

1900.  
—  
VICTORIA.

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# REPORT

OF

PROCEEDINGS TAKEN UNDER THE PROVISIONS

OF

THE LAND ACTS AND THE WATTLES ACT 1890

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

1899.

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

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# REPORT.

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*To His Excellency the Honorable Sir John Madden, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony of Victoria and its Dependencies, &c., &c., &c.*

Department of Lands and Survey,  
Melbourne, 15th November, 1900.

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 1899.

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.

Appendices B and C give a detailed account of the work done in the Professional Division and Forest Branch of the Department.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

J. H. McCOLL,

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



To the Honorable James Hiers McColl, Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey.

Department of Crown Lands and Survey,  
Melbourne, 15th November, 1900.

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 1899.

I.—SETTLEMENT.

The general methods of alienation of Crown lands in Victoria, from the first sales to the 31st December, 1899, 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, &c.		
					No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	
Under Imperial Acts ...	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
„ <i>Land Act</i> 1860 ...	392,610	1,273	4,979	398,862	...	410,600	...	...	...	...	3,944,237
„ „ 1862 ...	422,610	2,800	31,295	456,705	...	1,363,243	...	59,992	...	...	809,462
„ „ 1865 ...	639,761	6,709	34,137	680,607	5,900	1,499,910	3,078	559,423	...	753,574	1,879,940
„ „ 1869 ...	986,175	17,229	32,693	1,036,097	Section 19. 65,838	10,491,131	...	...	Section 49. 11,696	183,229	3,493,514
„ „ 1878 ...	...	...	...	...	Section 11. 453	76,100	...	...	Section 10. 401	1,202	11,710,457
Totals ...	...	...	...	6,516,508	...	13,840,984	...	619,415	...	938,005	21,914,912
During year—	<i>Land Acts</i> 1884-1890.				<i>Land Acts</i> 1884-1890.						
1885 ...	23,917	2,094	877	26,888	...	...	...	...	...	...	26,888
1886 ...	16,687	2,102	420	19,209	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,209
1887 ...	16,661	2,774	104	19,539	Section 42. 83	11,310	...	...	...	...	30,849
1888 ...	15,384	4,290	102	19,776	290	49,745	...	...	...	...	69,521
1889 ...	9,986	2,199	835	13,020	409	63,906	Section 49. 41	5,383	...	...	82,309
1890 ...	8,832	2,998	166	11,996	505	91,974	33	4,409	...	...	108,379
1891 ...	4,176	1,707	563	6,446	507	88,610	26	2,069	...	...	97,125
1892 ...	7,037	2,290	603	9,930	482	74,841	16	1,960	...	...	86,731
1893 ...	3,448	2,840	254	6,542	748	100,280	Land Act 1891. Section 22. 13	1,554	13	58	108,434
1894 ...	4,737	2,109	...	6,846	907	97,867	56	307	78	363	105,383
1895 ...	1,904	1,441	...	3,345	578	46,568	23	992	22	106	51,011
1896 ...	1,471	1,179	...	2,650	613	22,336	18	368	5	32	25,386
1897 ...	2,610	1,418	...	4,028	495	33,512	20	808	4	20	38,368
1898 ...	2,213	1,192	...	3,405	480	43,551	15	1,542	4	18	48,516
1899 ...	4,467	1,612	...	6,079	616	66,998	14	924	...	...	74,001
Totals under <i>Land Acts</i> 1884-1890 ...	123,530	32,245	3,924	159,699	6,838	707,327	286	20,705	126	597	972,110
Auction ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,676,207 acres.				
Selection ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,210,815 „				
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22,887,022 acres.				

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

Table B shows the number of leases and licences under Land Acts 1869, 1878, 1890, and 1891 on 31st December, 1899, with the area and rental:—

TABLE B.

Section of Act.	No.	Area.	Annual Rental.
<i>Progress Payments.</i>			
Residence—			
		Acres.	£
Licences—Section 42, <i>Land Act</i> 1890 ...	4,689	482,116	24,106
Section 17, <i>Land Act</i> 1891 ...	98	1,131	113
Section 22, <i>Land Act</i> 1891 ...	126	597	48
Section 9, <i>Wattles Act</i> 1890 ...	1	131	7
Leases—Section 20, <i>Land Act</i> 1869–1878	21,620	3,496,844	174,842
Section 44, <i>Land Act</i> 1890 ...	2,081	333,384	16,669
Section 10, <i>Settlement on Lands Act</i> 1893	1,331	20,568	2,147
Section 24, <i>Settlement on Lands Act</i> 1893	147	6,102	308
Non-residence—			
Licences—Section 49, <i>Land Act</i> 1890 ...	220	13,239	1,324
Leases—Section 20, <i>Land Act</i> 1869–1878	391	57,237	5,724
Section 50, <i>Land Act</i> 1890 ...	75	9,286	929
<i>Leases and Licences other than Agricultural and Grazing—</i>			
Section 49, <i>Land Act</i> 1869 ...	1,343	18,831	1,780
Section 65, <i>Land Act</i> 1890 ...	4,329	78,352	6,245
Section 99, <i>Land Act</i> 1890 ...	2,221	4,362	6,723
Section 91, <i>Land Act</i> 1890 ...	86	733	5,584
<i>Pastoral Occupation—</i>			
Section 3, <i>Land Act</i> 1890 ...	33	184,282	530
Section 21, <i>Land Act</i> 1890 ...	69	1,025,064	3,044
Section 32, <i>Land Act</i> 1890 ...	7,593	3,014,908	28,048
Section 67, <i>Land Act</i> 1890 ...	1,022	305,673	2,555
Section 123, <i>Land Act</i> 1890 ...	3,781	5,862,913	14,233
Section 85, <i>Land Act</i> 1890 ...	111	4,120	1,913
Section 5, <i>Wattles Act</i> 1890 ...	18	8,007	96
Section 10, <i>Wattles Act</i> 1890 ...	1	412	2
<i>Mallee Lands—</i>			
Pastoral Leases ...	3,475	8,426,266	12,000
Perpetual Leases ...	410	246,110	2,051
Agricultural Allotment Licences ...	95	57,164	2,858
Total ...	55,366	23,657,832	313,879

## 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 1899:—

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.								
1	16*	5	11	2,961	681,080	1,753	£ 2 2 0	680,745	47,859 7 0

\* The surplus of applications *dealt with* over the applications lodged consists of applications *lodged* in previous years, but not dealt with.  
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 1899:—

TABLE D.

80 acres and under ...	...	...	...	7
Over 80 and under 160 ...	...	...	...	6
Over 160 and not exceeding 240 ...	...	...	...	1
Over 240 and not exceeding 320 ...	...	...	...	2
Total ...	...	...	...	16

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 1899 :—

TABLE E.

Number of Applications.		Purchases Completed.	Area Purchased.	Balances of Purchase Money Received.			Survey Fees Allowed.		
Received.	Approved.			Acres.	£	s.	d.	£	s.
16	16	16	489	85	4	0	50	0	0

## 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. Seventy-two applications, representing 1,219 acres, were approved during the year, and the sum of £113 19s. 6d. 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. This term was extended by section 21 of the *Land Act* 1898 for a further twelve months. Table F shows the extent of the operation of this section during each month of the year :—

TABLE F.

1899.	Number of Applications.		Area Leased.
	Received.	Approved.	
January ... ..	9	14	Acres. 4,064
February ... ..	21	3	1,286
March ... ..	23	3	1,723
April ... ..	33	2	701
May ... ..	33	3	905
June ... ..	26	5	919
July ... ..	41	1	640
August ... ..	26	2	1,018
September ... ..	29	6	1,170
October ... ..	26	...	...
November ... ..	27	1	165
December ... ..	42	1	1,000
Totals ... ..	336	41	13,591*

\* The annual rent payable in respect of this area is £129 9s. 10d.

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	870	616	Acres. 138,527	Acres. 66,998	£	s.	d.
49—Non-residence	112	14	14,405	924	3,352	7	0
					92	8	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 1899:—

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.								
295	309*	12	377	29	Acres. 3,335	Acres. 54,088	£ s. d. 589 14 6	Acres. 2,498	£ s. d. 1,457 17 6

\* The surplus of applications approved over the number received during the year consists of applications received during the previous year but not then dealt with.

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

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 1899:—

TABLE I.

80 acres and under ...	...	...	...	...	9
Over 80 and under 160 ...	...	...	...	...	1
Over 160 and not exceeding 240 ...	...	...	...	...	1
Over 240 and not exceeding 320 ...	...	...	...	...	1
					—
Total ...	...	...	...	...	12
					—

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. Thirty-eight orders, representing in all an area of 5,722 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. Twenty-two liens, comprising an area of 2,965 acres, were registered during the year, representing, as advanced on this kind of security, £1,964 7s. 4d.

#### *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.	
447	116	Acres. 1,987	144	29	Acres. 9,791

### 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 10 applications under this section were received, but no applications were approved.

### 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	845	115,611	25	2,403	597	11,002
1894	636	189,874	1,014	112,607	99	4,635	646	11,474
1895	374	91,227	771	72,090	39	1,896	305	5,376
1896	251	67,275	796	43,284	34	1,272	215	3,730
1897	262	73,499	653	54,115	20	808	110	1,895
1898	222	81,288	605	59,380	26	1,931	125	2,006
1899	41	13,591	616	66,998	14	924	116	1,987

NOTE.—This Table includes selections under section 17, *Land Act* 1891.

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 1899 :—

TABLE L.

		No.	Extent.
			Acres.
Licences—	Section 19, <i>Land Acts</i> 1869–1878 ...	6	1,164
	Section 49, <i>Land Act</i> 1869 ...	7	122
	Section 42, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890 ...	125	15,829
	Section 49, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890 ...	11	389
	Section 65, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890 ...	108	2,002
	Section 67, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890 ...	110	42,884
Leases—	Section 20, <i>Land Act</i> 1869–1878 ...	27	5,695
	Section 21, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890 ...	4	63,100
	Section 32, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890 ...	274	113,426

NOTE.—The Treasury profited to the extent of £2,464 8s. 11d. through revocations and forfeitures during 1899.

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.	Leases Surrendered.	Total.
Licences—	Section 19, <i>Land Acts</i> 1869–1878 ...	...	2	...	4	...	...	...	6
	Section 49, <i>Land Act</i> 1869 ...	...	4	1	2	...	...	...	7
	Section 42, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890 ...	12	62	22	19	5	5	...	125
	Section 49, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890 ...	...	4	2	4	1	...	...	11
	Section 65, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890 ...	18	59	22	8	...	1	...	108
	Section 67, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890 ...	17	81	...	9	...	3	...	110
Leases—	Section 20, <i>Land Acts</i> 1869–1878 ...	...	23	...	...	...	4	...	27
	Section 21, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890 ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	Section 32, <i>Land Acts</i> 1884–1890 ...	10	142	7	...	...	8	107	274
Totals ...		61	377	54	46	6	21	107	672

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

The principle of deferred payments introduced in Part V. of *The Land Act* 1884, now Division 5, Part I., *Land Act* 1890, has been extended by the provisions of Division 6 of the *Land Act* 1898, one-eighth of the price bid being paid at the time of sale, and the remaining seven-eighths spread over a period not exceeding twenty years, payable half-yearly, in instalments of equal amounts, bearing interest at the rate of £4 per centum per annum.

During the year, 6,079 acres were sold for £37,281. Interest to the amount of £1,230 0s. 10d. was paid with the instalments of purchase money as they fell due.

The area of country lands sold at auction during 1899 was 4,467 acres, of which about 3,738 acres were improved and subject to valuation, and 729 acres unimproved.

In consequence of a large number of purchasers having failed to pay up the instalments of their purchase money as they became due, as required by the conditions of sale, steps were taken during the year to forfeit to the Crown the amounts already paid and declare the sales void.

As a result of this action, which was not taken until after repeated and fruitless notices to the purchasers, an area of 67a. 0r. 14p. reverted to the Crown, and the instalments of purchase money already paid thereon, amounting to £525 13s. 6d., were forfeited.

Table N shows the proceeds of sales by auction of country lands during each year from 1892. 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.
	A.	R. P.	£ 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 18 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
1895—6 months ending 30th June—				
Unimproved land ... ..	449	3 14	1,025 12 8	2 5 7
Improved " ... ..	1,000	0 39	4,375 12 8	4 7 6
" 6 months ending 31st December—				
Unimproved land ... ..	280	3 2	1,288 9 9	4 11 9
Improved " ... ..	172	3 31	623 14 6	3 12 1
1896—6 months ending 30th June—				
Unimproved land ... ..	410	0 26	1,205 2 3	2 18 9
Improved " ... ..	484	1 25	772 15 3	1 12 1
" 6 months ending 31st December—				
Unimproved land ... ..	127	2 33	364 5 8	2 17 4
Improved " ... ..	448	2 14	631 7 6	1 8 2
1897—6 months ending 30th June—				
Unimproved land ... ..	391	1 10	1,143 3 5	2 18 6
Improved " ... ..	997	1 34	2,606 4 10	2 12 3
" 6 months ending 31st December—				
Unimproved land ... ..	142	0 38	439 19 3	3 2 0
Improved " ... ..	1,145	1 23	1,559 0 5	1 7 3
1898—6 months ending 30th June—				
Unimproved land ... ..	247	2 15	469 0 11	1 18 0
Improved " ... ..	1,348	0 26	4,488 4 3	3 6 6
" 6 months ending 31st December—				
Unimproved land ... ..	98	0 22	389 11 0	3 19 3
Improved " ... ..	518	2 17	711 8 9	1 7 6
1899—6 months ending 30th June—				
Unimproved land ... ..	461	2 35	2,152 7 11	4 13 4
Improved " ... ..	651	2 8	839 13 6	1 5 9
" 6 months ending 31st December—				
Unimproved land ... ..	267	0 0	837 9 9	3 2 9
Improved " ... ..	3,086	1 27	15,905 18 1	5 3 1

Table O shows the alienation by auction, during 1899, 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.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1,611 1 28	17,545 3 9	10 17 9	4,466 2 30	19,735 9 3	4 8 4

## 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.

The sum of £19,151 1s. 11d. 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, 1899, 184,282 acres, but by the operation of section 4, *Land Act* 1898, the occupation of these runs will cease on that date.

The amount of pastoral rent paid for each year since 1891 is shown in Table P below. Similar information for each year from the passing of *The Land Act* 1869 up to the end of 1891 is shown in the departmental Report for 1891.

TABLE P.

						£	s.	d.
1892	...	...	...	...	...	3,363	3	2
1893	...	...	...	...	...	3,329	2	5
1894	...	...	...	...	...	2,661	17	9
1895	...	...	...	...	...	3,874	7	10
1896	...	...	...	...	...	3,011	11	10
1897	...	...	...	...	...	3,462	16	9
1898	...	...	...	...	...	3,303	17	6
1899	...	...	...	...	...	2,823	16	9

Two (2) leases, comprising 63,100 acres, was declared void during the year. For further particulars, reference is invited to Table Q.

TABLE Q.

## PASTORAL ALLOTMENTS—SECTION 21, LAND ACT 1884–1890, AS EXTENDED BY SECTION 14 OF THE LAND ACT 1898.

Number of applications received from 1st January to 31st December, 1899	...	0
Number of applications approved from 1st January to 31st December, 1899	...	1
Area leased	...	13,410 acres
Area available on 1st January, 1900, for application	...	4,483,491 „

## SECTION 16, LAND ACT, 1898.

Applications received	...	...	...	...	...	69
-----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

## 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, as extended by section 94 of the *Land Act* 1898, provides that areas not exceeding 50 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 23 cases were approved, dealing with an area of 207 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, 98 licences have been issued for an area of 1,131 acres, the rental of which has been increased in accordance with this clause.

## MALLEE.

The *Land Act* 1890, Part II., the *Mallee Lands Act* 1896, and the *Land Act* 1898, Part II., deal 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, &c., through the mallee to facilitate travelling in this portion of the colony, and 397,881 acres have been retained as reserves. The transactions for the year are as under:—

Leases issued ... ..	{	Blocks ... ..	1	Area, 49,920 acres
	{	Allotments ... ..	19	„ 52,255 „
	{	Perpetual leases ... ..	64	„ 31,457 „
Licences issued ... ..	{	Agricultural allotments	16	„ 7,073 „
	{	Garden, Store, &c.	39	„ — „
Leases cancelled for non-payment of rent and for other causes ... ..	{	Blocks ... ..	—	„ — „
	{	Allotments ... ..	43	„ 38,220 „
Licences cancelled ... ..	{	Blocks ... ..	—	„ — „
	{	Whole allotments ... ..	256	„ 170,189 „
Leases transferred ... ..	{	Portions of allotments	64	„ 43,546 „
	{	Perpetual leases ... ..	1	„ 320 „
Land subdivided and made available ... ..	{	Portions of Blocks...	5	„ 44,550 „
Applications received ... ..	{	Blocks ... ..	...	Nil
	{	Allotments ... ..	...	38
Applications granted ... ..	{	Blocks ... ..	...	Nil
	{	Allotments ... ..	...	30
Applications refused ... ..	{	Blocks ... ..	...	Nil
	{	Allotments ... ..	...	8
Applications received for agricultural allotments ... ..	{	Perpetual leases ... ..	...	219
	{	Licences ... ..	...	41
Number granted ... ..	{	Perpetual leases ... ..	...	150
	{	Licences ... ..	...	25
Number refused ... ..	{	Perpetual leases ... ..	...	69
	{	Licences ... ..	...	16
Applications abandoned ... ..	{	Block ... ..	...	1
	{	Allotments ... ..	...	3
	{	Perpetual leases ... ..	...	17
	{	Licence ... ..	...	1
Number of Local Land Boards held ... ..		...	...	23
Cases dealt with ... ..		...	...	350

On 1st January, 1900, the areas available and held under lease were as follow:—

Available for application ... ..	{	Blocks ... ..	14	Area 1,331,840 acres
	{	Allotments ... ..	60	„ 335,217 „
	{	Agricultural allotments	479	„ 372,315 „
Held under lease ... ..	{	Blocks ... ..	61	„ 5,291,759 „
	{	Allotments ... ..	3,414	„ 3,134,507 „
Agricultural allotments held ... ..	{	Perpetual leases ... ..	410	„ 246,110 „
	{	Licences ... ..	95	„ 57,164 „

The revenue derived was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Rents on blocks ... ..	2,662	9	3
Rents on allotments ... ..	7,807	5	8
Rents on agricultural allotments ... ..	499	9	0
Survey fees on blocks ... ..	67	11	6
Survey fees on allotments ... ..	7	18	0
Valuation of improvements on allotments ... ..	295	14	3
Interest on valuation of improvements on blocks ... ..	15	16	8
Interest on valuation of improvements on allotments ... ..	1	11	0
Fencing rates ... ..	625	18	8
Fees—			
Application ... ..	£300	0	0
Lease ... ..	55	0	0
Transfer ... ..	317	0	0
Mortgage ... ..	253	0	0
Licence ... ..	25	0	0
		950	0
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>£12,933</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>

## VERMIN RATES.

Vermin rates, proclaimed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation 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 ... ..	351	4	6
North-Eastern Vermin Board ... ..	540	0	5
North-Western " " ... ..	7	7	10
Eastern " " ... ..	404	15	8
Western " " ... ..	99	10	0
Middle " " ... ..	378	8	2
Warracknabeal " " ... ..	433	12	2
Total ... ..	£2,214	18	9

During the year the Department resumed possession of parts of Mallee blocks 42A, 42B, 70B, 41A, and 41B, containing 44,550 acres, held under lease by the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company Limited; also Mallee block No. 25A, containing 110,586 acres (including 900 acres freehold), held under lease by Andrew Anderson. The former area was subdivided into 62 agricultural allotments and made available for selection, but no action has yet been taken to make the latter area available.

## IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

## THE LAND ACT 1898.

This Act, which came into force on 1st July, 1899, was primarily rendered necessary owing to the terms of all the leases under sections 21 and 32 of the Land Acts 1884 and 1890 expiring by effluxion of time on 29th December, 1898. In addition to dealing with the Crown lands comprised in such leases, and granting great concessions to licensees in regard to their rents, power was taken to acquire private estates for the purpose of closer settlement.

## SECTION 29.

Under this section provision is made for the issue of grazing-area leases for a term of years expiring not later than 29th December, 1920, for areas not exceeding 200 acres of 1st class land, or 640 acres of 2nd class land, or 1,280 acres of 3rd class land.

During the year 2,907 applications were received for an area of 1,440,269 acres.

## SECTION 42.

Under this section provision is made whereby grazing-area lessees and settlers under the *Settlement on Lands Act* 1893 may have a licence for an agricultural or grazing allotment dated in such a way as to cover any residence they may have done on the land during the currency of the original tenure.

Six hundred and thirty-two applications, comprising an area of 145,836 acres, were made under this section during the year.

## SECTION 49.

This section, which amends section 49 of the *Land Act* 1890, provides for the issue of non-residence licences for 1st and 2nd class land at £1 and 15s. per acre respectively, payable by annual instalments of 1s. or 9d. per acre.

Thirty-five applications were lodged for an area of 6,242 acres.

## SECTION 59.

This section provides for the issue of a licence (residential or non-residential) to be called a grazing allotment licence to occupy an allotment of 3rd class land not exceeding in the whole 640 acres for a period of six years at a fee of 6d. an acre per annum.

Under this section, during the year, 1,576 applications were made, covering an area of 458,286 acres.

## SECTION 80.

Under this section perpetual leases may be issued for any Crown lands (whether held under lease or licence or not), swamp or reclaimed lands, mallee or village settlements, limited, however, to an area of 600 acres of 1st class land, 960 acres of 2nd class land, and 1,920 acres of 3rd class land.

Forty-two applications were made during the year, for an area of 15,987 acres.

## SECTION 76 OF THE LAND ACT 1890, AS EXTENDED BY SECTION 95 OF THE LAND ACT 1898.

In this section provision is made for the alienation of portions of land not more than 20 acres in extent at a price to be fixed by appraisalment. During the year 305 acres were sold in this manner, realizing the amount of £1,077 0s. 4d.

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

Commons were diminished by proclamation to the extent of 210 acres.

One (1) common which was found to be no longer required was abolished.

## SECTION 117, LAND ACT 1890.—PENALTIES.

The amount of penalties, at the rate of Five shillings per acre, received during 1899 for non-improvement by lessees under the Land Acts of 1862 and 1865, and interest on rents in arrear, was £98 13s. 3d.

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

During the year 1899, 330 sittings of Local Land Boards were held, at which applications for land and other business, comprising in all 4,649 subjects (including applications for mallee lands), were dealt with.

Four hundred and fifty 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 one (1) application for lease, embracing an area of 320 acres, was received. One application under this Act for 412 acres was granted during the year.

## CROWN GRANTS AND LEASES.

Two thousand eight hundred and forty-five Crown grants and 1,283 leases were prepared and passed from the head office during 1899.

## FEES AND CERTIFICATES.

The sum of £21,377 8s. 1d. 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.

## ARREARS OF RENT.

The arrears due by Crown lessees and licensees amounted on 31st December, 1899, to £728,459.

## REVENUE.

Table R shows in detail the revenue contributed by the Department to the Treasury during 1899:—

TABLE R.

<i>Temporary Occupation.</i>				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Pastoral occupation and grazing licences (including fencing rate, £625 18s. 8d.)	...	...	...	22,600	17	4			
Rents under section 32, Land Acts 1884-1890	...	...	...	36,549	17	0			
" " 65, " "	...	...	...	3,773	9	6			
Rents under sections 45 and 47, Land Act 1869, Part VIII., Land Act 1884, and Division 8 of Part I., Land Act 1890	...	...	...	*28,618	9	0			
							91,542	12	10
<i>Alienated in Fee simple by Auction and Deferred Payments, also Rents received towards Alienation.</i>									
			A. R. P.						
By auction—Town land	...	...	1,611 1 28	†22,417	0	0			
" Country land	...	...	4,466 2 30						
Sundry payments on account of purchase in fee simple	...	...	...	1,795	1	7			
By purchase under section 31, Land Act 1869	...	...	...	85	4	0			
" " " 18, Land Act 1890	...	...	...	113	19	6			
Rents under section 49, Land Act 1869	...	...	...	607	3	6			
" " 19, " " as amended by Land Act 1878, section 3, Land Act 1880, section 42, Land Acts 1884-1890, and section 22, Land Act 1891	...	...	...	19,372	0	0			
" " 11, " 1878, and section 49, Land Acts 1884-1890	...	...	...	956	14	0			
Rents and balances of purchase money under section 20, Land Act 1869, section 11, Land Act 1878, section 3, Land Acts Amendment Act 1880, section 4, Land Act 1880, and section 44, Land Act 1890	...	...	...	249,439	10	6			
Rents under sections 5 and 20, Settlement on Lands Act 1893	...	...	...	1,848	7	11			
							296,635	1	0
Penalties under section 117, Land Act 1890, and interest	...	...	...	98	13	3			
Fees for grants, leases, licences, surveys, &c.	...	...	...	21,377	8	1			
Sale of plans and sundries	...	...	...	5,262	13	2			
							26,738	14	6
<b>Total Revenue</b>				...			<b>414,916</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>

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

† This item includes interest, £1,230 0s. 10d., and instalments on account of some sales prior to 1896.

## VERMIN DESTRUCTION.

The following is the expenditure under this head for year ending 31st December, 1899:—

Subsidy paid shire councils, &c., for destruction of dogs and foxes	...	...	...	£1,127	6	3
Wages of men working Crown lands, material, &c.	...	...	...	8,521	13	9
Salaries of inspectors and allowances to police rabbit inspectors	...	...	...	4,925	5	2
<b>Total</b>	...	...	...	<b>£14,574</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>

## SECTION 36 OF THE MINES ACT 1890.

In this section provision is made whereby the holders of registered Miners' Rights may purchase the area occupied by them at a price to be fixed by appraisement.

During the year 57 persons exercised the right of purchase thus conferred, the area purchased being 27a. 0r. 35 $\frac{6}{10}$ p., whilst the amount realized was £814 10s. 4d.



During the year the Department suffered a severe loss, owing to the sudden death, on 1st June, 1899, of Mr. S. K. Vickery, the Surveyor-General, who for a period of over 37 years had faithfully served the country in numerous positions in the Survey Branch of the Department.

His successor, Mr. J. M. Reed, has been in the Department for 25 years, having entered the Service as a pupil draughtsman in 1875.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. F. MORKHAM,  
Secretary for Lands.

# APPENDICES.

## APPENDIX A.

### REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE LAND ACT FOR THE YEAR 1899.

District.	Applications Approved.						Report as to the Working of Land Acts 1884-1890 on Holdings under Sections 42 and 65.	Report as to use made of Land leased under Section 32, Land Acts 1884-1890.	Report as to Agriculture and New Rural Industries.	Remarks.
	Land Act 1890.			Section 65.						
	Section 32.	Section 42.	Section 65.	No.	Area in Acres.	No.				
Alexandra ...	...	3	449	...	Satisfactory	...	Used for grazing purposes ...	No new rural industries; butter industry working very satisfactorily	A considerable quantity of land of inferior quality is still available.	
Ararat ...	1	650	320	3	60	Selections held under sections 42 and 65 are used chiefly for residence, cultivation, and grazing	32nd-section holdings are used for grazing. In a few instances leasees are residing on them and cultivating part	A larger area was under crop than the previous year; the returns were satisfactory in many instances, wheat averaging 4 bags, oats 7 bags, and hay 1 ton to the acre; the fruit crop has been seriously affected by the late frosts. Owing to the phenomenal prices ruling for wool and lambs, the grazing industry has been given a great fillip	A still larger area will be under crop next year, several private owners having leased their agricultural land under the shares system. The liberal provisions of sections 29 and 59, <i>Land Act</i> 1898, are being largely availed of.	
Bairnsdale...	7	3,059	3,182	...	Licencees under section 42 have worked their holdings fairly well; no applications have been received under section 65	...	Lessees under section 32 have used their leaseholds for grazing, and have done very well, as the price of stock has been very good	Maize is the principal crop grown in this district, and is looking fairly good; other crops have yielded very well; hops are on the decrease, as it has been found unremunerative to continue growing them. The only new rural industry is the growing of a small area of broom corn (millet), which has been found to do remarkably well in this district on the river flats	Graziers have done remarkably well this year, as the prices of wool, sheep, and cattle are the highest that have been received for very many years.	
Ballarat ...	...	3	42	22	236	Satisfactory	...	Principally for grazing; all lands so held have been re-applied for under the provisions of the <i>Land Act</i> 1898	...	

Beechworth	2	740	9	1,060	5	87	<p>Holders under section 42 have complied fairly with the conditions of their licences. Licensees have not availed themselves to any extent of the provisions of section 51, <i>Land Act</i> 1898, to have their holdings classified. Holders under section 65 use land principally for grazing. The land, being hilly and rocky, cannot be cultivated</p>	<p>Holders under section 32 have complied with conditions. Very few leases have been forfeited during the year for non-compliance with the conditions thereof. Advantage has been largely taken of section 59, <i>Land Act</i> 1898, by which lessees can acquire 640 acres of third-class land as a grazing allotment. No less than 388 applications under sections 42 and 59, 858 under section 29, and 23 under section 80, <i>Perpetual Lease</i>, have been received since the Act came in force</p>	<p>The crops were, on the whole, very fair; many settlers suffered severe losses through bush fires in December, 1899, in fencing, stock, grass, and, in a few cases, homesteads; tobacco crops last season were not a success; the area under hops was small</p>	<p>No new rural industry to report.</p>
Benalla	...	...	11	1,713	...	...	<p>No licences under section 65 were issued during the year. Conditions of licences under section 42 have been satisfactorily complied with. Several licensees under section 42 availed themselves of the provisions of section 51 of <i>Land Act</i> 1898 to have land classified</p>	<p>Lessees under section 32 have used land for grazing, and fairly complied with conditions of their leases. Very few leases have been forfeited during the year. Since the coming into operation of the new Act selectors have largely availed themselves of the opportunity to select up to 640 acres of third-class land under section 59. About 200 applications under sections 42 and 59 were lodged. Only 4 applications for perpetual leases have been sent in. Two hundred and sixty applications have been lodged for new leases under section 29</p>	<p>The crops, on the whole, were good, and the outlook from the farmers' point of view has not been better for many years; the past year has been a very favorable one; the supply of milk to the factories was much above the average, and stock all round realized good prices; tobacco growing has not been a great success up to the present</p>	<p>No new rural industries to report.</p>
Bendigo	...	...	24	1,215	24	492	<p>In every sense satisfactory</p>	<p>Grazing, in the majority of instances</p>	<p>In portions of this district the yields are not nearly as good as anticipated, the dry weather and frosts having had a damaging effect; the caterpillar and grasshopper have also minimized the returns, but, on the whole, the return cannot but be deemed satisfactory</p>	<p>In and around Bendigo the cultivation of the tomato is developing to a large extent, and has become quite an industry in itself. Thousands of cases are sent to market during the season, and these realize highly satisfactory prices. The returns certainly justify the amount of labour bestowed by the growers.</p>
Camperdown and Warramboul	...	...	...	...	...	...	<p>Included in Geelong District</p>	<p>No new rural industries. There would be a large increase in agriculture but for the great difficulty of transit to railway or market</p>	<p>The season, on the whole, has been one of the most prolific known, both for grass and crops of every description.</p>	<p>The season, on the whole, has been one of the most prolific known, both for grass and crops of every description.</p>

## APPENDIX A—continued.

District.	Applications Approved.						Report as to the Working of Land Acts 1884-1890 on Holdings under Sections 42 and 65.	Report as to use made of Land leased under Section 82, Land Acts 1884-1890.	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.					
Castlemaine	1	337	16	740	11	152	They appear to be worked in a thoroughly <i>bona fide</i> manner	Very little of the land so held is fit for anything but grazing, to which use the lessees have as a rule applied it	The wheat crop has been somewhat disappointing, and the average yield will only slightly exceed that of last year. The oat crop, on the contrary, has turned out well. Artificial manures have been tried with most beneficial results, quite outclassing farm or stable manures.	
Echuca	1	74	48	2,563	...	...	Satisfactory	For grazing, to which use the land is only suited	In those portions of the district where different returns from the harvest have resulted, farmers as a rule have benefited considerably by a successful dairying season, which has enabled them to overcome their difficulties to a large extent.	
Kerang	1	215	14	2,342	...	...	Satisfactory	Grazing chiefly	The yield from wheat crops will, through the larger portion of the district, average eight bushels; but had it not been for the shortage in water for irrigation purposes and the ravages of grasshoppers this would have been exceeded. Notwithstanding the very unfavorable conditions existing during recent years, it is highly gratifying to find a generally hopeful feeling pervading the farming community	On the Gunbower Island settlement of a highly satisfactory character is progressing, and the aspect in consequence. In the matter of the selection of allotments of land a very keen sense of rivalry exists amongst settlers, the majority of whom are a hard-working <i>bona fide</i> class of farmers, who are all desirous of extending their holdings. A large number have established permanent homes on the Island, and, generally speaking, the prospects are brightening.
Geelong	5	782	58	8,432	...	...	Under section 42 the selectors have made good headway in clearing their selections and cultivating small portions, but as the roads into the forest are not fit for heavy traffic only small areas can be cultivated; principally root crops and a small quantity of hay is grown for their own use. Many selectors are planting orchards, especially on the poor land, which is well suited for fruit-growing	Under this section very much the same class of work is being done as that under section 42, as most of the selectors have transferred their holdings to the 42nd section	Very little has been done in the way of agriculture, as nearly all the selectors have turned their attention to dairying, and selling the milk to the factory; only small quantities of hay and other root crops being grown for their own use	During the last twelve or eighteen months good headway has been made in clearing and cultivating the selections in the Beech Forest. The extension to the jetty at Apollo Bay and the creation of a jetty at the Wye River have been the means of inducing selectors to cultivate onions and potatoes, as there is now no difficulty in getting their produce to market. The erection of a butter factory on the Carlsle and a cheese factory on the main ridge will be the means of bringing many into the district, and giving some return to selectors for their outlay. Generally the improvements are of a substantial nature.

Hamilton ...	2	1,000	31	1,719	...	...	Satisfactory ...	...	Mostly grazing ...	...	There is nothing new to report under this heading. There is very little cultivation in this district, considering that the land is rich and the rainfall is always sufficient to insure a fair return. Grazing is the main rural industry; it is attended with less risk, there is a surer market, a quicker return, less railway freights, and less laborious work.	The work connected with the coming into operation of the new Act has been and is still very heavy. Most of the land in this district is 3rd class, and advantage has been taken of the reduction of 50 per cent. to select up to the maximum area. Applications under section 59 are coming in freely, proving the <i>bona fides</i> of the 32nd section leaseholders.	
Horsham ...	3	1,562	34	3,906	...	...	Satisfactory ...	...	Principally grazing ...	...	Taking the district as a whole, the season re agriculture has been a fair one only.	An increased demand for the inferior Crown lands has been made, owing to the reductions of rent under the new Land Act.	
Melbourne	4	707	250	28,572	16	289	A large amount of permanent settlement has taken place during the year	...	Grazing, chiefly dairying	...	Not a great deal of cropping. In the Evelyn district selectors have gone in for small fruits and planting orchards. In South Gippsland dairying is the principal occupation. New creameries have been started during the year.	The district generally has been prosperous. Those who have had sheep have done very well. Large numbers of cattle have been sold in this district and taken down country. The rainfall has been below the average, and fell in the earlier part of the year.	
Oneco ...	...	...	4	720	13	241	Satisfactory ...	...	Chiefly grazing	...	The wheat and oats crops are not good this year		
St. Arnaud	1	166	28	2,936	19	370	Satisfactory ...	...	Grazing ...	...	Average area under cultivation. No new rural industries to report.	Lessees under section 32 have taken advantage of new Land Act by applying for new leases under section 29 or selections under sections 42 and 59.	
Sale ...	12	4,035	35	3,898	...	...	A considerable number of applications under section 42 have been dealt with during the year. Licensees generally make good use of holdings by grazing and dairying. Very few applications under section 65 dealt with	...	Used principally for grazing purposes	...	Crops and grass fairly satisfactory	The areas available for selection are in nearly all cases abandoned holdings.	
Seymour ...	1	214	15	3,169	1	20	Satisfactory ...	...	Grazing ...	...	Crops good. Fruit not so good as usual, owing to late frosts. Phenomenal season for grazier; bigger clip, better quality, and higher price, also unusual demand for lambs	Almost all the selectors under sections 32 and 42 of <i>Land Act</i> 1890 are taking advantage of the liberal provisions of sections 29 and 59 of <i>Land Act</i> 1898.	
Stawell ...	...	...	...	...	2	40	Used generally for residence, cultivation, and grazing	...	Almost invariably lessees under section 32 use their land for cultivation	...	No new rural industries have come under notice during last twelve months.		
Warracknabeal							Included in Horsham District						
							No holdings under section 65 in this district. Under section 42 the working of the Act appears to be very satisfactory, the conditions being complied with by licensees in the majority of cases in a very complete manner						

## APPENDIX B.

## PROFESSIONAL DIVISION.

I have the honour to submit the following report relating to the work performed during the year ended the 31st December, 1899 :—

## SURVEY BRANCH.

The surveys required in connexion with the selection and occupation of land continue to be effected by authorized surveyors, who have been assigned districts, the fees received by them being passed through the Treasury, and fixed by regulation.

Two portions of mallee country, embracing an area of 155,136 acres, were resumed. This land has been subdivided, after careful preliminary investigation, into suitable allotments, provision being made for water channels and catchment areas, for timber reserves, and for general requirements.

A re-arrangement of the permanent staff has been effected. In order to meet the necessities of the *Land Act* 1898, and to secure more effective control over the survey work, four of the assistant surveyors were promoted to the positions of district surveyors. Three of the vacancies thus created were filled by new appointments, the staff now consisting of four district and five assistant surveyors.

The special work of township subdivision, road, and topographical surveys is, as far as possible, executed by the assistant surveyors.

Expenditure on departmental surveys for the year has been as follows (in this expenditure is included the cost of assistant surveyors' parties):—

Subdivision of land for sale	...	...	...	£871	0	7
Main road surveys	...	...	...	2,171	7	10
Re-surveys for sale, selection, &c.	...	...	...	1,520	10	3
Check surveys and connecting lines	...	...	...	144	2	2
Feature surveys	...	...	...	863	17	1
Subdivision of land for selection	...	...	...	196	7	0
Mallee surveys	...	...	...	1,403	15	1
Surveys of sites for public purposes	...	...	...	202	13	1
Standard lines, boundaries, &c., triangulation and preliminary surveys	...	...	...	144	5	0
				<hr/>		
				£7,517	18	1

The amount received as instalments on balances due on grazing area surveys, together with survey fees collected with first rents on surveyed allotments, was £3,859 14s. 7d.

The amount paid into Trust Fund, Survey Fees Account, by selectors and others as survey fees, for the year 1899 was £8,447 14s. 5d., while the amount withdrawn therefrom for payments to surveyors, refunds to applicants, and transfers to revenue was £4,993 4s.

## COMPUTING AND ADJUSTING BRANCH.

Surveyors' plans to the number of 430 were examined and computations checked. Field notes of these are filed for future reference.

In the adjusting room 2,012 cases were dealt with, and 111 certificates of adjustment were prepared and issued, involving in all the preparation of about 2,100 plans and diagrams.

The staff comprises of one officer in charge and six assistants.

## DRAUGHTING AND LITHOGRAPHY BRANCH.

During the year considerably better progress was made with the work of compilation of parish plans.

Nineteen new compilations were completed and sixteen former ones were revised for re-issue.

A large amount of miscellaneous work was undertaken. This comprised special plans and tracings, diagrams for titles, the preparation of technical descriptions for reservations, road alterations, &c.

The various requisitions from other Departments, municipal councils, and public bodies, have also been complied with.

In the lithographic and printing branches the work has been heavy, as, in addition to the regular work, which was greater than usual, a complete set of county maps was prepared, and 100 copies of each printed, in different colours, to show the classification of the Crown lands under the *Land Act* 1898.

Special coloured plans of Swamp areas were also issued.

The permanent staff, including lithographers, printers, and plan-mounter, numbered 23, but additional assistance was provided by the temporary employment of ten draughtsmen, one lithographer, and two printers.

## ENGRAVING.

The plate of the Geodetic Survey of Victoria, "S," North Division, was further advanced, and "S," South Division was projected, and the trigonometrical stations laid down. Additions were made to the Map of the Colony of Victoria.

One engraver only is engaged on this work.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Transfers have been prepared for departmental plans, and, when required, for other branches of the service.

The staff consists of two—photographer and assistant.

J. M. REED,  
Surveyor-General.

## APPENDIX C.

## FOREST BRANCH.

During the year 1899 the Royal Commission on State Forests submitted to His Excellency the Governor six progress reports dealing exhaustively with the redgum forests of Barmah and Gunbower, the Wombat State Forest, the Otway Forest, the forests of Stanley and Beechworth, the forest of the county of Delatite, and the Genoa River Forest, East Gippsland. Their recommendations made after careful inspection generally corroborate the ideas of the late Surveyor-General and the Inspector of State Forests. A few years ago the Department were endeavouring to establish an export trade in hardwoods, of which it was assumed we had in our forests an inexhaustible quantity. Doubtless second-rate kinds are yet plentiful in the mountain ranges of Gippsland and the Upper Yarra watershed, but the best woods, namely, box, ironbark, and redgum are now becoming rapidly exhausted; and our State railways will have in the near future to depend upon inferior timbers for sleepers, instead of the splendidly durable woods that they have hitherto been using. During the year the Railway Department estimated that they would require 700,000 for renewals on old lines and construction of new ones. Of these, 540,000 were ironbark and box, and 160,000 messmate and stringybark. Of course a certain amount of these sleepers would be obtained from private property, but to show how our reserves are becoming exhausted of first-class timbers, during the year an estimate was obtained from the foresters in charge of the probable quantity remaining available in their respective districts. It will be seen that supplies are not over plentiful, considering the enormous annual consumption.

						Sleepers.
Victoria Valley and Stawell	...	...	...	...	...	82,000
Avoca ...	...	...	...	...	...	20,000
Yarrawonga	...	...	...	...	...	40,000
Tarnagulla	...	...	...	...	...	20,000
Barmah	...	...	...	...	...	500,000
Gunbower	...	...	...	...	...	700,000
St. Arnaud	...	...	...	...	...	30,000
Beechworth	...	...	...	...	...	8,000
Bairnsdale	...	...	...	...	...	38,000
Colquhoun	...	...	...	...	...	6,000
Other parts of Gippsland	...	...	...	...	...	500,000
Mount Cole	...	...	...	...	...	44,000
Heathcote	...	...	...	...	...	50,000
Total	...	...	...	...	...	2,038,000

It would be well if the Railway Department noted these figures. The construction also of levee banks along portions of the Murray and Goulburn Rivers has rendered large areas of redgum country partially useless for forest purposes. As mentioned in my last Annual Report, it is the increasing scarcity of first-class timbers, and not the restrictive policy of the Forest Branch, that has led to the rise in prices of sleepers of which the Railway Department complains.

Most of the country in the St. Arnaud, Tarnagulla, Bealiba, Heathcote, and Rushworth districts, once so famous for the production of immense numbers of sleepers, is now practically worked out, and will soon have to be closed against hewers for a long term of years before being drawn upon again for railway construction purposes.

## WOMBAT FOREST.

Towards the end of the year 1899 this forest was brought exclusively under the operation of the royalty system, Mr. Forester Orde being placed in full charge, with an efficient staff of officers under him. It is certainly the only rational way of dealing with a long-neglected forest like Wombat, and I am confident that the change will be in every way a success. I append statements of revenue and expenditure,

for the month of December, 1899, for this forest, in accordance with the wishes of the Royal Commission (see their Report), also of the general revenue of the branch. It is gratifying to note the substantial increase of £4,255 7s. 9d. for the year. This is exclusive of nearly £300 for police court fines, included in revenue statement of past years, but omitted in this.

## WOMBAT STATE FOREST.

*Receipts and Expenditure for Month of December, 1899.*

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Rent—Saw-mills...	...	8 0 0	Salaries and wages of foresters, &c....	65	8 8
„ Special area	...	5 0 0	Forago allowances, &c. ...	24	9 0
„ Residence	...	0 10 0	Improvement thinning ...	171	10 6
Royalty—Mining timber, &c.	...	29 0 2			
		<u>£42 10 2</u>			<u>£261 8 2</u>

NOTE.—The following licences were current during this month :—

- 8 Residence licences.
- 14 Saw-mill licences.
- 1 Storage licence.
- 2 Grazing licences.
- 1 Special area licence.

There was an output of 520,749 feet super., 14,808 feet of 6-in. and 8-in. split props, 2,775 tons of firewood, and 30,679 laths; but no royalty was collected on this timber, as priced licences were current during the period involved.

## TOTAL REVENUE FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1899.

	£	s.	d.
Saw-mills and tramways rent	...	...	...
Special timber areas	...	...	...
Jinker and faller licences	...	...	...
Saw-mill timber—royalty	...	...	...
			<u>3,580 19 10</u>
Railway sleepers	...	...	...
Mining timber	...	...	...
Firewood	...	...	...
Fencing material	...	...	...
Beams, piles, &c.	...	...	...
Wattle-bark	...	...	...
Grazing fees	...	...	...
Residence fees	...	...	...
Splitters' licences	...	...	...
Sale of confiscated timber, &c.	...	...	...
			<u>£12,193 0 2</u>

## MAJORCA AND HAVELOCK PLANTATIONS.

During the year about 200 acres of the old Wattle reserve was, on the recommendation of the Royal Commission on State Forests, cleared, ploughed, and sown with blue and sugar gum, *E. globulus* and *E. corynocalyx*. The seed germinated well over the entire area, but a very severe frost, experienced in October, and which did great harm to the orchards and gardens of the colony, cut off a large proportion of the sugar gums. Steps have been taken this year to remedy this failure.\*

About 100 acres, sown in 1898 with the same species of eucalyptus, now presents a fine appearance, many of the trees are 12 and 14 feet in height, and very healthy and vigorous, and promise to become a valuable plantation for future mining and other local requirements. The older established areas at Majorca are also looking well. About 80 acres will be ploughed and sown this month, completing a fine compact block of 500 acres in close proximity to the extensive deep alluvial mines of Carisbrook, Maryborough, and Moolort.

## SAWPIT GULLY PLANTATION.

Mr. La Gerche reports that this reserve, devoted principally to the growth of exotic timbers, is looking well, the trees generally being healthy and promising in appearance. Steps have been taken to thin out surplus growth where necessary, thus enhancing the progress of the permanent crop of timber and lessening the danger from fires. About 40 acres were unfortunately burnt during the summer, but under Mr. La Gerche's supervision the damage done has been made good by replanting. In 1899, pines abies, cedars, &c., to the number of 30,277, were planted-out in this reserve, which now comprises an area of 300 acres.

## YOU YANGS PLANTATION.

The growth of the various species of trees planted-out during recent years, especially the eucalyptus, has been very good. In addition to the blue and sugar gums, many valuable New South Wales and Western Australian species are apparently finding here a congenial home. The following return will give some idea of the work performed by the Forest Branch in planting valuable timber trees during the last ten

\*The planting of this area was at least six weeks late, hence the result.



years. The total of over half-a-million trees only includes those planted by hand in permanent sites. In addition over that number are thriving at Majorca, Havelock, and You Yangs. They were, however, sown broadcast, and thinned out afterwards.

Year.	You Yangs.	Sawpit Gully, Creswick.	Gunbower.	Macedon.	Havelock.	Majorca.
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	28,699	10,000	—	—	—
1892-3	28,810	16,000	8,000	—	—	—
1893-4	22,265	17,821	3,000	—	9,500	—
1894-5	19,180	15,527	5,300	—	1,840	—
1895-6	22,250	11,958	1,500	—	1,000	—
1896-7	19,656	18,960	1,000	—	5,481	—
1897-8	34,931	45,756	—	—	—	12,111
1898-9	23,435	23,392	—	—	—	9,046
Totals	332,535	245,963	28,800	26,000	17,821	21,157

It will be noted that on the above table Gunbower, Macedon, and Havelock show no return of late years. The reason is that it was found that the sites were unsuitable for various causes, so planting was discontinued in these places for the present.

#### FOREST THINNING

Has been carried out with marked success in many forest districts of the colony, both under the royalty system and by wages men employed by the Department. Over 1,000 acres in the Wombat Forest were operated upon with gratifying results, giving a revenue of nearly £400. Good work was done at Maryborough, Bendigo, Eaglehawk, Creswick, and other places under the trained supervision of the various district foresters. I have frequently, in previous Annual Reports, drawn attention to the importance of forest thinning, and hope in years to come that it may assume larger proportions and claim more attention than it has hitherto done.

In Gunbower State Forest a gang of men employed by the State operated upon an area of over 5,000 acres of valuable redgum (first and second improvement thinning), and in the Barmah State Forest 45 men were working for three months. The officer in charge does not give the amount of country (redgum) gone over, but it is only fair to assume that it is at least equal to the area thinned in the Gunbower State Forest.

#### STATE NURSERIES AND TREE DISTRIBUTION.

During the year over 100,000 trees were sent out from the Macedon and Havelock State Nurseries, a large proportion of them being distributed to Government institutions, State schools, public bodies, and farmers in dry districts. The demand for trees is yearly increasing, and I feel confident that this result may be ascribed largely to the system of planting State school grounds. The children are taught to protect and care for trees, especially those that give shade in a hot climate, and when they get homes of their own no wonder they apply for (almost universally) pepper trees, sugar gums, and grevilleas. These trees should be planted by millions on our northern plains, and especially in the arid mallee country, and I feel assured from the universal clearing away of aboreal vegetation there that planting on a large scale will soon become an absolute necessity.

It is gratifying to state that some fine redgum country on Lakes Albacutya and Hindmarsh, and along Outlet Creek, has been secured for State forest purposes. This country promises to become very valuable indeed, a caretaker has been appointed to protect it from illegal cutting. Some first-class young timber is coming on nicely in patches. I would again most earnestly impress upon the mallee farmer the urgent necessity for the cultivation of trees. These can be obtained from the Macedon State Nursery. Sugar gums, pepper trees, and others suitable to a dry climate are to be had for the asking. Application to be lodged during the month of May only, when trees will be sent to the nearest railway station, applicant having to pay railway charges from the sending station, Macedon.

#### OFFICE STAFF.

The work of the officers of the Forest Branch has been very much increased during the year. The correspondence and other official papers passing through the office, partly in consequence of the various recommendations of the Forest Commission, together with the altogether abnormal requirements of the Railway Department (700,000 sleepers), and a brisk revival of the timber trade, has, at times, almost created a block in the work.

#### FIELD STAFF.

The recommendations of the Forest Commission caused an increase of the subordinate staff, consequently several foremen were appointed (with most excellent results) to various districts under experienced foresters.

Mr. Inspector Blackburne has, during the past year, been most indefatigable in carrying out the heavy duties of general inspection; whilst Mr. Assistant Inspector La Gerche has given satisfaction in his supervision of planting, forest thinning, and general inspection work.

On the recommendation of the Forest Commission, Mr. Orde (forester at Mount Cole) was transferred to Wombat, taking full charge. This has worked so well that other senior foresters have been placed in charge of the more important State forests. These are giving satisfaction, whilst the change has been most beneficial in reducing the voluminous correspondence by concentrating the work of a district under a controlling head.

GEO. S. PERRIN, F.L.S., F.R.G.S., Lon.