

The number of ex-servicemen who have been established on permanent tenure or on wages or other similar basis with the promise of permanent tenure upon completion of the development programme and the area involved for the twelve months ending 31st March, 1949, and from the inception of the ex-servicemen settlement scheme up to 31st March, 1949, are :—

Land District.	1st April, 1948, to 31st March, 1949.		From Inception to 31st March, 1949.	
	Area.	Units.	Area.	Units.
	Acres.		Acres.	
North Auckland	3,235	33	12,899	92
Auckland	8,818	71	58,113	376
Gisborne	20,106	22	46,999	57
Hawkes Bay	9,758	26	34,139	103
Taranaki	2,201	12	11,438	75
Wellington	31,959	57	69,368	191
Marlborough	18,496	12	34,949	43
Nelson	210	4	1,379	16
Westland	1,012	2	1,012	2
Canterbury	50,639	70	124,604	189
Otago	15,109	12	52,919	66
Southland	5,661	17	23,863	67
Total	167,204	338	471,682	1,277

Total for previous twelve months ended 31st March, 1948 : 99,817 acres (248 units).

These figures do not include ex-servicemen who have been assisted by way of rehabilitation loans to purchase established farms on their own account.

The number of allotments during the year ending 31st March, 1949, which is 338, shows a marked increase on the previous year's figure of 248. The full effect of the year's programme will not, however, be apparent until the end of June, 1949, but the notes supplied by officers in charge of development operations show that a considerable number of additional units will be made available before the commencement of the new dairy season. It is confidently anticipated that the total allotments for the season, 1st July, 1948, to 30th June, 1949, will exceed 400.

The following comments are submitted on the development and settlement operations by the officers in charge of this work in each district :—

AUCKLAND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

An improvement in the supply of fertilizer had a beneficial effect on the pastures on blocks, and good weather conditions resulted in high production. As in the past, difficulty was again experienced in having buildings erected prior to the commencement of the dairying season.

Araparera, at Kaukapakapa, 389 acres. Acquired, November, 1944. Objective : Two dairy-farms—one of 180 acres allotted on fixed charges, July, 1947, the balance of 209 acres totally undeveloped.

Awaroa, at Ruawai, 461 acres. Acquired : 287 acres, February, 1945, and 174 acres, May, 1948. Objective : Five dairy-farms—three allotted on fixed charges August, 1948, and two will be allotted July, 1949.

Battens, at Waipu, 1,576 acres. An abandoned Crown security comprising sheep and cattle-grazing country. The possibilities of a full-scale development programme, including a considerable amount of clearing and grassing, is under consideration to provide two sheep units.