

Of the present village settlers, fifty-six have each acquired, in addition to village holdings, sections on deferred-payment and perpetual-lease conditions amounting to 2,757 acres. Most of these are abandoned village sections, a few of them only being unallotted sections within the settlement. Sixteen late village settlers have acquired 2,329 acres under ordinary settlement conditions, some of the sections taken up being abandoned on unallotted village sections. Forty-two persons other than village settlers have acquired forfeited and unallotted village sections, amounting to 2,001 acres.

The total area now occupied as a direct result of the village-settlement system, in addition to village homesteads still held, is 7,087 acres. It is therefore evident that there is now in occupation a larger area of land than there would have been if all the village settlers had remained on their holdings.

The amount of advances this year, as anticipated in my last annual report, is much less than in any previous years. This looks as if the settlers are in a better position, or more self-supporting; but the real reason is that they are compelled to leave their homes and sometimes go great distances to obtain employment to enable them to support their families, or to obtain money to buy stock; consequently, the improvements for which advances are made are not so great as in previous years. Still, in the various settlements there is work done of value to the settlers, representing a great deal of time and labour, and may be claimed as general improvements, but for which no advances are made. At the same time the cultivations on some sections are not so good as could be desired. This to some extent may be owing to the sections being mostly bush, which requires (in the absence of capital) a great deal of time, manual labour, and perseverance to obtain remunerative returns. I notice that the settlers who can manage to work a great part of their time on their sections are doing, and will do, better than those settlers who are almost continually working away from home. The former may not earn so much money in wages, but they are improving their sections, and their produce helps to support them when they obtain occasional employment; but it takes all the money the latter may earn to support themselves and families, whilst their sections are not being improved, and yield them little or nothing.

Taking the settlements as a whole, I consider the increase of stock, the general improvements, the amount of land added to their holdings, and progress made by the settlers as very satisfactory.

I have, &c.,

The Commissioner of Crown Lands.

H. P. KAVANAGH, Village Steward.

NUMBER of Horses, Cows, Calves, Pigs, Fowls, Sheep, and Bullocks, with Chains of Fencing in Various Village Settlements; also, Number of Women and Children, Acres in Grass, and Approximate Area in Gardens, Orchards, &c.

Name of Settlement.	Horses.	Cows.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Fowls.	Calves.	Chains of Fencing.	Bullocks.	Number of Women.	Number of Children.	Acres in Grass.	Acres in Cultivation—Garden Orchard.
Herekino ...	40	42	35	53	358	39	136	24	23	79	263	9
Waimamaku ...	18	28	...	10	240	22	72	7	13	37	120	10
Takahue ...	13	14	194	24	44	16	64	1	8	26	185	8½
Fern Flat ...	10	9	40	12	60	14	56	...	7	17	134	4
Kohukohu ...	6	9	...	1	20	...	165	...	4	9	56	1
Motukaraka ...	9	58	...	21	90	51	316	11	26	71	332	10
Punakitere ...	28	65	141	56	155	61	422	2	18	69	191	14
Hukerenui ...	60	74	...	59	292	75	608	...	25	93	171	12½
Pataua ...	13	27	16	4	21	39	200	...	8	28	93	7
Omaha ...	12	43	270	11	219	28	407	12	16	36	170	5
Waitakerei and Swanson ...	2	6	...	4	180	...	60	...	14	56	15	10
Karaka ...	2	12	...	...	14	10	69	...	3	13	13	3
Komokorau and Firewood Creek ...	12	18	...	2	188	29	124	2	7	30	83	5
Te Aroha ...	22	71	...	16	173	24	415	...	21	70	111	16
Whananaki ...	24	37	31	35	262	51	380	...	8	28	93	7½
Motatau ...	29	19	...	12	77	20	121	...	5	18	26	4½
	300	532	727	320	2,393	479	3,615	59	206	680	2,056	127