

The Board has not given consideration to the undertaking of any work on new blocks of unoccupied Crown land, but extensive rehabilitation operations are controlled by the Small Farms Board and are reported upon under the heading of "Small Farms Scheme."

The number of Crown tenants who have been assisted by way of loans to develop their own properties now totals 491, the amount advanced during the year being £17,324.

Pursuant to section 10 of the Land Laws Amendment Act, 1929, the following summary of operations up to 31st March, 1936, is recorded:—

(a) *The Several Areas of Unoccupied Crown Lands in respect of which Development Works have been undertaken during the Year.*

Auckland Land District:—

Ngakuru Block, of 14,755 acres of light pumice land, fifteen miles from Rotorua: This block, of which 4,325 acres are being developed, will provide about fifty dairy-farms. Thirteen sections have now been selected and thirteen farms are occupied by share-milkers. The remainder of the block has been run as a grazing-farm for cattle and sheep, but the land is to be offered for selection for dairying, it being eminently suitable for this purpose.

Galatea Estate, of 22,326 acres near Murupara: Pending the completion of developmental work and the offering of this land for selection, the major portion is being successfully farmed as a sheep and cattle station. As at 31st March, 1936, the station stock consisted of 19,564 sheep and 4,521 cattle. The remainder of block comprises ten share-milking farms and a demonstration farm. The stock carried by these eleven farms consists of 605 dairy cows, 15 heifers, 148 calves, 22 bulls, 19 horses, 305 pigs.

Particulars of the developmental work being undertaken are given in Appendix III in the report of the Land Drainage Branch of the Department.

Hawke's Bay Land District:—

Kakariki Estate, a purchased estate of 17,688 acres at Kotemaori: This block is intended to provide about ten holdings for sheep-farming. An area of 8,900 acres of new grass has been established and live-stock carried is as follows: 12,555 sheep, 1,461 cattle, 25 horses. A successful farming year has been experienced, a net profit resulting after charging interest on all capital expenditure.

Taranaki Land District:—

Tapuwae Estate, of 3,350 acres, a purchased estate in the King-country: This Block is estimated to provide approximately eleven mixed farms. Two thousand two hundred and sixty acres have been developed, and bush sickness has been successfully dealt with. The season has ended with a net farming profit after meeting interest on all capital expenditure. Live-stock consists of 5,128 sheep, 794 cattle, 4 horses.

(b) *Total Cost of Development Works carried out to 31st March, 1936.*

Block.	Expenditure on Development to 31st March, 1935.	Expenditure on Development during Year ended 31st March, 1936.	Total Expenditure on Development to 31st March, 1936.	Net Expenditure on Live-stock as at 31st March, 1936.
NORTH AUCKLAND LAND DISTRICT.				
Wharekohe Block	£ 9,794	£ 1,741	£ 11,535	£ ..
AUCKLAND LAND DISTRICT.				
Ngakuru Block	83,751	947	84,698	3,747
Te Kauwhata Block	32,176	..	32,176	..
Onepu Block *	20,081	39	20,120	..
Koromatua Block	4,120	43	4,163	..
Galatea Estate	74,310	8,524	82,834	6,759
Whangamarino Block *	8,445	..	8,445	..
Mangatutu Block	3,715	..	3,715	..
Pongakawa Block *	3,764	..	3,764	943
HAWKE'S BAY LAND DISTRICT.				
Kakariki Estate	26,680	3,718	30,398	..
TARANAKI LAND DISTRICT.				
Tapuwae Estate	13,434	439	13,873	6,543
	280,270	15,451	295,721	17,992

* Whangamarino, Pongakawa, and part of Onepu Blocks taken over by Small Farms Board.

In addition to the expenditure on blocks set out above, expenditure has been incurred on the roading, survey, &c., of various areas which are being developed by the settlers themselves. The total expenditure £351,257 for development, stock, roading, and surveys (apart from roading-costs payable out of Public Works Fund) up to the 31st March, 1936, provides for 616 farms.