

1944
NEW ZEALAND

NATIVE DEPARTMENT

THE DEVELOPMENT AND SETTLEMENT OF NATIVE LANDS AND THE PROVISION OF HOUSES FOR MAORIS

(STATEMENT BY THE HON. H. G. R. MASON, NATIVE MINISTER, UPON THE PROGRESS OF)

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Leave

GENERAL REPORT

IN continuing the story of the growth and expansion of the present policy of Native-land development and settlement and housing-accommodation for Maoris with the aid of loan-moneys provided from State resources and Maori funds for the rehabilitation of the Maori race as a whole, it is useful to preface this report of the activities of the Board of Native Affairs for the year ended 31st March, 1944, with a brief summary of its genesis, and its sociological import both to pakeha and Maori alike. A report upon the functions of the Native Department, apart from land-settlement and housing, is contained in another annual parliamentary paper (G.-9).

In his natural or primitive state the Maori necessarily was compelled to find his living from the slender resources of the country. He had to grow what he could, although the range of products was decidedly restricted, but the land was the source of his livelihood—apart from the food which the forests, the rivers, and the sea provided. His early plantations bore evidence of careful planning with due attention to climate, soils, and situation, and he was able with his crude wooden tools and much labour to cultivate those areas which had to suffice for his purposes. To the accompaniment of appropriate rituals and observances, he planted and harvested, year by year, his food crops, most of which he had originally carried across the wide seas. The early missionaries under Marsden found the Maori to be singularly receptive to European methods of agriculture, and with the introduction of iron implements, wheat-growing was profitably developed during the first half of the nineteenth century. With the rapidly increasing population of the country and the consequent demand for land for European settlement, the Maori was largely encouraged to live upon the proceeds of the alienation of his lands rather than upon the products of their soil, and it was not until the beginning of the present century that the Maori mind was once again turned towards the utilization of the land and suitable measures were adopted to re-establish the people on the ancestral lands then remaining to them, and to educate them in the business of stock-farming. No great measure of success was obtained immediately, but in some districts, perhaps better endowed by Nature than others, and where land-sales had not proceeded to the same extent, considerable progress was made by the Maori farmer—a success which ultimately was to lead, after many years of endeavour, to the present activities in land utilization.

The State's contribution to the sociological experiment of Native-land development and settlement and provision of homes for Maoris has been very considerable and has for its object the manifold purposes of improving the living standards of the Maori race, of absorbing the largest possible proportion of the Maori population into the economic structure, of bringing idle lands into production, of combating or eradicating noxious weeds which are a menace to the surrounding clean country, and of assisting in the payment of county rates. The keynote to this policy, forged over some years, is that of helping people to help themselves—people who have within themselves the desire and capacity to work out their destinies if they are given a helping hand in the early stages of their establishment

into the social and economic life of the country. The Board's policy in developing and settling Native land which has been gazetted as subject to Part I of the Native Land Amendment Act, 1936, to-day finds echo in Article 28 of the Australian-New Zealand Agreement. Therein it is declared that, in applying the principles of the Atlantic Charter to the Pacific, the doctrine of "trusteeship" should be applicable in broad principle to all colonial territories in the Pacific and elsewhere, and that the main purpose of the trust is the welfare of the Native peoples and their social, economic, and political development. The issue confronting the State in the social and economic advancement of the Maori race is one of human endeavour, progress towards the goal of which land-settlement provides the means. Its successful solution is to be measured not so much in terms of financial repayments of advances, but in what is equally important to the country—the positive results of happy homes and contented and virile people living on an equality in all respects with the pakeha.

Much requires to be done before the results sought to be obtained by the Government can be realized, but a very real effort is being made, and will continue to be made, towards the fulfilment of the Administration's policy. Rome was not built in a day, neither can the Maori be fully established as a self-supporting individual in the community within the space of a single generation.

Climatic conditions varied considerably in the different districts throughout the year under review. In North Auckland, following a reasonably good winter, the spring was late and very cold; a dry spell during summer was experienced, but in early autumn there was plenty of moisture which provided good pasture growth. Somewhat similar conditions obtained in the Waikato and King-country. In the Bay of Plenty and Rotorua areas, torrential rains in the early autumn caused widespread damage to farm properties and marred what might have been a reasonably good season from a farming viewpoint. The season in the Gisborne-East Coast and Wairoa districts has been wet, there being too much rain for sheep-farming; cold, wet weather in the early spring affected lambing percentages; and heavy floods in autumn resulted in severe damage to fences and culverts on farms, while many hundreds of acres of land slipped badly. Hawke's Bay and Wairarapa were very bare of feed until the spring, and since then there has been plenty of rain, resulting in an exceptionally good pasture growth, possibly too much for sheep-farming. On the west coast, extending from Wellington to New Plymouth, the spring was late; in November dry weather set in and almost drought conditions prevailed until early March, when rains relieved the situation. In practically every district the weather conditions towards the end of the year were good, and with a satisfactory growth, cattle should enter the winter in sound condition.

Notwithstanding unfavourable seasonal conditions in many districts, the farming returns for 1943-44 were the highest yet recorded, and amounted to £669,420, as compared with £617,442 for the previous year. A decline of over 5½ per cent. in butterfat-production was more than offset by the 17-per-cent. increase in wool proceeds and the higher returns realized from the sale of fat stock. Including the proportion of cream returns paid direct to the settlers, the total revenue for the year amounted to £875,000, an increase of £45,000 over the figures for the preceding period.

The principal items of production from State schemes controlled by the Board are as follow: butterfat, representing the Department's proportion only, which averaged 46 per cent., £156,015, as compared with £165,268 for the previous season; wool-sales, £114,084, as against £92,770 for 1943; proceeds from sheep and cattle sold, £267,806, in comparison with £240,073 for the previous year; and sundry receipts (crops and other farm produce), £36,521, the previous year's figures being £36,883. The volume of dairy-produce decreased from 5,652,695 lb. to 4,816,281 lb., while the wool-clip of 5,700 bales showed an increase of 385 bales over the 1943 season. The nineteen stations financed by the Native Trustee and the Maori Land Boards produced a total of 2,033 bales of wool of a gross value of £38,723, as compared with 2,123 bales (£37,725) for the preceding year; sales of live-stock on these properties reached £50,211, in comparison with £38,379 for 1943. On the East Coast Trust stations 3,650 bales of wool were shorn, the previous year's clip being 3,471 bales.

The live-stock returns at the 31st March, 1944, show a slight increase in sheep, and a decrease in cattle over the 1943 figures. The tallies, with the preceding year's figures shown in parentheses, on the farming schemes financed by the State were as follow: cows milked during the season, 39,500 (40,500); other dairy stock, 22,600 (25,200); run cattle, 28,000 (30,500); breeding-ewes, 160,200 (159,300); dry sheep, 128,100 (121,500). The sixteen Native Trust stations were carrying 7,300 (8,615) run cattle, 31,700 (31,000) breeding-ewes, and 34,900 (38,000) dry sheep; while the figures for the three Maori Land Board stations were 3,300 run cattle, 18,500 breeding-ewes, and 11,600 dry sheep. The Trust and Board properties derive their finance from Maori trust funds.

The gross expenditure of public moneys for the year under review on the agricultural and pastoral schemes controlled by the Department was £668,400 (compared with £648,300 for the previous year), the finance for which was provided from the following sources: farming receipts, £574,455; grants from the Consolidated Fund towards labour subsidies, £151,724. The year's working thus resulted in a surplus of £57,779, without recourse to new loan-moneys, and after meeting £82,851 in interest charges.

The Ahuwhenua (Son-of-the-soil) Trophy, presented by the Right Hon. Viscount Bledisloe during his Governorship of New Zealand for annual competition among Maori

settlers occupying lands under the Government's land-settlement project, was awarded this year to a Hawke's Bay settler at Hastings, a member of the Ngati-Kahungunu tribe, who is undertaking mixed farming comprising fat-lamb raising, grass-seed production, cropping for the canneries, and so on. It is symptomatic of the present days, and at the same time an encouraging fact, that the management over the last year or two of the winning and third-place farms for the 1943-44 competition should have been carried on by the respective wives of the two settlers in question, who are in the Armed Forces, and consequently were only able to visit their holdings at intervals. In making his awards upon the bases of pasture control, stock husbandry, volume of production, conservation of winter feed, condition of fences, cleanliness of sheds and equipment, and general farm-management, the nine contestants were stated by the judge to have done excellent work, the first three receiving special congratulations.

The shortage of man-power and limited supplies of fertilizers, water-piping, and building-materials are the chief factors which have caused a cessation to the extension of land-development activities. The usual amount of top-dressing has not been possible since the restriction on fertilizer-supplies became operative, and the effect on marginal lands is very noticeable. Every endeavour has, however, been made to increase production wherever possible and to maintain the Department's farming enterprises.

The war has no doubt had a very disturbing influence on the Maori people. In most districts patriotism has run high and the majority of able-bodied men have endeavoured to serve in the Armed Forces. Those who have not gone overseas have spent periods in Home Guard camps, and many farms have been managed by women. Usually the milking of the dairy herds has been well carried out by them, but other work such as farm-maintenance and stock-management has not received the proper attention except in a few instances where the women have shown better results than when the farms were managed by their husbands.

The average number of men employed on Board-controlled properties was the same as for the previous year—namely, 1,200. Grants from the Consolidated Fund amounting to £151,700 were the means of enabling the Board to subsidize the work on marginal lands, and also to provide a reasonable standard of living to settlers on properties not yet fully developed, during the winter months, by way of labour subsidies.

Lucrative rates of pay at present being offered in outside industries, the disturbing effect of the war, and the drop in dairy production have caused, amongst a large number of Maori farmers, a state of mind which manifests itself as lack of enthusiasm in the farming operations. The problem of the Department is to re-create the interest which has been lost owing to these causes.

During the year a special committee of investigation was appointed to review the efforts of certain groups of Maori settlers under the Board's control in the Gisborne and Central Rotorua areas. This work may be termed the second phase in Native-land settlement when it becomes necessary to review the results of efforts of the individuals and decide whether they are really suited to the work and whether they be replaced. Several nominations were cancelled, and in other cases remissions of interest were made contingent upon greater diligence being displayed by the settler.

As far as the first stage in the closer settlement of land is concerned, the Department's policy was modified to try to ensure that there be devised some practical test of a Maori's ability to farm successfully a holding on which he may be placed. It is proposed that, in dairy operations, as a general policy every effort be made to appoint share-milkers as soon as pastures are established sufficiently for closer settlement, and that for the time being, in view of their possible inexperience, close supervision and instruction be afforded them by the field staff. It is intended that the share-milker be established as a settler with a definite holding at the end of two years if he reaches the standard of competence demanded of him at the outset.

A commencement in the extension of horticultural pursuits among the Maoris has been made by the appointment of a horticultural expert. With such a wide scope for operations a considerable amount of exploratory work has been necessary, but progress has been made in the promotion of production and in the disposal of crops grown either for the requirements of the Armed Forces or for the local markets. Contracts were arranged for the growing of a quantity of carrots and kumara, with satisfactory results. As with many other activities, operations are limited to a degree by the amount of labour available, but it is proposed that increased quantities of onions, carrots, and potatoes will be grown on contract, thereby guaranteeing the grower against fluctuating markets. Towards the goal of increasing production for home consumption as a contribution to the betterment of living-conditions, instruction by means of demonstrations and talks has been given both in some Native schools and also in a number of Maoris' gardens. A fruit-tree nursery has been established at Tauranga, while on Matakana Island a nursery for trees for shelter-belts and general instruction in market-gardening has been started. The provision of fruit-trees should aid in fostering a sense of pride in the home and introduce more fruit to the average Maori's diet. To meet the scarcity of fencing-timber, the planting of eucalypts suitable for posts has been proceeded with. It is hoped to encourage the growing of flowers and vegetables in the Wairarapa district for commercial marketing.

The past year has again seen little progress made in the way of providing homes for Maoris, due to the emergency conditions arising out of the war operating in the building

industry. Although there now appears to be a gradual transition taking place from defence to general building works, the position with regard to shortage of materials and labour still remains difficult. It is anticipated, however, that the requirements of Native housing will receive its measure of priority under the national general works policies which are being formulated. In order to provide a more effective control of a progressive Native housing programme, it has been found necessary to establish a housing and building construction organization within the Department. This need arises from a number of causes, chief of which is the necessity for a closer contact with the Maori people in all matters dealing with this important foundation to their social and general welfare. The question of training Maoris in useful technical trades and allied occupations becomes of considerable importance in developing any building organization. It is proposed to promote the vocational aspect in conjunction with the general future development of the organization. Construction work will be undertaken as far as possible by small groups of Maori workers under the direction of qualified tradesmen who will also act in the capacity of instructors. As a measure to provide added amenities in keeping with a progressive welfare policy and at the same time to offset increased building-costs, as well as to bring its assistance within the reach of a larger number of Maoris, the Department has revised the basis of its lending policy to one not only offering easier repayment terms, but also a higher standard of home consistent with the need for improved living standards among the Maori people. Better housing-conditions can be considered as the basic solution to many of the health and sociological problems confronting the Maori race, and although present industrial emergencies will no doubt restrict building operations meantime, a progressive policy directed towards better standards of living for the Maori people will be vigorously pursued. During the year under review the Department's efforts resulted in a total of 97 homes being provided. Under the provisions of the Native Housing Act, 31 dwellings were erected or renovated and 17 houses purchased. On Native-land development and settlement schemes, 23 houses were completed and 26 renovated. The total number of dwellings erected or renovated for Maoris up to 31st March, 1944, was 2,451, while nearly 2,000 farm buildings have been provided for our Native-land settlement.

The investments of the Native Trustee and the seven Maori Lands Boards are controlled by the Board of Native Affairs and are in a sound position. At the 31st March last the funds invested by the Native Trustee amounted to £676,000, including £387,000 on mortgage securities to 374 Natives, £142,000 on overdraft to stations and other properties being farmed, £12,000 held in Government stock and local-body debentures, and £135,000 deposits at short call. The corresponding figures for the Maori Land Boards at the same date were: total investments, £759,000, including £147,000 by way of loans to 387 Maori mortgagors; £102,000 advances on farming properties and primary production projects; £213,000 in other Government securities and war-loan stock; and £250,000 on deposit with the Native Trustee.

On behalf of the Government, the Board of Native Affairs, and the staffs of the Native Department, I express heart-felt sympathy to the relatives of those men of the Maori Battalion and other units, many of whom were engaged on Native development schemes, who have been killed, injured, or imprisoned.

Towards the end of 1943 the Government approved of the appointment of the Maori Rehabilitation Finance Committee, as a joint committee of the Rehabilitation Board and the Board of Native Affairs, to control the repatriation of discharged returned Maori servicemen through the Native Department. The personnel of this committee comprises the Permanent Heads of the Departments of Native Affairs, Rehabilitation, Lands, and Treasury together with a second representative of the Rehabilitation Department (Mr. E. L. Cullen, M.P.). Under the general allocation of functions in the rehabilitation scheme envisaged for Maoris, the Native Department will administer loans for land-development and the purchase of farms, houses, furniture, businesses, and tools of trade for Maoris living in Native settlements or communities. Such applications from Maoris living as Europeans in European communities will be handled by the State Advances Corporation and the Rehabilitation Department. Maori tribal executive committees are acting in an advisory capacity, in conjunction with the local Rehabilitation Committees, for all applications to the Native Department from Maori ex-servicemen.

The organization of the Native Department is well equipped to undertake the responsibilities of Maori rehabilitation through the land and in the provision of houses. The amount of vote "Native Land Settlement" has been increased by £200,000 to cover the Department's functions in repatriation during the coming year.

I take this opportunity to record the Government's appreciation of the way the Maori farmers and the Maori people generally have responded to the call to increase production of that first necessity of war, the food-supply, an appreciation also of the services of the members of the Board of Native Affairs, and of the loyal and untiring efforts of the officers of the Native Department, whose zealous administration has so greatly contributed to this result.

Accompanying this statement are district reports on the various farming and land-development activities controlled by the Board of Native Affairs, and statistical and financial data concerning its operations are appended.

H. P. R. Mason

Native Minister.

STATE DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

Tokerau Maori Land Board District

One-quarter of our Maori race lives in North Auckland, and under modern conditions the population is fast increasing. Native land gazetted for development in this district comprises nearly 500,000 acres, a small proportion being of the first quality and much of it is unsuited for development. Consolidation and clarification of the land titles is proceeding steadily, but is proving a difficult task.

From a farming point of view, the year has not proved a good one. Spring was late and cold, and a dry spell followed during the summer, but the year ended in an exceptionally favourable autumn.

The scarcity of fertilizers, adverse labour conditions, and generally unfavourable weather has had some effect on dairy production, but on the whole the yield has been well maintained. No opportunity has been lost of impressing on settlers, of whom there are 834 financed by the State, the especial necessity in these times of maintaining production, and the response has been good. The Department's cash returns have shown increases by £8,000 to £85,590, although the butterfat-production is down by 13 per cent.

In spite of staff difficulties, every endeavour has been made to give close supervision to the Native settlers. Butterfat-production of 110 lb. per cow is still below the average Dominion rate of 210 lb., and endeavours have been made to correct this. A number of Native farmers are inclined to leave the milking to the elder children and do not realize the importance of standard shed and stock management. Efforts are being made to improve carrying-capacity by the greater provision of winter feed and to encourage the greater use of the plough. In one district a Maori young farmers' club has been formed and the results have been very gratifying.

The two entrants for the Ahuwhenua Trophy competition were placed sixth and ninth, and were considered by the judge to have done excellent work.

During the year the Waireia Estate, of 4,640 acres, situated twenty-four miles from Kohukohu on the northern shores of the Hokianga Harbour, was purchased. Access is by a metalled road running through the area; the block consists of about 1,000 acres in standing bush, and the balance, in fair pasture, is undulating to hilly, running into steep country at the back. Portions of this property will be suitable for closer settlement into approximately twelve holdings, and will provide relief to a district where there is a general shortage of suitable land and an expanding population.

The following table shows the present stock, &c., on both settlers' and scheme properties for the last two years:—

—			Dairy Cows.	Other Dairy Stock.	Run Cattle.	Sheep.	Bales of Wool produced.
1942-43	..	..	16,125	9,745	3,535	17,957	391
1943-44	..	..	15,456	9,311	3,837	20,420	448

Native Housing.—Building activities were greatly curtailed owing to the scarcity of materials and skilled labour being required for defence purposes. Only eleven houses were erected during the year, but as soon as the new housing organization is in a position to build, better progress will be made in connection with housing-construction for Natives. In addition to the above building operations, thirty-three cow-sheds were erected during the year on settlers' properties.

Waikato-Maniapoto Maori Land Board District

This district embraces the Waikato, Hauraki, Coromandel, and King-country areas and is known as the South Auckland district.

The past year has not been a favourable one from a farming point of view in this district, resulting in a sharp fall of 17 per cent. in butterfat-production. There was an exceptionally dry period during December and January, following which production recovered somewhat during a favourable autumn. Apart from the vagaries of the weather, shortage of fertilizer is precluding any marked increase in production. Moreover, wartime scarcities prohibit almost entirely any new land-development. There are, however, large Native-owned areas in this district which can be developed as soon as conditions again become favourable.

During the year the Tunaeke Scheme, near Whatawhata, was subdivided and settled by dairy-farmers, and their future progress will be reflected in the returns from the Waikato Unit Scheme.

Taking into account a large carry over of wool produced and not sold at the end of March, the financial returns have been well maintained, the proceeds to the Department amounting to £82,000.

This district has done well in the Ahuwhenua Cup competition, the second, fourth, and sixth places having been filled by Native farmers in the King-country and Kawhia areas.

The net liabilities owing to the State, aggregating £225,000 in respect of the 241 settled properties (31,000 acres) and £120,000 in the case of the development areas, have been reduced during the year. The live-stock tallies were: dairy cows, 5,700; other dairy stock, 3,200; run cattle, 4,400; and sheep, 49,000.

Native Housing.—It was possible to complete, in spite of material and labour shortages, six cottages for settlers. A great field of endeavour in respect to Native housing will no doubt be opened up when the new housing organization is able to function under normal conditions. Even to-day there is an amount of £5,000 representing applications which have been authorized but which it has not yet been possible to meet.

Waiariki Maori Land Board District

Wartime exigencies of lack of manures, continued shortage of labour, and delays in the supply of many essential materials such as iron, timber, and wire have added to the difficulties of both land-development and farming during the year. Despite these setbacks, it is possible to report progress in many of our activities. There has been an increase to the Department in receipts from all sources, the total for last year being £229,689, while this year it is £247,564. The net liability on all development operations twelve months ago was £828,496; in 1935 it was £335,677; while to-day it is £800,640. The schemes to-day are on a purely maintenance basis.

The wool produced during the twelve months shows a small increase from 2,075 bales to 2,082 bales.

The live-stock carried to-day, compared with the 1935 figures, shown in parentheses, will indicate a considerable measure of progress in the carrying-capacity of the Native lands of the district: 17,156 (9,915) dairy stock of all classes, 1,231 (465) horses of working quality, 12,283 (3,942) run cattle, 50,887 breeding-ewes, and 59,029 (28,000 in all) other sheep. A further example of the expansion that has resulted in this brief period can be gauged from the fact that for the year 1935 our cash receipts amounted to £29,000, while this year alone the figure is in the vicinity of £250,000.

In many cases the Department has been able to reduce its percentage of the cream cheque retained from the individual settler. This applies particularly at Ruatoki, the biggest settlement we have under our control. Even though a number of the loan accounts have been paid off, the farmers continue to seek the assistance of the Department in such communal activities as purchasing, roading, and water-supply, and this service is still made available to them.

Numerous settlers are showing enthusiasm and displaying initiative in an endeavour to improve their holdings. Every encouragement is given to them to acquire a full understanding of their financial obligations, as well as the main task of teaching them scientific farm husbandry.

The special committee of investigation to review the ability of certain of the Horohoro settlers to carry on, recommended remissions of portion of the interest over the next five years. By appealing to tribal relationship through the factor of chieftainship and leadership, we hope to secure either a revivifying effect on delinquent settlers to farm well and prosper, or else to arrange for new nominations for certain of the holdings.

Third place in the Ahuwhenua Trophy competition went to a settler in the Horohoro area. This endeavour has particular merit, in that the management of the farm was carried on by the wife of the settler after he joined the Armed Forces.

Every encouragement has been given to those Maori farmers who desired to assist in the Maori war effort. Enlistments in this district have at times retarded the production programme, but very few appeals have been lodged for postponement of service. As part of the primary production aspect of the war effort, interest in the cropping of potatoes, kumaras, pumpkins, and onions has been encouraged. It is pleasing to record that several of our settlers who have seen active military service have gone back to their farms.

In some districts where ragwort has become a menace it has been necessary to introduce small flocks of cull ewes to assist other control measures being adopted to combat the pest.

The respective County Councils have again met the departmental officers with regard to county rates, and satisfactory settlements of the various claims have been made. All rating claims on development-scheme lands have now been adjusted up to 31st March, 1944.

Greater culling of herds has been carried out in an endeavour to improve the production of fat per cow. Assistance has been given in several cases to enable settlers to acquire a better type of pigs and piggeries. Butterfat-production showed a substantial decline this past year, contributory causes being the continued shortage of manures and adverse climatic conditions throughout the whole of the district. Several of our dairy-farmers suffered damage to property and loss of production when serious floods swept the Whakatane district. Where on some areas further consolidation of cultivated pastures is required, the policy of stocking up with wethers and heavy bullocks has been continued. Large drafts of fat stock have been taken from these areas during the year. On some of the coast stations only dry stock can be run, and, moreover, losses of stock have been heavy, due to the broken and rough contour of the country. A special investigation was carried out this year, and every endeavour is being made to reduce the losses. The Ruatahuna Settlement, with its large population, also presents special difficulties. For a time this year it was isolated by flood from both Rotorua and Wairoa.

Passing reference can be made to the acquisition of several small areas. On the Te Ngae Road, near Brent's farm, a Native lease of 49 acres was acquired. This has good watering facilities and will be worked in with Brent's to assist the seasonal movements of stock. Another place of 649 acres, known as Wright's Block, adjoining the Okere Development Scheme was purchased, and this, with 668 acres gazetted under Part 1 of the Act, will consolidate the operations in this area.

Native Housing.—No Native houses were built during the period, but indications point to a recommencement of our housing activities in the coming year. Economic surveys, whenever carried out, disclose deplorable housing-conditions which demand immediate remedial action. The Native people evince keen interest in the housing proposals and back up their interest with cash deposits towards future homes. A Maori training-school in carpentry is being run at Ohinemutu by the Rehabilitation Department and should provide ample trained Maori carpenters to carry out the building programme when it is put into operation.

Tairāhiti Maori Land Board District

As with other districts, new development work has been necessarily retarded by reason of shortage of labour and materials consequent upon the war. It is hoped that in the next season some progress will be made with urgently needed capital and maintenance work. Two areas of 83 acres and 1,904 acres were gazetted as subject to the development provisions of the Act and included in the Te Araroa Scheme. The subdivision of the Whangawehi section of the Mahia Scheme into six dairy-farms is now being undertaken. The average area of each holding will be approximately 60 acres to 80 acres.

The Huramua Station, of 1,777 acres, at Wairoa, was offered for sale for purposes of the land-settlement of Maori servicemen. Since the close of the year covering this report, the property was purchased with a view to the establishment of instructional farms to be taken over later by discharged Maori servicemen. The property comprises land of good quality on the flats, and high ground of fair to good quality on the hills which provide winter run-off for dairy cows. Improvements have been well maintained, and satisfactory water-supply should be available to each proposed subdivision. There is a good metalled access road; the station is close to the railway and also to the Township of Wairoa, with the facilities for hospital, education, freezing-works, and dairy factory.

The rainfall during the season has been heavy, with serious floods in March which destroyed many of the crops in the vicinity of Gisborne. Damage was also caused to kumara and potato crops throughout the district, adversely affecting food-supplies. Erosion by the Waipapu River during the last twelve months amounted to a loss of six acres.

A review of the financial position at the 31st March, 1944, shows that the amount owing to the Department in respect of development areas aggregating 18,000 acres is £72,436, while advances to 226 settlers total £192,008—an average indebtedness of £850 per settler.

The Department's share of butterfat receipts of £13,790 showed a small increase of £253 over last year's figures, whilst the wool proceeds of £23,838 gave the big advance of £9,214 over the previous twelve months—a 63-per-cent. increase. Live-stock sales are also up by 18 per cent., the total sales being £27,042.

The following table shows the present stock, &c., under the control of the Department in the Gisborne District:—

				Dairy Cows.	Other Dairy Stock.	Sheep.	Run Cattle.	Bales of Wool.
Native Department	..	..	..	3,515	2,413	57,252	4,584	1,280
Native Trustee	..	..	..	..	..	36,521	3,767	679
Maori Land Board	..	..	..	..	18	14,516	2,396	311
Totals	..	..	..	3,515	2,431	108,289	10,747	2,270

Calf clubs have been revived at the local schools, and the children have received useful tuition on this subject, in the form of lectures.

The one nominee from this district for the Ahuwhenua Trophy competition was placed fifth.

Native Housing.—The progress during the year in the building of homes has been necessarily slow, but it is hoped that in the coming year the work may gather momentum to help overtake the authorizations not yet completed of £20,000 ordinary advances and £14,000 Special Housing Fund advances. Ten dwellings were erected or renovated, and two purchased, during the period under review. The ability of the Maori to face up to his financial responsibilities under his housing mortgages is readily seen from the table hereunder. Based upon present trends, the present mortgages should be liquidated in

twelve years, thereby giving to each of the 130-odd families a freehold home. No mortgagor was in arrears with his interest at 31st March, 1944:—

	1942.		1943.		1944.	
	Ordinary.	Special.	Ordinary.	Special.	Ordinary.	Special.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Annual receipts	5,794	2,162	3,349	1,446	3,773	1,709
Less interest charges ..	3,583	337	1,375	432	1,272	480
Surplus receipts to reduce principal	2,211	1,825	1,974	1,014	2,501	1,229
Principal owing	25,594	9,482	29,527	11,218	28,358	11,350
Number of mortgagors ..	84	44	78	49	80	52

Aotea Maori Land Board District

In common with other parts of the North Island, this district has experienced unfavourable weather conditions—the second in succession—which are reflected in a general fall in production. The advent of spring was later than usual after a prolonged period of wet and cold weather. There was little growth until late October or November, when there was a change to hot weather with constant winds causing the usual flush feed of the summer to run straight up to seed. It is only since the commencement of the early autumn showers that there was any sign of recovery in the pastures. In most cases abundant supplies of hay were saved for winter feed, but on present indications root crops will not be up to standard.

Pastures generally are now showing deterioration as the result of inadequate top-dressing for several years in succession, and in some instances it has become necessary to reduce the carrying-capacity of the properties. Dairy stock at the commencement of the season was not in as good condition as would have been the case if climatic conditions had been more favourable, and the aggregate butterfat-production of approximately 300,000 lb. shows a fall of 8 per cent.

Two further dairy-settlers were commenced at Tokaanu, making a total there of four, and it is hoped to commence milking on four or five other properties in this locality during the coming season. The selected settlers are showing considerable enthusiasm in their new venture.

One farmer in the Kai Iwi district who, two or three years ago, commenced a small Southdown stud flock was able this year to dispose of sixteen rams of his own breeding at satisfactory prices. The rams came forward in good condition and compared favourably with similar sheep sold by local breeders who had had many years of experience at this specialized branch of farming.

Another settler at Reuren successfully harvested a crop of wheat.

During the year a readjustment was made of the boundaries of several of the sections at Ranana. This should result in more compact holdings with an increased carrying-capacity and greater chance of economic success. As a result, it is anticipated that during the coming season the aggregate number of cows milked at Ranana will be increased.

For the second time an entry was made from this district in the Ahuwhenua Trophy competition, the entrant being placed eighth.

There has again been little new development work on the general areas, and progress in this direction cannot be made until more labour is available and fertilizer can be obtained to maintain any new areas brought into production. Considerable difficulty is experienced in obtaining the services of competent shepherds, stockmen, and teamsters.

The rehabilitation of Maori ex-servicemen, in so far as their settlement on the land is concerned, will in practice be found to fall upon this Department as the agent of the Rehabilitation Board, and in this district, with the large areas available for settlement in the Taumarunui-Tokaanu area in particular, the needs of the local men can be fully met.

Native Housing.—Although the housing activities in this district have necessarily been restricted owing to prevailing conditions, the continued use of Maori labour under the direction of “key” carpenters has been justified by the results obtained. It has been possible, by the utilization of materials from buildings purchased for removal and good second-hand materials obtained from other sources, to keep the available labour fully employed, with the result that fourteen new houses were built, nine renovated, and in addition a number of farm buildings were erected.

A survey was recently made of the housing-conditions of eighty-six established and prospective settlers in this district. This revealed that in the majority of instances the housing-accommodation is satisfactory, and for the remainder, five are in course of erection or renovation, eight have been authorized by the Board of Native Affairs, and six will receive consideration as early as practicable.

Ikaroa and South Island Maori Land Board Districts

The boundaries of Ikaroa enclose the Manawatu and Wairarapa districts and the greater part of Hawke's Bay; while all Native land in the South Island is included in the district of the same name. Thus very great changes in climatic conditions are experienced within the boundaries of these districts, and, taken on the whole, the weather has been unfavourable for farming during the season under review. Hawke's Bay experienced a bad autumn which seriously affected the pastures and live-stock, and was later followed by a dry summer with a resultant shortage of water. In the Wairarapa an exceptionally dry spell, which extended through the summer into the winter, had deleterious effects on the autumn growth. The result was a hard winter for stock, with lambing percentages poor and stock losses heavy. In the South Island climatic conditions at Wairau were only fair; a hard winter with cold, wet conditions continuing through the spring was experienced. There was a sudden change to the other extreme in early December, and semi-drought conditions prevailed until mid-February. At Kaiwhare there was a long period of wet and cold weather with snow during the winter and early spring. Fodder received a very severe set-back. Although the stock went into the winter in good condition, by the spring they had definitely deteriorated and stock losses were heavy. In Southland, on the other hand, although the year was an exceptionally dry one, conditions were particularly favourable. Ample feed was available throughout the year and excellent lambing results were obtained. The wool yield was satisfactory and cattle made pleasing progress.

Cropping results have been reasonably good. Again a large quantity of potatoes has been grown as a special endeavour to assist the war effort. Conditions were not favourable for grass-seed production in Hawke's Bay, so an increased quantity of peas was successfully harvested. At Wairau — our main cropping area — wheat, oats, peas, potatoes, barley, hay, grass-seed, and a small area of linen flax were harvested with varying degrees of success owing to the vagaries of the weather. In the Wairarapa, peas and potatoes were grown and adequate returns received.

In spite of a difficult farming year, definite progress has been made on all schemes and reflects credit on the field supervision. There has been a reduction in the number of dairy cows in milk to 1,084, with a resultant fall of 17 per cent. in total poundage of butterfat produced. This has been offset by the all-round increase received from the sales of cattle and sheep of £16,575, as compared with £14,917 for the previous year, and wool proceeds of £6,009, compared with £4,405.

The winner of the Ahuwhenua Trophy competition was this year a settler at Hastings, to the wife of whom great credit is due for carrying on the farm so successfully during the settler's absence with the Air Force. The judge described the property as a compact little farm where everything is in its place, and that the type of farm — fat-lamb raising, grass-seed production, cropping for the canneries — makes it highly productive.

No major capital works have been carried out, due to the restricted supply of materials and the shortage of labour. As these wartime conditions appear to be gradually improving, it is hoped that the tempo of the progress can be stepped up in succeeding years. It has been the policy in this year, as in those immediately preceding, to maintain and consolidate the development already achieved. The net liability owing by the development area has been reduced during the year by £7,140 to £52,625, and that by settlers by £2,054 to £39,474.

Native Housing. — In the period under review only eight houses, four each in the Ikaroa and the South Island Districts, were erected. A contribution was made, however, towards the improvement of the living-conditions of the Native people by the purchase of thirteen houses in Ikaroa and two in the South Island. Most of the former were located in the environs of Masterton, and in all cases the Natives have expressed themselves as being most satisfied with the dwellings secured.

Houses have been kept in good repair, most of the painting having been done by the owners under supervision; and generally the properties are being well looked after.

Good work has been carried out in the South Island by a co-operative group of Maori tradesmen, favourable comment on the type of dwelling and workmanship having been received.

Every encouragement is being given to Maoris to lodge now applications for advances for houses so that they can be investigated and loans approved in readiness for an expansion of the building activities when labour and materials are available.

NATIVE TRUST AND MAORI LAND BOARD ACTIVITIES

The Board of Native Affairs exercises control over the expenditure on all farming operations undertaken or approved by the Native Trustee or a Maori Land Board, and over the development of any land and the management of any scheme or undertaking in connection with which any such expenditure has been made or incurred by these bodies. Similarly, the Board controls the investment on mortgage or otherwise of moneys available for investment in the Native Trustee's Account or in the account of any Maori Land Board.

The Native Trustee is actively farming on 50,000 acres, sixteen sheep and cattle stations—one near Te Kuiti, three in the Wellington province, and twelve in the Gisborne Maori Land Board District. Most of the stations are well equipped with buildings and general improvements; they are well stocked, and their own requirements in both sheep and cattle are bred. The live-stock tallies at 31st March, 1944, were 31,700 breeding-ewes, 34,900 dry sheep, and 7,300 run cattle.

In addition to the above properties, the field organization of the Department supervises mortgaged lands and Native estates in respect of which the Native Trustee has been appointed administrator or trustee. At 31st March, 1944, there were 374 loan accounts covering investments, mostly farming propositions, totalling £387,000. The three Maori Land Board stations, embracing 31,000 acres—Anaura and Waiorongomai (Gisborne) and Morikau (Wanganui)—were carrying an aggregate stock of 18,400 breeding-ewes, 11,600 dry sheep, and 3,300 run cattle. The Anaura Station is in a sound position, a dividend of £1,400 having been paid last year to the beneficiaries. Excellent feed conditions and a buoyant stock-market contributed to a very good farming year. Despite short staffing, which is accentuated by the rough state of the country, the riding distances involved, and the cold, wet climate, progress is recorded on the Waiorongomai Station in the programme for painting and renovating the station buildings and repairing the fences. This station made an investment in the Liberty Loan. From the Morikau Station, at the request of the beneficiaries, a further amount of £2,390 was paid to the war loans, bringing the total contributions to £7,390, of which £3,000 was voluntarily loaned free of interest. A successful year is reported; and the property has been maintained to the maximum capacity of the available staff, difficulty having been experienced in securing adequate labour.

The following table indicates the measure of assistance granted from Maori Land Board funds to individual Native settlers for the purpose of financing their farming operations:—

Board.	Total Advances to Native Settlers under Mortgage as at 31st March, 1944.	Number of Mortgagors.
	£	
Tokerau	2,532	3
Waikato-Maniapoto	4,847	17
*Waiariki	6,944	21
Tairāwhiti	66,842	235
Aotea	32,970	59
Ikarua	27,989	43
South Island	5,363	9
Totals	147,487	387

* In addition, £73,063 is invested in farm properties (Taheke, Tihitonga, and Waikawa).

EAST COAST NATIVE TRUST LANDS

The Board of Native Affairs exercises control over the financial operations of the East Coast Trust lands, which are administered by the East Coast Commissioner. Ranging from Tolaga Bay in the north to Wairoa in the south, and extending to Mahia Peninsula, the total area of the Trust comprises 224,319 acres plus 1,203 acres leased from the Tairāwhiti District Maori Land Board, making a total of 225,522 acres. This is divided into two portions—the East Coast Native Trust lands containing 116,613 acres, and the Mangatu Trust embracing 108,909 acres. Sheep and cattle farming is undertaken on a large portion of the land, which is divided into twenty-three stations aggregating 147,597 acres; a further section of 55,422 acres is cut up into some twenty-five farms which are leased; and there is a balance area of 22,318 acres still undeveloped.

The outstanding feature in connection with the farming operations is the lack of teamsters, as a result of which a very large number of draught horses have been idle throughout the year. This has affected the number of stock carried through the winter, and more particularly the number of sheep and lambs fattened.

The stock tallies were 77,000 breeding-ewes, 68,000 dry sheep, 6,000 breeding-cows, 12,000 other cattle, and 727 horses. The wool sold for the 1943-44 season amounts to 3,650 bales, an increase of 179 bales; the live-stock proceeds were 61,000 sheep (£55,200) and 4,300 cattle (£30,500).

The outside investments of the Trust, aggregating £41,666, comprise: War Loan, £33,345; Liberty Bonds, £1,800; inscribed stock, £6,521.

TABLE 1.—NATIVE LAND-DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES AND SETTLED HOLDINGS: STATISTICAL DATA SUMMARIZED IN DISTRICTS

Particulars.			Tokerau.	Waikato-Maniapoto.	Waairiki.	Tairāwhiti.	Aotea.	Ikarua.	South Island.	Sub-totals.	Maori Land Boards.	Native Trustee.	East Coast Trusts.	Totals.
1. Total area.	..	..	468,265	66,986	106,691	84,623	101,696	13,149	4,245	955,670	31,516	50,818	145,202	1,163,206
2. Area not suitable for development.	..	..	3,637	9,657	72,251	29,273	2,429	250	25	116,192	..	..	5,202	121,394
3. Area developed and occupied by settlers.	..	..	87,716	31,302	40,141	33,715	9,692	6,112	637	209,645	3 stations	16 stations	23 stations	209,645
4. Number of settlers.	..	..	894	241	406	226	84	40	..	1,800	..	..	..	1,809
5. Balance area under development—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Area—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Permanent grass	..	..	13,493	11,971	53,537	17,268	9,863	1,314	1,190	107,965	31,516	50,818	109,675	299,974
Temporary grass	..	..	1,449	348	3,310	..	320	1,663	923	3,789	..	..	..	3,789
Other cultivations	..	..	..	389	1,172	..	..	905	..	3,650	..	..	.. 72	3,122
Undeveloped ..	..	..	12,380	10,892	28,637	5,837	79,292	3,697	2,116	143,671	..	..	30,253	173,324
Total	..	..	27,396	23,917	84,002	23,635	89,485	6,787	3,553	257,875	31,516	50,818	140,000	480,209
6. Net liability on—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dwellings	..	..	79	41	85	18	17	14	5	259	8	3	32	297
Wool-sheds	..	..	7	9	13	2	4	1	1	37	3	8	21	69
Cow-sheds	..	..	4	3	5	..	1	3	..	28	..	1	..	29
Other farm buildings	..	..	25	65	86	25	113	22	15	353	..	4	.. 160	517
7. Area settled—includes interest (item 2).	..	..	350,314	224,788	333,761	192,008	119,800	32,797	6,677	1,200,145	..	..	..	1,200,145
Balance area—excludes current year's interest (item 5)	..	..	118,739	120,735	466,870	72,436	136,704	27,708	24,917	982,118	..	..	..	982,118
8. Sales of produce, live-stock, &c., for year (balance area)—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wool	..	..	501	366	554	345	172	153	93	2,114	24	19	5,936	8,093
Butterfat	..	..	3,443	11,982	11,882	2,848	1,665	226	335	23,729	3,255	7,320	12,049	46,383
Other sheep	..	..	13,240	13,479	44,465	15,847	9,475	4,478	3,343	104,327	18,436	31,714	77,872	232,179
Horses	..	..	6,286	12,178	57,020	9,993	11,055	2,837	476	99,825	11,602	34,578	67,807	213,112
Butterfat sold	..	..	70	115	1,231	113	94	21	15	1,608	64	172	723	2,567
Cattle sold	..	..	26,372	9,261	..	40,147	3,171	8,780	..	87,731	..	..	..	87,731
Sheep sold	..	..	1,139	1,394	4,085	531	1,582	26	204	8,891	..	..	4,323	13,214
Crops sold	..	..	13,047	13,224	66,587	10,879	13,634	5,829	2,110	128,510	..	..	60,982	189,492
Wool produced	..	..	422	504	1,559	532	439	141	41	3,929	671	1,362	3,650	9,612
9. Live-stock and seasonal expenditure for year (balance area)—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sheep	..	..	1,133	586	..	1,948	180	343	..	4,190	13,365	25,358	59,379	178,279
Cash sales	..	..	8,060	11,943	39,063	10,333	8,070	2,672	806	81,177	..	..	..	178,279
Transfers to other schemes	..	..	12,805	13,785	71,506	6,650	12,465	6,196	2,155	125,562	16,315*	33,896†	55,191	230,964†
Cattle	..	..	459	2,633	48,224	3,068	2,931	827	..	58,102	..	..	..	58,102
Cash sales	..	..	6,836	9,135	40,439	2,870	4,710	214	2,637	75,241	..	..	..	105,815†
Transfers to other schemes	..	..	2,127	1,817	24,120	2,101	1,817	376	..	36,469	..	..	..	36,469
Subsidies	..	..	2,259	3,689	3,790	1,135	4,131	1,007	2,224	18,233	129	5,931	..	24,293
Transfers to other schemes	..	..	..	..	..	398	6,387	..	14	6,799	..	..	..	6,799
10. Subsidies received for year (scheme and unit)	..	..	6,081	7,922	77,823	6,880	6,917	3,550	1,108	109,381	..	..	21,887	131,218
11. Average monthly labour employed (development and farming)	..	..	4,647	3,895	24,687	4,121	4,485	648	1,030	43,516	..	..	19,667	63,183
12. Area settled (occupied by units)—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Land	..	..	5,084	3,996	23,249	24,181	20,670	1,982	1,729	89,801	..	..	21,897	102,638
Labour	..	..	13,569	12,769	17,949	13,373	16,513	1,253	1,267	70,684	..	..	32,844	103,528
Subsidies received for year (scheme and unit)	..	..	34,913	19,956	57,887	14,445	13,689	4,122	6,685	151,695	..	..	..	151,695
11. Average monthly labour employed (development and farming)	..	..	238	145	419	177	98	54	37	1,168	19	90	.. 111	1,358
12. Area settled (occupied by units)—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Land	..	..	11,955	5,325	12,369	3,515	2,269	916	168	39,448	..	..	..	39,448
Labour	..	..	9,311	3,207	4,293	2,068	1,115	455	42	29,491	..	..	..	29,491
Other dairy stock	..	..	394	1,132	391	1,736	658	..	..	4,221	..	..	..	4,221
Sheep	..	..	829	15,897	6,422	18,153	9,102	5,031	454	55,879	..	..	..	55,879
Butterfat	..	..	124	7,460	2,099	13,259	4,679	791	12	28,325	..	..	..	28,325
Other sheep	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Land	..	..	1,635,897	641,175	1,537,294	410,594	297,824	126,069	29,757	4,728,559	..	..	..	4,728,559
Total cash proceeds	..	..	109,048	42,734	116,099	27,125	10,121	10,121	2,206	328,861	..	..	..	328,861
Department's proportion	..	..	46,053	18,725	57,849	11,842	12,813	3,869	681	131,526	..	..	..	131,526
Wool	..	..	28	395	223	748	257	112	10	1,771	..	..	..	1,771
Bales	..	..	449	8,633	2,861	13,565	4,929	1,304	104	32,908	..	..	..	32,908
Total net value	..	..	4,491	15,786	17,322	8,951	3,309	684	67,003	67,003	..	..	..	67,003
Live-stock sold	..	..	3,471	1,028	8,786	1,833	993	2,135	40	18,286	..	..	..	18,286
Steady sales	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

* Twenty-eight tons chaff, 188 sacks peas, 323 sacks wheat, 42 tons potatoes, 172 bales hay, 17 sacks rye-grass.

TABLE 2.—ANALYSIS OF CASH RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR 1943-44

—		Butterfat.	Wool.	Live-stock.	Sundries.	Totals.	Approximate Total Cash Receipts (Department's and Settlers' Proportions).	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1. Districts—								
Tokerau	..	47,189	8,539	24,132	5,730	85,590	119,000	
Waikato-Maniapoto	..	19,311	20,176	38,706	4,117	82,310	109,000	
Waairiki	..	57,840	41,924	135,225	12,576	247,565	306,000	
Tairāwhiti	..	13,790	23,838	27,042	2,966	67,636	83,000	
Aotea ..	..	12,993	13,599	26,126	5,124	57,842	67,000	
Ikaroa ..	..	4,212	5,009	11,719	3,742	24,682	31,000	
South Island	..	681	1,000	4,856	2,264	8,801	10,000	
Sub-totals		156,016	114,085	267,806	36,519	574,426	725,000	
2. Maori Land Boards	..	..	13,365	16,315	129	29,809	30,000	
3. Native Trustee	..	..	25,358	33,896	5,931	65,185	65,000	
Totals	..	156,016	152,808	318,017	42,579	669,420	820,000	

NOTE.—Butterfat receipts for State schemes denote only that proportion of cream cheques which is assigned to the Department in repayment of advances and interest due thereon. On settled schemes the policy is to accept an assignment of a percentage of the farmers' monthly milk cheque, leaving the balance for maintenance and living expenses. On those dairying schemes which have not yet been individualized, the full amount received for butterfat is retained, the workers being paid wages, but in the majority of cases a proportion only of the cream returns is actually paid to the Department.

TABLE 3.—COMPARATIVE RETURN FOR DISTRICTS OF TOTAL RECEIPTS: STATE SCHEMES (DEPARTMENT'S PROPORTION)

Districts.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.	1939-40.	1940-41.	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	Totals.
Tokerau	£ 1,908	£ 5,312	£ 11,092	£ 12,559	£ 13,726	£ 22,070	£ 29,186	£ 32,804	£ 46,554	£ 52,085	£ 79,197	£ 81,468	£ 77,546	£ 85,590	£ 551,097
Waikato-Maniapoto	..	316	3,180	7,301	6,871	14,348	17,635	23,085	30,853	38,772	76,328	70,328	87,056	82,310	458,585
Waairiki	..	2,667	17,246	36,318	29,472	63,585	81,730	111,730	130,276	131,962	211,763	214,786	229,689	247,565	1,514,367
Tairāwhiti	..	650	9,143	16,886	20,253	23,610	32,999	43,180	29,365	38,724	54,792	56,349	55,215	67,636	448,802
Aotea	..	413	1,070	1,404	2,180	2,687	3,988	8,244	12,614	21,491	37,455	48,769	55,518	57,842	254,591
Ikaroa	..	288	992	888	727	1,377	1,651	2,013	4,442	8,181	16,021	22,686	22,086	24,682	106,034
South Island	..	143	294	391	506	1,631	2,127	2,442	3,113	3,694	2,539	7,697	7,884	8,801	41,267
Unallocated	..	352	12	..	5,480	479	274	378	191	34	..	180	..	..	7,452
Totals	..	13,429	42,875	75,747	79,215	129,787	169,590	223,876	257,408	294,943	478,095	502,263	534,994	574,426	3,382,195

TABLE 4.—BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1944

Districts.	Under Native Housing Act, 1935.				Under Native-land Develop- ment.		Totals.		Farm Buildings (on Balance-area only).			
	Ordinary.		Special.		Erected.	Renovated.	Erected and Renovated.	Purchased.	Cow-sheds.	Wool-sheds.	Sheepyards.	Implement and Store Sheds.
	Erected and renovated.	Number.	Purchased.	Erected and renovated.								
					Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.	
Tokerau ..	1	..	..	3	7	..	11	..	..	1	..	7
Waikato-Maniapoto ..	..	..	..	1	4	2	7	..	..	..	..	..
Wairariki ..	..	..	..	..	5	16	21	..	..	..	..	..
Tairāwhiti ..	3	2	..	3	3	1	10	2	1	..	1	4
Aotea ..	8	..	..	5	4	6	23	..	..	1	..	..
Ikaroa ..	3	11	..	1	..	..	4	13	..	..	..	..
South Island ..	2	2	..	1	..	1	4	2	..	..	..	2
Totals ..	17	15	2	14	23	26	80	17	1	2	1	13

NOTE.—(a) Total houses erected, purchased, or renovated from inception to 31st March, 1944 :—

Under development schemes ..	..	1,782
Under Native Housing Act—		
Ordinary ..	..	331 (includes 51 purchased).
Special ..	..	338 (includes 16 purchased).
	—	669
Total ..	..	2,451

(b) Total farm buildings erected from inception to 31st March, 1944 (approx.) :—

Cow-sheds ..	..	..	1,450
Wool-sheds ..	..	..	47
Sheep-yards, &c. ..	..	..	41
Implement and store sheds ..	..	..	333

TABLE 5.—NATIVE HOUSING: RETURN OF AUTHORIZATIONS TO 31st MARCH, 1944, SHOWING THE NUMBER OF DWELLINGS TO BE ERECTED, PURCHASED, OR RENOVATED

Districts.	Under Native Housing Act, 1935.						Totals.		
	Ordinary.			Special.					
	Erections.	Purchases.	Additions and Renovations.	Erections.	Purchases.	Additions and Renovations.	Under Native-land-develop-ment Schemes: Inception to 31st March, 1944.	Erections.	Additions and Renovations.
Tokerau ..	7	1	5	108	6	8	552	667	13
Waikato-Maniapoto ..	19	1	1	82	2	11	278	379	12
Wairiki ..	17	3	7	56	1	..	836	909	7
Tairāwhiti ..	91	7	7	82	2	3	208	381	10
Aotea ..	70	12	41	33	3	6	97	200	47
Ikaroa ..	93	22	35	29	2	7	49	171	42
South Island ..	28	10	8	22	4	4	9	59	12
Totals ..	325	56	104	412	20	39	2,029	2,766	143

TABLE 6.—NATIVE HOUSING ACT, 1935: FINANCIAL RETURN OF OPERATIONS TO 31st MARCH, 1944

Districts.	Ordinary.			Special.			Totals.		
	Authorized.		Expended.	Authorized.		Expended.	Authorized.		Expended.
	Number of Advances.	Amount.		Number of Advances.	Amount.		Number of Advances.	Amount.	
Tokerau ..	13	£ 4,798	£ 4,461	122	£ 42,077	£ 39,459	135	£ 46,875	£ 43,920
Waikato-Maniapoto ..	21	10,881	7,607	95	35,284	33,457	116	46,165	41,064
Wairiki ..	27	12,038	7,040	57	22,754	22,194	84	34,792	29,234
Tairāwhiti ..	105	48,107	28,483	87	30,760	16,072	192	78,867	44,555
Aotea ..	123	42,425	35,055	42	13,125	9,512	165	55,550	44,567
Ikaroa ..	150	67,268	51,939	43	14,962	12,844	193	82,230	64,783
South Island ..	46	21,814	17,215	25	8,580	7,768	71	30,394	24,983
Totals ..	485	207,331	151,800	471	167,542	141,306	956	374,873	293,106

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