

There were four houses under construction as at the 31st March, one in the Manawatu district, two in Hastings, and one at Picton. There are four further cases where loans have been granted for housing purposes but where it has not been possible to commence building. Two of these are at Porirua, one at Masterton, and one in Wellington. In the latter instance the applicant is having difficulty in purchasing a section in the city. A complication is that the applicant, who has a leg injury sustained on service overseas, is operating a shoe-repairing business in a suburb and wishes to have a section near his shop. One section was inspected, but although in a suitable locality it was a poor building-section, and in the serviceman's interest no action was taken.

One house was repaired during the year at Feilding for a returned serviceman. As there was no housing gang operating in the district and little chance of having labour available for some time, the work was done by private contract, the completed work being passed by the Building Supervisor.

Only one application for a loan for furniture was received during the year, and a loan of £96 approved by the Registrar.

There has been no call on rehabilitation funds for the purchase of tools of trade in this district.

Every assistance is given to ex-servicemen in all cases coming to the notice of the Department, even where the cases do not normally come within the scope of the Department's activities. Frequently it is difficult to ascertain an ex-serviceman's intentions, and applications may not be proceeded with because an applicant has changed his plans and moved to another district.

Where loans are approved for farming, close supervision of the farming activities is maintained by the Field Supervisors and every assistance is given in advising on farming methods, buying and selling of stock, and in any other way that may be required. In all cases a sympathetic attitude is adopted towards ex-servicemen who are suffering from the effects of war injuries, and allowance is made for the fact that they may be handicapped in the attention they can give to their farms and in generally carrying out their obligations in respect of loans granted.

ASSISTANCE GRANTED TO EX-SERVICEMEN TO 31st MARCH, 1946: MAORI REHABILITATION FINANCE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF NATIVE AFFAIRS *

Loans or Advances approved for—	Overseas Servicemen.				Home Servicemen.				Totals.			
	Year 1945-46.		To Date.		Year 1945-46.		To Date.		Year 1945-46.		To Date.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
Purchase of farms ..	12	£ 77,161	12	£ 77,161	..	..	..	£ ..	12	£ 77,161	12	£ 77,161
Settlement on farms ..	16	27,198	18	28,434	..	..	..	..	16	27,198	18	28,434
Expenditure on farms ..	..	32,047	..	32,047	..	..	..	..	..	32,047	..	32,047†
Purchase of houses ..	3	1,250	9	5,010	1	..	..	..	3	1,250	9	5,010
Erection of houses ..	53	49,122	94	74,002	1	850	2	1,550	54	49,972	96	75,552
Repairs to houses ..	1	430	9	2,517	..	..	..	..	1	430	9	2,517
Additions to houses ..	1	152	1	376	..	..	..	..	1	152	1	376
Purchase of tools of trade	6	629	8	714	..	..	..	..	6	629	8	714
Purchase of furniture ..	41	3,703	53	4,761	1	100	3	298	42	3,703	56	5,059
Purchase of businesses ..	1	1,300	1	1,300	..	..	..	..	1	1,300	1	1,300
Miscellaneous ..	1	350	1	350	1	1,000	1	1,000	2	1,350	2	1,350
Supplementary loans ..	3	267	3	267	..	..	..	..	3	267	3	267
Totals ..	138	193,509	209	226,939	3	1,950	6	2,848	141	195,459	215	229,787

* Assistance granted by Board of Native Affairs is under Part I, Native Land Amendment Act, 1936, or Native Housing Act, 1935. † Item £32,047 includes cost of equipping Huramua Soldiers' Settlement for reception of rehabilitation farm trainees. Facilities now complete and cost per capita will be reduced as more trainees are put through the courses.