

1944
NEW ZEALAND

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND SURVEY

DRAINAGE OPERATIONS IN HAURAKI PLAINS

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1944

*Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly pursuant to Section 20 of the
Hauraki Plains Act, 1926*

Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, 1st May, 1944.

SIR,—

I have the honour to present herewith the report of the Chief Drainage Engineer on operations carried out during the past year on the Hauraki Plains in accordance with the provisions of the Hauraki Plains Act, 1926.

I have, &c.,

R. G. MACMORRAN,

Under-Secretary for Lands.

The Hon. the Minister of Lands.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF DRAINAGE ENGINEER

SIR,—

I have the honour to submit the thirty-sixth annual report on the drainage and land-development works carried out on the Hauraki Plains. The report covers the year ended 31st March, 1944.

Farm production from the reclaimed swamp has been maintained at a high level. The production returns for the year under review are not yet available, but the figures for the previous four years are given below as they show the success of the efforts of the settlers to maintain production in spite of the difficulties imposed by the war. They also show readily the contribution to the prosperity of the community that has been derived from the reclamation of waste land. The Department is indebted to the trading firms who handle most of the farm produce from the Hauraki Plains for supplying the information from which the following annual production statistics have been compiled:—

	1939-40.		1940-41.		1941-42.		1942-43.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£		£		£
Butter (tons) ..	3,101	} 743,795	3,187	} 873,839	1,988	} 776,601	2,492	} 721,016
Cheese (tons) ..	3,942		5,256		6,623		4,785	
Pigs ..	20,882	52,500	19,961	50,624	14,503	35,395	6,338	22,074
Bobby calves ..	19,714	8,894	20,954	10,442	9,847	4,294	14,764	7,678
Cattle ..	13,637	} 67,212	15,541	} 96,021	9,710	} 60,905	12,273	} 71,441
Sheep ..	4,058		11,404		14,373		14,596	
Horses ..	100		126		63		32	

Though 1940-41 was the peak production year it is well below the potential production for the district when normal farm-development can be continued. The 1943-44 season will compare favourably with the previous year. The low rainfall during the summer did not cause the drought experienced in surrounding districts.