

should, in the near future, be in a fair way towards prosperity. The complaints about too-dear land and too-heavy charges are seldom heard now, and the feeling is growing among the men themselves that they wish to be regarded not as soldier settlers distinctively, but as primary producers with the other landholders.

Speaking generally, it can be said with the utmost confidence that the soldier settlers in Otago have made good. Only one abandoned soldier's farm is on the hands of the Department, and the reason for this is that the area is too small to provide a living in itself.

SOUTHLAND.

(N. C. KENSINGTON, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

There has been a steady improvement in the position of soldier settlement in this district during the past year. This can be largely attributed to the satisfactory prices of the past two years, added to the encouragement given to the settler by the general decisions of the Dominion Revaluation Board. There are still a few settlers who will require some concessions, but the majority are on a sound footing. The result of indifferent success in some cases has been caused by insufficient stocking, and the endeavour to dairy extensively on a property that was more suitable to a limited herd and a certain number of sheep. Many settlers now realize the necessity of running a few sheep with their dairy herd, as a means of dealing with ragwort and generally cleaning up the farm. The general position of the soldier settler can be regarded as now on sound lines, and the revenue received in this office during the past year for principal and interest under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act must be regarded as very satisfactory.

Three soldier settlers on indifferent farms abandoned their holdings during the year, but these properties have since been taken up. Two town houses fell back on the hands of the Crown as mortgagee and have been sold. There are no soldier farms or town houses on the hands of the Department in this district.

TABLE 1.

TOTAL LANDS ACQUIRED FROM THE CROWN BY DISCHARGED SOLDIERS AND HELD AT THE 31ST MARCH, 1929.

Land District.	Sale (including Deferred Payment).				Lease and License.				Grand Totals.		
	Number of Discharged-soldier Purchasers and Licensees.	Number of Holdings.	Area.	Price.	Number of Discharged-soldier Tenants.	Number of Holdings.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Discharged Soldiers.	Number of Holdings.	Area.
<i>Under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, 1915, and Amendments.</i>											
North Auckland ..	15	14	2,625	3,435	297	295	53,952	9,879	312	309	56,577
Auckland ..	45	45	1,330	15,690	539	532	86,442	25,255	584	577	87,772
Gisborne ..	1	1	29	15	120	118	56,930	13,231	121	119	56,959
Hawke's Bay ..	..	..	..	..	232	241	91,985	30,409	232	241	91,985
Taranaki ..	1	1	2	310	136	132	30,318	8,419	137	133	30,320
Wellington ..	15	15	87	5,543	720	697	162,584	75,349	735	712	162,671
Nelson ..	3	3	1,216	1,292	23	23	14,279	1,615	26	26	15,495
Marlborough ..	..	..	..	..	54	53	17,157	5,173	54	53	17,157
Westland ..	1	1	148	150	17	17	19,645	193	18	18	19,793
Canterbury ..	25	25	317	8,886	372	371	218,429	40,749	397	396	218,746
Otago ..	4	4	281	1,320	132	126	205,840	13,775	136	130	206,121
Southland ..	12	12	1,582	7,545	74	81	11,373	3,964	86	93	12,955
Totals ..	122	121	7,617	44,186	2,716	2,686	968,934	228,011	2,838	2,807	976,551

Under other Acts. (This includes lands selected at ordinary ballots, leases and licenses purchased at auction, and holdings acquired by transfer or otherwise.)

North Auckland ..	11	11	1,168	1,304	93	90	21,019	3,309	104	101	22,187
Auckland ..	49	47	22,754	20,503	339	310	145,646	7,261	388	357	168,400
Gisborne ..	1	1	3	85	42	39	34,803	4,392	43	40	34,806
Hawke's Bay ..	..	..	..	..	44	45	14,807	3,795	44	45	14,807
Taranaki ..	3	2	272	510	169	152	54,121	3,054	172	154	54,393
Wellington ..	..	..	..	..	145	140	53,950	32,550	145	140	53,950
Nelson ..	3	3	1,099	586	95	90	51,512	1,491	98	93	52,611
Marlborough ..	..	..	..	..	126	117	267,969	7,104	126	117	267,969
Westland ..	1	1	200	168	68	64	17,442	371	69	65	17,642
Canterbury ..	3	3	56	386	217	226	157,410	23,231	220	229	157,466
Otago ..	1	1	53	177	225	218	914,924	21,734	226	219	914,977
Southland ..	1	1	127	40	44	45	77,852	2,210	45	46	77,979
Totals ..	73	70	25,732	23,759	1,607	1,536	1,811,455	110,502	1,680	1,606	1,837,187
Grand totals	195	191	33,349	67,945	4,323	4,222	2,780,389	338,513	4,518	4,413	2,813,738