

The Land Valuation Court Act provided that the Judge and other two members of the Land Sales Court should be the first Judge and members of the Land Valuation Court. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council appointed the members of Land Sales Committees to be members of the Land Valuation Committees. The same number of Committees (16) were appointed.

I should like to pay a tribute here to the efficient manner in which those members of the Lands Department who were officials in the Land Sales Court registries performed their work. To most of these officers Court work was something new. Many of the registries were often short staffed, yet the filing and handling of applications were dealt with expeditiously, and, in spite of considerable pressure of work at times, the staff endeavoured to give legal practitioners and the general public the service which was their due.

To those who have been transferred to the Justice Department I wish them every success in their new Department.

EXERCISE OF CROWN RIGHTS UNDER PART II AND PART III (SECTION 51) OF THE SERVICEMEN'S SETTLEMENT AND LAND SALES ACT, 1943

Details of land acquired under Parts II and III (section 51) of the Act are given in a later section of this report under the heading of "Land Development and Settlement of Ex-servicemen."

RETURN OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1949

Registry.	Brought Forward From Previous Year.	Received During Year.	Granted Without Hearing.	Granted After Hearing.	Granted Subject to Conditions	Refused or With-drawn.	Total Finalized.	Action Incomplete.
Farm lands—								
Auckland	167	975	400	90	441	66	997	145
Hamilton	143	789	414	23	267	93	797	135
Gisborne	24	143	109	12	20	6	147	20
Napier	37	227	167	4	63	9	243	21
New Plymouth ..	58	299	210	..	83	24	317	40
Wellington	62	404	238	3	142	37	420	46
Blenheim	9	62	40	2	16	6	64	7
Nelson	28	227	135	3	64	20	222	33
Hokitika	5	59	40	1	14	2	57	7
Christchurch ..	75	721	456	23	173	42	694	102
Dunedin	84	491	235	2	173	75	485	90
Invercargill ..	72	403	219	5	124	59	407	68
Totals ..	764	4,800	2,663	168	1,580	439	4,850	714
Other lands—								
Auckland	914	9,907	5,062	824	3,584	255	9,725	1,096
Hamilton	512	3,917	2,155	100	1,536	205	3,996	433
Gisborne	44	673	440	40	173	33	686	31
Napier	227	1,862	1,140	13	621	95	1,869	220
New Plymouth ..	116	1,410	777	1	515	70	1,363	163
Wellington	818	7,585	3,644	48	3,508	362	7,562	841
Blenheim	22	458	210	7	204	14	435	45
Nelson	95	1,058	592	2	367	66	1,027	126
Hokitika	34	392	249	4	137	14	404	22
Christchurch ..	463	5,261	2,539	131	2,370	186	5,226	498
Dunedin	372	2,949	1,267	5	1,439	254	2,965	356
Invercargill ..	161	1,489	711	7	660	110	1,488	162
Totals ..	3,778	36,961	18,786	1,182	15,114	1,664	36,746	3,993
Grand totals ..	4,542	41,761	21,449	1,350	16,694	2,103	41,596	4,707