

SCHEME SUPERVISION (SIXTEEN SCHEMES)

Supervision of ten of the schemes is under the control of one Supervisor, stationed at Kaikohe. On these general schemes the Department has put into permanent grass 13,629 acres, whilst 1,213 acres are under cultivation. Seven wool-sheds, 83 cottages and workers' hutments, and 29 other farm buildings have been erected. On the unit properties, to date, 437 dwellings and 670 cow-sheds have been built. The live-stock carried on the schemes includes 391 dairy cows, 282 other dairy stock, 3,736 run cattle, and 16,437 sheep. Three hundred and seventy-six bales of wool were produced and 52,899 lb. of butterfat. The total butterfat produced on both schemes properties and individual holdings was 1,705,311 lb. This is a slight increase on the previous year's figures.

A summary of the main capital works carried out by the Department during the year is as under:—

Bush felling and clearing	..	..	..	1,978 acres.
Grassing	..	..	..	440 acres.
Cultivation	..	..	..	399 acres.
Fences erected	..	..	..	1,597 chains.
Drains cut	..	..	..	1,468 chains.
Roading	..	..	..	221 chains.
Installation of water-supplies	..	..	..	29
Numerous bridges have been constructed on different properties.				

The Maori Young Farmers' Club at Whirimaki is being fostered to the utmost. Periodic lectures and demonstrations by specialists in appropriate subjects are arranged, and a wider appreciation of all that farming entails is evident.

The gazetted areas shown in past years' reports have been somewhat misleading, as practically the total area of Maori land in the Tokerau District was gazetted under a "blanket" Proclamation at the commencement of the land-development enterprise. The gazetted area shown this year has been reduced to 85,500 acres and represents the active total acreage of the individual farms occupied by settlers (apart from general schemes).

Ngataki Scheme.—This scheme, comprising Crown land and situated in the Far North between Te Kao and Houhora, is populated by the Te Hapua Maoris, who voluntarily went there some years ago to develop and occupy the land. Four dairy-farms have been established, and 27,233 lb. of butterfat were produced from 150 cows during the year. On this scheme 1,100 acres have been planted in various species of trees raised on the property. These plantations are doing well and showing plenty of growth.

Opapaki Scheme.—Located near Otiria, this scheme comprises an area of approximately 1,000 acres. Part of the area is being leased for limestone-quarrying purposes.

Oturei Scheme.—Lying towards the coast from Te Kopuru, in the Dargaville district, this scheme comprises 1,803 acres. Three Maori ex-servicemen have recently been settled on individual holdings here, and the necessary work in connection with their settlement is being pushed forward at present. Cow-sheds have been erected and dwellings are nearing completion. Electricity will shortly be available to the cottages and cow-sheds, a temporary water scheme has been installed, and the main water-supply scheme will be commenced in the near future.

When adequate water is available, the whole of the coast portion of the scheme to the west of the homestead will be subdivided and probably another three farms established.

Oturu Scheme.—This property is situated near the Kaitaia-Kaingaroa Main Highway. The area was originally European-owned, and was purchased by the Department in 1939. Three ex-servicemen selected by ballot have been established as dairy-farmers. Three new houses and cow-sheds were erected during the year.