

COLLECTION OF RENTS AND INSTALMENTS.

The collection of rents and instalments was taken over from the Public Trust Office by officers of this Department as from the 1st May, 1915. The arrears of rents and instalments on the 31st March, 1915, amounted to £1,215 11s. 5d. The total number of houses erected at this date was 471 (average arrears, £2 11s. 8d.). The arrears outstanding at the 31st March, 1916, were £1,251 12s. 8d., and the total number of dwellings was 553 (average arrears, £2 5s. 3d.). A considerable sum was, however, paid off these arrears within the first thirteen days of April (reducing the average to £1 10s. 9d.), many of the amounts (being monthly payments) having fallen due at the end of the month (for particulars see Table (c) below). The average length of time that the 553 dwellings have been built is 3·9 years; the arrears to date may therefore be computed at an average of 7s. 6d. per dwelling per annum. The amount now owing is greater than it would be at normal times, on account of the war, in some cases the occupants having enlisted (see remarks at end of table (c)). It is satisfactory to note that for the whole of the 553 dwellings throughout New Zealand the average arrears is only £1 10s. 9d. (approximately two weeks' instalments). In nearly every instance the arrears are covered by the amount paid off the principal by the occupant.

F. W. ROWLEY,
Superintendent of Workers' Dwellings.

RETURNS.

[(a), (b), and (c) made pursuant to Section 18 of the Act.]

(a.) THE MONEYS EXPENDED DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR IN ACQUIRING LAND UNDER THIS ACT, IN PREPARING THE SAME FOR WORKERS' DWELLINGS, AND IN ERECTING SUCH DWELLINGS.

	£	s.	d.
1. Amount expended in acquiring land for workers' dwellings...	3,123	3	2
2. Amount expended in preparing land for workers' dwellings	1,704	16	6
3. Amount expended in erecting dwellings ...	51,065	1	4
Total (paid out of Public Works Fund) ...	55,893	1	0
4. Amount expended in administration and travelling (paid out of Labour Department's vote) ...	702	0	0
Total ...	£56,595	1	0*

The above return does not include the sum of £705 11s. 5d. incurred for maintenance, fire insurance, rates, &c., upon the dwellings erected and leased to the occupants under the Act of 1905, and £869 9s. 1d. for fire insurance and rates in respect of dwellings erected under the Act of 1910. These amounts are charged for in the rents and instalments collected.

The total expenditure in connection with the workers' dwellings during the year was thus £58,170 1s. 6d.—viz., £55,893 1s. out of Public Works Fund, and £2,277 0s. 6d. out of Labour Department's vote.

(b.) THE NUMBER OF DWELLINGS ERECTED DURING THE YEAR, AND THE NUMBER DISPOSED OF.

The number of dwellings erected ...	82
The number of dwellings disposed of ...	82

(c.) THE WEEKLY OR OTHER PAYMENTS CONTRACTED FOR, THE AMOUNT OF SUCH PAYMENTS RECEIVED, AND THE AMOUNT OF ARREARS OUTSTANDING.

(1.) Settlement.	(2.) Arrears outstanding as at 31st March, 1915.	(3.) Weekly or other Payments contracted for (exclusive of Arrears, Col. 2). (Total for Year.)	(4.) Total Amount received for Year.	(5.) Arrears outstanding as at 31st March, 1916.	(6.) Arrears as at 31st March, 1916, were reduced by 13th April, 1916, to	(7.) Number of Dwellings on Settlement.	(8.) Average Arrears per Dwelling.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Auckland—							
Lawry	268 6 9	2,948 16 7	3,014 11 10	202 11 6	139 2 6	81	1 14 4
Eccleston	112 1 3	1,079 16 3	1,106 1 11	85 15 7	37 1 5	31	1 2 4
Grey Lynn	..	194 10 4	191 13 0	2 17 4	Nil	6	..
Wellington—							
Taitville	7 19 1	924 16 8	888 17 11	43 17 10	18 19 4	25	0 15 2
Island Bay	39 15 8	987 8 10	984 14 11	42 9 7	21 13 8	25	0 17 4
Coromandel Street ..	21 3 11	489 12 6	490 9 11	20 6 6	3 3 9	31	0 2 1
Heretaunga (Petone) ..	60 15 10	946 3 1	971 10 0	35 8 11	14 15 4	12	1 4 7
Christchurch—							
Camelot	47 8 0	1,166 19 6	1,166 11 6	47 16 0	18 5 2	35	0 10 5
Walker	67 13 10	525 17 5	558 8 5	35 2 10	20 7 6	16	1 5 6
Chancellor Street ..	27 13 1	252 1 10	274 6 9	5 8 2	2 8 2	7	0 6 10
Dunedin—							
Windle	61 5 10	782 11 7	786 19 4	56 18 1	40 0 1	26	1 10 9
Wanganui—							
Ballance	4 5 11	291 5 9	279 17 2	15 14 6	5 0 7	8	0 12 7
Willis	22 4 3	235 1 11	254 7 2	2 19 0	Nil	6	..
Puriri	..	158 16 2	156 8 2	2 8 0	Nil	5	..

* As shown on page 21, there were also thirty-seven dwellings in course of erection on the 31st March, 1916, the bulk of the expenditure for which will appear in the next year's account.