

The machinery generally is being kept in good order and condition, owing to the liberal use of paint and oil, with the necessary repairs. I am also arranging for the erection of suitable sheds for covering the whole of the general and harvesting machinery on such settlements as are at present without these important improvements.

I may here add that the strain of dairy stock is being improved by the introduction of several good bulls—namely: Holder, a first-class Ayrshire stud bull, from Robertson's herd, Golden Grove, which took the first prize at Adelaide Cattle Show a year or two ago in his class; Waikerie, a pure-bred Jersey stud bull; Pyap, a pure-bred Alderney, bred by J. H. Richman, of Watervale District.

The supply of meat is very short on the river at present, owing to the scarcity of fat stock of any kind; consequently the meat account soon runs up upon such settlements as get anything like a regular supply of either beef or mutton.

The change of system of management upon Lyrup and Ramco Associations is giving me general satisfaction, although there are a few men on each place that do not take kindly to the fact that under the present *régime* they must either work or starve.

At Lyrup the hours of labour have been enforced, whereas in the past many of the settlers did not work in reality more than four or six hours per day. Wherever it is practicable the work is laid out on the piecework principle, the rate of wages for such being those ruling for similar work elsewhere in the district. By this means the maximum amount of labour is obtained, consequently the gain in such is very considerable. At Ramco the results have been similar—in fact, on some work, such as concreting and clearing land, the amount done per day is almost doubled, whilst the quality of workmanship has improved.

Waikerie has just adopted the Ramco rules and started under the new system, whilst Holder and Kingston desire to do so as soon as the survey of the subdivision of residence blocks has taken place.

Moorook remains divided in opinion in regard to the working of the place, but this difference does not interfere with the work in any way.

On Pyap the settlers are practically unanimously in favour of the old system of local management, but in my opinion the appointment of a strong working manager would be an advantage to all concerned.

At Murtho a change has been made in the management, which should prove beneficial, provided the few remaining settlers work together.

Grading land for irrigation, clearing, fencing, channeling, and preparing land for planting out with trees, vines, and root-crops, are the principal work in progress at present.

Several of the associations still have a considerable quantity of unsold produce, which it is our endeavour to dispose of as opportunities occur.

I have, &c.,

S. McINTOSH, Expert.

No. 1.—VILLAGE ASSOCIATION STATISTICS. (POPULATION AND STOCK.)

Village Association.	Adult Males.	Adult Females.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	No. of Horses.	No. of Cattle.	No. of Sheep.	No. of Pigs.	No. of Fowls.
Lyrup	33	28	55	55	171	22	37	1*	4	...
Pyap	23	20	36	38	117	17	51	448	108	69
Holder	28	23	44	48	143	26	34	54	14	...
Ramco	21	11	15	17	64	13	48	20	8	...
Waikerie	19	13	19	34	85	23	53	...	75	...
Kingston	17	16	32	31	96	14	18	11	...	...
Moorook	16	14	22	24	76	12	20	...	21	...
Murtho	9	9	7	11	36	18	21	32	4	60
Totals	166	134	230	258	788	145	282	566	234	129
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* Ram.

Lyrup.—A considerable number of fowls and ducks kept, but they are reckoned as being private property of settlers.

Pyap.—Also six hives of bees.

Holder.—Fowls kept by settlers, as at Lyrup.

Ramco.—Fowls kept by settlers, at at Lyrup.

Waikerie.—Fowls kept by settlers, as at Lyrup.

Kingston.—Fowls kept by settlers, as at Lyrup; also pigs likewise.

Moorook.—Fowls kept by settlers, as at Lyrup; also pigs likewise.

Total.—Should estimate 500 fowls on the settlements.