

some of the more suitable units are now on town-milk supply and their revenue returns show a marked increase. All the units run pigs, which in some cases yield a considerable return. In the Himatangi-Otaki and Te Horo areas the units are working under a disadvantage, as they have to take their supply up to five miles to the cream-collecting point. At Himatangi, especially, a bad road has to be contended with, but it is hoped this will be remedied in the near future. All these units are reasonably well housed. There is one exception, and in this case additions and alterations are authorized.

SOUTH ISLAND NATIVE LAND COURT DISTRICT

Development in the South Island consists of three schemes, at Wairau, Kaiwhare, and Southland.

The Wairau scheme is situated at Spring Creek, some four miles from Blenheim, and is utilized solely for grassland farming owing to the risk of flood damage, which caused losses when cropping was fairly extensively tried. The whole of the land is subject to flooding, but the clearing of a drain by drag-line will, it is hoped, be of considerable benefit in the drainage of surrounding flats.

The Southland scheme, situated in the Far South at Colac Bay and Whakapatu, consists of scheme land and five unit properties, two of these units having leases. Extensive clearing of scheme lands by bulldozers was commenced towards the end of March, and excellent work has been carried out at a relatively low cost. It is intended to extend this work to unit properties after the completion of the scheme lands, which should enable additional dairy cows to be carried with a consequent increase in the farming revenues.

PART II.—MAORI LAND BOARD UNDERTAKINGS

Until the beginning of this year two stations have been farmed by the Tairawhiti District Maori Land Board under the statutory powers conferred on it.

Anaura Station, of 5,865 acres, extending between the main Coast Road and Anaura Bay, continues to earn substantial profits and, as well as reducing the debt to the Board, permitted the annual meeting to vote the dividend of £1,394.

Waiorongomai Station is between Ruatoria and mountainous country inland. The accidental fire which swept over several thousands of acres last year required the resowing of approximately 1,400 acres, and the results of a good take have been so beneficial that extra sheep have been bought to cope with the flush of feed. Rather than benefit from a profit earned last year, the annual meeting decided to withhold the payment of a dividend to enable further expenses of development to be met without increasing the debt.

During the year the Tairawhiti Board, at the request of the Maori owners, bought the leasehold interest in several leasehold blocks comprising Ohuia Station, which extend from the outskirts of Wairoa along the coast towards Mahia and have a total area of 2,403 acres divided in a convenient proportion between hill and flats. One problem on the station is the disposal of flood-waters, and engineering work will be required to create a satisfactory outlet through to the sea. Control of the land was assumed in April, and an extensive programme now lies ahead to reinstate and reorganize the improvements.

The Tairawhiti Board has made advances in seventy-eight cases by way of mortgage, mainly for farming, creating a commitment of £48,778.

Morikau Station is vested in the Aotea District Maori Land Board, and this, in common with other sheep-stations in the district, experienced a satisfactory season. The lands (11,806 acres) have been vested in the Aotea Board since 1910 and the Board has since then farmed the lands on behalf of the beneficial owners. The investments of the farm in war loans and national savings total £10,390. For a number of years dividends