

the dwellings to the centre of the city in which they are built. In order that smaller houses at a very low rental may be available, it is intended that some of the houses now to be erected will have three and four rooms, but will be fitted up with all modern conveniences, including the hot-water system. They will, however, be less ornamental outside.

Great difficulty is experienced in getting suitable land close to Wellington City. The price of the land offered for the purpose, compared with similar sites in other centres, is invariably higher.

As my term of office covers only the short period of two months—that is, February and March of this year—my report is necessarily very brief; but next year I hope to submit a more comprehensive report on the working of the Act. During the recess there will probably be several amendments to the Act to be considered that will tend towards its improvement.

I have, &c.,

J. MACKAY,

The Hon. the Minister of Labour.

Chief Advisory Officer.

Report on Workers' Dwellings throughout the Colony.

DURING the past financial year 71 workers' dwellings have been erected—namely, 20 at Auckland, 25 at Wellington, 12 at Christchurch, and 14 at Dunedin. These at the 31st March had been let, with the exception of 1 at Auckland, 8 at Wellington, and 10 at Dunedin. In the latter case some of the dwellings were not ready for occupation until after the 31st March, but have been finished and let since.

The twenty-five dwellings at Petone, Wellington, were open for application on the 10th September, 1906, but were not readily applied for, partly on account of the distance from the city, partly on account of the class of building (as many of the houses were two-story), and partly on account of what was considered by city workers as a high rent, when the insurance of the dwelling, local rates, and railway fares were added to the rent chargeable under the Act—namely, 5 per cent. on the capital value.

Seventeen of the twenty-five buildings were taken up by the 31st March last, and four more have since been applied for and are now occupied.

The twenty dwellings at Auckland comprise five at Otahuhu and fifteen at Ellerslie. The site in both cases is admirable. The dwellings were open for application on the 22nd October, 1906, and were fairly well applied for. On the 31st March they were all let, with the exception of one at Ellerslie. The houses are very comfortable, and the tenants are apparently well satisfied.

The twelve dwellings at Sydenham, Christchurch, were open for application on the 11th February last, and there was a good demand for them. Thirty-eight applications were received, and thirty-one applicants were admitted to the ballot. During a recent inspection all the tenants stated they were very comfortable.

The fourteen dwellings at Windle were open for application on the 21st January last. Although the demand for these houses when they first opened was not very keen, they have all been applied for since, and are now occupied.

The rents for the dwellings vary from 9s. 4d. to 10s. 7d. at Auckland, from 9s. 8d. to 10s. 5d. at Wellington, from 9s. 3d. to 10s. 8d. at Sydenham, and from 9s. 3d. to 10s. 3d. at Dunedin.

The class of tenants throughout the colony is very good, and many of them express gratitude for what the Government has done for them in this direction.

All the houses are of five rooms, known under the regulations as Class B, but there are several different designs. Some of these have every convenience and are excellent in every way.

J. E. MARCH,

Inspector and Supervisor.

J. Mackay, Esq., Chairman,

Advisory Board, Workers' Dwellings, Wellington.

RETURN of the NUMBER of DWELLINGS ERECTED, the AREA and VALUE of the LAND on which they are built, and the COST of the BUILDINGS and FENCING; also the NUMBER of DWELLINGS LEASED, the AREA of LAND on which the Leased Dwellings are built, the MONTHLY RENT, and the AMOUNT PAID to the 31st March last, with the ARREARS outstanding on the Same Date.

Settlement.	District.	Number of Dwellings erected.	Area and Value of the Land on which Buildings are erected.		Cost of the Buildings and Fencing.	Number of Dwellings leased.	Area Land on which Leased Dwellings are built.	Monthly Rent of Leased Dwellings.	Amount paid to 31st March 1907.	Arrears.
			Area.	Value.						
Eccleston No. 2, Otahuhu	Auckland ..	5	A. R. P. 1 3 34	£ s. d. 480 0 0	£ s. d. 1,927 0 0	5	A. R. P. 1 3 34	£ s. d. 10 18 4	£ s. d. 89 8 1	£ s. d. Nil.
Laury, Ellerslie	" ..	15	3 1 9	1,570 0 0	5,600 0 0	14	3 0 23	30 10 0	106 4 6	"
Heretaunga, Petone	Wellington	25	2 1 16	2,500 0 0	9,368 0 0	17	1 2 14	36 18 9		
Sydenham	Christchurch	12	2 2 37	1,005 0 0	4,714 0 0	12	2 2 37	35 4 7	21 4 7	"
Windle	Dunedin ..	14	2 2 11	1,410 0 0	5,287 17 8	4	0 2 7	8 10 0	..	..
Totals ..		71	12 3 27	6,965 0 0	26,896 17 8	52	9 3 35	112 1 8	216 17 2	..

J. E. MARCH,

Inspector and Supervisor.

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