116. The need for a vigorous policy of land-settlement is fully recognized, and every endeavour is being made to acquire additional properties for those awaiting settlement.

117. In addition to assisting men on single units, every effort is being made to complete the development, and early settlement of the 8,956 acres which was mentioned in the last annual report as purchased exclusively for the settlement of Maori ex-servicemen.

118. During the year six sections of the Huramua Soldier Settlement (five dairy and one sheep) were offered and balloted for, and the successful applicants placed on a wage and probationary period of twelve months with the promise of a section. A joint valuation of these sections is now under way, and immediately charges are fixed for the sections concerned the settlers will be offered permanent tenures. Further sections of the above settlement (three dairy and one mixed-farm section) have been advertised and offered for settlement, and a ballot will be held shortly so that the successful applicants can take over probationary occupation by the beginning of the coming dairy season.

(iv) Housing

119. In general, the erection of houses for Maori ex-servicemen is carried out by the Building Organization of the Department of Maori Affairs, and every effort is being made by that Department in meeting the housing needs and problems of Maori ex-servicemen.

120. During the year 86 loan applications for the erection and purchase of houses were approved, making a total to date of 456 loan approvals.

121. To the 31st March, 1949, a total of 50 new houses were completed, 28 existing houses purchased, whilst a further 28 were in the course of construction.

122. Table XI sets out the assistance afforded Maori ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen as at 31st March, 1949.

SECTION XIV—APPRECIATION

123. The Rehabilitation Board wishes to extend its thanks to all individuals, organizations, and the agency Departments who have assisted so whole-heartedly during the year in the work of rehabilitation.

124. The assistance and helpful co-operation received from the National Rehabilitation Council, Education Committee, Local Rehabilitation Committees, Farming Sub-committees, Trade Training Advisory Committees, District Loans Committees, and Maori Tribal Executive Committees are gratefully acknowledged.

125. The Board extends its thanks to the staff for the loyal co-operation received during the year and the manner in which the many complex problems which they are called upon to handle in their day-to-day work have been dealt with.