

including two temporary licenses, at £1 5s. per annum, over 12 acres. The annual value of the unlet area is £559 0s. 4d. The amount of rent collected during the year was £612 14s. 11d., making the total from the commencement £5,881 5s. 5d.; amount of rebate granted, £5 3s. 4d.; number of houses, 17; persons resident, 41; value of improvements effected, £3,616 13s. 6d. Ranger Hughan reports: "The crops on this estate are in most cases very good, and with the increased prices at present ruling for oats should place the settlers in a better position than they were last year. The settlers still continue to carry on improvements, such as buildings, fencing, &c. The roads have been much improved during the year, and this enables the settlers to put their produce to market much easier."

*Teanaraki*.—This settlement continues occupied by twenty-two settlers, at the annual rental of £263 16s. 2d., including one temporary license over 20 acres at 10s. per annum. Receipts during the year, £195 2s. 9d.; total to date, £1,876 11s. 3d.; rebate of rent granted, £6 4s. 4d.; number of houses, 17; persons resident, 66; value of improvements, £1,274. Ranger Atkinson reports: "This settlement is in much the same condition as last year. Sections 15 and 16 have now been held for three years under yearly license by one of the settlers, who undertook to try to eradicate the thistle by close cultivation of root-crops, but the experiment has not proved a success. There has not been a great deal of crop grown on the settlement, that grown consisting principally of oats and potatoes. The potato-crop is turning out very well, and the oats fair, although somewhat damaged by the continuous wet weather during harvest."

*Tahawai*.—Eight selectors continue in occupation of this small settlement of 68 acres 2 roods 14 perches, at an annual rental of £35 14s. 4d. The receipts for the year were £35 18s. 1d.; total from beginning, £227 13s. 4d.; rebate of rent granted, £1 17s. 1d.; houses, 8; persons resident, 38; value of improvements, £815. The Ranger states that to the water-supply arranged for by the settlers from one of the adjoining freeholders this settlement in a great measure owes its continued prosperity.

*Maerewhenua*.—The area now in occupation in this estate is 10,929 acres 2 roods 12 perches, by seventy-two selectors, at an annual rental of £3,553 2s., including three temporary licenses over 22 acres 3 roods 36 perches at £3 2s. 6d. per annum. The unlet area is 6 acres 3 roods 12 perches, of a yearly value of 19s. 8d. The amount of rent received during the year was £4,270 13s. 5d., the total receipts to date being £21,246 19s. 6d. Rebate of rent was granted to the extent of £57 4s. 6d., and a further remission, pursuant to section 53 of "The Land for Settlements Consolidation Act, 1900," has been given to a number of the settlers on this estate who sustained heavy losses through the severe hailstorm in January of last year. The total of such remission amounts to £599 16s. 9d., of which amount £579 6s. 1d. has been credited by the Treasury direct to the Land for Settlements Account, and £20 10s. 8d. was passed through the Receiver of Land Revenue's cash-books to the credit of same account. Number of houses on the estate, 57; persons resident, 236; value of improvements effected, £12,863 5s. 9d. The Ranger reports as follows: "Speaking generally, the settlers on this estate are in a prosperous condition, although the wheat-crops have not been at all good, having received a severe check by drought in spring and early part of summer, which continued to the end of November, when the weather broke and the crops made another start, a good deal of second growth appearing. From then onwards and through the harvest the rain was almost continuous, and consequently the crops have suffered severely. The same remarks apply to all the white crops. On the other hand, the root-crops are remarkably good. The feed is also very plentiful, and should last well into the winter. Taking everything into consideration, I do not think the loss generally will be very great in view of the high prices ruling for grain, which will largely compensate for damage done. Very few lambs have been sent away for freezing owing to too great a flush of green feed, which is unfortunate, as they will have to be carried through the winter or sold as stores."

*Puketapu*.—Occupied as before by eleven selectors; area, 496 acres and 36 perches; yearly rental, £189 0s. 10d.; receipts for the year, £211 2s. 3d., the total to date being £1,077 3s. 2d.; rebate granted, £7 8s. 1d.; number of houses, 9; persons resident, 29; value of improvements, £986 8s. 7d. The Ranger reports: "This settlement is in much the same position as last year. The principal crop grown was oats, which turned out a fairly good one, although damaged to some extent by the wet weather. The settlers seem to be of the right class, and appear to be doing well. Some of them are supplying milk to the creamery at Palmerston, which is of great assistance as a means of ready money at the end of the month."

*Ardgowan*.—This settlement continues prosperous, having the advantage of close proximity to such a centre as the Town of Oamaru. The occupation remains the same as last year, the number of settlers being sixty-five, and the area occupied 4,165 acres 2 roods 34 perches, at an annual rental of £1,893 19s. 4d., including one temporary license over 2 acres 3 roods 30 perches at 16s. 8d. per annum. Rent collected during the year, £2,318 19s. 4d., making the total from inception £11,036 11s.; rebates of rent granted, £106 19s. 9d.; number of houses, 51; persons resident, 235; value of improvements, £10,358 11s. 1d. The Ranger states that this estate is still in a very thriving condition, the dairy factory, which is proving of great benefit to settlers, contributing in no small degree to its success. The settlers are taking advantage of it to a greater extent every year. The crops generally have been good, but considerably damaged in many cases by the heavy rain throughout the harvest. The settlement conditions are being well complied with.

*Makareao and Makareao Extension*.—The occupation of these settlements, which together contain 4,862 acres 1 rood 9 perches, is the same as last year, there being twenty-seven holdings under lease in perpetuity, three small grazing-runs, and four temporary licenses, at a total annual rental of £647 14s. The receipts during the year were £1,140 11s., making the total to date