VICTORIA.

REPORT

OF

PROCEEDINGS TAKEN UNDER THE PROVISIONS

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PART III., LAND ACT 1901,

RELATING TO VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS,

DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE,

1904.

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

36y Authority:

APPROXIMATE COST OF REPORT.

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REPORT.

Department of Lands and Survey, Melbourne, 30th July, 1904.

To His Excellency the Honorable Sir Reginald Arthur James Talbot, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor in and over the State of Victoria and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I have the honour to submit the following Report of Proceedings taken under Part III. of the *Land Act* 1901 which relates to Village Settlements for the financial year ended on the 30th June, 1904:—

The number of applications under Sections 318 and 332 of the *Land Act* 1901 received and registered during the year is 227, of which 92 have been approved, and 135 abandoued or refused.

The number of settlers under Sections 5-10 and 20-24 of the Settlement on Lands Act 1893 and Sections 318-322 and 332-335 of the Land Act 1901, who have completed their term of permissive occupancy and obtained their leases during the year is 45, making a total of 2,158 since the commencement of the Act.

During the year 57 transfers of Village Settlement leases have been approved of, making a total of 304 sanctioned to date. In every case the transferror has been required to show good reason for desiring to transfer, and the transferee has been a person eligible to become a village settler.

Under Sections 344 and 345 of the *Land Act* 1901 provision is made for settlers being permitted to surrender their Village Settlement permits or leases, and to obtain in lieu thereof Conditional Purchase leases. Seventy-three of these leases have been issued during the year and 9 are in course of preparation. The total number of settlers who have availed themselves of this provision is 154.

Under Section 346 of the *Land Act* 1901, provision is made for settlers being permitted to surrender their Village Settlement leases, and to obtain in lieu thereof Conditional Purchase leases to include the original holding and additional land, the total value of which should not exceed £200. Forty-three of these leases have been issued during the year. The total number of lessees who have availed themselves of this provision is 172.

Section 346 also provides that a settler may retain his Village Settlement lease and obtain a Conditional Purchase lease for other land, provided that the value of same, together with the value of the Village Settlement allotment, should not exceed £200. Seventy-three of these leases have been issued during the year. The total number of settlers who have obtained such Conditional Purchase leases is 505.

Fifteen settlers who had their land converted to Conditional Purchase leaseholds have during the year acquired Crown grants of same.

Six settlers have surrendered their Village Settlement leases and have obtained ante-dated licences under Section 47 of the Land Act 1901. In these cases where settlers obtained monetary aid under the Settlement on Lands Act the balance of aid owing has been carried on to the new leases. These conversions have been effected under the provisions of Section 88 of the Land Act 1901.

At Gunbower Island and Kunat Kunat all the settlers have surrendered their holdings in this manner, so that these two settlements are now omitted from the list of Village Settlements.

During the year the rents paid under Village Settlement leases and permits

and Conditional Purchase leases amounted to £10,738 14s. 8d.

Monetary aid to the extent of £4,422 17s. 6d. was repaid during the year,

bringing the amount repaid to date up to £15,431 8s. 4d.

No monetary assistance has been afforded during the year. The total amount of aid granted since the inception of the Act in 1893 is £67,379 8s. 4d., which is made up as follows:—

Total amount of monetary aid advanced for the	${\mathfrak L}$	s.	d.
year ended 30th June, 1894	8,873	0	0
Total amount of monetary aid advanced for the			
year ended 30th June, 1895	$27,\!189$	12	6
Total amount of monetary aid advanced for the			
year ended 30th June, 1896	$21,\!409$	7	6
Total amount of monetary aid advanced for the			
year ended 30th June, 1897	$6,\!527$	17	4
Total amount of monetary aid advanced for the	0.00=	4.0	
year ended 30th June, 1898	$2,\!227$	13	6
Total amount of monetary aid advanced for the	0.00		^
year ended 30th June, 1899	830	11	0
Total amount of monetary aid advanced for the		1.0	c
year ended 30th June, 1900	77	16	6
Total amount of monetary aid advanced for the	100	10	0
year ended 30th June, 1901	109	10	0
Total amount of monetary aid advanced for the	131	Λ	0
year ended 30th June, 1902 Total amount of monetary aid advanced for the	191	U	U
	3	0	0
year ended 30th June, 1903	Э	U	U
	£67,379	8	4
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The number of settlers actually residing is 1,758, and the number not residing but improving is 133, making a total of 1,891 in occupation. The number of souls, including wives and children, residing is 8,536.

J. MURRAY,

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

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Total Number of Souls residing. Number of Bullocks, Cows, and Calves. Number of Horses. Number of Fowls. Number of Pigs.
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