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SECTION VI.

LAND TENURE AND SETTLEMENT.

§ 1. Introduction and Early History.

1. **Introduction.**—A comprehensive description, in a classified form, of the land tenure systems of the several States has been given in preceding issues of this book; see especially Year Book No. 4 (pp. 235 to 339). The details of that description have been necessarily condensed in the present issue, and for more complete information for past years, reference may therefore be made to Year Book No. 4. The historical matter dealing with the development of land legislation in the individual States may be found in Year Book No. 2 (pp. 263 to 272), and in a more condensed form in Year Books No. 3 (pp. 245 to 254), and No. 4 (pp. 235 to 244).

§ 2. Land Legislation in Individual States.

1. **New South Wales.**—(i.) *Acts now in Force.* The Crown Lands Act of 1884 and the supplementary Act of 1889 (now incorporated in the Crown Lands Consolidation Act 1913), were passed chiefly for the purpose of putting an end to speculative selection without *bonâ fide* intention of settlement. Pastoral leases were required to be surrendered to the Crown and divided into two equal parts, one of which was returned to the lessee under a lease with a fixity of tenure for a term of years, the other half the lessee was allowed to hold under an annual occupation license, but this half was always open for selection.

Nevertheless accumulation of land into large estates continued, and settlement proceeded slowly. Entirely new principles of agrarian legislation have been embodied in Crown Lands Acts passed in years 1895 to 1914, the Labour Settlements Act 1902, the Closer Settlement Acts 1904 to 1909, and the Closer Settlement Promotion Act 1910, which offer *bonâ fide* settlers special inducements by the introduction of new forms of tenure on easy terms and conditions.

(ii.) *The Western Lands Acts.* All Crown lands in the Western Division of New South Wales are now subject to the special provisions of the Western Lands Acts 1901 and 1905. All leases or occupation licenses could be brought within the provisions of the Western Lands Act by application before the 30th June, 1902. Otherwise the leases or licenses were dealt with by the Board as if the Act had not been passed. All leases issued or brought under the provisions of the Western Lands Acts expire on the 30th June, 1943, except in cases where part of the land leased is withdrawn for the purpose of sale by auction, or to provide small holdings, in which case an extension of the term of lease of the remainder may be granted as compensation for the part withdrawn.

2. **Victoria.**—(i.) *Acts now in Force.* The Land Act 1901-1915, deals with the whole system of land occupation and alienation in this State. Closer Settlement was provided for by the Land Acts of 1898 and 1901 and amendments, until the introduction of the Closer Settlement Act 1904, amended in 1906, 1907, 1909, 1910, 1911, and 1912. Other special forms of tenure have been provided for by the Settlement on Lands Act 1893, and the Small Improved Holdings Act 1906; these, however, are now embraced in the Land Acts and Closer Settlement Act respectively.

(ii.) *Mallee Lands.* The lands in the Mallee territory, comprising an area of about 11,000,000 acres in the north-western district of the State, can be cleared at a moderate expenditure. An extension of railway facilities and of successful systems of water supply should bring this territory into greater prominence as a field for agricultural enterprise. More than one-half of this area is unalienated and available for occupation.

3. *Queensland.*—*Acts now in Force.* The Closer Settlement Acts 1906-1913 and the Land Act 1910 control the alienation of Crown lands in this State. The latter Act consolidates, amends and simplifies the law relating to the occupation and alienation of Crown lands.

4. *South Australia.*—*Acts now in Force.* The Crown Lands Act 1915 and Amending Act of 1915, repealed and consolidated previous Acts, and also consolidated the Closer Settlement and Village Settlement Acts. The Pastoral Act 1904 controls the pastoral occupation of lands, and the Irrigation and Reclaimed Land Acts of 1914 provide for leases of reclaimed and irrigable lands.

5. *Western Australia.*—*Acts now in Force.* The Land Act 1898, which consolidated previous legislation as to the management of Crown lands, has in turn been amended at various times, and, with such amendments, is now in force. The principle of repurchasing Crown lands for the purpose of Closer Settlement was introduced by the Agricultural Lands Purchase Acts 1896 to 1904; these Acts were repealed and consolidated by the Agricultural Lands Purchase Act 1909.

6. *Tasmania.*—*Acts now in Force.* The law relating to land tenure and settlement is now consolidated in the Crown Lands Act 1911; and in the Closer Settlement Act 1913.

7. *Northern Territory.*—Prior to the transfer of the Northern Territory to the Commonwealth on the 1st January, 1911, the sale and occupation of lands in the Territory were regulated by the Northern Territory Crown Lands Act 1890, the Northern Territory Land Act 1899, and the Northern Territory Tropical Products Act 1904, but from that date the further alienation and occupation of land in the Territory were suspended, pending a complete reorganisation of the system of land settlement by the Commonwealth Government. In December, 1912, an ordinance, cited as the Crown Lands Ordinance 1912, dealing with this question, was made, by which the conditions of land tenure and settlement in the Territory are now determined. Under this ordinance no further alienation of Crown lands is permitted, unless such alienation is in pursuance of existing agreements.

8. *Administration and Classification of Crown Lands.*—In each of the States of the Commonwealth there is now a Lands Department under the direction of a responsible Cabinet Minister, who is charged generally with the administration of the Acts relating to the alienation, occupation, and management of Crown Lands. The administrative functions of most of the Lands Departments are to some extent decentralised by the division of the States into what are usually termed Land Districts, in each of which there is a Lands Office, under the management of a land officer, who deals with applications for selections and other matters generally appertaining to the administration of the Acts within the particular district. In some of the States there is also a Local Land Board or a Commissioner for each district or group of districts. In the Northern Territory the administration of the regulations relating to the occupation and management of Crown lands is in the hands of a Classification Board, consisting of the Director of Lands, the Government Secretary, the Chief Surveyor, and any other officer appointed by the Administrator.

In most of the States, Crown lands are classified according to their situation, the suitability of the soil for particular purposes, and the prevailing climatic and other conditions. The modes of tenure under the Acts, as well as the amount of purchase money

or rent and the conditions as to improvements and residence, may vary in each State according to the classification of the land. The administration of certain special Acts relating to Crown lands has in some cases been placed in the hands of a Board under the general supervision of the Minister; for such purpose, for instance, are constituted the Western Lands Board in New South Wales, the Lands Purchase and Management Board in Victoria, and the Closer Settlement Board in Tasmania.

In each of the States and in the Northern Territory there is also a Mines Department, which is empowered under the several Acts relating to mining to grant leases and licenses of Crown lands for mining and auxiliary purposes. Such leases and licenses are more particularly referred to in a later part of this section. (See § 9.)

Full information respecting lands available for settlement or on any matter connected with the selection of holdings may be obtained from the Commonwealth representative in London, from the Lands Departments, or from the Agents-General of the respective States. The administration and classification of Crown lands in each State were more fully dealt with in Year Book No. 2, (pp. 273-6).

§ 3. Tenures under which Crown Lands may be Alienated or Occupied.

1. Introduction.—The freehold of Crown lands in the several States of the Commonwealth may now ordinarily be alienated either by free grant (in trust for certain specified purposes), by direct sale and purchase (which may be either by agreement or at auction), or by conditional sale and purchase. Crown lands may be occupied in the several States under a variety of forms of leases and licenses, issued both by the Lands and the Mines Departments.

2. Classification of Tenures.—The tabular statement given on pages 238 and 239 shews the several tenures under which Crown lands may be acquired or occupied in each State of the Commonwealth. The forms of tenure are dealt with individually in succeeding parts of this section. In the State of Victoria it is proposed to amend and consolidate the Land Acts at an early date, and to abolish some of the existing forms of tenure. Reference to any amending Acts which are passed up to the latest available date prior to the publication of this book may be found in the Appendix.

(i.) *Free Grants, Reservations, and Dedications.* The modes of alienation given in this category include all free grants either of the fee simple or of leases of Crown lands. "Free" homesteads in Queensland and Western Australia are not included in this class, these tenures being free in the sense that no purchase money is payable, but not free from residential and improvement conditions. Reservation and dedication, which are ordinarily conditions precedent to the issue of free grants, are also dealt with therein.

(ii.) *Sales by Auction and Special Sales.* This class of tenure includes all methods by which the freehold of Crown lands may be obtained (exclusive of sales under the Closer Settlement and kindred Acts) for cash or by deferred payments, and in which the only condition for the issue of the grant is the payment of the purchase money.

(iii.) *Conditional Purchases.* In this class are included all tenures (except tenures under Closer Settlement and kindred Acts) in which the issue of the grant is governed by the fulfilment of certain conditions (as to residence or improvements) other than, or in addition to, that of the payment of purchase money.

(iv.) *Leases and Licenses.* This class includes all forms of occupation of Crown lands (other than under Closer Settlement and kindred Acts) for a term of years under leases and licenses issued by the Lands Departments. As the terms indicate, the freehold cannot be obtained under these forms of tenure.

**CLASSIFICATION OF TENURES UNDER WHICH CROWN LANDS MAY BE
ALIENATED OR OCCUPIED.**

New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.
FREE GRANTS, RESERVATIONS, AND DEDICATIONS.		
Free grants in trust Volunteer land grants Reservations and dedications under Land Act 1884 and Mining Act 1906	Free grants in trust and re- servations under Land Act 1901	Free grants in trust Reservations under Land Act 1910 and under State Forests and National Parks Act 1906
SALES BY AUCTION AND SPECIAL SALES.		
Auction sales for cash or on credit After-auction sales Special sales Improvement purchases	Auction sales for cash or on credit Special sales	Auction sales for cash or on credit After-auction sales Special sales Unconditional selections
CONDITIONAL PURCHASES.		
Residential or non-residential conditional purchases Conversion of conditional pur- chase leases Homestead selections	Agricultural allotments, resi- dential or non-residential Grazing allotments, resi- dential or non-residential Selection from grazing area, perpetual or auriferous leases Selection from pastoral leases Mallee agricultural licenses Murray settlements leases Selection purchase leases	Agricultural farms Agricultural homesteads Prickly pear selections Free homesteads
LEASES AND LICENSES.		
Conditional leases Conditional purchase leases Settlement leases Improvement leases Annual leases Residential leases Special leases Snow leases Pastoral leases Scrub leases Inferior lands leases Occupation licenses Western lands leases Homestead farms Suburban holdings Crown leases Leases in Irrigation Areas	Grazing area leases Perpetual leases Mallee leases Licenses of auriferous lands Leases of swamp or reclaimed lands Grazing licenses Leases and licenses for other than pastoral or agricultural purposes State forest and timber re- serve licenses	Grazing homesteads Grazing farms Occupation licenses Special leases Perpetual lease selections Pastoral leases
CLOSER SETTLEMENT SALES, LEASES AND LICENSES.		
Sales by auction Settlement purchase Annual leases Labour settlements	Special sales	Sales by auction Agricultural farms Unconditional selections
MINES DEPARTMENTS' LEASES AND LICENSES.		
Miners' rights Business licenses Authorities to prospect Leases	Mining leases Special licenses Miners' rights Business & residence licenses	Miners' rights Mining leases and licenses Miners' homestead leases

CLASSIFICATION OF TENURES UNDER WHICH CROWN LANDS MAY BE ALIENATED OR OCCUPIED.

South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.
FREE GRANTS, RESERVATIONS, AND DEDICATIONS.		
Free grants in trust Reservations and dedications under Crown Lands Act 1915 Artesian leases	Free grants in trust and free leases Reservations under Land Acts 1898 and 1906	Free leases Reservations under Crown Lands Act 1911
SALES BY AUCTION AND SPECIAL SALES.		
Auction sales for cash After-auction sales Sales for special purposes	Auction sales for cash (The right to lease town and suburban lots is sold by auction)	Auction sales or cash or on credit After-auction sales Special sales of residence or business allotments
CONDITIONAL PURCHASES.		
Agreements to purchase Special agreements under Pin- naroo Railway Act	Conditional purchase, resi- dential or non-residential Conditional purchase by direct payment Conditional purchase of small blocks Homestead farms Conditional auction sales Workingmen's blocks	Selection of rural lands Homestead areas Selection in mining areas Conditional auction sales
LEASES AND LICENSES.		
Perpetual leases Miscellaneous leases Miscellaneous grazing and cul- tivation leases Irrigation and reclaimed land leases Special licenses Pastoral leases Leases with right of purchase	Pastoral leases Special leases Quarrying licenses	Grazing leases Miscellaneous leases Timber licenses and leases Occupation licenses Temporary licenses
CLOSER SETTLEMENT SALES, LEASES, AND LICENSES.		
Sales by auction Agreements to purchase Miscellaneous leases Irrigation and reclaimed area leases Village settlements Homestead blocks	Sales by auction Conditional purchases	Special sales Leases with right of purchase
MINES DEPARTMENTS' LEASES AND LICENSES.		
Miners' rights Mining leases Miscellaneous leases Business licenses Occupation licenses Mineral claims Search licenses	Miners' rights Mining leases Miners' homestead leases	Prospectors' licenses Miners' rights Mining leases Miscellaneous licenses

NOTE.—Northern Territory.—By the Crown Lands Ordinance of 1912, the only form of tenure under which land may be held in the Northern Territory, exclusive of land held under pre-existing rights, is that of leasehold. See § 7 of this section.

(v.) *Closer Settlement Sales, Leases, and Licenses.* In this division are included all forms of tenure provided for under the various Closer Settlement Acts, and also under kindred Acts, such as the Village Settlements and Small Holdings Acts.

(vi.) *Mines Departments' Leases and Licenses.* The tenures specified include all methods in which Crown lands may be occupied for mining and auxiliary purposes under leases and licenses issued by the Mines Department in the several States.

3. Limitation of Tenures in New South Wales.—In October, 1910, it was officially stated that it was the policy of the Government to discontinue the granting of the freehold of Crown Lands. Under the Crown Lands Act 1912 this policy was partially given effect to by the discontinuance of the disposal of Crown Lands by conditional purchase or as homestead selections, and by the institution of several new forms of tenure, viz., homestead farms, suburban holdings, irrigation farms, and Crown leases.

The first three are leases in perpetuity, while the term of a Crown lease is 45 years.

4. Tenure of Lands by Aliens.—In the States of New South Wales, Queensland, North Australia and Tasmania restrictions are imposed upon the tenure of lands by aliens (i.e. persons other than natural-born or naturalised British subjects). In Victoria and Western Australia there are no such restrictions. This matter, however, is subject to the war-time regulations of the Commonwealth.

(i.) *New South Wales.*—Under the Crown Lands Consolidation Act 1913, an alien is not qualified to apply for an original homestead selection, original conditional purchase lease, settlement lease, original homestead lease, or original conditional purchase, unless he has resided in New South Wales for one year, and at the time of making application he lodge a declaration of his intention to become naturalised within five years. If he fails to become naturalised within that period, the land is forfeited. This residential limit of twelve months does not, however, apply to applicants for homestead farms, Crown leases, suburban holdings, and leases within irrigation areas, but any alien who shall become the holder of any of these tenures shall become naturalised within three years after his becoming such holder. Failure to comply with this regulation involves forfeiture of such holding, together with all improvements thereon.

(ii.) *Victoria.* Under the Supreme Court Act 1915 (section 3), every alien friend resident in Victoria may acquire, either by grant from the Crown or otherwise, both real and personal property.

(iii.) *Queensland.* Under the Land Act 1910 (sections 59 b and 62) an alien cannot apply for any land in Queensland unless he obtain a certificate that he is able to read and write from dictation, words in such language as the Minister for Lands may direct. If he acquire a selection he must within five years of such acquisition become a naturalised subject.

(iv.) *South Australia.* In South Australia, Asiatics are disqualified from holding perpetual leases of lands in irrigation areas under Section 19 of the Irrigation and Reclaimed Lands Act 1914.

(v.) *Western Australia.* In this State aliens are under no disability as regards the acquisition of the freehold of lands already alienated. Every application to acquire Crown lands, whether by a British subject or an alien, is subject to the approval of the Minister for Lands, with an appeal to the Governor-in-Council.

(vi.) *Tasmania.* Under the Aliens Act 1861 (section 2), aliens cannot hold real estate. An alien, if the subject of a friendly State, may, however, occupy lands for any term not exceeding twenty-one years.

(vii.) *Northern Territory.* No restrictions are imposed upon the tenure of lands by aliens, excepting that under the Mining Act 1903, Asiatic aliens are disqualified from holding gold or mineral leases.

§ 4. Free Grants, Reservations, and Dedications.

1. **Introduction.**—Although free grants of Crown lands were virtually abolished as far back as 1831, the Land Acts of all the States now contain provisions under which the free alienation or occupation of Crown lands for certain specified purposes—comprising generally charitable, educational, and public purposes—is allowed. In all the States, also, Crown lands may be excepted from sale and reserved to the Crown or dedicated for various public and special purposes. Generally, reservation and dedication are conditions precedent to the issue of a free grant. In addition to reservations of a permanent nature, temporary reservations are also made, but these are, as a rule, subject to considerable fluctuations in area by reason of withdrawals, renotifications, and fresh reservations.

The following table shews the area for which free grants were issued and the areas permanently reserved or dedicated in each State during 1901, and from 1911 to 1915 inclusive:—

PARTICULARS OF FREE GRANTS, RESERVATIONS, AND DEDICATIONS, 1901 AND 1911-15.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.*	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	C'wealth.
FREE GRANTS.							
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1901	282	7	425	5	156	10†	885
1911	2,186	38,890	287	211	309	109†	41,932
1912	3,805	358	283	173	2,663	3,054	10,336
1913	2,256	62	1,805	42	106	118	4,389
1914	1,888	290	295	33	17	223	2,746
1915	1,596	96	1,271	22	3	172	3,160
RESERVATIONS AND DEDICATIONS.							
1901	1,595	19,278	811,200	†	189,856	4,231	1,026,160§
1911	2,195	34,080	200,062	14,179	4,603,748	16,949	4,871,213
1912	1,915	3,686	250,372	13,975	724,757	14,402	1,009,107
1913	1,370	8,135	...	35,382	128,229	21,811	194,927
1914	1,430	5,303	...	16,120	502,167	6,718	531,738
1915	512	2,280	103,494	46,738	173,155	27,066	353,245

* Including both permanent and temporary reservations and dedications.

† Free leases.

‡ Not available. § Exclusive of South Australia.

2. **New South Wales.**—Crown lands may be reserved or dedicated for certain charitable, educational, and public purposes specified. No promises of dedication for religious purposes were made after the 11th May, 1880, on which date a resolution against any further such grants was passed by the Legislative Assembly. Volunteer Land Office Certificates ceased to be operative after the 31st January, 1912. All cases have now been dealt with.

(i.) **Reservations.** In addition to the reservations referred to above, Crown lands may also be temporarily reserved as sites for cities, towns, or villages, and may be reserved for mining purposes. Crown lands within one mile of any made or projected railway may be temporarily reserved from sale, and any Crown lands may be reserved from sale for the preservation and growth of timber. Further, Crown lands may be reserved by notification in the *Gazette* from being sold or let upon lease or license, in such particular manner as may be specified, or may be reserved from sale or lease generally.

(ii.) *Areas Granted and Reserved, 1915-16.* During the financial year 1915-16, the total area for which free grants were prepared was 1679 acres, including grants of 1580 acres of land resumed under the 12th clause of the Public Roads Act 1902. During the same period 2426 acres were dedicated and permanently reserved, the number of separate dedications being 187.

On the 30th June, 1916, the total area temporarily reserved was 27,575,210 acres, of which 6,149,130 acres were for travelling stock, 6,346,584 acres for forest reserves, 2,318,105 acres for water, 1,239,589 acres for mining, and the remainder for temporary commons, railways, recreation and parks, and miscellaneous purposes.

3. **Victoria.**—Under Section 10 of the Land Act 1901, the Governor is authorised to reserve Crown lands, either temporarily or permanently, from sale, lease or license, for any public purpose whatever.

During the year 1915 eight free grants, comprising an area of 96 acres, were issued. During the same year reservations of both a permanent and temporary nature, comprising an area of 2280 acres, were made; of this area 500 acres were reserved for recreation grounds.

4. **Queensland.**—Under the Land Act 1910, the Governor-in-Council may grant in trust, or reserve from sale, or lease, temporarily or permanently, any Crown lands required for public purposes.

(i.) *Reservations.* Under Section 2 of the State Forests and National Parks Act 1906, the Governor-in-Council may permanently reserve any Crown lands and declare them to be a State Forest or a National Park.

(ii.) *Areas Granted and Reserved, 1915.* During the year 1915 there were 51 free grants issued for a total area of 1271 acres. During the same period the area reserved was 103,494 acres in excess of areas cancelled. The total area reserved up to the end of the year 1915 was 13,540,528 acres.

5. **South Australia.**—Under Section 7 (d) of the Crown Lands Act 1915, the Governor is empowered to dedicate by proclamation any Crown lands for various charitable, educational and public purposes, and may, at any time after dedication, grant the fee simple of such lands to secure the use thereof for the purpose for which they were dedicated.

(i.) *Reservations.* Under Section 7 (f) of the same Act, the Governor may by proclamation reserve any Crown lands (i.) for the use of aborigines, (ii.) for the purposes of military defence, (iii. and iv.) for forest or travelling stock reserves, (v.) for public recreation grounds, (vi.) for railways or tramways, (vii.) for park lands, and (viii.) for any other purpose he may think fit.

(ii.) *Artesian Leases.* Under special circumstances free leases of pastoral lands may be granted to discoverers of artesian wells.

(iii.) *Areas Granted and Reserved, 1915.* During the year 1915 there were 16 free grants issued for a total area of 22 acres. During the same year 109 reserves, comprising 46,738 acres, were proclaimed.

6. **Western Australia.**—Under Section 39 of the Land Act 1898, as amended by Section 27 of the Act of 1906, the Governor may reserve any Crown lands which may be required for religious, charitable, or public purposes. These reservations may be either temporary or permanent.

During the year 1915, 4 free grants totalling 3 acres were issued, while the area reserved was 173,155 acres.

7. **Tasmania.**—Under Section 11 of the Crown Lands Act 1911, the Governor may reserve any Crown lands for the purposes therein specified. The lands are ordinarily leased for a period of ninety-nine years at a peppercorn rental.

During the year ending 31st December, 1915, there were 15 free leases, comprising an area of 172 acres, issued. During the same period 27,066 acres were reserved, 27,000 acres being reserved for National Park purposes, 20 acres for quarry purposes, 32 acres for recreation grounds, and 14 acres for other public reserves. The total area permanently reserved to the end of the year 1915 was 1,111,784 acres.

§ 5. Sales by Auction and Special Sales.

1. **Introduction.**—In all the States, sales by auction of Crown lands are held from time to time. Notifications of such sales are given in the *Government Gazettes*, together with particulars as to the upset price and conditions of sale. Excepting in the case of South Australia, where land is sold at auction for cash only, the purchase may be either for cash or on credit by deferred payments. In most of the States land may also be purchased by private contract at the upset price, when it has been offered at auction and not sold. In the case of auction sales on credit in the States of Western Australia and Tasmania, certain improvement conditions are imposed, and such sales are therefore classed for the purposes of this article among *Conditional Purchases*. (See § 6.) In most of the States comparatively small areas of Crown lands may be sold without competition under special circumstances. Sales by auction and special sales under Closer Settlement Acts are referred to in a later part of this section. (See § 8.)

2. **New South Wales.**—Under the Crown Lands Act, lands not exceeding in the aggregate 200,000 acres for the whole State may be sold by auction during any one year. The sales are notified in the *Gazette* not less than one month before the day of sale. The upset prices may not be less than £8 an acre for town lands; £2 10s. for suburban lands; and other lands fifteen shillings. Town lands may not be sold in areas exceeding half-an-acre; suburban lands in areas exceeding twenty acres; and country lands in areas exceeding 640 acres. A deposit of 25 per cent. on the purchase money must be paid at the sale, and the balance in ordinary circumstances within three months. In the case of town or suburban lands, or portions of less than 40 acres, the Minister may submit the land to sale on deferred payments, in which case the balance is spread over a fixed period (not exceeding 5 years) and is payable in annual instalments with 5 per cent. interest.

A fuller description of the conditions under which land may be purchased at auction may be found in the previous issues of the Year Book. (See Year Book No. 5, p. 273.)

Alienation by Auction and Special Sales. During the year ended the 30th June, 1916, the area of Crown lands sold by auction and special sales for which grants were prepared amounted to 3107 acres, of which 463 acres were sold by auction in 389 lots; 284 acres were sold by after-auction sales in 471 lots; 65 acres were sold as improvement purchases in 145 lots; and 2294 acres were sold as special purchases in 250 lots. The following table gives particulars of Crown lands alienated by auction and special sales during 1901 and for each year from 1911 to 1916:—

NEW SOUTH WALES—AUCTION AND SPECIAL SALES, 1901 and 1911-16.

Year.	Auction and After-auction Sales.	Improvement Purchases.	Special Sales.	Total.	
				Area.	Price.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	£
1901*...	49,074	43	445	49,562	116,562
1911 ...	6,732†	47	1,348	8,127	86,601
1912 ...	4,530†	32	2,063	6,625	77,274
1913 ...	3,764†	53	2,739	6,556	58,552
1914 ...	748†	51	2,801	3,600	32,222
1915 ...	501†	49	1,897	2,447	36,411
1916 ...	492	66	2,707	3,265	35,614

* Year ended 31st December. Subsequent years to 30th June. † Exclusive of frontages sold under the Centennial Park Sale Act.

Particulars of total areas alienated are given hereafter. (See § 11.)

3. **Victoria.**—Lands specially classed for sale by auction, and any land in any city, town, or borough, may be sold by auction in fee simple, not exceeding 100,000 acres in any one year, at an upset price of £1 an acre, or at any higher price determined. The purchaser must pay the survey charge at the time of the sale, together with a deposit of 12½ per cent. of the whole price; the residue is payable in equal half-yearly instalments, not exceeding forty in number, according to the amount, with interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

(i.) *Special Sales without Competition.* Detached strips of land not exceeding twenty acres may be sold at a valuation to the owner of the adjoining freehold in cases somewhat similar to those specified above in respect to Crown lands in New South Wales.

(ii.) *Areas Sold at Auction and by Special Sales.* The following table gives particulars of auction sales and special sales for the year 1901 and from 1911 to 1915:—

VICTORIA—AUCTION AND SPECIAL SALES, 1901 and 1911-15.

Particulars.	1901.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Country lands	4,079	1,096	1,178	1,196	983	818
Town and suburban lands	2,127	1,263	1,412	1,278	1,273	1,276
Special sales	846	1,709	1,530	1,731	1,449	1,193
Total	7,052	4,068	4,120	4,205	3,705	3,287

Particulars of total areas alienated are given hereafter. (See § 11.)

4. **Queensland.**—The Minister may, with the approval of the Governor-in-Council, cause any Crown lands to be offered for sale by auction. The notification must specify the amount of deposit, and the term for payment of the balance of the money, which term may not exceed ten years. The upset price may not be less than £8 per acre for town lands, £2 per acre for suburban lands, and 10s. per acre for country lands.

(i.) *After-auction Sales.* The notification of lands for sale by auction may declare that any lands therein mentioned, which have been offered at auction, but not sold or withdrawn, shall be open to purchase at the upset price by the first applicant. The price may be paid in the same instalments and at the same periods as if the land had been bought at the auction.

(ii.) *Special Sales without Competition.* Land may be sold without competition to the holder or holders of adjoining lands at a price to be determined by the Land Court, under circumstances similar to those specified above in the case of New South Wales. When the holder of any land proves that, owing to danger from floods or other reasons, it is unsafe to reside on his holding, he may be granted, on payment of a price determined by the Land Court, an area not exceeding ten acres out of the nearest convenient and available Crown lands.

(iii.) *Areas Sold at Auction, after Auction, and by Special Sales.* The following table shews the areas sold at or after auction, and by special sales, during the year 1901 and from 1911 to 1915:—

QUEENSLAND.—AUCTION AND SPECIAL SALES, 1901 and 1911-15.

Particulars.			1901.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
			Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Town	...	...	334	764	646	608	446	149
Suburban	...	...	793	1,462	1,015	741	923	541
Country—								
Ordinary sales	...	...	52,132	7,897	4,733	8,770	5,260	2,623
Special Sales	...	...	55	155	200	835	87	79
Total	...	...	53,314	10,278	6,594	10,954	6,716	3,392

Particulars of total areas alienated are given hereafter. (See § 11.)

During 1915, there were in Queensland auction sales, under perpetual lease, of 158 acres for town areas and 749 acres for suburban areas, a total of 907 acres.

(iv.) *Unconditional Selections.* This form of tenure is similar to that of a sale by auction with deferred payment. The minimum price for the land is 13s. 4d. an acre, payable in twenty annual instalments, and the maximum area granted to the applicant is 1280 acres. A deed of grant may be obtained upon payment of the purchase money.

The following table shews the number and area of unconditional selections for which applications were accepted during the year 1901 and from 1911 to 1915:—

QUEENSLAND.—UNCONDITIONAL SELECTIONS, 1901 and 1911-1915.

Particulars.			1901.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
Number	...	...	151	76	51	41	48	35
Area	...	Acres	24,322	12,968	14,578	6,603	12,081	5,639
Rent	...	£	1,180	525	565	266	448	213

5. *South Australia.*—The following lands may be sold by auction for cash:—(a) Special blocks. Any single section of Crown lands which may be surrounded by lands sold or contracted to be sold, and any section (not exceeding 100 acres in area) which may be required for the establishment of any industry. (b) Crown lands which have been offered for perpetual lease, and not taken up for two years. (c) Town lands. (d) Suburban lands. The upset price is determined by the Commissioner, and 20 per cent. of the purchase money must be deposited at the time of sale, and the residue paid within such a time as the Commissioner may allow.

(i.) *After-auction Sales.* All Crown lands, except town or suburban lands, offered at auction and not sold remain open for leasing or sale under agreement or may be sold by private contract for cash at the upset price.

(ii.) *Sales for Special Purposes.* The Governor may, on the application of the purchaser or lessee under any of the Crown Lands Acts, grant two acres of the land comprised in such agreement or lease to trustees, to be used for any public or charitable purposes, or he may grant not over one acre of land, comprised in such agreement, as a site for a shop, mill, or post office. The purchase money for such land must be paid at the time of application.

(iii.) *Areas Sold for Cash.* The following table shews the areas sold for cash during the year 1901 and from 1911 to 1915. The total areas sold under all types of sale are shewn in a later part of this section. (See § 11.)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA—AUCTION AND SPECIAL SALES, 1901 and 1911-1915.

Year	1901.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
Area in acres	11,314	470,003	277,665	106,432	51,248	29,081

6. **Western Australia.**—Surveyed town lots notified in the *Gazette* as open for sale, were sold by public auction at a prescribed upset price up to 18th October, 1911, since which date, however, all town lands have been withdrawn from sale and are now granted under lease only. In the case of suburban lands, the purchaser must carry out certain improvements, which are more particularly referred to later. (See § 6, *Conditional Purchases*.)

Areas Sold by Auction. The following table shews the areas of town and suburban lands sold at auction during the year 1901 and from 1911 to 1916 :—

WESTERN AUSTRALIA—AUCTION SALES, 1901 and 1911-16.

Year	1901.	1911. ¹	1912. ¹	1913. ¹	1914. ¹	1915. ¹	1916. ¹
Area sold ... Acres	856	1,848	1,359	1,087	890	1,396	419
Number of Allotments	1,366	778	705	530	263	353	102

1. For the year ended 30th June.

Particulars as to total areas alienated are given in a later part of this section. (See § 11.)

7. **Tasmania.**—Any town lands may be sold at auction or by private contract, either for cash or on credit, provided that no such lands may be sold on credit if the price is less than £15. Rural lands may also be sold at auction or by private contract, but lots of first-class land may not be sold on credit if less than fifteen acres in area. In the case of sales on credit both of town and rural lands, improvement conditions are imposed, and such sales are therefore classified for the purposes of this article as *Conditional Purchases*. (See § 6.)

(i.) *After-auction Sales.* All rural lands and town lands, not within five miles of any city, which have been offered at auction and not sold, may be purchased by private contract at the upset price, and subject to the conditions on which they were offered at auction.

(ii.) *Sale of Land in Mining Towns.* The holder of a residence or business license, who is in occupation and is the owner of buildings and improvements upon the area licensed of a value equal to the upset price of such area, is entitled to purchase not more than half an acre in area. The areas may be sold on credit.

(iii.) *Areas Sold for Cash.* The following table shews the areas sold for cash during the year 1901 and from 1911 to 1915 :—

TASMANIA.—AUCTION AND SPECIAL SALES, 1901 and 1911-1915.

Year	1901.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
Area in acres	1,915	190	2,026	383	2,260	339

Particulars of total areas alienated are given in a later part of this section. (See § 11.)

§ 6. Conditional Purchases.

1. **Introduction.**—In all the States of the Commonwealth the freehold of the land may be acquired under what are known as systems of conditional purchase by deferred payments of half-yearly or yearly instalments. Certain conditions, generally as to residence and improvements, have to be complied with before the freehold is granted, but these conditions are usually of a light nature and are inserted chiefly with the object of guaranteeing that the occupier will become of benefit to the community by making a reasonable effort to render his holding wealth-producing. Though there is a considerable similarity between some of the forms of tenure in the several States, the terms and conditions vary greatly in detail. As a rule a lease or license for a certain period is first issued to the selector, and upon fulfilment of the prescribed conditions and payment of the full amount of purchase-money the freehold is conveyed to him. In Queensland and Western Australia "free" homesteads may be acquired. Although under these tenures no purchase-money is payable, the grant is conditional on the performance of residential and improvement conditions; these tenures are therefore included here with conditional purchases rather than with free grants.

2. **New South Wales.**—The following are the methods by which land may be alienated by conditional purchase:—(i.) Residential conditional purchase; (ii.) non-residential conditional purchase; (iii.) conversion of certain holdings into conditional purchase; and (iv.) homestead selections.

A description of the conditions under which land may be taken up under this form of tenure is given in previous issues of the Year Book. (See No. 6, p. 277.)

During the year ended the 30th June, 1916, deeds of grant were prepared on the completion of conditional purchases for 307,016 acres, making the total number of conditional purchases in existence at the end of the financial year 89,672 for a total area of 18,315,181 acres. The following table gives particulars of conditional purchases in 1901 and from 1911 to 1916:—

NEW SOUTH WALES.—CONDITIONAL PURCHASES, 1901 and 1911 to 1916.

Year.	Applications Made.		Applications Confirmed.		Areas for which Deeds have been Issued.	
	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	During the Year. ²	To end of Year.
1901	2,277	Acres. 549,898	1,555	Acres. 360,910	Acres. 500,564	Acres. 4,212,189
1911 ¹	1,602	221,537	1,613	227,520	632,738	15,614,036
1912 ¹	1,258	190,969	1,099	175,004	671,564	15,232,355
1913 ¹	783	103,844	839	105,167	406,019	15,638,374
1914 ¹	512	65,306	554	67,534	322,556	15,960,930
1915 ¹	362	47,175	287	35,249	304,012	16,264,942
1916 ¹	216	22,495	183	23,552	307,016	16,571,958

1. Year ended 30th June. 2. Exclusive of exchanges under the Crown Lands Act 1895.

Further particulars as to the total areas alienated and in process of alienation are given hereinafter. (See § 11.)

During the year ended 30th June, 1916, there were 3 original and 25 additional homestead selections applied for, comprising an area of 3141 acres. During the same period the total number of applications confirmed was 17, comprising 7559 acres, and 3694 homestead selections and grants, comprising an area of 1,317,120 acres, were in existence on the 30th June, 1916. This tenure is now practically superseded by the Homestead Farm tenure. Further particulars for previous years are given in a later part of this section. (See § 11.)

3. **Victoria.**—The freehold of agricultural and grazing lands may be acquired by conditional purchase under the following tenures:—(i.) Agricultural, grazing and selection purchase allotments; (ii.) agricultural and grazing allotments by selection from grazing area or perpetual leases; (iii.) Mallee selection purchase leases; (iv.) Murray settlements leases; and (v.) swamp or reclaimed lands purchase leases.

A description of the conditions under which land may be taken up under this form of tenure may be found in previous issues of the Year Book. (See No. 6, p. 278.)

With reference to Murray settlement leases, two settlement areas have been laid out under the Act with due regard to irrigation conditions, viz., those at White Cliffs and Nyah, and at the former place a dry farm area has also been subdivided. At White Cliffs 6273 acres were subdivided as homestead allotments, and 50,345 acres as dry farm allotments, while at Nyah 1960 acres were subdivided as homestead allotments. No additional subdivision has been made during 1915.

The subjoined table gives particulars shewing the areas selected conditionally during the year 1901 and from 1911 to 1915. A large proportion of the areas shewn has reverted to the Crown in consequence of non-fulfilment of conditions.

VICTORIA.—AREAS PURCHASED CONDITIONALLY, 1901 and 1911 to 1915.

(Exclusive of selection in the Mallee country.)

Particulars.	1901.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
With residence	466,155	172,599	97,766	138,955	132,085	112,144
Without residence	50,257	33,109	16,864	30,392	23,599	15,645
Total	516,412	205,708	114,630	169,347	155,684	127,789
No. of selectors	2,979	1,608	1,072	1,548	1,307	883

Particulars as to total areas alienated and in process of alienation are given in a later part of this section. (See § 11.)

4. **Queensland.**—The several types of selection under which the freehold may be acquired by conditional purchase are as follows:—(i.) Agricultural farms; (ii.) agricultural homesteads; (iii.) prickly pear selections; and (iv.) free homesteads.

In previous issues of this book may be found the conditions under which land may be selected under this form of tenure. (See No. 6, p. 280.)

Number and Area of Conditional Purchases. The following table shews the number and area of conditional purchases for which applications were accepted in 1901 and from 1911 to 1915:—

QUEENSLAND.—CONDITIONAL PURCHASES (APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED),

1901 AND 1911 TO 1915.

Year.	Agricultural Farms.		Agricultural Homesteads.		Prickly Pear Selections.		Total.	
	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.
		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.
1901 ...	661	160,804	669	155,512	19	48,450	1,349	364,766
1911 ...	2,046	714,733	30	5,814	806	1,020,615	2,882	1,741,162
1912 ...	1,717	614,269	18	3,771	544	628,614	2,279	1,246,654
1913 ...	1,477	527,461	24	3,934	548	546,749	2,049	1,078,144
1914 ...	1,554	538,844	25	5,927	636	683,000	2,215	1,227,771
1915 ...	978	300,302	12	1,913	451	481,258	1,441	783,473

During the year 1915, applications were accepted to select agricultural farms to the number of 978 for 300,302 acres, an average area of 307 acres, at an average price of 17s. 10d. per acre. The number of selections and the total area selected are less than the corresponding figures for the previous year by 576 and 238,542 acres respectively. The average area is less by 40 acres, and the average price per acre is 11d. less.

The average area of agricultural homesteads was 160 acres. The average price of the land selected as prickly pear selections during the year was 2s. 9d. per acre.

During the year 1915 for land opened for selection as free homesteads, 3 applications totalling 460 acres, were accepted.

Particulars as to total areas alienated and in process of alienation may be found hereinafter. (See § 11.)

5. **South Australia.**—The types of conditional purchases under which land may be alienated in this State are as follows :—(i.) Agreement to purchase, and (ii.) Agreement under the Pinnaroo Railway Act 1903.

(i.) *Agreement to Purchase.*—Surveyed Crown lands are available for agreement to purchase, as well as for perpetual lease under the Crown Lands Acts of 1915, the purchase money being fixed by the Land Board, and payable in sixty half-yearly payments, including interest at not less than 2 per cent. per annum. The condition as to payment of instalments for land offered under the provisions of Act of 1915 in newly surveyed mallee lands is that no payment is made for the first four years, from the fifth to end of the tenth year, interest only at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on value of land is payable, the first instalment of purchase money, including interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, being payable at the commencement of the eleventh year. All payments are made in advance, the term of agreement being thereby extended to forty years. If the conditions relating to fencing, vermin destruction, and in some cases to residence, are fulfilled, the purchase may be completed after a term of six years from commencement of the agreement on payment of all principal and interest due. All minerals are reserved to the Crown, and the Crown may resume any part of the land for the purposes of roads, water conservation, mining, etc., compensation being payable to the purchaser for loss occasioned by resumption.

(ii.) *Pinnaroo Railway Lands.* Under the Pinnaroo Railway Act 1903 provision was made for opening up about 1,500,000 acres of good agricultural country in the vicinity of a line from Pinnaroo adjoining the Victorian border to Tailem Bend, a distance of eighty-seven miles. These lands are now offered on agreement with covenant to purchase or on perpetual lease under the Crown Lands Act 1915. The railway has been paid for from the proceeds of the land already selected. The conditions of purchase are similar to those stated in par. (i.) above.

The total area held on 30th June, 1916, was 1,090,029 acres; of this area purchase has been completed of 460,723 acres, and 16,179 acres are held on perpetual and right of purchase leases, allotted before the Pinnaroo Railway Act was passed.

(iii.) *Particulars of Conditional Purchases.* The subjoined table gives particulars of the areas alienated by conditional purchase, on fulfilment of the conditions, at the end of 1901 and from 1911 to 1915 :—

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—AREAS ALIENATED UNDER AGREEMENTS TO PURCHASE,
1901 AND 1911 TO 1915.**

Year	...	...	...	1901.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
Area in acres	...	...	...	57,460	153,594	51,702	59,670	36,186	55,181

Particulars as to the total areas alienated and in process of alienation are given in a later part of this section. (See § 11.)

6. **Western Australia.**—The various types of selection under which the freehold can be alienated by conditional purchase in this State are as follows:—(i.) Residential conditional purchase; (ii.) non-residential conditional purchase; (iii.) conditional purchase by direct payment; (iv.) conditional purchase of blocks for vineyards, orchards, or gardens; (v.) conditional purchase of grazing lands; and (vi.) free homestead farms.

A full description of the various conditions under which land may be held under this form of tenure may be found in the previous issues of the Year Book. (See Year Book No. 5, pp. 283 and 284.) The following table shews the area of the selections for which grants were issued, the prescribed conditions having been fulfilled, during the year 1901 and from 1911 to 1916.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—AREAS SELECTED CONDITIONALLY FOR WHICH CROWN GRANTS WERE ISSUED, 1901 and 1911-16.

Particulars.	1901.	1911. ¹	1912. ¹	1913. ¹	1914. ¹	1915. ¹	1916. ¹
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Free homestead farms	147	93,444	83,686	96,435	80,784	62,520	61,395
Conditional purchases	5,234	92,986	97,286	113,885	101,421	144,684	50,845
Poison land leases ...	...	...	2,593	6,282	5,357	4,001	5,034
Total ...	5,381	186,430	183,565	216,552	187,562	211,205	117,274
Number of holdings	48	1,073	998	1,232	994	859	724

1. For financial year ended 30th June.

Particulars as to the total areas alienated absolutely, and in process of alienation, are given in a later part of this section. (See § 11.)

Area Conditionally Alienated. The following table shews the areas conditionally alienated under various methods of selection during the year 1901 and from 1911 to 1916:—

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—AREAS CONDITIONALLY ALIENATED, 1901 and 1911-16.

Particulars.	1901.	1911. ¹	1912. ¹	1913. ¹	1914. ¹	1915. ¹	1916. ¹
<i>Conditional Purchase—</i>	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Deferred payments (with residence)	161,302	899,816	791,844	510,195	338,804	164,461	85,957
" (without residence)	46,498	574,805	391,397	149,648	88,854	43,203	31,137
Direct payments (without residence)	1,909	2,458	5,661	3,548	985	685	208
Free Homestead Farms	63,623	201,172	203,791	151,985	112,874	62,140	32,549
Under the Agric. Lands Purchase Acts	4,295	49,983	8,375	10,835	2,451	4,122	1,026
Grazing Leases	64,834	194,839	568,958	585,382	454,881	227,940	157,712
Poison Land Leases ² ...	9,530	...	...	...	...	...	...
Workingmen's Blocks ³ ...	8	99	56	4	1	...	1
Total ...	351,999	1,923,172	1,970,082	1,411,597	998,850	502,551	308,590
Number of holdings ...	1,888	4,265	4,871	3,771	2,788	1,514	860

1. For year ended 30th June.

2. Provisions repealed by Act of 1906.

3. Closer settlement. (See § 8, 7.)

Particulars as to the total areas in process of alienation are given in a later part of this section. (See § 11.)

7. **Tasmania.**—The various types of conditional purchases in this State are as follows:—(i.) Selection of rural land; (ii.) homestead areas; (iii.) selection in mining

areas; and (iv.) sales by auction on credit, either of town or rural lands. The conditions under which land may be selected under this form of tenure are given in previous issues of the Year Book. (See No. 6, p. 233.)

The following table shows the areas alienated absolutely under systems of conditional purchases and sales on credit, the conditions having been fulfilled, and also shows the areas sold conditionally and the applications for conditional purchases received and confirmed, during the year 1901 and from 1911 to 1915:—

TASMANIA.—CONDITIONAL PURCHASES, 1901 and 1911 to 1915.

Particulars.	1901.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
<i>Completion of Conditional Purchases</i> ¹	23,781	33,055	39,844	45,937	34,756	39,329
<i>Sold Conditionally—</i>						
Free Selections	40,004	211,447	91,513	51,622	38,774	42,584
Homestead Areas	9,108	274	199	370	164	100
Auction Sales on Credit	12,961	2,437	2,026	1,916	986	3,202
Other Sales (Town Lands)	636	1,493	1,915	1,037	1,260	740
Total... ..	62,709	215,651	95,653	54,945	41,184	46,626
<i>Applications—</i>						
Received	1,444	2,136	1,800	1,631	1,515	1,610
Confirmed	768	1,241	652	698	543	563

1. Including selections and sales on credit.

Particulars of total areas alienated and in process of alienation are given hereinafter. (See § 11.)

§ 7. Leases and Licenses.

1. **Introduction.**—Leases and licenses are issued in all the States and in the Northern Territory for various terms and upon various conditions. In Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and the Northern Territory perpetual leases are issued for an indefinitely long period upon payment of an annual rent, while in all the States leases or licenses of comparatively large areas may be obtained for pastoral purposes. Provision has also been made in all the States for convenient forms of leases and licenses for various special purposes, and also for special classes of lands. The leases and licenses dealt with below are exclusive of those issued under Closer Settlement and kindred Acts, and also of those issued for mining and auxiliary purposes. (See §§ 8 and 9.)

2. **New South Wales.**—The following are the various types of leases and licenses issued in this State:—(i.) Conditional leases; (ii.) conditional purchase leases; (iii.) settlement leases; (iv.) improvement leases; (v.) annual leases; (vi.) residential leases; (vii.) special leases; (viii.) snow leases; (ix.) pastoral leases; (x.) scrub leases; (xi.) inferior lands leases; (xii.) occupation licenses; (xiii.) Western lands leases; (xiv.) homestead farm leases; (xv.) suburban holdings leases; (xvi.) Crown leases; (xvii.) irrigation farm leases.

A description in detail of the conditions which govern the issue of these various leases and licenses may be found in previous editions of the Year Book. (See Year Book No. 6, p. 285.)

On the 30th June, 1916, there were 59,051 leases and licenses current under the Lands Department and the Western Land Board, comprising 118,141,247 acres of Crown lands. Of these leases there were 56,053, comprising 43,014,162 acres, in the Eastern and Central Divisions; and 2,998, comprising 75,627,085 acres, in the Western Division.

The following table shews the areas held under various descriptions of leases and licenses at the end of the year 1901, and at the end of 1912-13 and following financial years, and also the area and rental of leases current on the 30th June, 1916 :—

NEW SOUTH WALES.—AREAS OCCUPIED UNDER LEASES AND LICENSES,
1901 AND 1912-1916.

Leases and Licenses.	1901.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	
					Area.	Rent.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	£
Pastoral	44,805,221	1,137,095	1,137,095	1,136,475	1,136,475	734
Outgoing pastoral lessees ...	—	996,272	1,061,240	964,081	857,313	7,914
Western land leases & licenses	—	74,368,024	*74,434,751	74,197,826	73,755,143	91,005
Occupation { (i.) Ordinary	25,812,215	6,401,989	5,923,013	5,672,117	5,400,305	9,608
licenses { (ii.) Preferential	12,985,651	1,703,260	1,487,289	1,304,376	1,204,845	6,757
Homestead leases	10,953,388	480,210	388,378	351,374	351,374	614
Condit'l. leases—(i.) Gazetted	13,014,055	15,987,366	15,688,322	15,995,625	15,663,382	194,038
(ii.) Not gazetted (under pro-						
visional rent)	966,887	202,155	110,549	65,477	33,322	278
Conditional purchase leases...	—	611,152	579,108	549,772	515,312	18,928
Settlement leases	3,468,675	7,256,701	6,591,911	6,316,739	5,167,063	62,466
Improvement	5,551,060	6,014,906	5,448,966	5,781,979	4,902,058	35,954
Annual	6,755,942	4,237,898	3,705,570	3,184,830	2,991,573	22,123
Scrub	1,535,415	2,211,234	2,053,634	1,991,066	1,854,648	7,032
Snow land	79,582	60,104	52,970	11,549	6,069	138
Special	124,377	620,447	622,079	648,509	647,916	36,600
Inferior land	288,530	108,664	104,674	104,524	75,451	287
Artesian well	358,071	71,680	71,680	71,680	71,680	144
Blockholders'	—	1	1	1	1	6
Residential leases (on gold and						
mineral fields)	5,751	13,427	13,353	13,366	13,435	1,644
Church and school lands ...	97,207	6,855	4,384	4,082	4,078	400
Permissive occupancies †	118,634	1,002,794	1,203,244	1,409,502	1,041,890	12,378
Prickly pear leases	—	62,687	50,187	47,329	47,316	644
Crown lease	—	555,864	880,785	1,563,684	1,896,765	21,561
Homestead farms	—	241,221	450,499	748,918	969,453	796
Suburban holdings	—	9,731	22,114	30,717	34,110	4,043
Total under Lands Dept.						
and Western Land Board	126,921,161	124,361,737	122,085,796	121,565,598	118,641,247	536,092

* Includes 1,108,706 acres held under Permissive Occupancy.

† Permissive Occupancies in the Western Division not included.

‡ Rent received.

|| Includes 777,657 acres held under Permissive Occupancy at a rental of £591.

The total annual rent derived from the leases and licenses issued by the Lands Department and the Western Lands Board amounted to £536,092, or an average of 1.08 pence per acre. Particulars regarding leases and licenses issued by the Mines Department are given in a later part of this section. (See § 9, *Occupation of Crown Lands for Mining Purposes*.)

3. *Victoria*.—The various types of leases and licenses (exclusive of Closer Settlement and Mines Department leases and licenses) which may be issued in this State are as follows:—(i.) Grazing area leases; (ii.) selection purchase leases; (iii.) perpetual leases; (iv.) Mallee perpetual leases; (v.) licenses of auriferous lands; (vi.) swamp or reclaimed lands leases; (vii.) grazing licenses; (viii.) leases and licenses for other than pastoral purposes; and (ix.) State forests and timber reserves licenses.

A description in detail of the conditions which govern the issue of these various leases and licenses may be found in the previous issues of the Year Book. (See Year Book No. 5, pp. 291-2.)

Areas held under Leases and Licenses. The following statement shews the areas of Crown lands occupied under leases and licenses at the end of the year 1901, and from 1911 to 1915 :—

VICTORIA.—OCCUPATION OF CROWN LANDS UNDER LEASE OR LICENSE,
1901 AND 1911-15.

Tenure.	Area in Acres.					
	1901.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
Pastoral Leases	39,450	...	...	...	...	...
Grazing Area Leases... ..	2,338,649	2,950,226	2,869,095	2,747,571	2,648,281	2,575,480
Grazing Licenses—						
Land Acts 1890-91	5,908,985	...	...	...	...	...
Land Acts 1901 (exclus. of Mallee)	...	5,328,249	5,777,386	5,291,179	5,437,929	5,254,997
Mallee Lands ... ..	...	5,413,216	5,016,456	4,694,213	4,851,246	4,868,746
Auriferous Lands (Licenses)... ..	377,427	99,008	92,873	86,667	82,032	79,618
Swamp Lands (Leases)	4,200	4,001	3,981	3,900	3,868	3,824
Perpetual Leases	8,137	9,950	7,899	8,407	8,344	8,182
Mallee Pastoral Leases	7,980,593	327,149	114,287	...	...	...
Mallee Allotment Leases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Perpetual Leases under Mallee Lands	448,842	587,350	561,214	398,274	293,716	244,765
Acts 1896-1901	4,427	...	...	...	...	...
Wattles Act 1890 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	17,110,709	14,719,149	14,443,191	13,230,211	13,325,416	13,035,612

4. Queensland.—In this State Crown lands may be occupied under the following types of leases and licenses:—(i.) Grazing homesteads; (ii.) grazing farms; (iii.) occupation licenses; (iv.) special leases; (v.) perpetual lease selections; and (vi.) pastoral leases. An applicant for a grazing homestead or grazing farm may not hold more than 60,000 acres, and the term of the lease may not exceed 28 years.

(i.) *Grazing Homesteads.* Lands opened for grazing selections are available for fifty-six days as grazing homesteads only. Personal residence is necessary for the first 5 years, and prior to the expiration of such period or the earlier death of the lessee, a grazing homestead cannot be assigned or transferred. Without the special permission of the Minister it may not be mortgaged during the five years except to the Agricultural Bank; thereafter the lease is subject to the condition of occupation.

(ii.) *Grazing Farms.* In order to obtain priority of claim the applicant may tender an annual rent higher than the notified one, for the first seven years. As soon as the land is fenced the selector becomes entitled to a lease, and may thereafter mortgage the same. The lease is subject to the condition of occupation during the whole term. The Crown may resume the whole or part of the lease.

Particulars of grazing farms and grazing homesteads are given in the following paragraph:—

(iii.) *Grazing Farms, Homestead and Scrub Selections.* The following table shows the number of grazing farms, grazing homesteads, and scrub selections, for which applications were accepted in 1901 and from 1911 to 1915:—

QUEENSLAND.—GRAZING FARMS, HOMESTEAD AND SCRUB SELECTIONS,
1901 AND 1911-15.

Year.	Grazing Farms.		Grazing Homesteads		Scrub Selections.		Total.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
1901 ...	247	Acres. 1,371,283	47	Acres. 290,785	19	Acres. 48,450	313	Acres. 1,710,518
1911 ...	161	1,762,406	253	2,726,306	...	...	414	4,488,712
1912 ...	223	1,834,920	348	3,860,887	...	...	571	5,695,807
1913 ...	230	2,681,948	317	3,698,600	...	...	547	6,380,548
1914 ...	272	3,380,918	288	3,462,488	...	...	560	6,843,406
1915 ...	222	2,461,836	275	3,984,517	...	...	497	6,446,353

The average rent in 1915 was .3d. per acre for grazing farms and 1.25d. per acre for grazing homesteads.

Particulars of total areas held under leases and licenses are given in a later part of this section. (See § 11.)

(iv.) *Occupation Licenses.* Annual licenses are granted to occupy Crown lands which have been declared open for such occupation by notification in the *Gazette*. The rent is as specified by the notification or as bid by the licensee, but the Minister may by notice before the 1st September in any year increase the rent. The total number of licenses in force at the end of the year 1915 was 2411, comprising an area of 71,264 square miles, the total rent being £53,317. Particulars of the area held under license for previous years are given in a later part of this section. (See § 11.)

(v.) *Special Leases.* Leases of any portion of land may be issued for a term not exceeding thirty years to any person for any manufacturing, industrial, business or recreation purposes. Leases for a similar term may be issued for any country lands reserved for public purposes and which are infested with noxious weeds.

During the year 1915 there were 101 leases for special purposes granted, comprising an area of 10,515 acres, the total annual rent being £550, and there were extant at the end of the year 648 such leases, reserving rents amounting to £3632 per annum. In addition, 57 leases of reserves, aggregating 35,963 acres, were granted at rentals amounting to £368 per annum; the total number of these leases of reserves in force at the end of the year being 269, reserving rents amounting to £1120. Particulars of special leases for previous years are given in a later part of this section. (See § 11.)

(vi.) *Perpetual Lease Selections.* Land proclaimed to be open for agricultural farm selection (see § 6, 4) may also be opened for perpetual lease selection, and the latter mode may be conceded priority of application over the former. The rent for the first period of ten years of the lease is $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the proclaimed purchase price of the land for agricultural farm selection. The rent for each succeeding period of ten years is determined by the Land Court. Similar conditions of occupation and improvement as are prescribed for agricultural farms are attached to perpetual lease selections.

QUEENSLAND.—PERPETUAL LEASE SELECTIONS, 1911 to 1915.

Particulars.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
Number	24	20	12	18	175
Area—Acres	16,660	19,226	10,887	12,991	59,760
Rent £	292	212	106	153	973

(vii.) *Special Licenses.* Licenses to cut timber or to dig for any stone, gravel, earth, shells, or guano, may be issued.

(viii.) *Pastoral Leases.* Existing pastoral leases are now deemed to be held under the Land Act 1910. Lands open for pastoral lease may be leased for a period not exceeding thirty years. The annual rent, per square mile, for the first ten years must be as notified in the *Gazette*, or in case of competition, bid at auction. If the value of the holding become enhanced by the development of public works in the neighbourhood, or by the occurrence of minerals on or near the holding, the rent may be redetermined.

The following table shows the total areas of pastoral leases occupied under the various Acts at the end of the year 1901 and from 1911 to 1915 inclusive:—

* QUEENSLAND.—PASTORAL LEASES OCCUPIED UNDER VARIOUS ACTS, 1901 AND 1911 TO 1915.

Particulars.	Area in Square Miles.					
	1901.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
Pastoral Leases Act 1869	39,307	...	...	...	...	...
Crown Lands Act 1884	243,586	...	...	...	...	...
Land Act 1897	15,046	...	...	...	...	...
Pastoral Leases Act 1900	50,076	...	...	...	...	...
Pastoral Holdings New Leases Act 1901 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Land Act 1902 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Land Act 1910 ... ..	...	346,637	354,843	357,615	353,312	349,838
Total	348,015	346,637	354,843	357,615	353,312	349,838

* Up to the year 1910, resumed parts of pastoral holdings were included in these figures, but since that year they are held under occupation license, and are included in the figures under that head.

The gross area held at the end of the year 1915 for purely pastoral purposes (under *Occupation Licenses and Pastoral Leases*) was 421,102 square miles, at rentals aggregating £347,756 per annum. The area was 5,358 square miles less than that for the previous year, and the rental was £4,306 less. The average rent was 16s. 6½d. per square mile, as against 16s. 6d. for the previous year.

5. **South Australia.**—The following are the various types of leases and licenses which are issued in this State:—(i.) Perpetual leases; (ii.) miscellaneous leases; (iii.) miscellaneous grazing and cultivation leases; (iv.) irrigation and reclaimed swamp leases; (v.) licenses for special purposes; (vi.) leases under the Pastoral Act 1904; and (vii.) leases with right of purchase.

(i.) *Perpetual Leases.* Surveyed Crown lands are available for perpetual leases as well as for agreements to purchase under Crown Lands Acts of 1915. Under the Crown Lands Act of 1888 perpetual leases were granted in perpetuity, and the rent determined for each period of fourteen years, at least twelve months before the expiration of each such period. Under the Crown Lands Act of 1893 the revaluation section was repealed and the rent was fixed in perpetuity, generally at rates varying from 2 per cent. to 4 per cent. per annum on the value of the land as fixed by the Land Board. The condition as to payment of rent of land offered under provisions of the Act of 1915 in newly surveyed mallee lands is that no rent is charged for the first four years, and from the fifth to the end of the tenth year payment is made at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, the full rate at 4 per cent. becoming due at the commencement of the eleventh year. All minerals are reserved to the Crown, and the Crown may reserve any part of the land for the purposes of roads, water conservation, mining, etc., compensation being payable to the lessee for loss occasioned by resumption.

The conditions under which the other leases and licenses are issued will be found in detail in the previous issues of the Year Book. (See Year Book No. 5, pp. 294 and 295.)

(ii.) *Area held under Lease.* The following table shows the area held under leases and licenses at the end of the year 1901, and from 1911 to 1915:—

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—AREA UNDER LEASES AND LICENSES, 1901 and 1911 to 1915.

Particulars.	1901.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Right of Purchase Leases ...	5,639,519	3,150,533	2,836,346	2,702,210	2,634,685	2,574,640
Perpetual Leases ...	7,115,782	15,020,544	15,070,607	15,048,199	14,569,877	14,943,771
Pastoral Leases ...	68,916,125	91,546,770	96,356,850	96,933,810	96,382,130	95,756,850
Other Leases ...	3,905,729	1,283,663	1,273,350	1,230,105	1,193,787	1,144,683
Total held under Lease ...	85,577,155	111,001,510	115,537,153	115,914,324	115,180,459	114,419,944

6. **Western Australia.**—The following are the various types of leases and licenses issued in this State:—(i.) Pastoral leases; (ii.) permits and licenses to cut timber; (iii.) special leases; and (iv.) licenses for quarrying.

The conditions of tenure with respect to these leases and licenses may be found in the previous issues of the Year Book. (See Year Book No. 5, pp. 296-7.)

Area Held under Leases and Licenses. The following table shows the number and area of leases and licenses issued during the year 1901, and from 1911 to 1916:—

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—LEASES AND LICENSES ISSUED, 1901 and 1911 to 1916.

Particulars.	1901.	1911.*	1912.*	1913.*	1914.*	1915.*	1916.*
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Pastoral Leases	19,909,251	9,057,002	11,245,895	18,135,488	8,365,927	7,630,023	7,489,683
Special Leases	149	3,112	6,760	3,993	3,382	5,571	1,707
Leases in Reserves	324	174,107	188,444	2,901,238	233,037	196,340	434,455
Timber Leases and Permits†	109,630	68,430	119,000	129,317	20,141	‡	‡
Residential Lots	221	4	18	2	...	...	...
Total	20,019,575	9,302,655	11,560,117	21,170,038	8,622,487	7,831,934	7,925,845
Number Issued	1,466	396	437	1,918	1,709	1,410	1,105

* For financial year ended the 30th June. † No timber leases granted since 1903.

‡ Timber Leases and Permits are now under the control of the Mines Department.

Particulars as to the total area occupied under leases and licenses are given in a later part of this section. (See § 11.)

7. **Tasmania.**—The several forms of leases and licenses in this State are as follows:—(i.) Grazing leases; (ii.) miscellaneous leases; (iii.) timber licenses; (iv.) occupation licenses; (v.) temporary licenses; and (vi.) timber leases.

The conditions which govern the issue of these leases and licenses are more fully dealt with in the previous issues of the Year Book. (See Year Book No. 5, p. 297).

Area held under Leases and Licenses. The following table shews the areas of Crown lands occupied under leases and licenses at the end of the year 1901 and from 1911 to 1915:—

TASMANIA.—LEASES AND LICENSES ISSUED, 1901 and 1911-15.

Particulars.	1901.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Ordinary Leased Land	1,280,688	1,242,400	1,245,400	1,280,400	1,400,300	1,452,068
Islands	149,165	62,000	135,025	134,908	135,000	204,630
Land Leased for Timber	40,768	134,516	136,471	160,216	162,631	120,832
Total	1,470,621	1,438,916	1,516,896	1,575,524	1,697,931	1,777,530

8. **Northern Territory.**—The system of land settlement in the Northern Territory has been reorganised by the Commonwealth Government. A New Lands Ordinance was passed in December, 1912, known as the Crown Lands Ordinance 1912, and future disposal of land in the Territory will be made in accordance with this Ordinance, which provides for a leasehold system only, and no further alienation of Crown lands will be permitted, unless such alienation is in pursuance of existing agreements. Under this Ordinance, the classification and control of Crown lands is in the hands of a Board, consisting of the Director of Lands, the Director of Agriculture, and the Chief Surveyor. The classified land is leased in blocks, the maximum area ranging from 300 square miles of first-class pastoral to 1280 acres of first-class agricultural land. Before offering any land for leasing, the Board fixes the annual rental, but every lease is subject to reappraisal of rent at specified periods, viz., every fourteen years in the case of town lands, and every twenty-one years in the case of agricultural and pastoral lands.

Leases under this Ordinance are in perpetuity, except as regards pastoral and miscellaneous leases, the term of which is 21 or 42 years, according to the quality of the land leased.

The lessee must reside on the land leased for a certain period every year, must fence, stock, and cultivate it to the extent prescribed, and must, within two years of the commencement of the lease, establish a home on it. In order to promote settlement in the Territory, the first five thousand blocks of agricultural land taken up on perpetual lease under this ordinance will be rent free during the life of the applicant, or for 21 years from the commencement of the lease, whichever period is longer. By an amending ordinance of 1913, additional powers are given to the Administrator in revoking and granting leases.

The various types of leases, licenses, and permits current are as follows:—(i.) Agricultural leases; (ii.) pastoral leases; (iii.) special leases; (iv.) leases with right of purchase; (v.) tropical products leases; (vi.) leases for horsebreeding stations; (vii.) licenses; and (viii.) pastoral and other permits. (See § 2, 7). The permit system was discontinued at the end of 1911.

Area held under Lease, License, and Permit. The following table shows the total area held under lease, license, and permit at the end of the year 1901 and 1912 to 1916:—

**NORTHERN TERRITORY.—AREA HELD UNDER LEASE, LICENSE OR PERMIT,
1901 AND 1912-1916.**

Particulars.	1901.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Right of Purchase Leases ...	1,067	667	667	436	436	436
Pastoral Leases ¹ ...	111,476,240	94,329,600	93,748,100	104,370,160	113,813,329	110,560,129
Other Leases ^{2*} ...	1,176,981	1,696,171	1,762,538	88,637	112,862	109,353
Total Leased ...	112,654,288	96,026,438	95,511,305	104,459,233	113,926,627	110,669,918

¹ See Table given below.

The following table gives particulars of the areas held under the various types of lease and license as at the end of the years 1915 and 1916, and included in the previous table under the heads of "pastoral leases" and "other leases."

**NORTHERN TERRITORY.—AREA HELD UNDER LEASE, LICENSE OR PERMIT,
AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1915 and 1916.**

Particulars.	1915.		1916.	
	No. of leases	Area in acres.	No. of leases	Area in acres.
(UNDER SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ACTS.)				
Pastoral leases ...	234	64,682,880	234	64,682,880
Pastoral permits ...	89	12,385,920	80	12,072,370
Annual pastoral leases ...	2	63,360	2	63,360
Mixed farming leases ...	1	1,280	...	...
Right of purchase leases ...	3	436	3	436
Agricultural leases ...	20	5,000	15	3,061
Leases, special purposes ...	2	10	2	10
Occupation, special licenses and permits	20	50	— 24	65
Gold-mining leases ...	14	209	...	...
Mineral leases ...	14	970	...	...
Water leases ...	3	1,920	3	1,920

(UNDER CROWN LANDS ORDINANCE, 1912.)

Grazing Licenses ...	148	30,805,120	124	24,605,440
Pastoral leases ...	32	5,896,049	51	9,136,129
Miscellaneous leases ...	12	81,754	20	82,032
Agricultural leases (cultivation) ...	8	3,923	9	4,489
Agricultural leases (mixed farming and grazing) ...	7	17,648	7	17,648
Town leases ...	44	98	59	128
Total ...	...	113,926,627	...	110,669,918

§ 8. Closer Settlement.

1. **Introduction.**—In all the States, Acts have been passed authorising the Governments to repurchase alienated lands for the purpose of cutting them up into blocks of suitable size and throwing them open to settlement on easy terms and conditions. Special Acts have also been passed in several of the States authorising the establishment on particular lines of co-operative communities, village settlements, and labour colonies. Lands may be acquired either compulsorily or voluntarily in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and Tasmania, but only voluntarily in South Australia and Western Australia.

The following table gives particulars up to the latest available date of operations under the Closer Settlement Acts for each State and the whole Commonwealth:—

CLOSER SETTLEMENT.—TOTAL AREAS ACQUIRED AND ALLOTTED UP TO 30th JUNE, 1916.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Qld.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Cwth.
Area acquired ... acres	837,870	568,073	664,363	709,621	446,804	73,320	3,300,051
Purchasing price ... £	3,038,078	4,230,779	1,713,165	2,261,082	421,373	261,212	11,925,689
Farms, etc., allotted { No.	1,609	4,321	2,636	2,183	704*	243	11,696
acres	4748,573	494,965	586,301	609,598	271,242	65,844	2,776,523

* Includes only farms for which Crown Grants have not issued.

† Including 38 Settlement purchases converted into Homestead Farms of an area 19,887 acres.

The following table shews the areas of private lands acquired in each State for the financial year 1901, and for each year from 1911 to 1916:—

CLOSER SETTLEMENT.—AREAS OF PRIVATE LANDS ACQUIRED, 1901 and 1911 to 1916.

Year ended 30th June.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.*	S. Aust.*	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	C'wealth.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.*	Acres.	Acres.
1901 ...	...	28,553	132,760	...	46,624	...	207,937
1911 ...	676,278	455,954	537,449†	592,972†	297,391	34,448§	2,594,492
1912 ...	676,438	515,604	664,363†	619,469†	303,469	45,731§	2,825,074
1913 ...	676,439	560,081	664,363	624,202†	446,804	49,476§	3,021,365
1914 ...	685,156	567,687	664,363	632,715†	446,804	60,232§	3,056,957
1915 ...	685,156	564,520	664,363	611,402†	446,804	73,162§	3,045,407
1916 ...	745,883	564,600	664,363	661,117†	446,804	73,320§	3,156,087

* Particulars are for calendar years.

† To the preceding 31st December.

‡ To 30th June. § Including 10,382 acres of Crown lands.

2. **Government Loans to Settlers.**—For the purpose of promoting pastoral, agricultural, and similar pursuits, and with the object of assisting settlers in erecting buildings and carrying out improvements on their holdings, general systems have been established in all the States, under which financial aid is rendered to settlers by the State Governments. These general systems are more particularly referred to in the section in this book dealing with "Agriculture." In many of the Closer Settlement and similar Acts, however, special provisions have been inserted with the object of lending money to settlers taking up land under these Acts, with which to build homes or effect improvements. The principal features of these provisions are referred to below.

3. **New South Wales.**—Under the Closer Settlement Act of 1901 provision was made for the acquisition of private lands or of Crown lands held under lease, for the purpose of closer settlement. No power of compulsory resumption was conferred by the Act, which was in consequence practically inoperative. Under the Closer Settlement Act of 1904, and subsequent amendments, and the Closer Settlement Promotion Act 1910, the Government is empowered to resume private lands, either by agreement or by compulsory purchase, and to alienate them on favourable terms to persons who desire to settle and make homes for themselves and their families on the soil. Land acquired under the Acts is subdivided into blocks or farms, and by notification in the *Government*

Gazette is declared to be a settlement purchase area available for application. The *Gazette* notice also gives all necessary information as to the class and character of the land, and the capital value, area, etc., of each block or farm.

(i.) *Closer Settlement Purchase.* Under this tenure a settler may acquire the freehold of the land under a system of deferred payments. A deposit of 6 per cent. of the notified value of the settlement purchase must be lodged with the application, and a similar amount by way of instalment, paid annually until the purchase-money, together with interest at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., is paid off. Prior to 1st July, 1915, the deposit and annual instalments ranged from 5 per cent. to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the interest from 4 per cent. to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Under this system the balance due to the Crown will be paid off in from thirty-three to thirty-eight years, the holding then becoming a freehold. A condition of residence for ten years attaches to every settlement purchase. Under the amending Act of 1909 postponement of the payment of two instalments may be granted by the Minister, subject to the conditions (a) that additional improvements to the value of the amount postponed be made on the land within twelve months, and (b) that interest at 4 per cent. per annum be paid on the amount postponed. The Minister may also grant extension of time to pay overdue instalments under certain conditions. The period allowed under any one such extension must not exceed five years, interest being charged on overdue instalments at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

(ii.) *Closer Settlement Permissive Occupancies.* The Minister may grant permits to occupy from month to month any lands within a settlement purchase area which remain undisposed of, subject to certain terms and conditions.

(iii.) *Sales by Auction.* Areas within closer settlement districts necessary for township settlement may be set apart by notification in the *Gazette*. Allotments, each of which may not exceed half an acre in extent, within such areas may be sold by auction.

(iv.) *The Closer Settlement Promotion Act 1910.* Under this Act any three or more persons who are qualified to hold settlement purchases and who desire to purchase from the same owner any private lands may, upon entering into an agreement with the owner and subject to valuation by the Advisory Board and the Savings Bank Commissioners, acquire such lands through the Minister on Closer Settlement conditions. The maximum sum which may be advanced for the purposes of this Act may not exceed £1,000,000 in any financial year.

The following table shews the number and area of farms allotted since the passing of the Act:—

NEW SOUTH WALES.—CLOSER SETTLEMENT PROMOTION ACT 1910.

Year.	Farms Allotted—		
	Number.	Area.	Amount Advanced.
		Acres.	£
1910-11	26	10,785	54,131
1911-12	209	84,279	418,941
1912-13	274	107,791	599,145
1913-14	183	62,598	361,351
1914-15	95	35,963	201,163
1915-16	141	61,626	300,103
Total	928	363,042	1,934,834

(v.) *Areas Acquired and Disposed of.* Up to the 30th June, 1916, thirty-four estates had been opened for settlement under the Closer Settlement Acts.

The following statement gives particulars of the aggregate areas opened up to the 30th June, in each year from 1912 to 1916:—

NEW SOUTH WALES.—CLOSER SETTLEMENT AREAS, 1912 to 1916.

Year Ended 30th June.	Areas.			Capital Values.		
	Acquired Lands.	Adjoining Crown Lands.	Total.	Acquired Lands.	Adjoining Crown Lands.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	£	£	£
1912 ...	676,438	87,760	764,198	2,666,516	156,796	2,823,312
1913 ...	676,439	87,759	764,198	2,667,203	159,973	2,827,176
1914 ...	685,156	89,540	774,696	2,685,660	163,254	2,848,914
1915 ...	685,156	89,540	774,696	2,685,660	163,254	2,848,914
1916 ...	745,883	91,987	837,870	2,870,116	167,962	3,038,078

The total area thus set apart has been divided into 1678 farms comprising 810,464 acres, the remaining area being reserved for recreation areas, roads, stock routes, schools, etc.

The following table gives particulars as to the disposal of the farms by closer settlement purchase for the years ended the 30th June, 1912 to 1916:—

NEW SOUTH WALES.—CLOSER SETTLEMENT ALLOTMENTS, 1912 to 1916.

Year.	Farms Allotted by Board to Date.			Total Amount received in respect of Settlement Purchases.	Total Number of Applications received.
	Number.	Area.	Value.		
	No.	Acres.	£	£	No.
1911-12 ...	1,485	673,610	2,722,564	274,440	1,555
1912-13 ...	1,554	724,924	2,767,370	363,425	1,568
1913-14 ...	1,567	734,125	2,806,285	493,795	1,578
1914-15 ...	1,588	742,610	2,834,792	506,073	1,591
1915-16 ...	1,609*	748,573*	2,860,636*	718,660	1,612

* Including 44 Settlement Purchase Farms of 23,734 acres, with a capital value of £104,946, since converted into Homestead Farms.

(vi.) *Labour Settlements.* These settlements were founded by the Labour Settlements Acts 1893 and 1894, which have now been amended and repealed by the Labour Settlements Act 1902. Land may be set apart for lease for a period of 28 years as a labour settlement under the superintendence of a Board of Control. The functions of the Board of Control are to enrol members of the settlement; to make regulations concerning the work to be done; to apportion the work among the members; and to distribute the wages and profits. The Minister is empowered to grant financial assistance to the Board of Control. Only two settlements had been established under the Act up to the 30th June, 1916. Particulars are given in the following statement:—

NEW SOUTH WALES.—PARTICULARS OF LABOUR SETTLEMENTS, 30th JUNE, 1916.

Settlement.	Date of Establishment.	Area.	Population.				Value of Improvements.	Loans Advanced by the Govern- ment.
			Men Enrolled.	Women.	Children.	Total.		
Bega ...	1893	Acres. 1,036	26	30	90	146	£ 3,000	£ 2,420
Wilberforce ...	1893	409	9	10	24	43	1,600	2,479
Total ...	—	1,445	35	40	114	189	4,600	4,899

The Murrumbidgee Irrigation Act 1910 provides for the acquisition of 1,668,000 acres near Narrandera, in Riverina, for irrigation and other purposes in connection with the Burrinjuck Irrigation Scheme. Part of this area has since been made available. (See *Water Conservation*, Section XVI., § 3.)

4. **Victoria.**—(i.) *Closer Settlement Act 1915.* The Closer Settlement Act in Victoria is administered by a Board consisting of three persons appointed by the Government-in-Council, and entrusted with power to acquire, either compulsorily or by agreement, private lands in any part of the State for the purpose of Closer Settlement. The Board may dispose of all lands acquired, either Crown lands or repurchased lands, on conditional purchase leases either as (a) farm allotments not exceeding £2,500 in value, (b) workmen's homes allotments not exceeding £250 in value, and (c) agricultural labourers' allotments not exceeding £350 in value. The price of the land must cover the cost of the original purchase and the cost of all improvements. Land acquired by the Board may also be sold in small areas in fee simple as sites for churches, public halls, butter factories, creameries, recreation reserves, or other public purposes.

The Board may approve of an agreement between an owner and one or more persons to purchase a farm or farms, not exceeding £2,500 in value. On the property being acquired by the Board, the applicant obtains a lease under Closer Settlement conditions.

(a) *Closer Settlement Leases.*—Every conditional purchase lease is for such a term of years as may be agreed upon by the lessee and the Board, and payment must be made with interest at 4½ per cent. per annum by sixty-three half-yearly instalments, or such lesser number as may be agreed upon. Under the Act postponement of payment of instalments may be granted by the Board up to 60 per cent. of the value of improvements. The lessee must personally reside during eight months in each year on his allotment, and for six years he must carry out prescribed improvements. Thereafter he may, with permission, transfer, assign, mortgage or sublet his allotment. After twelve years, if all conditions have been fulfilled, a Crown grant, with the same residence condition as that contained in the lease, will be issued. In the case of workmen's homes allotments the land must be fenced within one year, and a dwelling-house to the value of at least £50 must be erected within the same time; within two years further improvements must be made to the value of at least £25. As regards agricultural labourers' allotments, a dwelling-house to the value of at least £30 must be erected within one year, and within two years the allotment must be fenced. In the case of workmen's homes and agricultural labourers' allotments, the lessee may at any time transfer, assign or sublet with the consent of the Board.

(b) *Advances to Settlers.*—The Board may make advances for the purpose of fencing and building dwelling-houses, and is empowered to erect dwelling-houses, outbuildings, or improvements on any allotment at a cost not exceeding £500 for any one allotment. Any sum so expended is repayable, with interest added, by instalments extending over a prescribed period, not greater than twenty years. Provision has also been made for deferring payments in case of hardship, as well as for advances (to the extent of 60 per cent. of the value of the improvements) to enable work to be carried on. Special advances may also be granted to purchase wire netting in rabbit-infested districts.

(c) *Loans to Municipalities.* Loans may be made out of the Closer Settlements Fund for the purpose of carrying out any road-making or other public works within the boundaries of an estate.

(d) *Areas acquired and made available for Closer Settlement.* The following statement shows the operations which have taken place in Victoria under the provisions of the Closer Settlement Acts, 1898 to 1915, up to the 30th June, 1901 and 1912 to 1916.

VICTORIA.—CLOSER SETTLEMENT, 1901 and 1912-1916.

Year ended 30th June.	Total Area Acquired by Government to Date.	Total Cost to Date.	How Made Available for Settlement.					Number of Applications Granted to Date.	Total Receipts to Date.	Repayments of Principal to Date.	Area Available for Settlement.
			Farm Allotments.	Workmen's Homes Allotments.	Agricultural Labourers' Allotments.	Town Allotments.	Roads and Reserves.				
	Acres.	£	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	No.	£	£	Acres.	
1901	23,553	151,566	23,461	89	—	—	193	7,529	—	—	
1912	515,604	3,721,485	474,410	512	3,651	44	3,354	765,076	318,338	71,367	
1913	563,554	4,315,305	498,701	512	3,658	3,564	3,306	922,842	397,803	64,550	
1914	567,637	4,222,248	500,819	828	8,829	24,903	4,119	1,323,593	456,511	60,028	
*1915	567,963	4,230,055	509,454	789	5,111	26,163	4,227	1,432,187	528,060	56,525	
1916	568,073	4,230,779	513,281	778	5,547	27,193	4,321	1,661,427	569,445	51,878	

* During 1915, areas previously classed as Workmen's Homes and Agricultural Allotments were transferred to Farm Allotments.

(ii.) *The Small Improved Holdings Act 1906.* Under this Act, which has been repealed, 2822 acres at a cost of £53,568 allotted to 260 settlers were purchased close to towns where industrial employment could be obtained by the settlers.

These settlements are now under the control of the Closer Settlement Board.

(iii.) *Village Communities.* The rights of lessees of land in Village Communities is now provided for in the Land Act 1915. Certain unalienated Crown lands were surveyed into allotments of one to twenty acres. The price is not less than twenty shillings an acre. Additional areas may be acquired by conditional purchase. The rent is a nominal one for three years. The total amount of monetary aid advanced up to the 30th June, 1914, was £67,379, of which sum the amount repaid to date was £43,308. After three years a lease may be obtained.

Particulars of areas in process of cultivation under the Act are given hereinafter. (See § 11, 3.)

On the 30th June, 1916, there were 707 settlers actually residing, and 103 not residing, but improving, making a total of 809 in occupation. Including wives and children the total number in residence was 3,430. At the same date the area under cultivation was 8,550 acres; the value of live stock £40,478, and of improvements, £143,570.

(iv.) *Closer Settlement in the Irrigated Districts.* The movement for closer settlement in the irrigated districts started about seven years ago. The State had expended between three and four million pounds on irrigation works, which were not being used to their full extent. Under the Goulburn Scheme, the largest of the State works, more than half the available water was being wasted. The reason was lack of people to cultivate the land as irrigation requires. Previously, in the various districts the average size of farms varied from 400 to 600 acres, while under irrigation from about 20 to 80 acres will now give employment to a good-sized family and furnish them a comfortable living. The large farms of the irrigation districts could not be properly cultivated by their owners, and the only way to make irrigation a success was to subdivide these holdings and bring in farmers to cultivate the smaller areas. To this end the State offered to buy suitable land in any district having a reliable and ample water supply, at a price fixed by impartial expert valuers, and has now purchased 111,234 acres for this purpose. This land is sold to settlers on 31½ years' terms with 4½% interest on deferred payments, under what are known as closer settlement conditions, which, while providing for the liberal terms and advances referred to in this paragraph, require, on the part of the settler or his successor, residence on the block for at least 8 months in each year. These payments are calculated on the Credit Foncier basis and are equalised throughout the whole period. As a result, the settlers by paying an additional 1½ per cent., or six per cent. in all, on the cost for 31½ years pay off both principal and interest. To help the settler of small capital, the State will build him a house and give 20 years to pay for it, will prepare a part of his area for irrigation and allow payments to be extended.

over 10 years. The cash payments required are as follows:—On houses costing less than £100, £10; from £100 to £150, £15; while on houses costing more, the cash payment varies from 12 to 30 per cent. of the estimated cost. The State also makes loans to settlers equal to 60 per cent. of the value of permanent improvements, these loans to be repaid in 20 years. Five per cent. interest is charged on all advances—whether for houses, preparing land, or money furnished the settler. During the past seven years 67,408 acres have been settled in farms averaging 59 acres each—the homes of 1152 new settlers—779 Australian, and 373 from oversea. There are also 413 allotments comprising 20,304 acres ready for immediate occupation, and a further 16,670 acres being prepared for settlers. At Shepparton, one of the oldest of these settlements, there are now 245 settlers living where there were originally 19. In Koyuga there are 49 settlers with good houses, many young orchards, fine crops of lucerne and vegetables, where in November 1910 there was not a house, a family, or an acre of cultivated land. Taking the settlements as a whole, there are now ten settlers' homes for every one that existed on these areas when repurchased by the State.

Houses now being erected are of a better type than the original ones. This has been made possible because the settlers now applying have as a rule more capital than the earlier ones and desire better homes.

5. **Queensland.**—(i.) *Closer Settlement.* Under the provisions of the Closer Settlement Act of 1906, private lands may be repurchased by the Crown, either by agreement or compulsorily.

(a) *Compulsory Acquisition.* The owner of an estate in possession, the whole of which is proposed to be taken compulsorily, has the right to retain in one block, land of the value of £10,000 to £20,000 according to the value of the whole estate. The maximum sum which may be expended on the acquisition of land for the purpose of closer settlement is £500,000 in any one year.

(b) *Disposal of Land.* A sufficient part of the land acquired must be set apart for roads, public reserves, and townships, and the remainder is proclaimed open for selection as agricultural farms under the Land Act 1910, which repealed the Land Acts 1897 to 1909 and under the Closer Settlement Act Amendment Act of 1913; the term of the lease is 40 years. The rent to be paid for the first year is equal to £10 for every £100 of the purchasing price; and (no payment being required during the second, third, or fourth years) an annual payment of £6 6s. 0d. for every £100, continued from the fifth to the fortieth year, will, at the end of the term, have paid off the principal sum together with interest.

(c) *Areas Acquired and Selected.*—The following table gives particulars of the operations under the above Acts at the end of the year 1901 and of each year from 1911 to 1915:—

QUEENSLAND.—CLOSER SETTLEMENT, 1901 and 1911-15.

Year.	Number of Estates Acquired.	Total Area Acquired to Date.	Total Amount of Purchase Money.	Total Area Selected to Date.
		Acres.	£	Acres.
1901	15	132,760	335,056	124,710
1911	29	644,385	1,670,330	498,315 ¹
1912	29	664,363	1,713,165	525,168
1913	29	664,363	1,713,165	543,738
1914	29	664,363	1,713,165	559,597
1915	29	664,363	1,713,165	582,788

1. In addition there were at the end of the year 1915, 12,468 acres sold at auction and 3246 acres retained by the Government for experimental farms and for other sales.

The total area opened for selection up to the end of the year 1915 was 639,037 acres, of which 582,788 acres had been selected by 2184 selectors. There remained 56,249 acres unselected or reserved. The total amount of rent paid up to the same date was £1,128,474, the amount in arrear being £9,317. At the end of the year 1915 there were 2,224 selectors holding 2369 agricultural farms, 253 unconditional selections, and four prickly pear infested selections. In addition, land and improvements to the value of £90,230 had been sold at auction.

(ii.) *Group Settlement.* The Special Agricultural Selections Acts 1901 to 1905 were partly repealed by the Amending Act of 1909, which was in its turn repealed by the Land Act 1910. Under the last Act, land may be set apart for members of bodies of selectors who desire to settle in the same locality. The terms and conditions are similar to those in force for single selectors. Every group selection shall be subject to the condition of personal residence during the first five years of the term.

The Special Agricultural Selections Act 1905 provides that financial aid may be granted to all or any of the members of a body of selectors of agricultural homesteads. Advances may also be made to each selector for a value not exceeding £80 for the purpose of buying tools, rations, stock and poultry.

The portions opened for *group settlement* in 1915 numbered 104, and comprised a gross area of 59,703 acres. Up to the end of that year 91 portions, comprising 48,924 acres, valued at £22,762, had been applied for by members of the bodies of settlers for whom they were opened.

6. South Australia.—Under the provisions of the Crown Lands Acts the Commissioner may repurchase land for the purposes of closer settlement at a cost not exceeding £600,000 in any two years.

Reference has already been made to the provisions of the Irrigation and Reclaimed Lands Acts 1908, and consolidated by the Act of 1914, regarding the settlement of reclaimed lands. (See § 7, 5 iv.)

(i.) *Disposal of Land.* The Crown Lands Act Further Amendment Act 1910 enlarges the value of the blocks into which estates may be subdivided for closer settlement purposes from £2000 to £5000 unimproved value. The purchase money with interest thereon at 4 per cent. per annum is payable in 128 half-yearly instalments.

For the first five years, improvements to the value of £3 for every £100 of the purchase money must be yearly effected.

(ii.) *Areas Acquired and Selected.* The following table shews the area of land acquired by the Government in South Australia for the purposes of closer settlement, and the manner in which the same has been disposed of under the provisions of the Crown Lands Acts for the years 1902 and 1911 to 1915:—

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—CLOSER SETTLEMENT, 1902 and 1911-15.

Year.	Area of Lands Repurchased to 31st Dec.	Agreements with Covenants to Purchase.	Total Area Leased as Homestead Blocks.		Perpetual Leases.	Miscellaneous Leases.	Sold.	Remainder Unoccupied (including Roads).
			Right of Purchase.	Perpetual Lease.				
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1902	156,481	—	2,717	3,073	90,128	309	403	59,851
1911	622,422	411,370	1,077	1,414	55,121	40,082	43,969	69,389
1912	624,122	436,038	894	1,386	49,857	40,101	57,884	38,408
1913	629,574	434,417	818	1,344	50,993	134	61,061	82,146
1914	657,629	476,332	796	1,584	51,863	164	63,964	63,204
1915	666,299	487,853	753	1,579	51,588	164	65,484	59,372

During the financial year 1915-16, six properties of 56,062 acres were repurchased. The total area repurchased at 30th June, 1916, was 714,627 acres, the purchase money being £2,289,783. Of that area 614,683 acres had been allotted to 2673 persons, the average area to each being 230 acres.

(iii.) *Irrigation Areas.* Under the Irrigation and Reclaimed Lands Act, 1908, 1909, 1910 and 1912, special provisions are made for granting perpetual leases of reclaimed lands. The maximum area of irrigable or reclaimed land one person may hold in any irrigation area is 50 acres, but in the case of partnerships 50 acres may be held by each partner up to a maximum of 150 acres. Land above the irrigating channels is also offered to lessees of irrigable blocks for dry farming, grazing, etc. Each block is offered under perpetual lease, at a rent not less than a sum equivalent to 4 per cent. on the unimproved value of the land, plus the cost of reclaiming. In the case of swamp lands in the reclaimed lands a drainage rate of from 5s. to 7s. 6d. per acre per annum is payable. On the irrigable land the water rate has been fixed at 30s. per acre per annum for the first four years, after which an amount will be charged sufficient to cover actual cost of supplying water, and the interest on pumping plants, channels, etc. A sliding scale covers both the rent and water rates for the first four years.

Under Part V. of the Act a fund has been constituted called the Lessees of Reclaimed Lands Loan Fund, consisting of money provided by Parliament to be expended by the Department in assisting settlers on the irrigation areas by fencing, clearing and grading their blocks, and constructing irrigation channels and drains and concrete tanks thereon. Such improvements will be undertaken up to a value not exceeding £15 per acre of the irrigable area in a lessee's block, but before the work can be commenced a deposit must be paid equal to 15 per cent. of the Department's estimated value of such improvements.

The total cost of the work, less amount of deposit paid, will be treated as a loan to the lessee, and will be repayable in twenty equal annual instalments, after the expiration of five years, or at any shorter period if so desired by the lessee, current rate of interest being charged.

Any lessee will be permitted to accept the contract for carrying out his own improvements, according to the specifications and estimate of the Department, up to the maximum amount per acre, as mentioned above.

(iv.) *Village Settlement.* Out of the reserved lands the Commissioner is directed to set apart for the purpose of village settlement such land as he shall consider fit (a) for horticultural purposes, to be termed "horticultural land"; (b) for agricultural purposes, to be termed "commonage land"; and (c) land whereon any irrigation works are situated. Land so set apart is to be divided as follows:—Horticultural lands into blocks of as nearly as practicable equal unimproved value, and of about ten acres in extent; and the commonage lands into one or more blocks of such area as the Commissioner may determine, and the lands so set apart in each case form the district of the association. No person may hold more than two blocks. Commonage lands may only be leased to the association on perpetual lease, and all unleased horticultural blocks are under the control of the association. Every member of each association must provide or contribute towards the maintenance and regulation of irrigation works, and the care and cultivation of the commonage lands.

As the Waikerie and Kingston districts were proclaimed irrigation areas under the Irrigation and Reclaimed Lands Acts 1908 and 1909, this would leave only the Lyrup Village Settlement, which is in a better position, both financially and as regards population, than the others.

(v.) *Homestead Blocks.* Aboriginal reservations, except those at Point McLeay or Point Pearce, and other suitable lands may be offered as homestead blocks on perpetual lease or lease with a right of purchase. Each block must not exceed £100 in value, and residence by a member of the family for at least nine months of every year is compulsory.

There is now hardly any demand for homestead blocks, persons generally preferring small blocks of repurchased or Crown lands on ordinary conditions. The system appears to be of value only in centres of population where work can be obtained, and within a reasonable distance of a school.

- (a) *Advances to Blockholders.* Advances up to £50 may be made by the Commissioner to any homestead blockholder who has complied with the conditions of his lease or agreement, to assist in erecting permanent buildings on the blocks, or other improvements. Advances must be repaid, with interest at 4 per cent. per annum, by twenty equal instalments, commencing twelve months from the date of advance. The Commissioner may, in case of hardship, extend the time of repayment, deferred payments bearing interest at 5 per cent. per annum. The total amount advanced up to the 30th June, 1916, was £41,359, of which £39,119 had been repaid.
- (b) *Particulars of Homestead Blocks.* The total number of leases and agreements of which purchase had been completed to the 31st December, 1915, was 2223, comprising 33,716 acres, at a purchase price of £30,504, or an average of £2 7s. 9d. per acre, the average of each holding of which purchase was completed being 15 acres.

7. **Western Australia.**—Under the Agricultural Lands Purchase Act 1909, which repealed and consolidated the Agricultural Lands Purchase Acts 1896 to 1904, sums not exceeding in the aggregate £400,000 may be expended on the repurchase of Crown lands near the railways, suitable for immediate cultivation.

(i.) *Acquisition of Land by the Government.* For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Acts, a Land Purchase Board has been constituted. Advised by the report of the Board, the Minister, with the approval of the Governor, may make a contract for the acquisition of the land by surrender at the price fixed by the Board, or at any lesser price.

(ii.) *Sale of Repurchased Land.* After reservation of part of the repurchased land for public purposes, the remainder is thrown open for selection. The maximum quantity held by one person must not exceed 1000 acres; in special cases 2000 acres.

(iii.) *Conditions of Sale to Selectors.* The maximum selling price of any repurchased land is equal to 105 per cent. of the actual cost of the land plus the cost of any improvements made upon it. A lease for twenty years is issued at a rent, the half-yearly instalments of which are to be at the rate of £3 17s. 9d. for each £100 of the selling price. Improvements must be made to the value of one-fifth of the purchase-money every two years of the first ten years of the lease. One-half of the land must be fenced within the first five years and the whole within ten years. Loans may be granted to selectors under the provisions of the Agricultural Bank Acts.

(iv.) *Areas Acquired and Selected.* The transactions conducted under the provisions of the Agricultural Lands Purchase Acts are shown for 1901 and for each year from 1911 to 1916 in the subjoined table:—

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—CLOSER SETTLEMENT, 1901 and 1912-16.

Year.	Total Area Acquired.	Total Purchase-money.	Roads, Reserves, etc.	Total Area made available for Selection	Area Selected during the Year.	Total Area occupied to Date.	Balance of Area available for Selection.	Total Revenue received to Date.
	Acres.	£	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	£
1901 ...	46,624	52,764	1,459	45,165	4,295	37,235	7,929	14,451
1911-12	303,469	270,622	14,506	282,885	3,375	284,885	18,000	151,110
1912-13	446,804	421,333	12,799	290,670	10,335	270,945	19,724	175,245
1913-14	446,804	421,333	128,605	315,133	2,451	268,260	46,873	210,675
1914-15	446,804	421,373	15,825	430,979	4,122	272,190	158,789	239,409
1915-16	446,804	421,373	15,825	430,979	342	271,242	159,737	268,232

* The figures for 1901 are up to 31st December. For subsequent years they are given as up to 30th June.

On the 30th June, 1915, the total expenditure, exclusive of purchase-money but including interest, was £142,202, which left a balance of £126,030. At the same date the amount invested as sinking fund was £116,481.

(v.) *Workingmen's Blocks.* Any person not already holding land within the State is entitled to obtain a lease of lands which have been surveyed and thrown open for selection as workingmen's blocks. The maximum area that may be selected by one person is, if within any town or goldfield, half an acre, or five acres elsewhere. The price is not less than twenty shillings per acre, payable in ten years by half-yearly instalments. Residence and improvement conditions must be fulfilled. At the expiration of the lease, or at any time after five years from the date of the commencement of the lease, upon compliance with all conditions and upon payment of the full purchase-money and fee, a Crown grant will be issued. No person who has once held a workingman's block is allowed to select another, except under very special circumstances.

The following table shews the number and area of accepted applications for workingmen's blocks during each year, as well as the total number and area in existence at the end of the year 1901 and for each year from 1911 to 1916:—

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—PARTICULARS OF WORKINGMEN'S BLOCKS,
1901 AND 1911-16.**

Year ...	1901.	1911. ¹	1912. ¹	1913. ¹	1914. ¹	1915. ¹	1916. ¹
NUMBER AND AREA OF ACCEPTED APPLICATIONS DURING YEAR.							
Number	2	53	28	1	1	Nil	1
Area in Acres	6	99	56	4	1	Nil	1
NUMBER AND AREA OF BLOCKS OCCUPIED AT END OF YEAR.							
Number	7	388	327	230	168	189*	176
Area in Acres	31	722	688	617	590	584	565

1. For financial year ended 30th June.

* Increase due to cancelled leases being reinstated.

During the years 1907 to 1911 residential blocks on the goldfields were made available as workingmen's blocks, instead of under residential lease, as before, and since 19th October, 1911, the system of leasehold has been reverted to.

8. *Tasmania.*—The principles of closer settlement were not introduced into Tasmania until the Closer Settlement Act of 1906 was passed. Under this Act, which was amended in 1908 and 1911, and consolidated in 1913, power is given to the Minister for Lands, on the recommendation of the Closer Settlement Board, to purchase compulsorily or by agreement private land in any part of Tasmania for the purpose of closer settlement, and also to deal with and dispose of any unoccupied Crown land for the same purpose.

(i.) *Disposal of Land.* Lands so brought under the Act are subdivided into farm allotments of a suitable size—not exceeding £4000 in value—and are disposed of by way of lease for ninety-nine years. The rental is determined by the Board at a rate not exceeding 5 per cent. per annum on the capital value of the land. Any lessee who has fulfilled the conditions under the Act may, after the expiration of ten years of the term of the lease, purchase the land leased to him. The Minister has power to dispose of the fee simple of such land in any estate which is considered unsuitable for closer settlement.

A lessee must improve his holding to a value equal to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the capital value of the land in each of the first ten years of the term of his lease, and he must, within two years of the date of the lease, personally reside on his allotment during at least eight months of each of the following nine years. Provision is made for reserving a proportion of the allotments thrown open, and leasing the same, under special terms and conditions, to *bond fide* immigrants.

(ii.) *Advances to Settlers.* The total advance by the Government in aid of the cost of effecting improvements to any one lessee must not exceed pound for pound of the sum expended by him in building and other improvements. Such advances must be repaid, together with interest at 5 per cent., in equal half-yearly instalments within a period not exceeding 21 years.

(iii.) *Special Sales.* The fee-simple of land acquired may be disposed of by sale on the recommendation of the Board as sites for churches, public halls, dairy factories, fruit-preserving factories, mills, or creameries. The area sold may not exceed one acre in the case of a church or public hall, or five acres in other cases.

(iv.) *Areas Acquired and Selected.* Up to the 30th June, 1916, twenty-two areas had been opened up for closer settlement. Particulars are given in the following statement:—

TASMANIA.—CLOSER SETTLEMENT, 1909 to 1916.

Year.	Number of Farms made Available.	Number of Farms Allotted.	Area of Farms Allotted.	Rental of Farms Allotted.	Total Area Purchased.
			Acres.	£	Acres.
1909	49	45	9,117	789	7,902
1910	9	15	1,872	539	1,362
1911	37	36	4,965	168	5,143
1912	11	7	3,912	563	6,147
1913	18	21	5,652	1,184	3,745
1914	24	17	8,975	1,959	10,756
1915	36	53	15,153	4,393	12,930
1916	5	11	1,729	476	157

The total purchase-money paid by the Government up to the 30th June, 1916, was £261,212.

§ 9. Occupation of Crown Lands under Leases and Licenses Issued by Mines Departments.

1. *Introduction.*—Leases and licenses for the occupation of Crown lands for mining and other purposes are issued by the Mines Departments in all the States. Such leases and licenses may be issued with respect to all Crown lands, whether otherwise unoccupied or whether occupied also under leases and licenses issued by the Lands Departments. Certain Crown lands, such as reserves, etc., are, however, subject to special conditions.

(i.) *Mining on Private Lands.* Certain of the Crown lands of the several States have been alienated from time to time, subject to various reservations in respect of gold and other minerals which might afterwards be found therein. Other lands have been

alienated without such reservation, but as the mineral gold does not pass from the Crown unless by express conveyance, it has remained the property of the State on all alienated lands. All lands alienated or in process of alienation are open to mining for gold; but to mining for other minerals, those lands only are open, in respect of which the rights are reserved in the grants. There are, however, generally certain reservations, such as those with reference to town or village lands and lands which have been built on or are used for special purposes. The working of minerals on private lands is regulated in the several States either by special Acts or by special provisions of the Acts relating to mining.

(ii.) *Leases and Licenses Issued and Total Areas of Crown Lands Occupied.* The following tables shew the total areas of Crown lands for which leases and licenses for mining purposes were issued in each State during 1901 and for each year from 1911 to 1915 inclusive, and also the total areas of Crown lands occupied for mining purposes at the end of each year during the same period:—

**CROWN LANDS, LEASES AND LICENSES FOR MINING PURPOSES,
1901 AND 1911 TO 1915.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria. ¹	Qld. ²	S. Aust. ³	W. Aust.	Tas.	Cwlth.
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AREAS FOR WHICH LEASES AND LICENSES ISSUED.

	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1901	50,349	...	55,698	93,985	37,593	18,125	255,750
1911	42,865	25,353	40,642	59,918	94,853	26,454	290,085
1912	15,548	34,047	50,783	259,381	64,939	13,920	438,618
1913	25,154	36,141	146,366	244,528	62,773	15,534	530,496
1914	31,573	12,774	126,160	766,866	29,127	15,123	981,623
1915	14,219	10,103	56,518	965,596	37,989	13,919	1,098,344

TOTAL AREA OCCUPIED AT END OF YEAR.

		Not available					
1901	134,209	124,182	14,140	66,682	50,362	438,575	
1911	233,030	171,078	89,077	158,946	58,038	826,582	
1912	228,526	203,059	292,320	144,846	49,239	1,041,218	
1913	219,488	285,966	412,693	149,801	45,913	1,237,181	
1914	230,493	283,704	805,839	128,609	49,963	1,618,062	
1915	224,621	242,196	1,012,427	145,920	53,060	1,786,997	

1. Including private lands, leases, and water right licenses only. 2. Exclusive of lands held under miners' rights only. 3. Exclusive of miners' rights. 4. Excluding Victoria.

2. New South Wales.—Under the provisions of the Mining Act 1906 and the regulations made thereunder, Crown lands may be occupied for mining or other purposes by virtue of (i.) miners' rights; (ii.) business licenses; (iii.) authorities to prospect; or (iv.) leases.

A description of the conditions under which these licenses and leases are granted may be found in previous issues of the Year Book. (See Year Book No. 6, p. 307.)

(i.) *Particulars of Leases and Licenses Issued, 1915.* The following table gives particulars of leases and licenses of Crown lands issued by the Mines Department during the year 1915:—

NEW SOUTH WALES.—LEASES AND LICENSES
ISSUED BY MINES DEPARTMENT DURING YEAR 1915.

Particulars.	Act under which Issued.	Purpose for which Issued.	Area.
<i>Leases—</i>	Mining Act 1906	To mine for—	Acres.
	" "	Gold	1,708
	" "	Minerals other than coal	3,090
	" "	Coal	6,651
	Mining Act 1906 (Dredging)	Leases (mining purposes)	382
<i>Other forms of occupancy—</i>	" " " "	Gold	1,949
	" " " "	Minerals other than gold	
<i>Total</i>	Mining Act 1906	Authorities to prospect	439
	—	—	14,210

(ii.) *Leases and Licenses Issued and Areas Occupied.* The following table gives particulars of the areas of Crown lands for which leases and licenses were issued by the Mines Department during each year, and of the total areas of Crown lands occupied under such leases and licenses at the end of the year 1901 and from 1911 to 1915 inclusive:—

NEW SOUTH WALES.—LEASES AND LICENSES
ISSUED BY MINES DEPARTMENT, 1901 AND 1911-1915.

Purposes for which Issued or Occupied.	1901.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
LEASES AND LICENSES ISSUED.						
Gold mining	Acres. 2,272	Acres. 3,708	Acres. 3,584	Acres. 4,253	Acres. 4,047	Acres. 3,657
Mining for other minerals	47,990	27,347	11,671	14,248	26,590	9,741
Authorities to prospect ... ..	...	11,569	183	6,385	134	439
For other purposes	87	241	110	268	802	382
Total	50,349	42,865	15,548	25,154	31,573	14,219

TOTAL AREAS OCCUPIED.

Gold mining	6,942	15,455	15,531	12,623	12,832	11,098
Mining for other minerals	126,885	213,209	208,286	198,415	212,864	207,812
Authorities to prospect ... ..	...	...	139	3,989	10	15
For other purposes	382	4,366	4,570	4,461	4,787	5,696
Total	134,209	233,030	228,526	219,488	230,493	224,621

3. *Victoria.*—The occupation of Crown lands for mining and auxiliary purposes in this State is regulated by the Mines Act 1890-1907. The Department of Mines and Forests is authorised to issue mining leases (gold-mining, mineral, and dredging), and special license (searching, tailings, and water-right), while the issue of miners' rights, business licenses and residence areas is restricted to the Treasury Department. A description of the conditions governing the issue of these leases and licenses will be found in previous editions of the Year Book. (See Year Book No. 6, p. 308.)

Licenses of auriferous lands not for mining purposes may be issued by the Lands Department. (§ 7, 3 iv.)

Leases and Licenses Issued and Areas Occupied for Mining. Particulars of leases and licenses for mining purposes of Crown lands alone are not available, the official returns including also private lands. During the year 1915 the number of mining leases, licenses, etc., issued was 197, covering an area of 10,103 acres; the rent, fees, etc., received amounted to £891. No particulars are available as to the total area of either Crown or private land occupied for mining purposes.

4. **Queensland.**—The occupation of the Crown lands for mining purposes in this State is regulated by the Mining Acts 1898 to 1902; the Mining for Coal and Mineral Oil Act 1912, and the Miners' Homestead Leases Act 1913. Under these Acts the Department of Mines is authorised to issue:—(i.) Miners' rights; (ii.) mining leases; (iii.) mining leases and licenses for coal and mineral oil; and (iv.) miners' homestead leases.

The conditions which govern the issue of miners' rights, mining leases, and miners' homestead leases are described in previous issues of the Year Book. (See Year Book No. 6, p. 309.)

Mineral leases for coal and mineral oil may be granted for a term of twenty-one years at an annual rent of sixpence an acre, together with a royalty, according to the distance the lease is from a seaport or other place of delivery, of twopence to threepence per ton of coal raised during the first five years of the lease, and of fourpence to sixpence per ton during the remainder of the term. A lease for mineral oil with a maximum area of 320 acres may be granted for a term of 21 years at an annual rental of 6d. per acre, with a royalty of 5% of the value of all crude oil produced. Licenses to occupy not more than 2560 acres may be granted to any person desiring to prospect Crown lands for coal and mineral oil upon payment of one penny for every acre comprised in the application.

The "Mining on Private Land Act 1909," authorises the granting of leases, etc. on and under private land, under conditions as to compensation, etc.

(i.) *Particulars of Leases and Licenses Issued, 1915.* The subjoined table gives particulars of the leases and licenses of Crown lands issued for mining purposes during the year 1915:—

QUEENSLAND.—LEASES AND LICENSES

ISSUED BY MINES DEPARTMENT DURING YEAR 1915.

Lease or License.	Mining Leases.				Miners' Homestead Leases.	Coal Prospecting Licenses.	Miscellaneous Rights & Licenses.
	Purpose for which issued.	To mine for gold.	To mine for minerals other than gold.	Tramways			
Area in acres...	581	9,391	1	19	10,368	36,158	*18,000

* Approximate.

(ii.) *Particulars of Areas Occupied.* The following table shews the areas for which leases and licenses of Crown lands were issued during each year, and the total area occupied at the end of the year 1901 and from 1911 to 1915 inclusive.

QUEENSLAND.—LEASES AND LICENSES

ISSUED BY MINES DEPARTMENT, 1901 AND 1911-1915.

Particulars.	1901.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
* LEASES AND LICENSES ISSUED DURING YEAR.						
Gold mining	Acres. 3,581	Acres. 532	Acres. 918	Acres. 1,055	Acres. 356	Acres. 581
Mining for other minerals	7,142	2,715	3,198	7,248	10,895	9,391
For other purposes	44,975	37,417	46,667	138,072	114,909	46,546
Total	55,698	40,664	50,783	146,375	126,160	56,518

* TOTAL AREA OCCUPIED AT END OF YEAR.

Gold mining	11,296	7,820	6,884	5,915	5,479	4,736
Mining for other minerals	23,113	24,895	31,253	34,711	39,205	43,389
For other purposes	89,773	138,363	164,922	245,340	239,020	194,071
Total	124,182	171,078	203,059	285,966	283,704	242,196

* Exclusive of lands held under miners' rights only.

5. *South Australia.*—In this State leases and licenses for mining purposes are issued by the Department of Mines under the authority of the Mining Act 1893, and amending Acts. Under these Acts mining and prospecting are permitted in virtue of (i.) miners' rights; (ii.) mining leases; (iii.) coal or oil leases; and (iv.) miscellaneous leases, and in addition occupation of Crown lands is permitted by virtue of (v.) business claims, and (vi.) occupation licenses.

The conditions which govern the issue of these various leases and licenses have been described in previous issues of the Year Book. (See Year Book No. 6, p. 311.)

(i.) *Particulars of Leases and Licenses.* The following table gives particulars of leases and licenses of Crown lands issued by the Mines Department during the year 1915:—

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—LEASES AND LICENSES

ISSUED BY MINES DEPARTMENT DURING YEAR 1915.

Particulars.	Act under which issued.	Purpose for which issued.	Area.
			Acres.
<i>Leases</i>	Mining Act 1893	To mine for—	3,788
<i>Mineral claims</i> ... ..	... ..	Gold and other metals and miner's	9,474
<i>Licenses</i>	Mining Act Amendment Act 1900	To search for "precious" stones,	
		mineral phosphates, oil, rare	
		metals, minerals, and earths, the	
		mining for which has not proved	
<i>Occupation</i>	Mining Act 1893	payable in any portion of the State	952,320
<i>licenses</i> ... ..	... ..	Occupation by miners	14
Total	—	—	955,596

(ii.) *Leases and Licenses Issued and Areas Occupied.* The following table gives particulars of the areas of Crown lands for which leases and licenses were issued by the Mines Department during each year, and of the total area of Crown lands occupied under such leases and licenses at the end of the year 1901 and from 1911 to 1915 inclusive:—

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—LEASES AND LICENSES

ISSUED BY MINES DEPARTMENT, 1901 AND 1911 TO 1915.

Particulars.	1901.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
LEASES AND LICENSES ISSUED.*						
Gold mining	Acres. 1,377	Acres. 340	Acres. 480	Acres 312	Acres. 625	Acres. 356
Mining for other minerals	92,587	59,578	258,901	244,204	766,213	965,226
For other purposes	21	...	...	12	28	14
Total	93,985	59,918	259,381	244,528	766,866	965,596

TOTAL AREAS OCCUPIED.*

Gold mining	14,140	1,512	1,536	1,419	1,581	1,840
Mining for other minerals ... ..	...	87,459	290,667	411,175	804,205	1010474
For other purposes ... ..	...	106	117	99	103	113
Total	14,140	89,077	292,320	412,693	805,889	1012427

* Exclusive of miners' rights.

The following table shows the total area occupied (exclusive of miners' rights) at the end of the year 1915, classified according to the nature of the holding:—

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—TOTAL AREA UNDER MINING ACTS, 1915.

Nature of Holding.	Number.	Area.	Nature of Holding.	Number.	Area.
Mineral leases	303	Acres. 13,704	Search licenses ...	361	Acres. 942,720
Gold leases ...	100	1,820	Coal and oil claims ...	26	16,640
Gold dredging leases	...	...	Gold claims ...	10	20
Miscellaneous leases	66	16,772	Coal and oil leases ...	4	1,360
Mineral claims	488	19,278	Total ...	1,585	1,012,427
Occupation licenses	227	113-			

6. *Western Australia.*—The issue of leases and licenses by the Mines Department is regulated by the Mining Act 1904. Under this Act Crown lands may be occupied by virtue of (i.) miners' rights; (ii.) mining leases; and (iii.) miners' homestead leases.

The conditions governing the issue of these leases and licenses are described in previous issues of the Year Book. (See Year Book No. 6, p. 312.)

(i.) *Particulars of Leases and Licenses Issued, 1916.* The following table gives particulars of mining leases and licenses of Crown lands issued during 1916:—

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—LEASES AND LICENSES ISSUED BY MINES
DEPARTMENT, 1916.***

Particulars.	Gold-Mining.	Minerals other than Gold.	Miners' Homesteads.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Leases ...	5,159	1,534	1,355	87	8,135
Licenses ...	9,795	5,113	...	405	15,313

* Exclusive of miners' rights.

(ii.) *Particulars of Areas Occupied.* The following table shows the areas for which leases and licenses of Crown lands were issued during each year, and the total area occupied at the end of the year 1901 and from 1912 to 1916 inclusive:—

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—LEASES AND LICENSES
ISSUED BY MINES DEPARTMENT, 1901 AND 1912-1916.**

Particulars.	1901.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
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LEASES AND LICENSES ISSUED DURING YEAR.*

	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Gold mining ...	17,454	23,285	20,657	18,070	26,162	14,954
Mining for other minerals ...	19,281	33,318	40,111	9,434	9,389	6,647
For other purposes ...	858	8,336	2,005	1,623	2,438	1,847
Total ...	37,593	64,939	62,773	29,127	37,989	23,448

* Exclusive of miners' rights.

TOTAL AREA OCCUPIED AT END OF YEAR.*

Gold mining ...	40,525	33,737	30,464	26,941	30,532	24,391
Mining for other minerals ...	14,091	62,998	71,291	57,495	70,146	69,405
For other purposes ...	12,066	48,111	48,046	44,173	45,242	44,361
Total ...	66,682	144,846	149,801	128,609	145,920	138,157

* Exclusive of miners' rights.

7. *Tasmania.*—Under the provisions of the Mining Act 1905, Crown lands in this State may be occupied for mining and auxiliary purposes by virtue of (i.) prospectors' licenses; (ii.) miners' rights; (iii.) mining leases; and (iv.) miscellaneous licenses. Business and residence licenses within mining areas may be issued by the Lands Department. (See § 7, 8 iv.)

A description of the conditions under which these leases and licenses are issued may be found in previous editions of the Year Book. (See Year Book No. 6, p. 314.)

(i.) *Particulars of Leases and Licenses Issued, 1915.* The following table shows particulars of leases and licenses of Crown lands, exclusive of prospectors' licenses and miners' rights, issued by the Mines Department during the year 1915:—

TASMANIA.—LEASES AND LICENSES
ISSUED BY MINES DEPARTMENT DURING 1915.*

Mineral.	No. of Applications.	Area.	Mineral.	No. of Applications.	Area.
		Acres.			Acres.
Asbestos ...	1	80	Silver ...	18	856
Cobalt ...	1	80	Tin ...	142	2,164
Coal ...	15	3,912	Zinc Sulphide ...	1	40
Copper... ..	1	15	Wolfram ...	11	476
Gold ...	31	520	Dredging claims ...	6	87
Iron ...	1	10	Machinery sites ...	5	35
Manganese ...	1	63	Mining easements... ..	4	39
Minerals ...	59	3,178	Water rights ...	65	114
Nickel... ..	1	80			
Serpentine ...	1	50			
Shale ...	7	2,120	Total... ..	371	13,919

* Exclusive of prospectors' licenses and miners' rights, which are issued by officers in different districts throughout the State, and as to which particulars are not available.

(ii.) *Leases and Licenses Issued and Areas Occupied.* The following tables give particulars of the areas of Crown lands for which leases and licenses (exclusive of prospectors' licenses and miners' rights) were issued during each year, and of the total area of Crown lands occupied under such leases and licenses at the end of the year 1901 and from 1910 to 1914 inclusive:—

TASMANIA.—LEASES and LICENSES
ISSUED BY MINES DEPARTMENT, 1901 AND 1911 TO 1915.*

Particulars.	1901.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
LEASES AND LICENSES ISSUED.*						
Gold mining	Acres. 1,067	Acres. 737	Acres. 477	Acres. 529	Acres. 1,354	Acres. 520
Mining for other minerals	17,058	25,316	12,729	14,444	13,588	13,211
For other purposes ... ..	...	401	714	561	181	188
Total	18,125	26,454	13,920	15,534	15,123	13,919
TOTAL AREAS OCCUPIED.*						
Gold mining	3,394	1,220	1,344	988	2,130	2,026
Mining for other minerals	46,968	55,007	45,500	42,360	44,593	48,330
For other purposes ... ..	...	1,811	2,395	2,565	3,240	2,704
Total	50,362	58,038	49,239	45,913	49,963	53,060

* See note to preceding table.

8. **Northern Territory.**—The granting of leases and licenses for mining purposes in Northern Territory is under the control of the Administrator. The area of land held under Mining Regulations in the Northern Territory has been previously referred to in § 7 of this chapter (page 256).

§ 10. Resumption by Crown of Alienated Lands.

1. General.—Under various Acts, alienated lands may be compulsorily resumed by the Crown in the several States for certain purposes, generally connected with works of a public nature. Resumptions for closer settlement purposes have already been referred to (see § 8, above). In most of the States there are Lands Clauses or similar Acts providing the machinery, and indicating the procedure to be adopted in assessing the compensation to be paid by the Crown to private owners in cases where the parties have failed to agree as to the amount to be paid. The provisions of these Acts are generally incorporated in the special Acts specifying the purposes for which alienated lands may be resumed. Lands leased for pastoral purposes may generally be resumed by the Crown on short notice. The lessee is ordinarily entitled to compensation for land resumed, for loss or depreciation in value of the lease caused by such resumption, and for improvements.

(a) *New South Wales.* Alienated lands may be recovered by the Crown for authorised works and certain public purposes under the provisions of the Public Works Act 1900, and in other cases may be acquired by the Crown by purchase, gift, or surrender under Executive authority. Alienated lands required for public roads may be resumed under the Public Roads Act 1902, and if containing gold may be resumed for mining under Section 72 of the Mining Act 1906. Lands dedicated or granted by the Crown for public purposes may be resumed under Section 25 of the Crown Lands Consolidation Act 1913, and Section 1 of the Public Trusts Act 1897. Surrender and exchange of lands alienated or in process of alienation may be carried out under Section 195 of the Crown Lands Consolidation Act 1913.

(b) *Victoria.* In Victoria lands may be resumed in accordance with the provisions of the Lands Compensation Act 1915, the Public Works Act 1915, the Railways Act 1915, the Land Act 1915, the Local Government Act 1915, the Water Act 1915, and the Forests Act 1915.

(c) *Queensland.* In this State alienated lands may be resumed under the provisions of the Public Works Land Resumption Act 1906, for any of the purposes specified in Section 4 of that Act.

(d) *South Australia.* In this State the principal Acts under which land is repurchased for public works are the Railway Commissioners Act 1887, the Water Conservation Acts 1886, 1889, and 1900, the Waterworks Act 1882, and the Sewers Act 1878.

(e) *Western Australia.* In Western Australia private lands may be resumed under the provisions of the Land Act 1898, the Roads Act 1902, and the Public Works Act 1902.

(f) *Tasmania.* The procedure for resuming land when required for road purposes is as follows:—

When provision is made by Parliament for a Public Works vote for any road, or when an amount is available from other sources, as under the Crown Lands Act (under which a proportion of the amount paid as purchase money is set aside for road purposes), application is made to the owner of the property through which the road is to pass. In most cases either land is given free or a price is agreed on between the owner and the officers of the Department. The purchase-money, with cost of necessary survey, is charged against the provision as referred to above, the land is surveyed and proclaimed under the provisions of the Lands Vesting Act. In case of it being impossible to settle the matter by arrangement with the owner, the land can be acquired by arbitration under the Lands Clauses Act, which is incorporated with the Public Works and Crown Lands

Acts, but since the passing of the Lands Resumption Act it is possible to acquire it compulsorily without waiting for the usual formalities. Under this Act a notification is given to the owner, the land is surveyed, and then resumed by notification in the Gazette, on the publication of which the fee simple of the land vests at once in the Crown absolutely. The owner is then called upon to submit his claim, and the amount can be settled either by arbitration or by a court of competent jurisdiction in accordance with the provisions of the Lands Resumption Act. This procedure under the Lands Resumption Act is now becoming much more general in cases where the land cannot be acquired by arrangement, and it is expected that the effect of the operation of the Act will be to the advantage of the Government and consequently to the public, in enabling land to be acquired more economically than under the former practice. The local bodies, *i.e.*, the municipalities, have also power to acquire land under the provisions of the Local Government Act, but in practice it has been found most convenient for the procedure to be carried out by the Public Works Department on behalf of the local bodies, and this insures the title being vested in the Crown, which gives uniformity of practice, and has also the effect that inquiry made as to title at the Government office shews at once the land that has been acquired.

2. Areas Resumed.—The subjoined table shews, so far as particulars are available, the areas of private lands resumed, exclusive of resumptions for closer settlement purposes, in each State during 1901 and 1911-15:—

AREAS OF PRIVATE LANDS RESUMED BY THE CROWN

(EXCLUSIVE OF RESUMPTIONS FOR CLOSER SETTLEMENT), 1901 AND 1911-15.

Year.	N.S.W.*	Victoria.**	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	C'wealth.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1901 ...	7,864	52	26	†	91	120	8,153‡
1911 ...	2,169	†	...	†	†	690	†
1912 ...	2,021	†	123	†	†	†	†
1913 ...	2,363	†	79	†	†	†	†
1914 ...	527	†	...	†	†	†	†
1915 ...	1,997	†	84	†	†	492	†

* To 30th June. ** Exclusive of resumptions for railway purposes, which for the years 1901 to 1906 inclusive, amounted to 13,081 acres. † Not available. ‡ Exclusive of South Australia.

§ 11. Alienation and Occupation of Crown Lands in the Several States.

1. Introduction.—The tables given in the previous parts of this section shew separately the areas alienated, in process of alienation, and occupied under various tenures in the several States. The tables given below shew collectively the general condition of the public estate in each State, having regard to (a) the area alienated absolutely, which includes free grants, sales, and conditional purchases for which grants have been issued, the conditions having been complied with; (b) the area in process of alienation, comprising holdings for which the fee-simple has not yet been alienated, but which are in process of sale under systems of deferred payments; (c) the area occupied under all descriptions of leases and licenses; and (d) the area unoccupied, which, ordinarily, includes roads, permanent reserves, forests, etc. In some cases, however, lands which are permanently reserved from alienation are occupied under leases and licenses, so that

in such cases the areas reserved are comprised in class (c) and not in class (d). Particulars of leases and licenses of reserved areas, as distinguished from leases and licenses of other lands, are not available. It should be observed that in many cases lands occupied under leases or licenses for pastoral purposes are held on short tenures only, and could thus be made available for settlement practically whenever required.

2. New South Wales.—The total area of the State of New South Wales (exclusive of Commonwealth Territory) is 198,054,420 acres, of which on the 30th June, 1916, 40,363,316 acres, or over one-fifth, were alienated absolutely; 20,409,656 acres, or over one-tenth, were in process of alienation; 118,865,868 acres, or about three-fifths, were occupied under Lands Department, Western Land Board, or Mines Department leases and licenses; and the remaining 18,415,580 acres, or about one-eleventh, were unoccupied. The next table shows the areas alienated, in process of alienation, held under leases and licenses, and unoccupied, in 1901 and from 1912-13 to 1915-16.

During the year 1915-16, a total area of 2,279,417 acres became available for Crown leases, homestead farms, suburban holdings, additional holdings, etc. Of this area, 19,901 acres were made available for irrigation farms, and 52,057 acres were acquired under the Closer Settlement Promotion Act.

**NEW SOUTH WALES.—ALIENATION AND OCCUPATION OF CROWN LANDS,
1901 AND 1912-16.***

Particulars.	Area in Acres.				
	1901.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.
1. Alienated.					
Granted and sold by private tender and public auction, at prices ranging from five to twenty shillings per acre, prior to 1862 ...	7,146,579	7,146,579	7,146,579	7,146,579	7,144,573
Sold by auction and other sales, 1862 to date ...	14,638,858	14,912,708	14,914,336	14,914,920	14,916,901
Conditionally sold, 1862 to date ...	4,212,189	15,638,374	15,960,980	16,264,942	16,571,958
Granted under Volunteer Land Regulations, 1867 to date ...	168,545	171,998	172,198	172,198	174,198
Granted for public and religious purposes ...	241,968	234,192	235,622	236,134	238,560
Homestead grants ...	35,385	1,480,834	1,396,911	1,365,719	1,317,126
Total area alienated ...	26,443,554	39,584,685	39,826,576	40,100,492	40,363,316
2. In Process of Alienation.					
Under system of deferred payments ...	20,044,703	17,305,305	17,837,702	18,035,210	18,515,181
Under system of homestead selections (including leases converted, but excluding grants issued) ...	1,550,985	‡	‡	‡	‡
Closer settlement purchases ...	...	928,033	999,579	1,029,408	1,894,475
Total area in process of alienation ...	21,595,688	18,233,338	18,837,281	19,064,618	20,409,656
3. Held under Leases and Licenses.					
Total under Lands Department and Western Land Board ...	126,921,161	124,361,637	122,085,796	121,565,598	118,641,247
Mineral and auriferous leases and licenses (Mines Department) ...	134,209	228,526	219,488	230,493	224,621
Total leases under all Government Departments ...	127,055,370	124,590,163	122,305,284	121,796,091	118,865,868
4. Unoccupied ...	23,543,468	15,646,234	17,086,475	17,093,219	18,415,580

Area of State (exclusive of Commonwealth Territory)—198,054,420 acres.

* The figures for 1901 are up to the 31st December, while for the other years given they are up to the 30th June. † Inclusive of alienated and dedicated areas within Commonwealth Territory, and areas acquired for closer settlement and promotion of same. ‡ Now included under Homestead grants.

3. **Victoria.**—The total area of the State of Victoria is 56,245,760 acres, of which 24,256,222 acres, or about three-eighths, had been alienated absolutely up to the end of the year 1915; 8,075,653 acres, or about one-eighth, were in process of alienation under deferred payments; and 13,035,612 acres were occupied under leases and licenses (exclusive of leases and licenses held under the Mines Department). The following table shews the areas alienated and in process of alienation, together with the areas reserved, leased, and available for occupation at the end of the year 1901 and from 1911 to 1915:—

**VICTORIA.—ALIENATION AND OCCUPATION OF CROWN LANDS,
1901 AND 1911-15.**

Particulars.	Area in Acres.					
	1901.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
1. <i>Alienated</i>	20,066,875	23,727,962	23,856,389	24,009,440	24,138,965	24,256,222
2. <i>In Process of Alienation</i> —						
Exclusive of Mallee, etc.	3,587,668	1,953,268	1,932,189	1,971,614	2,004,248	2,025,172
Mallee Lands	87,606	4,076,792	4,838,883	5,165,799	5,334,113	5,534,655
Under Closer Settlement Acts ..		303,024	397,402	§ (449,791)	§ (484,548)	494,965
Village Settlements	55,077	31,911	30,057	25,103	24,529	20,861
Total	3,730,351	6,364,995	7,198,531	7,162,516	7,362,890	8,075,653
3. <i>Leases and Licenses Held</i> —						
Under Lands Department ..	17,110,709	14,719,149	14,443,191	13,230,211	13,325,416	13,035,612
Under Mines Department ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
4. <i>Unoccupied Crown Lands</i> † ..	15,337,825	11,433,654	10,747,649	11,843,593	11,418,489	10,878,273

Total area of State—56,245,760 acres.

† Not available. ‡ Including leases and licenses held under the Mines Department, which are not available. § This area is also included with land alienated.

Crown lands in Victoria include roads, 1,732,720 acres; water reserves, 316,204 acres; agricultural colleges, etc., 85,107 acres; State forests and timber reserves (now under Forests Act 1907), 3,886,546 acres; State forests and timber reserves under Land Acts, 227,078 acres; reserves in the Mallee, 397,881 acres; unsold land in towns, etc., 2,685,642 acres; and other reserves, 305,584 acres.

4. **Queensland.**—The total area of this State is 429,120,000 acres, of which, on the 31st December, 1915, 16,447,382 acres, or about one-twenty-sixth, were alienated absolutely; 10,776,793 acres, or about one-fortieth, were in process of alienation; 332,824,904, or three-quarters, were occupied under leases and licenses; roads, reserves, etc., occupied 15,793,438 acres, the remaining 53,277,433 acres being unoccupied. From 1901 to 1915 the area alienated absolutely increased by 2,913,914 acres or 21 per cent., and the area in process of alienation by 7,985,129 acres or 286 per cent.

The following table shews the area alienated absolutely, the area in process of alienation, and the area held under various forms of lease and license at the end of the year 1901 and from 1911 to 1915:—

**QUEENSLAND.—ALIENATION AND OCCUPATION OF CROWN LANDS,
1901 AND 1911-15.**

Particulars.	Area in Acres.					
	1901.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
1. Alienated Absolutely—						
By Purchase	13,462,304	15,626,173	15,790,907	15,956,663	16,159,145	16,360,715
Without Payment	71,164	83,013	83,295	85,100	85,396	86,667
Total	13,533,468	15,709,186	15,874,202	16,041,763	16,244,541	16,447,382
2. In Process of Alienation	2,791,664	9,025,049	9,577,037	10,039,255	10,586,914	10,776,793
3. Occupied under Leases and Licenses—						
Runs in Settled Districts	176,000	222,158,880	227,410,480	223,873,480	226,119,640	223,896,160
" Unsettled Districts	222,553,760	43,478,880	42,465,360	40,535,160	46,814,060	45,609,280
Occupation Licenses	35,103,600	49,130,631	47,179,483	52,251,784	57,869,972	62,568,511
Grazing Farms and Homesteads	21,793,242	234,435	233,436	216,438	214,932	213,648
Scrub Selections	272,946	45,000	88,147	107,707	121,595	158,045
Leases Special Purposes	249	140,021	203,059	310,966	308,704	267,195
Under Mines Department	124,182	18,089	35,179	42,363	49,905	112,065
Perpetual Lease Selections ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	280,023,979	308,205,936	317,615,144	322,337,898	331,499,708	332,824,904
4. Roads and Reserves ... ..	...	14,828,256	15,371,446	15,473,444	15,561,184	15,793,438
5. Unoccupied	132,770,889	81,351,573	70,682,171	65,227,640	55,227,653	53,277,433

Total area of State—429,120,000 acres.

The area open for selection (as distinguished from occupation for purely pastoral or special purposes) under every mode at the beginning of the year 1915 was 10,330,929 acres, and the area opened during the year was 10,672,179 acres, while the area withdrawn was 1,815,933 acres. The area selected was 7,822,934 acres, and the area remaining open at the end of the year was 11,864,241 acres. The number of grazing selections was 497 as against 560 in the previous year, and their gross area 6,446,353 acres, as against 6,843,406 acres.

5. South Australia.—The area of the State of South Australia is 243,244,800 acres. In this State, at the end of the year 1915, there were 10,590,756 acres, or about one twenty-fourth, alienated absolutely; 2,943,395 acres, or about one one-hundred and thirty-sixth, were in process of alienation; 115,396,433 acres, or about one-half, were occupied under leases and licenses; while the remaining 114,314,216 acres were unoccupied. From 1901 to the end of 1915, the area of land absolutely alienated has increased by more than three million acres, or nearly 50 per cent., while, during the same period, the area of land in process of alienation has increased by over two million acres, or over 400 per cent. The subjoined table shews for South Australia the area of land alienated absolutely, and in process of alienation under deferred payments, and the area held under different forms of leases:—

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—ALIENATION AND OCCUPATION OF CROWN LANDS,
1901 AND 1911-15.**

Particulars.	Area in Acres.					
	1901.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
1. Alienated—						
Sold	7,413,510	9,769,993	10,129,969	10,296,156	10,383,620	10,467,883
Granted for Public Purposes	121,613	122,604	123,777	122,818	122,851	122,873
Total	7,535,123	9,892,597	10,252,746	10,418,974	10,506,471	10,590,756
2. In Process of Alienation—	553,774	1,761,442	1,782,451	2,032,635	2,410,137	2,943,395
3. Held under Lease and License—						
Right of Purchase	5,639,519	3,150,533	2,836,346	2,701,392	2,634,685	2,574,640
Perpetual	7,115,782	15,020,544	15,070,607	14,997,201	14,969,877	14,943,771
Pastoral	68,916,125	91,546,770	96,356,850	96,933,810	96,382,130	95,756,850
Other Leases and Licenses	3,905,729	1,283,663	1,273,350	1,229,971	1,193,767	1,144,683
*Mining	14,140	89,077	292,323	412,693	805,889	976,489
Total	85,591,295	111,090,587	115,829,476	116,275,067	115,986,348	115,396,433
4. Total Occupied	88,680,192	122,744,626	127,864,673	128,726,676	128,902,956	129,930,584
5. Area Unoccupied	149,564,608	120,500,174	115,380,127	114,518,124	114,341,844	114,314,216
Total area of State—243,244,500 acres.						

* Exclusive of miners' rights.

6. Western Australia.—The total area of Western Australia is 624,588,800 acres, of which on the 30th June, 1915, 8,125,629 acres, or about a one-seventy-eighth part, were alienated absolutely; 13,584,076 acres, or about one-fourth part, were in process of alienation; while 196,772,098 acres, or nearly one-third, were occupied under leases and licenses issued either by the Lands or the Mines Departments. The remaining 406,106,997 acres, or about two-thirds, were unoccupied.

The following table shows the areas alienated absolutely and conditionally, and the areas held under leases and licenses at the end of the year 1901 and on 30th June, 1912 to 1916:—

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—ALIENATION AND OCCUPATION OF CROWN LANDS,
1901 AND 1912-16.**

Particulars.	Area in Acres.					
	1901.	1911-12.*	1912-13.*	1913-14.*	1914-15.*	1915-16.*
1. Absolutely Alienated	3,468,878	7,387,929	7,606,759	7,795,319	8,007,937	8,125,629
2. In Process of Alienation—						
Midland Railway Concessions	2,768,810	121,800	121,800	121,800	54,800	54,800
Free Homestead Farms	283,455	1,531,424	1,547,817	1,517,330	1,469,132	1,404,237
Conditional Purchases	1,349,554	8,285,058	8,294,524	8,255,604	8,402,856	7,911,998
Selections from the late W.A. Company	75,213	16,413	12,716	7,182	4,851	3,728
Selections under the Agricultural Lands Purchase Act	37,235	253,588	261,517	258,191	260,697	259,055
Special Occupation Leases and Licenses	8,867	2,110	2,010	1,803	1,498	1,398
Homestead or Grazing Leases	286,425	3,115,727	3,442,557	3,634,233	3,832,648	3,901,011
Poison Land Leases or Licenses	1,306,270	78,426	72,194	56,862	52,286	47,252
Immigrants' Grants	400	100	...	...	...	...
Village Allotments	6	35	35	35	34	32
Working-men's Blocks	31	688	617	590	584	565
Total in Process of Alienation	6,116,266	13,405,369	13,755,787	13,853,630	14,079,386	13,584,076

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—ALIENATION AND OCCUPATION OF CROWN LANDS, 1901 AND 1912-1916.—Continued.

Particulars.	Area in Acres.					
	1901.	1911-12.*	1912-13.*	1913-14.*	1914-15.*	1915-16.*
3. Leases and Licenses in Force—						
(i.) <i>Issued by Lands Department</i>						
Pastoral Leases	96,506,549	173,431,848	183,477,495	180,891,721	186,418,417	193,023,620
Special Leases	448	33,157	34,442	30,401	35,948	37,559
Leases of Reserves	5,296	630,127	3,402,605	2,136,072	2,129,118	2,301,587
Selections in Goldfields	3,955	100	100	100	...	...
Timber Leases and Licenses	865,180	1,423,282	775,769	658,146	1,650,613	1,654,550
Timber Permits ... ..	...	...	761,790	411,191	1,410,943	1,608,594
Residential Lots	550	405	318	224	267	268
(ii.) <i>Issued by Mines Department</i>						
Gold Mining Leases... ..	34,066	1158,946	† 94,899	† 149,801	† 128,609	† 145,920
Mineral Leases	6,576					
Other Leases	8,623					
Licenses	17,397					
Total under Leases and Licenses	97,450,660	175,677,865	188,547,418	184,277,656	189,773,915	196,772,098
4. Area Unoccupied	517,552,996	428,117,637	414,678,836	418,662,195	412,727,562	406,106,997

Total area of State—624,588,800 acres.

* Figures are now given as up to the 30th June, instead of as up to 31st December. Figures for previous years may be obtained from the Statistical Registers of Western Australia. † On the 31st December.

7. *Tasmania.*—Of the total area of Tasmania, namely, 16,777,600 acres, there were at the end of the year 1915, 5,125,197 acres, or about three-tenths, alienated absolutely; 1,225,924 acres, or about one-thirteenth, were in process of alienation; 2,006,212 acres, or about one-eighth, were occupied under leases and licenses for either pastoral, agricultural, timber, or mining purposes, the remaining 8,420,267 acres, or about one-half, being unoccupied. The following table shews the areas alienated, in process of alienation, and held under lease or license, and the area unoccupied at the end of the year 1901 and from 1911 to 1915:—

TASMANIA.—ALIENATION AND OCCUPATION OF CROWN LANDS, 1901 and 1911-15.

Particulars.	Area in Acres.					
	1901.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
1. Alienated Absolutely	4,621,585	4,965,331	5,005,175	5,051,112	5,085,868	5,125,197
2. In Process of Alienation	272,376	1,274,947	1,310,728	1,290,705	1,248,844	1,225,924
3. Leases or Licenses—						
(i.) <i>Issued by Lands Department</i>						
Islands	149,165	62,000	135,025	134,908	135,000	204,630
Ordinary Leased Land	1,280,688	1,242,400	1,245,400	1,280,400	1,400,300	1,452,068
Land Leased for Timber	40,768	134,516	136,471	160,216	162,631	120,832
Closer Settlement	—	34,841	46,217	* 45,572	* 52,800	66,307
(ii.) <i>Issued by Mines Department</i>	50,362	44,953	79,239	45,913	52,376	53,060
(iii.) <i>Occupied by Commonwealth and State Departments</i> ... ..	...	...	...	7,121	8,498	14,315
(iv.) <i>Reserved for Public Purposes</i> ... ..	...	...	...	63,000	68,000	95,000
Total	1,520,983	1,518,710	1,642,352	1,691,558	1,826,805	2,006,212
4. Total Area Occupied	6,414,944	7,758,988	7,958,255	8,033,375	8,161,517	8,357,333
5. Area Unoccupied	10,362,656	9,018,612	8,819,345	8,744,225	8,616,083	8,420,267

Total area of State—16,777,600 acres.

* Included in 1. *Alienated Land.*

8. **Northern Territory.**—On the 1st January, 1911, the Northern Territory was taken over by the Commonwealth. In the Northern Territory at the end of the year 1916, there were 475,542 acres, or only about one seven-hundred-and-seventh part alienated absolutely; 110,669,918 acres, or about two-sevenths, were held under leases and licenses; while the remaining 223,971,340 acres, or about five-sevenths, were unoccupied. The following table shews the area of land alienated absolutely, and also the area under lease:—

**NORTHERN TERRITORY.—ALIENATION AND OCCUPATION OF CROWN LANDS,
1901 and 1912-16.**

Particulars.	Area in Acres.					
	1901.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
1. Alienated—						
Sold	473,230	473,942	473,942	474,222	474,542	475,494
Granted for Public Purposes	48	48	48	48	48	48
Total Alienated	473,278	473,990	473,990	474,470	474,590	475,542
2. Leased—						
Right of Purchase	1,067	667	667	436	436	436
Pastoral	111,476,240	94,329,600	93,748,100	104,370,160	113,813,329	110,560,129
Other Leases	1,176,981	1,696,171	1,762,538	88,637	112,862	109,353
Total Leased	112,654,288	96,026,438	95,511,305	104,459,233	113,926,627	110,669,918
3. Total Occupied¹	113,127,566	96,500,428	95,985,295	104,933,703	114,401,217	111,145,460
4. Remainder Unoccupied*	221,989,234	238,616,372	239,131,505	230,183,097	220,715,583	223,971,340

Total area of Northern Territory—335,116,800 acres.

* Including Aboriginal and other reserves, and Mission stations.

§ 12. Classification of Holdings according to Size.

1. **General.**—The classification of holdings according to their area is of interest chiefly in relation to the efforts made by the several States in recent years to promote settlement on the land on blocks of suitable size, especially by means of the Closer Settlement Acts. Returns shewing such a classification are not available for Queensland and the Northern Territory.

The following table gives particulars of the number of holdings in area series, as returned to the collectors of agricultural and pastoral statistics, for all the States excepting Queensland for the season 1915-16. The figures necessarily fall short of those given in preceding tables relating to total alienations.

* CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS (ONE ACRE AND OVER) IN AREA SERIES,
1915-16.

Size of Holdings.	N.S.W.	Victoria.†	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	N. (a) Territory	Federal Territory	C'wth.(b)
NUMBER.								
Acres.								
1 and under 50	40,033	18,757	7,195	3,898	4,403	...	36	74,322
50 .. 100	8,536	7,356	1,793	640	2,299	4	26	20,704
100 .. 500	26,405	24,735	6,033	3,370	5,148	19	65	65,775
500 .. 1,000	9,326	10,181	3,977	3,687	729	4	27	27,931
1,000 .. 5,000	7,971	5,364	3,794	4,229	674	...	34	22,066
5,000 .. 10,000	942	267	125	254	167	...	4	1,759
10,000 .. 20,000	411	116	42	82	69	...	...	720
20,000 .. 50,000	233	34	24	27	35	...	2	355
50,000 and over	76	1	...	7	3	...	...	87
Total... ..	93,983	66,811	22,983	16,194	13,527	27	194	213,719

AREA.

Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1 and under 50	501,402	356,959	111,005	48,058	74,045	...	725	1,092,194
50 .. 100	677,346	558,534	133,264	54,697	161,859	307	1,987	1,587,994
100 .. 500	6,788,814	6,359,230	1,679,987	916,798	1,064,244	4,170	16,657	16,829,900
500 .. 1,000	6,544,181	7,123,402	2,829,380	3,012,905	496,729	2,560	20,508	20,029,665
1,000 .. 5,000	15,895,070	9,552,404	6,634,345	8,300,610	1,406,857	...	57,031	41,846,317
5,000 .. 10,000	6,468,693	1,825,862	852,601	1,756,960	809,288	...	31,605	11,745,009
10,000 .. 20,000	5,677,826	1,609,045	581,194	1,157,374	946,324	...	...	9,971,763
20,000 .. 50,000	6,879,609	992,521	684,493	773,453	912,882	...	62,502	10,305,460
50,000 and over	6,665,923	51,400	...	564,635	325,693	...	...	7,606,751
Total... ..	56,097,964	28,429,357	13,506,269	16,585,490	6,197,921	7,037	191,015	121,015,063

(a) Figures for 1912-13.

(b) Exclusive of Queensland.

* See 1. General above.

† For the year 1912-13.

2. New South Wales.—The total number of holdings of one acre and over in area in this State on the 31st March, 1901, was 69,439. On the 31st March, 1916, the corresponding number was 93,983, shewing an increase of about 35 per cent. The following table shews the number of holdings for which returns were received for 1900-1 and the past five years :—

NEW SOUTH WALES.—* CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS (ONE ACRE AND OVER)
IN AREA SERIES, 1901 and 1912-16.

Size of Holdings.	1900-01.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.
Acres.	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.
1 to 50	28,155	38,211	38,641	39,268	39,602	40,033
51 .. 100	8,929	9,027	8,955	8,923	8,771	8,586
101 .. 500	20,504	25,964	26,251	26,493	26,576	26,405
501 .. 1,000	6,105	8,329	8,616	8,842	9,068	9,326
1,001 .. 5,000	4,464	6,934	7,237	7,529	7,777	7,971
5,001 .. 10,000	579	825	853	889	928	942
10,001 .. 20,000	352	371	379	394	389	411
20,001 .. 50,000	202	247	245	235	231	233
50,001 and over	149	84	86	82	78	76
Total	69,439	89,992	91,313	92,655	93,420	93,983

* See 1. General above.

3. **Victoria.**—The following table shews the number and area of holdings on the 1st March of those years for which figures are available:—

VICTORIA.—* CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS (ONE ACRE AND OVER) IN AREA SERIES, 1906-1912.

Size of Holdings.				1906.	1908.	1910.	1912.
Acres.				Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.
1 to	50	...	...	13,309	14,692	16,609	18,757
51 "	100	...	...	5,864	6,223	6,696	7,356
101 "	500	...	...	21,628	22,510	23,397	24,735
501 "	1,000	...	...	7,688	7,817	8,216	10,181
1,001 "	5,000	...	...	4,083	4,409	4,908	5,364
5,001 "	10,000	...	...	220	231	239	267
10,001 "	20,000	...	...	116	118	131	116
20,001 "	50,000	...	...	73	61	42	34
50,001 and over		...	...	6	4	2	1
Total				52,987	56,065	60,240	66,811

* See 1. General above.

4. **South Australia.**—In the State of South Australia the classification of holdings was available for the first time in 1910-11. The following table shews the number and area of such holdings for that year and the last four years:—

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—* CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS (ONE ACRE AND OVER) IN AREA SERIES, 1910-11 to 1915-16.

Size of Holdings.				1910-11.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.
Acres.				Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.
1 to	50	...	...	6,745	6,909	6,757	7,013	7,195
51 "	100	...	...	1,646	1,724	1,726	1,778	1,793
101 "	500	...	...	5,542	5,691	5,806	5,801	6,033
501 "	1,000	...	...	3,370	3,590	3,707	3,835	3,977
1,001 "	5,000	...	...	2,540	3,075	3,196	3,417	3,794
5,001 "	10,000	...	...	110	109	112	114	125
10,001 "	20,000	...	...	53	48	42	41	42
20,001 "	50,000	...	...	23	22	22	23	24
50,001 and over		...	...	1	...	1	1	...
Total				20,030	21,168	21,369	22,023	22,983

* See 1. General above.

5. **Western Australia.**—In this State the number of holdings of one acre and over in area was 5699 for the season 1900-1 (see Year Book No. 1), and 16,194 for the season 1915-16, shewing an increase of 10,495, or 184 per cent. The subjoined table shews the classification of holdings for which agricultural and pastoral returns were received for 1901 and 1912-1916:—

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—* CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS (ONE ACRE AND OVER)
IN AREA SERIES, 1901 and 1912-16.**

Size of Holdings.		1900-1.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.
Acres.		Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.
1 to	50 ...	1,728	3,274	3,656	3,820	4,031	3,898
51 "	100 ...	198	571	609	608	645	640
101 "	500 ...	2,302	3,171	3,320	3,354	3,349	3,370
501 "	1,000 ...	717	3,024	3,465	3,569	3,676	3,687
1,001 "	5,000 ...	607	2,967	3,545	3,912	4,025	4,229
5,001 "	10,000 ...	73	200	213	240	235	254
10,001 "	20,000 ...	38	77	82	82	93	82
20,001 "	50,000 ...	36†	26	28	27	25	27
50,001 and over	...	...	6	7	8	7	7
Total	...	5,699	13,316	14,925	15,620	16,086	16,194

* See 1. General above:

† Including all holdings of 20,001 acres and upwards.

6. **Tasmania.**—In Tasmania the total number of holdings for which returns were received as on the 1st March, 1909, was 12,413. Particulars for previous years are not available. The following table shows the classification of such holdings in area series for 1911-12 and subsequent years :—

**TASMANIA.—* CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS (ONE ACRE AND OVER)
IN AREA SERIES, 1911-12 to 1915-16.**

Size of Holdings.		1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.
Acres.		Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.
1 to	50 ...	4,624	4,752	4,402	4,416	4,403
51 "	100 ...	2,413	2,378	2,271	2,306	2,299
101 "	500 ...	5,036	5,161	5,088	5,165	5,148
501 "	1,000 ...	669	705	721	731	729
1,001 "	5,000 ...	621	634	667	676	674
5,001 "	10,000 ...	117	123	116	168	167
10,001 "	20,000 ...	60	62	69	70	69
20,001 "	50,000 ...	31	28	34	35	35
50,001 and over	...	2	1	3	3	3
Total	...	13,573	13,844	13,371	13,570	13,527

* See 1. General above.

§ 13. The Progress of Land Settlement, 1901 to 1915.

1. **Recent Progress.**—The progress of settlement and the growth of land alienation in the States of the Commonwealth under recent legislation is seen in the subjoined statement, which shows concisely the condition of the public estate in each State and in the Commonwealth, at the end of 1901 and of each year from 1911 to 1915 inclusive. The effect of the land laws during that period has been generally to diminish the number of large holdings, at the same time decreasing the area held under lease, while both the area alienated and the area in process of alienation have increased. As leases of large areas fall in or are otherwise terminated they are in many cases not renewed, but the land is then cut up for the purpose of settlement under systems of deferred payment; the

State Governments, also, have in many cases acquired by repurchase considerable areas under the provisions of the various Closer Settlement Acts. Further, greater facilities have been granted to the working classes to acquire possession of the soil, and special inducements have been offered to *bona fide* settlers by the introduction of new forms of tenure on easy terms and conditions.

From 1901 to 1915 the area alienated absolutely in the whole Commonwealth increased by 29,279,292 acres, or 38 per cent.; the area in process of alienation increased by 21,036,357 acres, or 59 per cent.; the area leased by 171,646,854 acres, or 23 per cent.; while the area unoccupied decreased by 221,962,503 acres, or 20 per cent.

TOTAL AREA ALIENATED, IN PROCESS OF ALIENATION, HELD UNDER LEASE OR LICENSE AND UNOCCUPIED.

EXPRESSED ABSOLUTELY AND AS PERCENTAGES OF AREA OF ENTIRE STATE FOR THE YEARS 1901 AND 1911-15.

Year.	Alienated.		In Process of Alienation.		Held under Lease or License.		Occupied by the Crown or Unoccupied.*	
	Area in Acres.	Per Cent.	Area in Acres.	Per Cent.	Area in Acres.	Per Cent.	Area in Acres.	Per Cent.
NEW SOUTH WALES.—AREA, 198,054,420 ACRES.								
1901†	26,443,554	13.32	21,595,688	10.87	127,055,370	63.96	23,543,468	11.85
1911	38,741,736	19.50	16,210,185	8.16	123,223,559	62.04	20,462,600	10.30
1912‡	39,211,263	19.75	17,341,434	8.75	126,064,031	63.65	15,437,687	7.85
1913‡	39,584,685	19.98	18,233,338	9.21	124,590,163	62.91	15,646,234	7.90
1914‡	39,825,380	20.11	18,837,281	9.51	122,305,284	61.75	17,086,475	8.63
1915‡	40,100,492	20.25	19,064,618	9.62	121,796,091	61.50	17,093,219	8.63
1916‡	40,363,316	20.38	19,409,656	9.79	118,865,868	60.02	19,415,580	9.81
VICTORIA.—AREA, 56,245,760 ACRES.								
1901	20,066,875	35.67	3,730,351	6.63	17,110,709	30.42	\$15,337,825	\$27.28
1911	23,727,962	42.18	6,364,995	11.31	14,719,149	26.34	\$11,433,654	\$20.17
1912	23,856,389	42.41	7,198,531	12.79	14,443,191	25.67	\$10,747,649	\$19.13
1913	24,009,440	42.68	7,162,516	12.73	13,230,211	23.54	\$11,843,593	\$21.05
1914	24,138,965	42.92	7,362,890	13.09	13,325,416	23.69	\$11,418,489	\$20.30
1915	24,256,222	43.12	8,075,653	14.36	13,035,612	23.18	\$10,878,273	\$19.34
QUEENSLAND.—AREA, 429,120,000 ACRES.								
1901	13,533,468	3.15	2,791,664	0.65	280,023,979	65.26	132,770,889	30.94
1911	15,709,186	3.66	9,025,049	2.10	308,205,936	71.82	96,179,829	22.42
1912	15,874,202	3.69	9,577,037	2.23	317,615,144	74.01	86,053,617	20.07
1913	16,041,763	3.74	10,039,255	2.34	322,337,898	75.11	80,701,084	18.81
1914	16,244,541	3.79	10,586,914	2.47	331,499,708	77.25	70,788,837	16.49
1915	16,447,382	3.83	10,776,793	2.51	332,824,905	77.56	69,070,920	16.10
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—AREA, 243,244,800 ACRES.								
1901	7,535,123	3.10	553,774	0.23	85,591,295	35.18	149,564,608	61.49
1911	9,892,597	4.07	1,761,442	0.72	111,090,587	45.67	120,500,174	49.54
1912	10,252,746	4.22	1,782,451	0.73	115,829,476	47.62	115,380,127	47.43
1913	10,418,974	4.28	2,032,635	0.84	116,275,067	47.79	114,518,124	47.09
1914	10,506,471	4.32	2,410,137	0.99	115,986,348	47.68	114,341,844	47.01
1915	10,590,756	4.35	2,943,395	1.21	115,396,433	47.44	114,314,216	47.00

* Including roads and reserves. † To 31st December; subsequent years to 30th June.

‡ Exclusive of Commonwealth Territory. § Including Mines Department leases and licenses.

TOTAL AREA ALIENATED, IN PROCESS OF ALIENATION, ETC.—Continued.

Year.	Alienated.		In Process of Alienation.		Held under Lease or License.		Occupied by the Crown or Unoccupied.*	
	Area in Acres.	Per Cent.	Area in Acres.	Per Cent.	Area in Acres.	Per Cent.	Area in Acres.	Per Cent.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—AREA, 624,588,800 ACRES.

1901	3,468,878	0.56	6,116,266	0.98	97,450,660	15.60	517,552,996	82.86
1911*	7,202,696	1.15	11,843,236	1.90	169,937,644	27.21	435,605,224	69.74
1912*	7,387,929	1.18	13,405,369	2.16	175,677,865	28.13	428,117,637	68.53
1913*	7,606,759	1.21	13,755,787	2.20	188,547,418	30.18	414,678,836	66.41
1914*	7,795,319	1.25	13,853,630	2.22	184,277,656	29.50	418,662,195	67.03
1915*	8,007,937	1.28	14,079,386	2.26	189,773,915	30.38	412,727,562	66.08
1916*	8,125,629	1.31	13,584,076	2.17	196,772,098	31.49	406,106,997	65.03

* To 30th June.

TASMANIA.—AREA, 16,777,600 ACRES.

1901	4,621,585	27.54	272,376	1.62	1,520,983	9.06	10,362,656	61.78
1911	4,965,331	29.60	1,274,947	7.60	1,518,710	9.05	9,018,612	53.75
1912	5,005,175	29.83	1,310,728	7.82	1,642,352	9.78	8,819,345	52.57
1913	5,051,112	30.09	1,290,705	7.68	1,691,558	10.05	8,744,225	52.18
1914	5,085,868	30.31	1,248,844	7.44	1,826,805	10.89	8,616,083	51.36
1915	5,125,197	30.55	1,225,924	7.31	1,939,905	11.56	8,486,574	50.58

NORTHERN TERRITORY.—AREA, 335,116,800 ACRES.

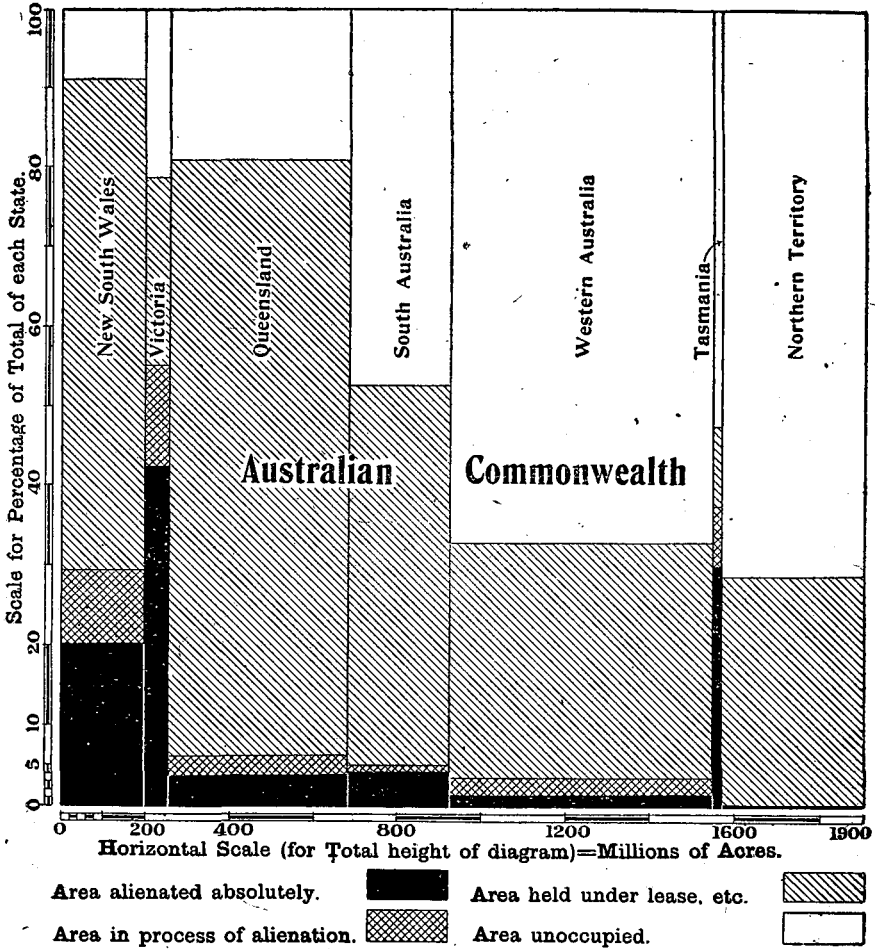
1901	473,278	0.14	...	...	112,654,288	33.62	221,989,234†	66.24
1911	474,195	0.14	...	...	100,908,184	30.11	233,734,421†	69.75
1912	473,990	0.14	...	...	96,026,438	28.66	238,616,372†	71.20
1913	473,990	0.14	...	...	95,511,305	28.60	239,131,505†	71.26
1914	474,470	0.14	...	...	104,459,233	31.17	230,183,097†	68.69
1915	474,590	0.14	...	...	113,926,627	33.99	220,715,583†	65.87

THE COMMONWEALTH. †—AREA, 1,903,731,840 ACRES.

1901	76,142,761	4.00	35,060,119	1.84	721,407,284	37.89	1,071,121,676	56.27
1911	100,713,498	5.29	46,479,854	2.45	822,440,546	43.20	934,097,942	49.06
1912	102,746,699	5.40	51,977,451	2.73	858,932,085	45.11	890,075,605	46.76
1913	104,474,882	5.44	52,717,936	2.76	858,148,026	45.08	889,390,996	46.72
1914	104,612,364	5.50	54,842,786	2.88	878,981,142	46.17	865,295,548	45.45
1915	105,422,053	5.54	56,096,476	2.94	893,054,138	46.91	849,159,173	44.61

* Including roads and reserves. † Including aboriginal reserves and mission stations.
‡ Including Federal Capital Territory.

2. Diagram shewing Condition of Public Estate.—The following diagram shows the condition of the public estate in the Commonwealth at the end of the year 1915. The square itself represents the total area of the Commonwealth, while the relative areas of individual States are shown by the vertical rectangles. The areas alienated absolutely, in process of alienation under systems of deferred payments, and the areas held under leases or licenses, are designated by the differently-shaded areas as described in the reference given below the diagram, while the areas unoccupied are left unshaded:—



3. Federal Territory. The following particulars relate to the tenures of land within the Federal Capital Territory at the end of the year 1916:—

FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, TENURES OF LAND, 1916.

Area of acquired lands	...	...	* { Leased 130,103 acres	Acres.
			{ Unoccupied 68,132 "	198,235
Lands alienated	...	...	...	38,961
In process of alienation—				
(Conditional purchases and conditional leases)	...	...	...	80,979
Held under lease issued by the State	...	...	...	162,587
Unoccupied lands (roads, reserves, etc.)	...	...	...	102,898
Total Area of Territory	...	...	...	583,660

* Including land held under agistment or still occupied by late owners.