licensed by the Governor in Council.

Section 16 provides that areas not exceeding 20 acres and not contiguous or adjacent to Crown lands and areas not exceeding 3 acres required for church sites or for any charitable purposes may be sold. Under the provisions of this section 40 cases were approved, dealing with an area of 261 acres.

Section 17 provides for the application of the “betterment” principle wherever land has been or may be enhanced in value by railways or other public works. Since October, 1893, 70 licences have been issued for an area of 724 acres, the rental of which has been increased in accordance with this clause.

MALLEE.

The *Land Act* 1890, Part II., deals with about 11,166,793 acres of land, exclusive of Mildura (250,000 acres), in the north-western district of the colony. In addition to the area above, 155,207 acres have been laid off as roads through the mallee to permit of communication.

The operations during the year were as follows :—

Leases issued	...	...	...	{	Blocks	...	2	Area	161,280	acres
					Allotments	...	354	"	192,976	"
Licences issued	...	...	...	{	Agricultural allotments	...	7	"	2,238	"
					Garden, Store, &c.	...	4	"	...	"
Leases cancelled for non-payment of rent and other causes	...	...	...	{	Blocks	...	1	"	126,810	"
					Allotments	...	28	"	86,484	"
Leases transferred	...	...	...	{	Blocks	...	Nil	"	...	"
					Allotments	{	Whole	191	"	149,429
						{	Portions	218	"	118,798
Land subdivided and made available for application	...	...	...		Blocks	...	2	"	83,100	"
Applications received	...	...	...	{	Blocks	...	...	...	...	1
					Allotments	...	...	...	...	295
Applications granted	...	...	...	{	Blocks	...	...	...	...	1
					Allotments	...	...	...	...	343*
Applications refused	...	...	...	{	Blocks	...	...	...	...	Nil
					Allotments	...	...	...	...	280*
Applications declared abandoned	...	...	...	{	Blocks	...	...	...	...	Nil
					Allotments	...	...	...	...	334
					Agricultural allotments	...	...	...	...	5
Number of Local Land Boards held	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Cases dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	643

* Includes applications received during 1893 but not dealt with by local land boards till 1894.

On 1st January, 1895, the areas available and held under lease were as follow :—

Available for application	...	...	...	{	Blocks	...	9	Area	1,011,254	acres
					Allotments	...	488	"	597,893	"
Held under lease	...	...	...	{	Blocks	...	68	"	5,975,168	"
					Allotments	...	3,326	"	3,185,201	"

NOTE.—Three blocks containing 390,346 acres are permanently reserved for public purposes, and consequently are not included in lands leased or available.

The revenue derived was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Rents on blocks	3,496	1	2
Rents on allotments	8,157	18	5
Rents on agricultural allotments	188	2	6
Survey fees on blocks	93	15	7
Survey fees on allotments (approximate)	30	0	0
Valuation of improvements on allotments	53	1	10
Fencing rate	696	15	5
Fees—			
Application (approximate)	£205	0	0
Lease	209	0	0
Licence	7	0	0
Transfer	409	0	0
Mortgage	228	0	0
		1,058	0
Total	£13,773	14	11

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 Board	476	16	0
North-Eastern Vermin Board	188	16	3
North-Western	657	17	2
Eastern	329	14	7
Western	240	17	8
Middle	123	6	2
Warracknabeal	237	19	8
Total	£2,255	7	6

During the year the boundaries of the North-Eastern, Middle, and Warracknabeal Vermin Districts have been altered, portion of the area of the first having been added to the areas of the two last.

Selection in the mallee has fallen off very considerably during this year, owing, no doubt, to the low price of produce. At present there are large areas of land suitable for wheat-growing, both on subdivisions of blocks 26B, 27A, and 27B to the west of Lake Tyrrell—30 miles from Sea Lake, and on subdivisions of blocks 20A and 20B, near Piangil—30 miles north-west of Swan Hill. The land is all surveyed and the allotments can be readily identified.

IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION 76 OF THE LAND ACT 1890.

In this section provision is made for the alienation of portions of land not more than 10 acres in extent at a price to be fixed by appraisalment. During the year 764 acres were sold in this manner, realizing the amount of £2,553 13s. 8d.

SECTION 102, LAND ACT 1890.—COMMONS.

Additional commonage, to the extent of 9,720 acres, was proclaimed during the year. Commons were diminished by proclamation to the extent of 2,000 acres.

Three (3) commons which were found to be no longer required were abolished.

SECTION 117, LAND ACT 1890.—PENALTIES.

The amount of penalties, at the rate of Five shillings per acre, received during 1894 for non-improvement by lessees under the Land Acts of 1862 and 1865, and interest on rents in arrear, was £464 2s. 6d.

SECTION 128, LAND ACT 1890.—PUBLIC HEARINGS.

During the year 1894, 548 sittings of Local Land Boards were held, at which applications for land and other business, comprising in all 5,825 subjects (including applications for mallee lands), were dealt with.

Three hundred and fifteen 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. During the twelve months three (3) applications for leases, embracing an area of 2,120 acres, were received. Three (3) applications for leases under section 5 of this Act were granted during the year for an area of 2,020 acres.

CROWN GRANTS AND LEASES.

Three thousand six hundred and thirty-three Crown grants and 1,327 leases were prepared and passed from the head office during 1894.

FEES AND CERTIFICATES.

The sum of £17,403 6s. 7d. was received during the year for certificates, transfers, and registrations under *The Land Acts* 1884–1890, and for miscellaneous fees, including those payable for grants, leases, and survey charges.

THE SETTLEMENT ON LANDS ACT 1893.

This Act came into operation on 31st August, 1893, and a separate report giving full information of all proceedings thereunder has been presented to Parliament.

ARREARS OF RENT.

The arrears due by Crown lessees and licensees amounted on 31st December, 1894, to £749,481.

REVENUE.

Table Q shows in detail the revenue contributed by the Department to the Treasury during 1894:—

TABLE Q.

<i>Temporary Occupation.</i>		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Pastoral occupation and grazing licences (including fencing rate, £696 15s. 5d.)	...	34,494	1	7			
Rents under section 32, <i>Land Act</i> 1884-1890	...	28,018	12	11			
" " 65, " " " " " "	...	3,979	12	2			
Rents under sections 45 and 47, <i>Land Act</i> 1869, Part VIII., <i>Land Act</i> 1884, and Division 8 of Part I., <i>Land Act</i> 1890	...	*22,099	4	11			
					88,591	11	7
<i>Alienated in Fee simple by Auction and Deferred Payments, also Rents received towards Alienation.</i>							
			A.	R.	P.		
By auction—Town land	...	2,111	0	0	} †35,846	0	0
" " Country land	...	4,737	0	0			
Sundry payments on account of purchase in fee simple	...	3,842	7	5			
By purchase under section 31, <i>Land Act</i> 1869	...	10	0	0			
" " " 20, " " section 11, <i>Land Act</i> 1878, and section 44, <i>Land Act</i> 1890	...	42,794	6	10			
" " " 18, <i>Land Act</i> 1890	...	813	2	3			
Rents under section 49, <i>Land Act</i> 1869	...	2,052	2	0			
" " 19, " " as amended by <i>Land Act</i> 1878, section 3, <i>Land Act</i> 1880, and section 42, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884-1890	...	23,813	15	3			
" " 11, " 1878, and section 49, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884-1890	...	1,120	7	6			
" " 20, " 1869, and section 11, <i>Land Act</i> 1878	} 227,439	18	6				
" " 3, <i>Land Acts Amendment Act</i> 1880, section 4, <i>Land Act</i> 1880, and section 44, <i>Land Act</i> 1890							
" " 22, <i>Land Act</i> 1891	...	26	19	0			
" " 5 and 20, <i>Settlement on Lands Act</i> 1893	...	89	14	7			
					337,848	13	4
Penalties under section 117, <i>Land Act</i> 1890, and interest	...	464	2	6			
Fees for grants, leases, licences, surveys, &c.	...	17,403	6	7			
Sale of plans and sundries	...	1,090	7	8			
					18,957	16	9
Total Revenue					445,398	1	8

* This amount includes arrears of rent due in previous years.

† This item includes interest, £2,742 4s. 3d., and instalments on account of some sales prior to 1894.

VERMIN DESTRUCTION.

The following is the expenditure under this head for year ending 31st December, 1894:—

Subsidy paid shire council, &c., for destruction of dogs and foxes	...	£2,101	3	2
Wages of men working Crown lands, material, &c.	...	8,728	6	0
Total	...	£10,829	9	2

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. F. MORKHAM,

Secretary for Lands.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX A.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1894.

District.	Applications Approved.						Report as to the Working of Land Act 1884-1890 on Holdings under Sections 42 and 65.	Report as to use made of Land leased under Section 92 Land Act 1884-1890.	Report as to Agriculture and New Rural Industries.	Remarks.
	Land Act 1890.			Section 65.						
	Section 32.	Section 42.	Section 65.	Section 32.	Section 42.	Section 65.				
No.	Area in Acres.	No.	Area in Acres.	No.	Area in Acres.	No.	Area in Acres.			
Alexandra	16	6,345	7	1,338	...	...	Used for grazing purposes ...	Grazing and dairying principally ...	There is a great deal of land available in this district, but much of it is of a comparatively inaccessible nature. When it is applied for, the charge for survey is often a barrier to the completion of the application.
Ararat ...	16	4,570	11	1,195	18	355	Chiefly grazing ...	The area under vines and fruit trees is still being increased. The butter factory and creameries recently erected have improved the price of cattle, and created a demand for a better class	The vintage has been one of the heaviest known for years. The yield from wheat and oats has been a fair average one.	
Bairnsdale	67	29,709	90	12,848	...	...	Lessees under section 32 are making good use of their holdings. A considerable area has been abandoned in the county of Croajingolong owing to the country being very inaccessible, and no prospect of any roads being made	The farmers of this district have decided to go in for growing seeds for producing oil. An area of about 1,500 acres will be cultivated this year with this object in view	The crops have not been up to the usual standard owing to the continued drought, very little rain having fallen during the spring; in fact, it was one of the driest seasons ever experienced in Gippsland.
Ballarat ...	6	511	21	2,564	160	2,701	Principally grazing ...	Attention is principally devoted to the growing of oats and wheat for hay, and potatoes and peas. The yield for hay has only been a two-thirds one, but for potatoes and peas the yield has been good. This industry has felt the effects of the depression most keenly. The export trade in hay and potatoes to New South Wales has greatly decreased, and the farmers cannot realize anything like payable results. The establishing of butter factories and creameries has been vigorously carried out, and they have proved valuable aids to farmers generally. An experiment in the cultivation of sugar beet and flax has been undertaken	A great bar to progressive and legitimate settlement under 65th section is mining and com-munage objections. It is evident the mining community are not aware of the conditions of 65th section licences which afford the miner every facility for entering and mining on land so held, and com-munage objections should not be allowed to retard settlement. The provisions of the 99th section for garden and residence sites have been freely availed of, and good use has been made of the land.	

APPENDIX A—continued.

District.	Applications Approved.							Remarks.	
	Land Act 1890.								
	Section 32.		Section 42.		Section 65.		Report as to the working of Land Act 1884-1890 in Holdings under Sections 42 and 65.		
No.	Area in acres.	No.	Area in acres.	No.	Area in acres.	Report as to use made of Land leased under Section 32 Land Act 1884-1890.			
Beechworth	34	18,734	36	4,314	71	1,320	<p>Report as to use made of Land leased under Section 32 Land Act 1884-1890.</p> <p>Land held under this section used for grazing. Conditions are satisfactorily complied with</p> <p>Conditions of licences under section 42 are being fairly complied with. Land selected under section 65 is used principally for grazing, as the land is poor and heavily timbered, and licensees could not grow wheat to make any profit owing to the low prices ruling for some time past</p>	<p>Report as to Agriculture and New Rural Industries.</p> <p>The area under wheat last season was not so large as in previous years, farmers finding it more profitable to graze cattle on the land and supply milk to the creameries, of which there are a number in the district. Tobacco is being grown in this district with a fair amount of success. No new rural industry to report</p>	<p>The area under vines is increasing every year. The first crop this season was, on the whole, very good.</p>
Benalla	13	6,118	20	2,543	...	...	<p>Land under this section is used for grazing. Conditions of leases complied with. Rabbits are becoming troublesome in some parts of this district, and several lessees talk of abandoning their holdings as they are unable to cope with them</p> <p>Holders under section 42 are complying with the conditions of their licences. There are no 65th section holdings in this district</p>	<p>Fruit-growing is making rapid progress in this district. The yield for past season was very good. The creameries all through the district are proving a great boon to farmers, and a ham and bacon factory just established at Wangaratta also promises to benefit them by giving a surer return for the pigs they breed than if they were sent to market. The shire council last year distributed some sugar-beet seed to farmers, who state that it grew splendidly. Tobacco is still grown with varying success.</p>	
Bendigo	6	1,632	14	1,451	72	1,030	<p>Principally for grazing purposes</p> <p>Very satisfactory</p>	<p>Compared with last year there has been an increased area under crop, and, although the average yield has fallen short of previous years, the returns have, on the whole, been satisfactory. In many instances crops sown under most promising conditions were greatly retarded by periods of unfavorable weather, so that wheat-growers who had anticipated rich harvests had to content themselves with a smaller yield than obtained during the last few seasons. The vineyards are in a most flourishing condition, except, of course, where the phylloxera has broken out. A deal of attention has been given of late to the cultivation of the white mulberry for silkworms, and the efforts in this direction are being widely supported throughout the district</p>	<p>Lands taken up of late years under the garden licence system have produced very satisfactory returns, especially those including tracts of abandoned alluvial diggings, large areas of what were considered worthless lands being now planted with vines and fruit trees.</p>

Camperdown and Warrnambool	Included in Geelong	...	...	None under section 65. Section 42—In nearly all cases the land is used for grazing generally in connection with prior holdings. Some few are used for homes	Mostly used for grazing. None of the land will pay for cultivation at the extremely low prices now obtaining. The holdings are generally used for running dry cattle and relieving the dairy farms until the cows come in again for milking	No rural industries. Agriculture practically is a dead letter in this district so far as Crown land is concerned. A few old section 20 holdings may have a little cultivation on them to grow enough, perhaps, for home use, but in no other case is any tillage done. There is no incentive whatever to do any in the forest country; in fact, but for the dairying industry, hardly any land would be taken up at all	Generally it has been a most trying time for the settlers, and many have had to abandon their holdings from the want of work and the low prices of everything they may have to sell.			
Castlemaine	14	2,793	11	1,228	80	2,027	Satisfactory	... ..	The returns have been fairly up to the average—9 bushels to the acre being about the quantity obtained in this district. The potato crop has fallen short of expectations, and in a good many cases the quality is inferior. No new industries to report	The lands taken up under the five-acre system—section 22—and the garden licence areas are being worked with very satisfactory results.
Echuca and Kerang	30	4,467	90	3,764	...	...	Every way satisfactory	...	A much larger area of lands were under crop this year than previously, and the returns especially in the counties of Moira and Rodney have been very good, averaging about 10 bushels. In a good many places crops were patchy, and the "take all" did much mischief. In the Goulburn Valley a much larger area was under barley, but, owing to the damage done by caterpillars, the yield was considerably reduced	In the Mallee and around Swan Hill a great extent of new country has been opened up, and with a much desired rise in prices no doubt the area will be considerably increased next season. A superior class of farmers have settled in this portion of the country, and by hard labour have worked a very marked transformation. Although not quite as good as last year, the Mallee crops will average about 11 bushels. Fairly good samples of barley have also been secured, and the area next year will, no doubt, be much more extensive.
Geelong	112	29,477	59	8,665	1	20	Selectors under this section (42) in the forest are those that have held their blocks for some time under section 32, and after clearing and improving the land are in a position to remain at home without going elsewhere for work. Those who selected in the first place under this section are men who are in a fair position	Many selectors avail themselves of this section on account of want of means and by working on their selections when they are out of remunerative work. In a few years they have sufficient improvements effected to enable them to live on the land. I consider that this section of the Act is a great boon to the poorer class of selectors, as it enables them in time to make permanent homes	Very little, if any use, is made of either the agriculture or new rural industries in this district at present	The selectors consider that if they are fortunate enough to get some sort of railway through the Beech Forest there would be any quantity of all kinds of produce, timber, &c., available.

APPENDIX A—continued.

District.	Applications Approved.						Report as to the Working of Land Act 1884-1890 on Holdings under Sections 42 and 65.	Report as to Agriculture and New Rural Industries.	Remarks.
	Land Act 1890.								
	Section 32.		Section 42.		Section 65.				
No.	Area in acres.	No.	Area in acres.	No.	Area in acres.				
Hamilton ...	49	17,488	25	2,926	1	20	Principally grazing ...	Grazing, and not agriculture, is the chief rural industry; but where land has been placed under cultivation the results have been satisfactory	There have been a good number of applications under section 99, and many comfortable houses have been erected on the blocks licensed under this section of the Land Act. The rabbit factory is now being worked by a company, and is doing splendid work in the matter of reducing the rabbits, besides giving a great deal of employment; it is deserving of every encouragement. The land in Condah Swamp is proving itself to be equal to expectations, some splendid yields of potatoes have been obtained, both as regards quality and quantity.
Horsham ...	72	24,116	56	9,447	...	...	Principally grazing ...	Agriculture has been severely checked, owing to an unfavorable season and low prices of produce, and as a consequence much more attention has been devoted to the establishment of butter factories, creameries, poultry farms, orchards, and apiaries throughout the district, most of which are making satisfactory progress	There is still a large area of land available suitable for grazing purposes. The demand for good Malice land continues.
Melbourne	89	17,580	300	9,609	29	423	There is very little natural grass country in the Melbourne district, and consequently very little settlement under section 32	Chiefly dairying—several new creameries established.	
Ormeo ...	10	4,780	6	997	...	...	The land is chiefly grazing country. The low price of stock has compelled some selectors to relinquish their holdings after fencing and improving them; these blocks are situated north of the Gap, which is cattle country. The selectors south of the Gap have retained their holdings, as the land there is suited for sheep and some degrees warmer	The crops generally have not been so good. A butter factory and a cheese factory have recently started operations, and from all appearances will prove prosperous undertakings, and will cause the farmers to turn their attention more to dairying. A saw-mill has also started	The rainfall has been good. There has been a fair amount of grass. Owing to the gold discovery at Glen Wills, and the prospects obtained, a considerable influx of population has taken place, and will increase much more next spring. This will afford a very good market for the farmers.

St. Arnaud	21	4,133	46	7,433	134	2,296	Satisfactory	...	Grazing	...	A number of creameries have been started in the district, and are a great boon to the farmers	In consequence of the low price ruling for grain, farmers are giving more attention to dairying, vine culture, and planting orchards
Sale	...	45	8,410	182	19,610	348	During the past year there have not been many applicants for land under section 65. Most of the land applied for now is taken up under section 42	The greater part of the land leased under section 32 is used for grazing purposes only—for milch cows, young stock, and horses	No new industries have been started in this district since last report, but the area under flax has been considerably increased, and several new creameries and butter factories have been started	Prices for produce and stock of all descriptions have been so low that it has been a very bad year for land-holders, the majority of whom have only managed to pull through by the profit made from their cows.		
Stawell	...	17	3,665	10	1,326	196	Satisfactory	...	Chiefly grazing	...	The area under cultivation is still increasing, and a fair yield has been obtained throughout the greater portion of the district.	
Seymour	...	19	5,346	6	1,110	738	Satisfactory	...	Used for grazing purposes	...	Land used principally for grazing and dairying.	

APPENDIX B.

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, 1894.

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 this system works fairly well both from a public and a departmental point of view.

2. During the year where inspections of the work of the authorized surveyors have been made, the inspecting field-officers have as a rule reported favorably thereon, and that the surveys are satisfactory and fairly up to the standard of accuracy.

3. The permanent staff of field-officers at the end of the year consisted of an inspecting district surveyor and eight assistants, one of whom—the land officer and surveyor in charge at Bairnsdale—has been inspecting and reporting on the village settlements, another assisting in Melbourne district surveyor's work. The survey party in charge of the assistant surveyor and land officer at Sale has been disbanded.

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

- (a) Subdivision of reclaimed lands at the Koo-wee-rup and Moe Swamps,
- (b) Survey of roads.
- (c) Check surveys and resurveys in the several districts.
- (d) Subdivision of town and country lands.
- (e) Topographical surveys.

4. Expenditure on departmental surveys for the year 1894 has been as follows:—

Subdivision of land for sale	...	...	...	...	£2,562	14	1
Main road surveys	...	...	...	...	2,185	7	1
Check surveys and connexion lines	...	...	...	...	209	14	2
Resurveys for sale, selection, and others	...	...	...	...	260	15	3
Subdivision of land for selection	...	...	...	...	1,584	11	0
Village settlement surveys under <i>Settlement on Lands Act</i>							
1893	...	...	...	...	6,512	17	10
Mallee subdivisional surveys	...	...	...	...	2,738	10	1
Surveys of sites for public purposes	...	...	...	...	112	19	3
Feature surveys, standard lines, boundaries, and other surveys not enumerated	...	...	...	...	581	10	10
					£16,748	19	7

5. The amount received as survey fees during the year on account of surveys made by and at the expense of the Department, together with instalments paid on balances due on grazing area surveys, was £2,978 8s. 9d.

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

Chief Secretary's Department	...	...	...	...	£121	16	0
Department of Agriculture	...	...	...	...	28	7	6
Mines Department	...	...	...	...	36	5	0
Defence Department	...	...	...	...	6	5	0
Titles Office	...	...	...	...	1	11	0
Railway Department	...	...	...	...	6	5	0

7. The amount expended to cover the cost of grazing area surveys, where survey fees exceeded £10 (as per clause 36 of Special Regulations for temporary surveys, dated 4th August, 1890, *Land Act* 1890), has been £69 18s. These regulations have been rescinded.

8. The amount paid into Trust Fund, Survey Fees Account, by selectors and others as survey fees for the year 1894 was £10,556 17s. 1d., and the amount withdrawn therefrom for surveyors' payments, refunds to applicants, and transfers to revenue was £13,640 15s. 3d. for the same period.

COMPUTING AND ADJUSTING.

9. There were 628 plans examined and checked (varying from 1 to 200 lots), of which 150 were returned to surveyors for amendment of discrepancies. Field notes are filed and produced for reference when required by surveyors and draughtsmen.

In the adjusting room 2,276 cases of discrepancies have been investigated, and 60 certificates of amendment prepared and issued involving altogether the preparation of about 2,300 plans and diagrams.

The staff consists of one officer in charge and nine assistants—four in the computing and five in the adjusting room respectively.

DRAUGHTING AND LITHOGRAPHY.

10. The staff has been engaged in compiling new locality and record plans of parishes, as well as plans for the use of the Settlement on Lands Branch of the Department.

The increased demand for parish plans on the 40-chain scale has necessitated the posting up and re-issue of a large number.

Requisitions for plans and tracings, supplying information to other Departments, municipalities, and public bodies, have received due attention.

Owing to the large amount of general work, the preparation of compiled plans has been greatly retarded; but five new parish and two city and township plans have been published.

Technical descriptions for the gazettal of reserves (temporary and permanent), roads, amended boundaries of municipal and electoral districts, &c., have been prepared.

The amount of work disposed of in the lithographic and printing branches has been large, owing to requirements under the Settlement on Lands Act, also to the demand by the public for revised general maps.

The staff, including lithographers, printers, and plan-mounter, numbers 27.

ENGRAVING.

11. The plate of the Geodetic Survey of Victoria, "M," South Division, has been completed. The plate "S" is in hand. The two maps of Victoria have been posted up to date.

The staff is limited to one engraver.

PHOTOGRAPHY.

12. Transfers for all departmental plans have been prepared, also for other branches of the service—the Mines, Defence, Government Statist, and Railways. A large amount of work for the Patents Office is in hand. Transfers of several municipal plans have been completed.

Staff, two—photographer and assistant.

M. CALLANAN,
Surveyor-General.

APPENDIX C.

FOREST BRANCH.

STATE FORESTS.

Operations upon the State forests of the colony have been confined as much as possible to restrict the destruction of young timber and preserve the mature timber for the use of the saw-miller in the future; but in consequence of the great and general revival in mining, and the state of the labour market, the forests have suffered by the large demands made by the miners and sleeper-cutters.

Thinning operations have been carried out fairly well in various forests, and at Ballarat especially so, by reason of the system adopted there of marking mining props and timber for removal prior to cutting, as under this system the happy-go-lucky style of every man cutting as he likes which marked the old method is done away with, and the timber suitable for props and for firewood is now selected by the trained forester with most excellent results to the forest.

The saw-mill industry has been most of the year in a moribund state, but towards the end a revival sprang up, and a prospect opened up for an export trade with London. In the month of December several shipments—about 120,000 super. feet—were despatched from Melbourne. The timbers sent were redgum (Gippsland), yellow stringybark (Port Albert), greygum, stringybark, and mountain ash from Wandong mills. The whole of this timber was inspected and passed by me for export except some pieces of mountain ash (about 5,000 feet) which I refused to certify to. Certificates giving full description of the timber botanically were given with each shipment, so that no possible mistake can occur with the home buyers.

THE STATE PLANTATIONS.

The plantations of the Department are in a most satisfactory position, and most valuable results are expected to accrue from the work done in this direction.

The chief plantation is situated at You Yangs, and here half-a-million trees are making extraordinary growth.

Conifers from all parts of the world and valuable introduced eucalypts, including jarrah, tooart, karri, sugar-gum, and others are growing luxurantly, and promise a large return within a few years.

The same good results are also obtainable at Creswick, and in this plantation the pines and spruce firs are showing good growth on account of the altitude, being close to the top of the "Divide," and therefore the highest part of the Ballarat district. It is expected that all the "deals" of commerce can be profitably cultivated in this district, and certainly the result so far achieved fully warrant the extension of the work of planting in this special direction. In the Creswick (Saw-pit Gully) plantation, about 150,000 trees are growing and showing splendid results, and this plantation, with the one at "You Yangs," should serve as object lessons. These two plantations, containing half-a-million of introduced trees from all parts of the world, are of themselves alone worth all the expenditure of the Forest Branch since its inception, as the assets of the branch may roughly be put down as close upon £60,000.

The following figures for the years as shown hereunder are, or should be, conclusive testimony of the great value of the planting work of the Forest Branch—all being introduced trees, mostly foreign :—

	You Yangs.	Saw-pit Gully.	Gunbower.	Macedon.	Havelock.
	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.	Trees.
1888-9 ...	12,000	8,350	—	6,000	—
1889-90 ...	52,000	42,500	—	12,000	—
1890-91 ...	56,000	17,000	—	8,000	—
1891-2 ...	42,008	17,821	10,000	—	—
1892-3 ...	28,810	28,699	8,000	—	—
1893-4 ...	22,265	16,000	3,000	—	9,500
Totals	213,083	130,370	21,000	26,000	9,500

or a grand total of 376,553 trees* *hand* planted in permanent sites.

The total cost of the You Yangs' plantation is set forth hereunder to date :—

1889-90—Fencing, planting, &c.	... ..	£1,264
1890-91	... ..	971
1891-2	... ..	768
1892-3	... ..	512
1893-4	... ..	371
1894-5	... ..	354
Total cost of fencing, planting, and supervision		£4,240

The receipts for the same period are as under —

1888-9 to 1894-5—Sale of indigenous wattle bark (two contracts)	... ..	£950
" " Grazing fees for horses	... ..	180
		£1,130

Thus, after deducting receipts from expenditure, the net cost of the plantation is £3,110.

* These figures do not include about 300,000 bluegums planted at Havelock and You Yangs broadcast.

FREE DISTRIBUTION.

The free distribution to the public and public institutions is year by year becoming increasingly popular.

In consequence of organization, good packing, and skilled labour, together with a careful selection of trees, the general result of the planting by the people outside the Department is fairly satisfactory, and is about 65 per cent.

The number of trees despatched from Macedon during 1893-4 was 50,000, and during the five years ending 1894 about 300,000 trees have been sent to all parts of the colony. The bulk of these trees are doing well, and are objects of great admiration in the distant parts of the colony where ornamental trees are a rarity.

The severe retrenchment effected in the Forest Branch through the annual cutting down of expenses militates seriously against the extension of tree-planting and distribution. This is to be regretted, as the planting of trees must be a source of great national wealth in a few years.

A large number of railway stations were supplied with trees for ornamental purposes, but not much success has attended this movement, as many of the trees have been planted in most unsuitable places, and these will have to be removed in a year or so. The attention of the Railway Department has been directed to the matter, when it is to be hoped more attention will be given, not only to the trees, but also to the methods of planting, &c., as adopted at the various railway stations.

REVENUE, 1894.

	£	s.	d.
Royalty redgum timber	970	3	8
Royalty wattle bark and wattle wood	403	8	8
Grazing licences	1,300	5	0
Thinning area licences	969	15	0
Saw-mill licences	215	10	0
Timber area licences	98	5	0
Wood licences	968	10	0
Other licences, &c., not specified above	157	1	10
Penalties, &c....	386	4	4
	5,459	3	6†

† This does not include revenue from timber reserves or for timber from Crown lands.