

Trainees are all of good type and are taking their training seriously. Conditions at the camp are much improved now that electric light has been installed and all the men appear to be contented with the training given them. All trainees are members of the Young Farmers' Club and attend field-days on various properties in the district, and are given lectures by prominent farmers and the Government Veterinarian on animal diseases and complaints.

With the different types of farming carried on at Huramua it is possible to train men in dairying, sheep-farming, agriculture, and vegetable-growing, and the manager endeavours to post each trainee to a fortnightly period of each type of farming.

It has been realized that a large number of trainees will desire the necessary knowledge to set themselves up as dairy-farmers, and the Department has appointed a Dairy Instructor to give practical training in this direction.

AOTEA NATIVE LAND COURT DISTRICT

In this district the number of Maoris entitled to rehabilitation assistance is not large. Many appear to have been encouraged to apply for and obtain housing, furniture, and tools-of-trade loans on a European basis, the Rehabilitation Committees apparently being satisfied that the particular cases do not justify the machinery set up under the Maori Rehabilitation Finance Committee being utilized.

Every assistance and encouragement is being given to applications referred to this Department as agent of the Rehabilitation Board. Eight have been received during the year, of which five were for land-settlement. Of these five, one has been approved and the initial steps for the establishment of the man are in hand. In some cases progress has been retarded by the proposed sections being found uneconomic, in which case more suitable areas are being sought. The question of tenure is also one which tends to delay such applications, but steady progress is being made and these difficulties are gradually being overcome.

Three applications were for the erection of houses. These present few difficulties, and in one case the house has been built during the year. In another, plan and specifications are ready and the work should be in hand shortly. The third application is under consideration by the Maori Rehabilitation Finance Committee.

When the necessary machinery, materials, and labour are available for the development of large areas of Maori land in the Tokaanu District, the potentialities for settlement of all Maori ex-servicemen from this locality are excellent. In the meantime, any serviceman interested in ultimate settlement on the land can obtain employment and experience on the various development schemes operating in the district.

Negotiations are proceeding for the purchase of an area at Putiki for rehabilitation purposes. This land will provide seven good building-sites on which it is intended to erect homes for ex-servicemen.

IKAROA AND SOUTH ISLAND NATIVE LAND COURT DISTRICTS

During the year twenty-two rehabilitation cases were dealt with, bringing the total since the inception of the scheme in 1943 to 33. The applications varied, and included applications for assistance for purchasing, building, or repairing houses, for purchasing furniture, or for farming purposes. One ex-serviceman was established on a farm in the Wairarapa district, and another man obtained a loan for the purchase of section at Kaiapoi for the growing and harvesting of grass-seed. One further case at Kaiapoi covers the purchase of a section and the repayment of a mortgage is not yet finalized.