

men, who have depending on them between 1,500 to 2,000 dependants. The total sales for the whole of the central district are as follows :—

Period 1st April, 1936, to 31st March, 1937.

	Lambs.	Ewes.	Wethers.
Brents to Rotoiti	7,693	1,422	4,803
Atiamuri Road	..	..	1,575
Maketu and Te Puke	842	300	330
Tauranga	1,297	600	..
Ruatahuna	500	577	..
Tokaanu	633	100	100
	10,965	2,999	6,808

	Bullocks.	Beef Cows.
Brents to Rotoiti	208	252
Atiamuri Road	376	166
Maketu and Te Puke	126	40
Ruatahuna	..	100
	710	458

In the short space of five years over 500,000 lb. of butterfat have been produced from the schemes on the Rotorua-Atiamuri Road and for the same period from five sheds on Tikitere, approximately 183,400 lb. of fat have been produced.

A summary of cash receipts for the central district for the years 1935-36 and 1936-37 are as follows :—

	1935-36.	1936-37.
	£	£
Wool	5,355	13,232
Sheep	14,216	17,206
Cattle	12,081	855
Cream	11,854	18,559
Crops	458	62
Sundries	3,674	2,368
	47,638	52,282

Before tracing in detail the schemes on the Tauranga-Rotorua and Tauranga-Whakatane roads, from Brents Farm to Rotoiti scheme, a brief extract from "Soil Surveys of the North Island" will be helpful in appreciating the nature of the soil in these areas :—

"On Waerenga block part of Okere development scheme (north shore of Lake Rotorua), 1,097 acres are classed as rolling and flat country and 595 acres as steep. The soils are derived almost entirely from Kaharoa sub-aerial deposits, the texture of which is that of a gravelly sand. On the eastern corner, Rotomahana coarse sands 3 in. thick overlie the Kaharoa ash, at one mile to the west they thin to 2 in. ; and on the western boundary they are $\frac{1}{4}$ in. to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick. The available iron in the soil is considerably lower than on the Taupo pumice, but the thin coating of Rotomahana ash on Waerenga will have a beneficial effect as far as bush sickness is concerned, for on areas where this ash is thick, anæmia in stock does not develop."

It should be mentioned here that bush sickness to any marked extent has not been experienced on Okere scheme, due no doubt to the fact that the use of licks and the method adopted in working the sheep and cattle is such that stock on areas inclined to sickness can be changed to healthy land within the property from time to time.

Many of the schemes in the area from Brents to Rotoiti are covered with Rotomahana mud, and a description of this by the same authorities is worth quotation here :—

"The areas to be developed on which grey Rotomahana ash forms the soil, contain, in general, a high proportion of steep land. On Taheke nearly two-thirds of the land not covered with bush is classed as steep, on Tikitere one-sixth, on Puketawhero slightly more than half, and on Wharenui almost two-thirds.