

IMPROVED-FARM SETTLEMENTS.

In order to meet the urgent applications for land by a class of persons comparatively without means, but who were anxious to obtain small areas, the Government determined on a vigorous policy of opening for selection very considerable areas of Crown lands in the Auckland, Taranaki, and Wellington Districts, as near the Main Trunk Railway line as possible, the result being that 46,792 acres were made available, and distributed amongst 258 heads of families. The intention of the Government was to open under the improved-farm-settlement conditions some 60,000 acres of land, and thus provide for four hundred selectors. It was found, however, that land of sufficiently good quality, and reasonably near the Main Trunk Railway line, could not be obtained to meet the full requirements of the Government's decision. The total number of selectors and holders of improved-farm-settlement sections number 843 heads of families, holding a total area of 112,080 acres, the total improvements to the 31st March being valued at £207,828. Further particulars are available in the reports by the several Commissioners of Crown Lands published in the Appendix.

VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS.

A few additional areas near Dannevirke and elsewhere were opened to workers during the past year. The total selections numbered fifty-three, and the area taken up was 480 acres. The total number who hold at present under this tenure—which gives the right to certain advances—amounts to 2,193 selectors, the total area so held being 42,659 acres.

INSPECTIONS BY CROWN LANDS RANGERS.

The total number of Crown Lands Rangers employed on the necessary, though often thankless task of insuring that Crown tenants are fulfilling their improvement and residential conditions, is divided as follows: North Island, 19—viz., Auckland, 8; Hawke's Bay, 2; Taranaki, 3; Wellington, 6. South Island, 19—viz., Nelson, 3; Marlborough, 2; Westland, 2; Canterbury, 4; Otago, 4; Southland, 4.

The total number of inspections made during the year was 9,547; the total area inspected amounted to 2,589,587 acres; the total value of the improvements actually made being £3,240,955.

The following table gives the details:—

Table C.—Return of Number of Inspections made by the Rangers for the Year ended 31st March, 1910.

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 ..	1,751	430,380	0	0	169,426	0	0	505,509	0	0	112	183	415
Hawke's Bay ..	1,173	508,668	2	18	285,931	18	11	863,926	10	9	27	61	103
Taranaki ..	297	160,256	3	13	57,111	0	0	124,005	0	0	35	19	58
Wellington ..	1,743	289,331	0	0	99,188	0	0	363,165	0	0	84	72	161
Nelson ..	253	138,278	0	0	21,585	0	0	44,659	0	0	40	22	75
Marlborough ..	587	296,427	2	37	126,066	8	8	287,899	12	2	28	44	81
Westland ..	531	76,272	3	4	31,633	17	9	91,772	9	0	..	45	45
Canterbury ..	1,709	324,545	2	25	334,253	3	5	560,246	15	4	100	10	110
Otago ..	888	234,836	3	32	151,247	12	10	259,572	9	2	102	22	129
Southland ..	615	130,589	2	22	72,570	8	9	140,198	18	8	14	3	24
Totals ..	9,547	2,589,587	0	31	1,349,013	10	4	3,240,954	15	1	542	481	1,201

GRASS-SEED SUPPLIED TO SETTLERS.

The moneys repaid during the past year amount to £6,800, and the total repaid to date is £9,979. Only comparatively few of those who were helped in this way have asked that the time mentioned in their promissory notes be extended.

REVENUE.

The total gross revenue received by the several Receivers of Land Revenue amounted to £674,907, or £15,893 over the estimated gross revenue, which was set down as £659,014. This, however, falls short of last year's gross receipts by £21,468. The territorial revenue showed a reduction of £22,743. below the estimate, as the total amount received was only £201,257, against an estimated revenue of £224,000. This is entirely accounted for by the diminution of cash sales to the amount first mentioned. Table D, hereunder, furnishes the details, and shows the amounts credited in each district to territorial revenue.