

INSPECTION BY CROWN LANDS RANGERS.

The answer to the question as to whether the improvement-conditions of all classes of settlement are being fulfilled lies in the reports of the Crown Lands Rangers. It is true that it is often stated that these reports give an exaggerated value to such improvements, and that they should be heavily discounted. I am glad to say that close inquiry does not substantiate this accusation, but, on the other hand, goes to show that our Crown Lands Rangers are singularly accurate in their estimates of such values. Throughout the Dominion the Crown Rangers number twenty-nine, and their work is faithfully done. The subjoined Table C gives the results of the inspections for the past year.

Table C.—Return of Number of Inspections made by the Rangers for the Year ended 31st March, 1909.

District.	Number of Properties visited.	Area.			Value of Improvements.						Number of Defaulters.				
					Required.			Actually made.			For Deficient Improvements only.	For Non-residence only.	For Non-residence and Improvements.	For other Reasons.	Total.
		A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.					
Auckland ..	1,416	483,221	0	0	121,867	0	0	325,309	0	0	97	179	119	..	395
Hawke's Bay ..	488	305,105	0	7	136,948	13	5	530,847	14	8	31	77	..	7	115
Taranaki ..	284	107,658	1	27	29,395	0	0	74,509	0	0	18	22	4	..	44
Wellington ..	1,297	236,900	3	6	77,537	1	8	241,828	1	1	12	55	..	3	70
Nelson ..	492	195,615	0	0	23,688	0	0	44,671	0	0	111	29	11	..	151
Marlborough ..	504	253,841	0	0	91,310	0	0	211,841	0	0	11	57	10	1	79
Westland ..	440	65,850	0	0	23,618	15	0	66,522	10	0	2	40	8	..	50
Canterbury ..	1,699	386,088	1	20	281,918	2	2	509,378	3	7	64	16	3	..	83
Otago ..	981	446,111	0	0	123,680	0	5	243,794	11	4	57	12	..	..	69
Southland ..	378	83,328	0	35	42,073	13	3	97,069	3	6	2	5	3	..	10
Totals ..	7,979	2,563,718	3	15	952,036	5	11	2,345,770	4	2	405	492	158	11	1,066

NOTE.—The above figures do not include miscellaneous inspections where improvement and other conditions were not involved.

THE FOREST-FIRES OF LAST YEAR.

In last year's report a table was given on page 7 showing the amount of grass-seed granted to 714 settlers, and its value. Below I give particulars of additional assistance rendered, which was not brought to account in the previous year's return. I have also shown the amount of advances repaid up to the 31st March, 1909.

	£
Value of additional grass-seed supplied to settlers	1,539
Value of seed sown on Crown lands	1,851
Amount repaid by settlers up to the 31st March, 1909	3,179

REVENUE.

The total amount received as revenue from all sources amounts to £696,375, or £37,581 more than last year, and has exceeded the estimated revenue for this year by £32,713, a most gratifying result. The territorial revenue (which this year excludes all lands within the national endowment schedules, and also all lands selected during the year under renewable lease) amounted to £224,526, whilst non-territorial (inclusive of national endowment lands) realised £471,849. Table D, below, gives the details:—

Table D.—Revenue received during the Year ended 31st March, 1909.

District.						Territorial Revenue.	Non-territorial Revenue.	Total Revenue.
						£	£	£
Auckland ..	..	..	..	..	..	50,233	74,243	124,476
Hawke's Bay ..	..	..	..	..	..	22,925	55,028	77,953
Taranaki ..	..	..	..	..	..	12,077	13,877	25,954
Wellington ..	..	..	..	..	..	31,660	55,940	87,600
Nelson ..	..	..	..	..	..	8,298	25,123	33,421
Marlborough ..	..	..	..	..	..	9,577	24,914	34,491
Westland ..	..	..	..	..	..	2,720	12,488	15,208
Canterbury ..	..	..	..	..	..	29,079	112,066	141,145
Otago ..	..	..	..	..	..	46,107	77,979	124,086
Southland ..	..	..	..	..	..	11,850	20,191	32,041
Totals ..	..	..	..	..	..	224,526	471,849	696,375

It will be noticed that the revenues received from the Auckland and Otago Districts are almost equal. I am glad to say that the estimated amount to be received from national endowment—viz., £73,547—was more than realised, the actual receipts being £76,510.