

Group Housing

In localities where the Maori population is dominant, the establishment of houses on a group basis is often the most satisfactory means of dealing with housing improvement.

The projected group scheme for Hiruharama, on the Wanganui River, after early difficulties, is now to be commenced, and loans have already been approved.

A group housing scheme is also being prepared for the Matahiwi Settlement, near Hastings, and preliminary negotiations are in train for group building at Patea, Waihi, and Te Kuiti with finance provided by way of loans under the Maori Housing Act, 1935.

PART V.—MAORI REHABILITATION FINANCE COMMITTEE

Although three years have elapsed since the cessation of hostilities, departmental activity in the sphere of Maori rehabilitation has not diminished. The Maori Rehabilitation Finance Committee held twelve meetings during the year and authorized the expenditure of £155,000, an increase of £15,000 on the previous year's figure.

During the year 10 ex-servicemen were settled on the land at a cost of £29,181—5 on properties purchased as going concerns and 5 on land which had previously been purchased by the Crown for the settlement of Maori ex-servicemen.

After somewhat lengthy negotiation, the purchase of Messrs. Lichenstein and Arnoldson's property of 3,445 acres, known as Rotoiti Station, has been finalized. It is estimated that this property will settle 10 Maori ex-servicemen.

A portion of the Huramua Soldier Settlement, near Wairoa, is almost ready for occupation. Cottages and milking-sheds are in course of erection, and it is anticipated that 6 "A" Grade Maori ex-servicemen will be settled on the property prior to the commencement of the coming dairying season.

Maori ex-servicemen continue to take advantage of the concessions and facilities available for the erection of houses, and during the year loans for the erection of 68 new dwellings, at an estimated cost of £87,000, were approved. The Department's own building organization accords a 50-per-cent. preference to houses for ex-servicemen, and 56 new dwellings, costing £61,000, were erected during the year.

Applications for business loans show a substantial increase, and, of the 34 applications received, 26, involving the expenditure of £12,700, were approved.

Tables setting out details of rehabilitation operations appear elsewhere in this report.

**ASSISTANCE GRANTED TO EX-SERVICEMEN TO 31ST MARCH, 1948: MAORI
REHABILITATION FINANCE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF MAORI AFFAIRS***

Loans or Advances approved for—	Overseas Servicemen.				Home Servicemen.				Totals.			
	Year 1947-48.		To Date.		Year 1947-48.		To Date.		Year 1947-48.		To Date.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£		£		£		£		£		£
Purchase of farms ..	8	48,928	27	139,409	..	..	..	..	8	48,928	27	139,409†
Settlement on farms ..	8	21,206	49	68,057	..	..	..	..	8	21,206	49	68,057†
Additional expenditure on farms ..	..	57,144	..	172,302	..	..	..	..	..	57,144	..	172,302†
Purchase of houses ..	5	4,340	..	15,210	..	..	..	..	5	4,340	..	15,210
Erection of houses ..	67	85,339	249	244,105	2	2,938	4	4,488	69	88,268	253	248,593
Repairs to houses ..	2	2,379	14	5,997	..	..	..	..	2	2,379	14	5,997
Purchases of tools of trade ..	5	181	31	1,281	1	27	2	45	6	208	33	1,326
Purchase of furniture ..	98	9,177	252	22,702	4	344	8	742	102	9,521	260	23,444
Miscellaneous ..	2	834	5	1,449	..	..	2	1,700	2	834	7	3,149
Purchase of businesses ..	25	12,661	36	21,303	1	50	1	50	26	12,711	37	21,353
Totals ..	220	242,180	663	691,815	8	3,359	17	7,025	228	245,539	680	698,840
Supplementary ..	9	2,251	14	2,935	1	150	1	150	10	2,401	15	3,085

* Assistance granted by Board of Maori Affairs is under Part I of Maori Land Amendment Act, 1936, or Maori Housing Act, 1935.

† Figures include previous year's adjustments.