

1937.
NEW ZEALAND.

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND SURVEY. SETTLEMENT OF CROWN LANDS

(ANNUAL REPORT ON).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

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SIR,—

Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, 1st September, 1937.

I have the honour to submit herewith the annual report on the settlement of Crown lands for the year ended 31st March, 1937, together with particulars of the special settlement of inferior lands, of the development-work that is being carried out on unoccupied Crown and settlement lands, and of the operations under the Small-farms Scheme.

I have, &c.,

W. ROBERTSON,

Under-Secretary.

The Hon. Frank Langstone, Minister of Lands.

REPORT.

REVIEW OF PAST YEAR.

THE climatic conditions in most districts have during the past year been generally favourable for farming operations. While the rainfall was unusually heavy during the summer months, taken all round the year could be described as a good one from a productive point of view.

An important feature of the year in so far as those engaged in the pastoral industry were concerned was the succession of very successful wool sales, the demand for all classes of wool proving to be exceptionally keen. The prices for fat lambs, beef cattle, and other classes of stock have been quite satisfactory and have contributed towards placing pastoralists in an improved position.

The dairy season has been a good one from a productive point of view, and as the result of an improved price for butterfat the average dairy-farmer is in a better position financially than has been the case for some years.

In the early part of the season the prospects of those engaged in cropping were very promising; but owing to an unseasonable summer in the grain-growing districts the crops suffered severe damage in some cases.

Land revenue shows a substantial increase on last year's figures, while arrears of rent have decreased.

A large number of applications under the Mortgagors and Lessees Rehabilitation Act, 1936, have been received, and the committees in the various districts are engaged in making inspections to facilitate adjustments. When the rehabilitation investigation has been completed and the adjustments have been made the accounts should be on a sound footing and Crown tenants generally should be in a position to face the future with confidence.

The Department has continued to give careful attention to the necessity for bush-preservation and the protection of high and steep country generally, and in this most important matter is working in close co-operation with the State Forest Service. Far too much country has in the past been cleared of its forest cover in an endeavour to increase farming areas. It must be frankly admitted that the bush has been destroyed on hundreds of thousands of acres of steep country which at the time was regarded as suitable for settlement, but which painful experience has shown should never have been touched. Such country will not be opened for settlement in the future, and already arrangements have been made for extensive areas of Crown land to be set aside as permanent State forests and as scenic reserves. An earnest endeavour will also be made to repair certain mistakes made in the past, when pastoral licenses were granted more or less as a matter of course over extensive areas of high country, much of which in its natural state was extremely valuable for water-conservation and general protection purposes. It is proposed to make a careful review of the run country in certain localities, and to refrain whenever possible from granting any further pastoral licenses over lands that would have been better left unleased in the first place.

Selections of Crown and settlement lands on all tenures during the year totalled 463,178 acres. This subject is dealt with more fully at a later stage of this report. At the 31st March the tenants on the books of the Department, excluding those established under the small-farms scheme, numbered 36,563, occupying a total area of approximately 18,650,000 acres. Pastoral runs account for 8,843,540 acres, while 1,830,935 acres of purchased estates are held under the provisions of the Land for Settlements Act.

LEGISLATION.

The Reserves and other Lands Disposal Act, 1936, contains thirty-one clauses dealing with Crown lands, reserves, &c.

LAND-DEVELOPMENT.

The operations of the Lands Development Board so far as unoccupied Crown land is concerned have been confined mainly to a continuation of work on the Galatea Estate, in the Auckland District, and on the Kakariki Estate, in Hawke's Bay, the net expenditure on developmental work having been £16,262 on the former and £12,453 on the latter.

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 494, the amount advanced during the year being £7,915.

Pursuant to section 10 of the Land Laws Amendment Act, 1929, the following summary of operations up to 31st March, 1937, 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 : Development-work commenced in February, 1930, and results have been highly satisfactory. There are now thirty-nine dairy-farms at Ngakuru (including the sharemilkers' farms), with an aggregate area of 7,830 acres. The number of cows carried last season was 1,710.

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, 1937, the station stock consisted of 20,504 sheep and 5,902 cattle. The remainder of block comprises ten sharemilking farms and a demonstration farm. The stock carried by these eleven farms consists of 633 dairy cows, 20 bulls, 20 horses, 320 pigs. Towards the end of the year twenty-two sections with an area of 2,391 acres were offered for selection, and of these, sixteen sections with an area of 1,777 acres were selected on renewable lease.

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 9,291 acres of new grass has been established, and live-stock carried is as follows : 15,800 sheep, 1,360 cattle, 32 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 5,730 sheep and 850 cattle.

(b) *Total Cost of Development-works carried out to 31st March, 1937.*

Block.	Expenditure on Development to 31st March, 1936.	Expenditure on Development during Year ended 31st March, 1937.	Total Expenditure on Development to 31st March, 1937.	Net Expenditure on Live-stock as at 31st March, 1937.
NORTH AUCKLAND LAND DISTRICT.				
Wharekohe Block	£ 11,535	£ 1,616	£ 13,151	£ ..
AUCKLAND LAND DISTRICT.				
Ngakuru Block	84,698	25	84,723	1,402
Te Kauwhata Block	32,176	..	32,176	..
Onepu Block*	20,120	..	20,120	..
Koromatua Block	4,163	303	4,466	..
Galatea Estate	82,834	16,262	99,096	5,452
Whangamarino Block*	8,445	..	8,445	..
Mangatutu Block	3,715	..	3,715	..
Pongakawa Block*	3,764	..	3,764	943
Arohena Block	..	207	207	..
HAWKE'S BAY LAND DISTRICT.				
Kakariki Estate	30,398	12,453	42,851	..
TARANAKI LAND DISTRICT.				
Tapuwae Estate	13,873	9	13,882	9,686
	295,721	30,875	326,596	17,483

* 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 £386,871 for development, stock, roading, and surveys (apart from roading-costs payable out of Public Works Fund) up to the 31st March, 1937, provides for 616 farms.

(c) and (d) Developed Allotments disposed of.

Block.	Number of Allotments disposed of.	Area.	Tenure.	Rental Capital Value.	Annual Rent or Interest receivable.
		Acres.		£	£ s. d.
Wharekohe	17	996	R.L.	9,595	479 15 0
Te Kauwhata	12	1,735	R.L.	8,325	416 5 0
Onepu*	13	1,356	D.P.	6,165	369 1 6
Koromatua	4	538	R.L.	12,285	614 5 0
Mangatutu	5	771	R.L.	2,900	145 0 0
Ngakuru	20	3,155	R.L.	4,680	234 0 0
				26,491	1,324 11 0
Total	71	8,551	..	70,441	3,582 17 6

* In addition, eleven sections selected under small-farms scheme.

(e) The Total Amount advanced to Crown Tenants for the Development of their Holdings, the Number of Advances, and the Purpose for which such Advances have been made.

Number of settlers assisted	..	..	..	..	..	494
Loans approved—						£
Improvements	..	..	..	..	..	216,865
Stock	..	..	..	..	..	8,597
Total	..	..	..	..	..	£225,462
Amounts actually advanced—						£
Improvements	..	..	..	..	..	176,925
Stock	..	..	..	..	..	1,813
Total	..	..	..	..	..	£178,738

SMALL-FARMS SCHEME.

During the year there has been comparatively little extension of the area included in the small-farms scheme, the main item being the furtherance of the land-development operations, which have been very successful. The principal reason for not launching out on new work has been the need for the Board to take into account the fact that three-eighths of the wages-cost of development has, from 1st June last, been charged to capital, and, therefore, must be loaded on to the land. As mentioned in the report of last year, much of the land being developed or available for development is "marginal" land which cannot be developed economically by ordinary settlement, and which cannot bear any portion of the labour-costs; and the Board could not conscientiously undertake additional work on such lands, knowing that there would be losses of capital.

Several of the development blocks were completed sufficiently to permit of their being subdivided and the sections placed under the individual management of the occupiers, who were allotted herds for milking. In no case has a tenure been given, but, where the revenue is sufficient, the occupiers have been allowed to collect a proportion of the dairy cheques; in other cases, the men have remained on a wage basis of £4 per week, less 10s. per week rent for cottage.

The carrying-capacity and production have increased enormously in the case of most of the blocks, and this will be seen from a perusal of the reports of the Superintendent of Land Development and the Chief Drainage Engineer in respect of the blocks under their control. For example, six blocks under the control of the latter have produced 223,961 lb. of butterfat, representing an increase in the case of each individual block of from 50 per cent. to 100 per cent. over the previous year. In the four main King-country blocks mentioned in last year's report butterfat-production has increased in value by 80 per cent., wool by 168 per cent., and pigs by 115 per cent. Full details of production will be found in the appendices.

Of the individual holdings settled, apart from the larger development blocks, it can be said safely that, generally, they are a success. In every case of the purchase of "one-man" farms the Board was extremely conservative in the matter of valuations, and a fair price only was paid, which is, no doubt, the real reason for the rapidity with which the tenants are finding their feet and beginning to pay their way. In a number of cases in the North Auckland and Auckland Districts men are milking from thirty to forty cows (in some exceptional cases the figures are higher still) with capital charges of approximately £1,000 only; and these men in ordinary conditions cannot fail to prosper. Such properties as these are, unfortunately, not now forthcoming; in fact, it was found during the year that so small a percentage of properties offered was measuring up to the Board's standards of valuation and carrying-capacity, as well as complying with the requirement that their purchase should not throw the vendors on to the labour market, that the Board withdrew its invitation to applicants to locate and submit particulars of individual farms suitable for purchase. This was a big disappointment to the applicants, but much expense in making fruitless inspections, both by the Board's officers and by the applicants themselves, was saved.

The pakihi development-work in the Westport District has continued fairly satisfactorily, and over 1,000 acres in a compact block are now in hand. The results to date are encouraging, so far as they go, but the farming of this class of country is more or less experimental, and the Board has decided not to extend the work any further until there has been some actual experience of how it will stand up to dairying for a season or two. If dairy stock does well and the land retains its pasture there is ample land of this type in the Nelson Land District for future expansion.

The largest individual area under development by the Board is the Ahuriri Lagoon, 7,595 acres, near Napier, which was raised from the sea during the earthquake of 1931. This is being drained, roaded, and developed, with a view to its ultimate subdivision and settlement. The main gravity outfall has been completed, the electric pumps being in operation, and the whole area behind the stop-banks being dewatered. The subsidiary drainage of the 5,000 acres (approximately) to the north of the main gravity outfall is being proceeded with, and the ring-fencing of this area is being hastened with a view to stocking as soon as possible.

On portions of the southern end the salt content has decreased sufficiently to sow grass during last autumn. Two hundred and eighty acres is being put in permanent pasture, and 24 acres is being sown in barley and oats. An area of approximately 750 acres on which it is not yet considered advisable to fill in subsidiary drains is being sown in temporary pasture to provide grazing for stock, and thus check weed-growth. The area south of the main gravity outfall, 2,000 acres approximately, is being ring-fenced preparatory to stocking. Experimental cropping will be carried out next spring on an area of 60 acres to serve as a guide in the development of further areas in the future. Altogether the work is proceeding very satisfactorily.

The original small-farms-scheme holdings of 5 acres to 10 acres are gradually diminishing in numbers, due mainly to the occupiers resuming their former occupations, although in some cases where the terms of the agreements to lease are expiring the Board has decided not to renew, because of the uneconomic nature of the holdings. Altogether twenty-seven of these holdings have been closed during the year.

Since the beginning of the scheme 810 men have received sustenance allowances from the Employment Promotion Fund, but as at the 31st March, 1937, only 101 men were on sustenance, indicating a steady improvement in the revenue derived by the occupiers.

Results of the Scheme to the 31st March, 1937, are tabulated as under:—

Operations under Original Scheme (mostly 5-acre and 10-acre Sections).

Holdings established	488
Number of such holdings since closed	136
Share milkers' cottage loans approved	265
Share milkers' cottage loans repaid	22

Operations since Small Farms Board constituted.

	Number.	Area (Acres).
Individual holdings established	365	24,522
Sections included in blocks under development	594	53,799
Area under development, but not sectionized	..	5,761
Share milkers' cottage loans approved	66	..
Average number of men employed on development-work during year	..	1,067
Total number who have received sustenance	..	810
Number in receipt of sustenance at 31st March, 1937	..	101

Further details in regard to operations under the small-farms scheme are given in Appendices III and IV in the reports of the Chief Drainage Engineer, and of the Superintendent of Land Development, Te Kuiti, respectively.

Full statements of accounts are published in parliamentary paper B.-1 [Part IV].

SPECIAL SETTLEMENT OF INFERIOR LANDS.

The following summary of the lands dealt with during the year is furnished in accordance with the provisions of section 223 (14) of the Land Act, 1924.

(a) Aggregate area of land set apart : Nil.

(b) Number of allotments and aggregate area disposed of : Nil.

The total number of allotments taken up and the area held as at 31st March, 1937, was thirty-five allotments, 7,256 acres.

LANDS FOR SELECTION.

During the year 463,178 acres were taken up on various tenures, the number of selections being 1,342 under all headings. These figures include some 707 sections, comprising altogether an area of 64,813 acres taken up under miscellaneous leases and licenses, so that the selections on permanent tenures numbered 635 sections, covering a total area of 398,365 acres. The following table gives the selections of Crown lands for the last five years :—

Selections under all Tenures.

Year ending	Number.	Area (Acres).
31st March, 1933	1,354	280,518
31st March, 1934	1,118	285,166
31st March, 1935	1,036	302,915
31st March, 1936	1,037	210,026
31st March, 1937	1,342	463,178

The total of 463,178 acres selected during the year includes lands taken up under both permanent and temporary tenures, and also town and suburban lands. The permanent selections of rural lands only were as follows :—

Class of Land.	Number of Rural Sections selected.	Total Area selected.
Crown and national-endowment land	214	Acres. 215,158
Settlement land	50	7,465
Education reserves, &c.	18	2,799
Grand totals	282	225,422

The lands dealt with above comprise both areas offered for the first time and areas which became available for reoffering through various reasons. The figures for entirely new rural areas selected during the year are as follows :—

Class of Land.	Number of New Rural Sections selected.	Total Area selected for the First Time.
Crown and national-endowment land	64	Acres. 59,853
Settlement land	13	2,664
Educational reserves, &c.	11	2,256
Grand totals	88	64,773

RECEIPTS.

The receipts for the year from all sources (excluding, of course, Discharged Soldiers Settlement Account receipts) totalled £1,402,596, an increase of £126,086 on last year's figures.

The receipts for the last five years have been as follows: Year ending 31st March, 1933, £742,820; 1934, £1,020,198; 1935, £1,259,790; 1936, £1,276,510; 1937, £1,402,596.

POSTPONEMENTS, REMISSIONS, AND ARREARS OF RENT.

Rents, the payment of which remained postponed at the 31st March, amounted to £98,593. Arrears of rent at the 31st March (including arrears in respect of the current half-yearly charge) totalled £942,858, while remissions for the year totalled £170,977.

REBATES.

For prompt payment of rent 17,195 Crown tenants were granted the usual rebates in terms of section 123 of the Land Act, 1924, and section 59 of the Land for Settlements Act, 1925. These rebates amounted to a total of £41,798.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT.

Of the area in the national endowment, 6,449,230 acres were held under lease or license at the 31st March by 4,311 tenants paying an annual rental of £137,582, while a very large area (partly, however, covered by existing leases) had been set aside as provisional State forests. For further particulars *re* the national endowment see parliamentary paper C.—14.

EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENTS.

An area of approximately 797,292 acres of education endowments under the administration of the various Land Boards is leased to some 4,147 tenants, who pay a total annual rental of £125,610

LAND RESERVED FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES.

Under the provisions of section 360 of the Land Act, 1924, and section 71 of the Land for Settlements Act, 1925, various areas of Crown and settlement land were permanently reserved during the year. The reservations made totalled seventy-four, covering an area of approximately 4,951 acres. A summary of work carried out under the heading is given below.

Purpose of Reserve.	Number of Reservations.	Area.		
		A.	R.	P.
Aerodrome	5	587	0	39
Aerodrome reserve, addition to	1	28	0	23
Cemetery	2	3	3	36
Gravel	5	18	0	23
High-school site	1	6	2	0·30
Landing reserve	1	9	1	0
Plantation	20	1,080	2	18·60
Public-hall site	3	1	1	39·60
Public-pound site	1	0	0	30
Public-school site	7	18	1	22
Public-school site, addition to	3	1	2	07·01
Railway afforestation	1	2,773	1	24·10
Recreation	21	386	2	31·92
Resting-place for travelling stock	3	35	2	25·50
	74	4,951	1	0·03

The above does not include areas that have been vested in the Crown as public reserves in town subdivisions pursuant to the provisions of section 16 of the Land Act, 1924.

EXPENDITURE.

Summary of Expenditure approved during the Year ended 31st March, 1937.

Name of Vote or Account.	Net Amount voted.	Gross Expenditure.	Recoveries.	Net Expenditure.
Vote, Lands and Survey—	£	£	£	£
Subdivision I	188,900	276,921	90,869	186,052
Subdivision II	205,558	208,834	40	208,794
Subdivision III	12,820	7,106	52	7,054
Total, Vote, Lands and Survey	407,278	492,861	90,961	401,900
Vote, Land for Settlements	400,000	169,983	95	169,888
Discharged Soldiers Settlement Account: Vote, Expenses of Management	91,500	73,008	..	73,008
Vote, Swamp Land Drainage—				
Hauraki Plains District	25,710	30,505	7,919	22,586
Swamp Land Drainage Districts	4,290	2,705	326	2,379
Vote, Settlement of Unemployed Workers	425,000	305,621	213,605	92,016
Vote, Dairy Industry Loans	90,000	30,510	..	30,510
Totals	1,443,778	1,105,193	312,906	792,287
<i>Other Accounts.</i>				
Land for Settlements—				
Expenditure from capital proceeds of the sale of Crown and National Endowment lands		8,633	..	8,633
Interest and other charges		87,120	..	87,120
Expenditure under special Acts of Legislature—Section 295 (2) Land Act, 1924: Administration expenses of national-endowment lands		6,853	..	6,853
Discharged Soldiers Settlement Account		541,646	..	541,646
General Purposes Account: Ellesmere Land Drainage Act, 1905, section 6		439	..	439
Expenditure approved by the Hon. the Minister of Finance from Unauthorized Expenditure Account		147	..	147
Refunds of revenue, Deposit Account expenditure, expenditure under special Acts of the Legislature		25,451	..	25,451
Totals		1,775,482	312,906	1,462,576

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.—SETTLEMENT OF CROWN LANDS.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CROWN LANDS.

NORTH AUCKLAND.

(W. D. ARMIT, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

The weather conditions during the past year have been generally favourable to the farming community.

The continued rainfall throughout the district was responsible for a good growth of grass, and consequent on the mild winter the dairy herds came into profit in good condition.

The production of butterfat, cheese, and wool showed a marked increase, as did also the returns of all classes of fat and store stock.

The guaranteed price of butterfat has been beneficial to the dairy-farmers, and this combined with increased production has placed them in a better position financially.

Wool, fat lambs, store stock, and dairy cows commanded satisfactory prices on the market this season, and present appearances point to higher prices ruling for good-quality dairy cows and heifers when close to profit.

Top-dressing has again been the keynote to success, thus ensuring the upkeep of pastures and also maintaining the Department's securities. The wisdom of making refunds for the purpose of purchasing manures has been borne out by the increased revenue received.

An abundance of hay and ensilage has been made this season, thus ensuring a plentiful supply of winter feed.

It is now recognized by dairy-farmers that the raising of pigs as a sideline is a big factor in building up revenue, but more attention should be given to proper housing and better feeding.

The chilled-beef trade is rapidly becoming very popular, and when proper equipment in all overseas vessels is installed more advantage will be taken by producers in the North.

The outlook for the citrus and passion-fruit grower looks decidedly hopeful this year, as in addition to a passion-fruit pulping factory at Kerikeri, an up-to-date lemon-curing factory has just been completed.

Flooding of the low-lying areas occasioned hardship to a number of tenants, but there was less damage to grassland compared with the previous year.

No fresh blocks of Crown lands were opened for selection during the year, but isolated sections amounting to approximately 8,000 acres were selected under various tenures.

Several mangrove-reclamation areas have been stop-banked and handed over to this Department by the Public Works Department for disposal. Negotiations are in progress with adjoining settlers for selection of these lands, it being generally found that "run off" areas are essential for successful farming of mangrove flats.

Advances for land-development are still being made, and those settlers to whom loans have been granted have in a majority of cases sufficient pasture established to enable them to meet their rent and interest charges.

The prevalence of ragwort is causing some anxiety in the North, but settlers realize the danger, and with the assistance of the Department of Agriculture and the County Councils it is being kept well in check. White butterfly, which caused a lot of damage last year to root crops, is not so apparent this year.

On the whole there appears to be a brighter outlook and more confidence amongst the Crown tenants, and this should be more apparent when the adjustments under the Mortgagors and Lessees Rehabilitation Act are completed.

AUCKLAND.

(K. M. GRAHAM, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

Following a satisfactory summer season for dairying last year this district experienced a wonderfully good winter, for, though there were heavy frosts, fine weather prevailed and the pastures did not suffer to any great extent.

The spring came in with an abundance of feed, and frequent rains throughout the whole of the dairying season have kept pastures green and there has been if anything an over abundance of feed for stock.

The sheep-farmers have also experienced a splendid season, despite some late shearing owing to wet and unfavourable weather whilst shearing was in progress. Good lambing was the general experience, and the percentages of lambing were in many cases exceptionally high.

The prevailing high prices for wool, lamb, and beef cattle have all contributed towards making the 1936-37 season one of the best recorded.

The usual demand for suitable dairy-farms and for farms where mixed farming can be carried on has been consistent throughout the year.

GISBORNE.

(H. L. PRIMROSE, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

With wool-prices very substantially on the high side and stock prices very satisfactory, I have pleasure in reporting one of the best years for sheep-farmers for a long period.

Taken all through, the year has been a fairly wet one, and the summer months did not altogether live up to their reputation for lengthy spells of bright sunshine. Still, feed was very plentiful, and that is a big thing for the farming community generally.

As surmised last year, when high prices ruled for breeding ewes, most farmers who go in for the fat-lamb trade and have to buy in fresh ewes each year, found they had to pay very dearly for their requirements. The Waikato demand has been partly responsible for this, and the trade with that part continues to improve, approximately 350,000 sheep from this district finding a ready market there.

There seems to have been a tendency for more top-dressing of hill-country lands, and I expect that the wisdom of this course will be more fully appreciated in the next few years, especially if present prices continue. There is no doubt that in many instances that have come under my notice the policy has been a paying one.

A local industry that seems to be making quite good progress is the growing of lemons and sweet oranges. Evidence goes to show that the latter can be produced on a commercial scale. Our fertile loam soils produce big trees carrying heavy annual crops for which a ready market is found. Shipments of lemons increased by nearly 100 per cent, and over 2,926 cases were shipped last season. There is quite a good opening here for many Crown tenants with small areas of suitable soil.

Another feature is the steady improvement being effected on blackberry-infested country, principally as a result of the use of goats. This is very noticeable round about the Wairoa District.

In the coastal area north of Gisborne some parts of the country are suffering considerably from erosion during heavy rain. The area so affected is rather extensive, and it is a matter that must eventually affect valuations of properties. In such country the rainfall is very heavy, reaching up to 100 in. towards the main ridges in Matakaoa and Waipatu Counties.

Facial eczema was much less prevalent than in the two previous years, but has by no means died out yet.

Dairy-farmers have had plenty of feed, and butterfat returns have kept up for a longer period.

All through the year there has been quite a steady demand for medium-sized sheep-farms, and also for dairy-farms.

Generally, the prospects of the farming community in this district have not been so bright for years.

HAWKE'S BAY.

(F. R. BURNLEY, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

Climatic conditions generally during the past season have been more favourable than usual, resulting in a plentiful supply of feed through the summer. Production on dairy-farms has consequently been maintained, and, with the welcome improvement shown in prices for wool and stock, sheep-farmers also have had a very successful year.

With a view to increasing the carrying capacity, farmers are still taking advantage of subsidies under unemployment-relief schemes, principally for the purpose of fencing, scrub-cutting, and draining.

Orchardists have had a disastrous season. Late frosts ruined portion of the crop and a hailstorm and frost in February did further damage. In some cases the whole crop was lost. This class of settler will again have difficulty in meeting charges.

The arrears position shows considerable improvement, partly due to concessions granted, but mainly owing to increased incomes.

The revenue for the year shows an increase of over £5,000 on the previous year.

TARANAKI.

(A. F. WATERS, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

The weather on the whole has not been so unfavourable for farming operations as in the previous year, although there were some unusual features. The autumn was good and there was plenty of feed to start the winter with. Cold conditions set in early in May, being ushered in by a very severe storm which, however, did not do a great deal of damage. The weather continued severe until July. An exceptionally mild August of springlike conditions followed, but again the winter reasserted itself, and unseasonable weather was the rule until well into the normal summer. Production of butterfat was well maintained over the year, and towards the close of the season showed an increase over the previous season's figures. With increased production and a guaranteed price, the average dairy-farmer is in a much better position than in any year since the slump, and in the majority of cases there should be no difficulty in meeting ordinary recurring payments.

The sheep-farmer has had a very good year. The wool clip was greater than for the previous year and, while the quality was much the same, there was less of the log-stained wool in evidence. The prices obtained were far above last year's figures. The lambing percentage was good, but there were heavy losses due to the rough weather, principally in the northern part of the district. The wild-pig trouble is still unabated, and until this menace can be controlled there will continue to be heavy losses of lambs.

During the year there were twenty-one selections of farms, totalling an area of 4,460 acres.

The revenue for the year was over £57,000, an increase of 13.4 per cent. on the previous year's figure. This is very satisfactory.

WELLINGTON.

(H. W. C. MACKINTOSH, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

Throughout the year just closed weather conditions were most erratic. Following on a favourable autumn the winter was cold, and wet weather conditions prevailed throughout spring and summer. The plentiful rainfall produced a rank growth of grass which assisted butterfat-production but militated somewhat against the best results from early fat lambs. In most localities very few lambs were sold before Christmas, and it was well on in January before the flush were ready. In the dairying districts of southern Wairarapa, which usually dry up badly in hot summers, there has been an abundance of rain, and the longer growing period has made considerable difference to production. In the wetter northern areas of the Wairarapa the season, although good for dairying, has proved rather too wet, and returns will no doubt be about the same level as the previous season. In many cases haymaking operations were hampered by wet-weather conditions and less than the average amount of hay was saved. In other cases, however, where the winter was relatively mild farmers have been able to carry over reserves of hay from last year and stock should be sufficiently provided for this coming winter.

The guaranteed price for butterfat has had the effect of stabilizing the prices for dairy stock, dairy cows averaging about £8 or £9. Well-bred run or station cattle commanded high prices, while yearling steers of this class in some localities realized as high as £7, with a correspondingly high price for beef cattle.

Sheep-farmers have experienced a good year, prices for both wool and stock having been much better than for some time past. Fat-lamb prices have been good and altogether the pastoralist should be able to meet his commitments and have something over for top-dressing and maintenance of buildings, fencing, &c. It is pleasing to note that many settlers are painting their houses and farm buildings. The better prices obtained for butterfat, wool, &c., have encouraged many farmers to top-dress their pastures, and a consequent improvement in revenue returns has been manifest. There is still room for more to be done in this direction, but this work will no doubt be undertaken more generally when its advantages are more widely realized.

The prices ruling for farm produce have created a keen demand for land, and any worth-while areas coming into the market are well applied for.

NELSON.

(P. R. WILKINSON, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

The 1936-37 season has again been remarkable for the amount of summer rain right through the summer months with an absence of the usual dry, warm spells.

Owing to the wet season lambing percentages were lower than for many years and the mortality amongst young sheep was very high in most localities. There was an abundance of summer feed, and sufficient winter feed is available.

Hop-growers have had a bad season owing to much wet weather, the returns having dropped at least 25 per cent. on last season.

The apple crop has been only medium, caused through unfavourable weather conditions. The total export for the season will be in the vicinity of 604,000 cases. The market opened up on the low side for cookers, but dessert varieties about equal the prices paid last year. The growers, however, should be materially assisted by the guaranteed prices.

Heavy frosts in the early part of the year caused considerable damage to tobacco crops in part of the district.

MARLBOROUGH.

(G. I. MARTIN, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

Generally the farming community in this district has experienced a good year.

The continuance since last season of a reasonably fair rainfall over most parts of the district has removed the fear of drought, and this, coupled with a sound export price for lamb and the high prices obtaining for all classes of wool, has been reflected in a more confident and spirited activity in the market for store sheep.

Those engaged in agricultural farming have recorded good average yields, but there would seem to be a tendency for those on the lighter and poorer lands to persist in this type of farming to their disadvantage. In this respect there is still a marked absence of the use of lime and fertilizers, and though the benefit accruing from their use is generally appreciated the high cost of both in this district limits their application.

An increased area has been grassed down this season and this can be attributed partly to a general rise in the price of wool and sheep and a realization that continued cropping does not pay.

Dairy-farmers have shown no appreciably increased outputs on last year, despite a favourable season, and it is to be hoped that, when charges are brought into relation with the producing capacity of their holdings, settlers will be in a position to make a more liberal use of lime and manure.

WESTLAND.

(B. KING, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

As the rainfall during the latter half of the past year was some 20 in. above normal with the sunshine recorded showing a corresponding decrease, the past season has been anything but a favourable one for the farming interests. Although there has been an abundant supply of feed it is anticipated that the returns of butterfat per cow will be considerably below those of the previous year, but with the higher prices ruling the gross income will show a decided increase.

Although the climatic conditions were unfavourable for dairying, they have in no way affected grazing pursuits, and graziers of both sheep and cattle have experienced a good season.

Lambing percentages were well maintained, most flocks showing 100 per cent. and over, and prices realized for fat lambs in most cases exceeded expectations.

The total revenue for the year was £17,299 18s. 11d., as against £14,432 8s. 8d., an increase of approximately £3,000.

CANTERBURY.

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

The weather conditions in the early part of the year were unfavourable to the agricultural farmer, but favoured the pastoralist in that heavy rains extended into March and April. Cultivation for supplementary feed and crops was retarded. Fortunately, winter was comparatively mild except for rains in July. Spring was later than usual, but November rains had beneficial effect, and prospects for good harvest appeared assured. Continuous heavy rain for three months, however, did heavy damage to crops.

Though stock came through winter very well the heavy rains were against the fattening of lambs, the feed being soft and rank, with consequent mortality. Harvesting and shearing were held up unduly.

Pastoralists in high country had a good year, there being no serious snow losses. There was a fair average lambing, and all surplus store sheep and lambs brought the highest prices for years. The wool clips were good and brought excellent prices.

Dairy-farmers had the most successful season for a long period. Production was well maintained and stability of prices was a satisfactory feature.

Orchardists had a fair year, but tomato-growers had a bad season owing to cold rains and heavy frosts.

Taking everything into consideration, it has been a good season, as the high prices obtained for most farm produce have greatly improved the general outlook of many farmers.

OTAGO.

(F. H. WATERS, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

From the general reports by the Field Inspectors the past year has been a good one as regards the prices for wool, lambs, and surplus stock.

Dealing with the high-country runs conditions were somewhat varied, the north-western part of the district experiencing good winter conditions with low losses, while the high-country runs in the north-east suffered through some heavy drifting snowstorms, with considerable losses and a poor lambing percentage.

In North Otago the settlers on the lower country have had an excellent season, lambs fattening well and good prices being obtained for the coarser wools.

The southern part of the district has not been so fortunate, as a very broken spring and summer has been experienced. Lambs have not fattened well, and harvesting operations have been greatly delayed and crops spoilt. The turnip crop is not up to the usual standard, and on the low-lying areas near Balclutha serious flooding in November and December has had a marked effect on the dairy returns.

In Central Otago the showery weather experienced was most beneficial, and reports show that good barley crops have been grown on the Hawea Flats. There has been a splendid growth of grass, and excellent returns from wool and lambs.

Unfortunately, the weather experienced in Central Otago has not been beneficial to the orchardists and the growers of small fruits. With little bright sunshine the crops have not ripened well, while a severe frost which occurred in October did a good deal of damage in scattered areas, principally to the stone-fruit. It is expected that the apple crop will show a better return, and this may improve the position.

The different schemes for the conservation of water for irrigation purposes have been pushed ahead by the Public Works Department, and settlers who come within these schemes are now able to bring areas under irrigation, which should be reflected in the near future in an increase in flocks and the fattening of lambs.

In reviewing matters over the past year, it can safely be said that the average settler has had an increased return and his position has improved accordingly.

SOUTHLAND.

(T. CAGNEY, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

The district enjoyed a favourable autumn and mild winter with ample supplies of winter feed available for all classes of stock. The spring, however, was an unusually wet one, and this class of weather prevailed throughout the period, making the present season one of the wettest experienced for a considerable number of years.

Owing to the unsuitable climatic conditions sowings of root and green crops were late and growth was retarded by wet cold weather, with the result that the yields will be disappointing and farmers will have to depend mainly on hay for supplementary winter feed for stock. It is satisfactory to note that most farmers saved fair supplies of hay during suitable breaks in the weather. At the close of the period a strong flush of grass was noticeable throughout the district, and this will, to some extent, provide good grazing well into the winter.

Oat and other seed crops showed remarkable promise earlier in the season, but the weather seriously affected the successful harvesting of these and a considerable shortage in seed output may be expected.

Back-country runholders, in common with farmers on the lower levels, enjoyed a remarkably good winter. No serious snow loss of stock was reported. Lambs generally fattened reasonably well, but were retarded to some extent by the softness of the pasture.

Ragwort is still very much in evidence throughout the district. This weed thrives mainly on dairy-farms, but can be effectively controlled by running a few sheep with the dairy herd or, as an alternative, applying sodium chlorate, which may be used either as a powder or in a diluted form and may be procured at a reasonably cheap rate. An apathetic attitude is adopted by many farmers towards controlling this pest.

Notwithstanding good prices for rabbit-skins of late, the rabbit nuisance is still much in evidence.

With favourable prices ruling throughout the season, particularly for wool and sheep, a generally buoyant tone is the natural result, and farmers, notwithstanding weather drawbacks, have enjoyed a lucrative year.

APPENDIX II.—LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS.

SUMMARY OF THE SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED UPON ESTATES ACQUIRED AND DEALT WITH UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACT UP TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1937.

Name of Estate.	Leaseholds.	Freeholds.	Principal Purpose for which Holdings are utilized.	Remarks as to Present Position.
<i>North Auckland.</i>				
Aponga	9	..	Dairying and grazing	Very fair.
Awanui	6	1	Dairying	Good.
Bickerstaffe	39	10	Grazing	"
Bayliss	1	..	Dairying	Fair.
Cadman	1	..	Grazing	Good.
Carroll	16	10	Homes	Very fair.
Craddock	..	14	Homes and orchards	"
Dreadon	4	..	Run-off	Fair.
Eccleston	10	16	Homes	"
Finlayson	1	..	Grazing	Poor.
Hetana	2	87	Homes and orchards	Very good.
Kitchener	1	12	"	Fair.
Koremoa	13	..	Dairying and grazing	"
Lawry	1	..	Grazing	Good.
Methuen	1	29	Homes and orchards	"
Motutara	12	..	Dairying and grazing	Very fair.
Otarao	3	..	Dairying	Good.
Paerata	2	..	"	Fair.
Pakaraka	15	1	"	"
Parahi	9	..	Dairying and grazing	Very fair.
Prescott	3	17	Homes	Good.
Plumer	4	17	"	"
Puketū	..	..	Grazing	"
Puni	11	..	Dairying	Fair.
Remuera	31	1	"	Very fair.
Streamlands	12	1	"	Good.
Tangowahine	19	1	Dairying and grazing	Poor.
Tauraroa	2	..	Dairying	Very fair.
Te Pua	4	1	"	"
Tokiri	4	..	"	"
Upokonui	5	..	"	Good.
Waari	26	40	Homes and orchards	"
Waimata	15	..	Dairying	"
Waiteitei	9	2	"	Very fair.
Whakata	6	..	"	Good.
Totals	297	260		
<i>Auckland.</i>				
Apata	7	1	Dairying	Good.
Balachraggan	18	8	"	Very good.
Bushmere	2	..	"	Satisfactory.
Clifford	8	1	"	Good.
Delaney	1	..	Home	"
Fencourt	8	39	Dairying and mixed farming	Very good.
Gorton	10	..	"	"
Hannon	2	..	"	Good.
Hereford Park	2	..	Dairying	Unsatisfactory.
Hikuai	20	1	Dairying and mixed farming	Good.
Horahia	6	..	"	"
Horahora	7	3	"	"
Kaipaki	4	..	"	"
Karapiro	7	12	"	Very good.
Kopuku	3	1	"	Fair.
Kopuku (2)	3	2	"	"
Mangaotama	3	1	"	Very good.
Mangakura	6	..	"	"
Mangapouri	2	13	"	"
Mangateparu	53	3	"	"
Mangawhero	8	20	"	"
Matamata	62	271	"	"
Matuku	11	..	"	"
Morgan	4	..	Dairying	Satisfactory.
Nelson	3	..	"	"
Ngahinapouri	3	1	"	Very good.
Norwegians	2	1	"	Satisfactory.
Nolan	5	..	"	"
Ohauiti	10	2	"	Unsatisfactory.
Okauia	6	11	"	Fair.
Omeheu	10	..	"	Good.
Opouriao	29	71	"	Very good.
Orini	2	..	"	Fair.
Orongo	32	3	"	Fair, improving.
Otamarakau	7	..	"	Very good.
Otway	8	10	"	"
Pakarau	17	7	"	"

SUMMARY OF THE SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED UPON ESTATES ACQUIRED AND DEALT WITH UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACT UP TO THE 31st MARCH, 1937—continued.

Name of Estate.	Leaseholds.	Freeholds.	Principal Purpose for which Holdings are utilized.	Remarks as to Present Position.
<i>Auckland—continued.</i>				
Pukemapou	11	..	Dairying	Very good
Puketarata	5	..	"	Good.
Puahue	16	5	Dairying and mixed farming	"
Rangiatea	5	22	Dairying	Very good.
Rangitaiki	8	..	Dairying, small farming	"
Reporoa	99	15	Dairying and grazing	Good.
Rewi	6	6	Dairying	Very good.
Reynolds	21	4	"	Good to doubtful.
Rockburn	1	..	"	Fair.
Rotomanuka	1	..	"	Good.
Selwyn	58	196	Dairying and mixed farming	Very good.
Tahaia	11	..	Dairying	"
Tainui	2	1	Grazing	Fair.
Tairua	19	7	Residential and farmlets	Good.
Taniwha	10	2	Dairying	"
Tangao	1	..	"	Fair.
Tapapa	10	..	"	Very good.
Tautari	35	11	Business and residence	Fair to doubtful.
Teasdale	11	89	Residential and farmlets	Very good.
Te Miro	30	4	Dairying and grazing	Fair.
Te Ngaroa	2	..	Dairying	"
Te Poi	2	..	"	Good.
Waiare	4	..	"	"
Waimana	18	25	Dairying and mixed farming	Very good.
Wairakau	14	..	"	"
Walters	3	..	"	"
Waitakaruru	15	3	Dairying, grazing	"
Whatawhata	3	..	Dairying	Good.
Whitehall	4	15	Dairying and grazing	Very good.
Totals	816	887		
<i>Gisborne.</i>				
Apanui	7	1	Dairying	Good.
Ardkeen	15	..	Pastoral	"
Clydebank	3	4	"	"
Glencoe	6	..	Dairying	"
Homebush	13	..	"	"
Hukutaia	18	3	"	"
Kanakanaia	7	1	Pastoral	"
Ngatapa	25	3	"	"
Ohuka	11	..	"	Fair.
Paremata	7	..	Dairying and pastoral	"
Pouparae	3	6	Agricultural	Good.
Repongaere	10	2	Dairying and pastoral	"
Rere	2	..	"	"
Ruangarehu	2	..	"	"
Te Arai	47	15	"	"
Te Wera	..	..	Pastoral	Fair.
Waimarie	11	6	Dairying and pastoral	Good.
Wharekaka	13	..	"	"
Wigan	12	7	"	"
Willows	12	9	"	"
Totals	224	57		
<i>Hawke's Bay.</i>				
Argyll	44	20	Agricultural and pastoral	Very good.
Awamate	6	..	Dairying	Fair.
Beattie	5	..	Pastoral	Good.
Clydebank	13	3	"	"
Corby	4	..	Mixed farming	Fair.
Coyne	1	..	"	"
Crownthorpe	18	..	Pastoral	Good.
Elsthorpe	33	18	"	Very good.
Forest Gate	16	13	Agricultural and pastoral	Good.
Glengarry	28	..	Dairying	Fair.
Gwavas	10	1	Agricultural and pastoral	"
Hatuma	55	26	"	Very good.
Kumeroa	14	3	Agricultural, pastoral, and dairying	"
Lindsay	57	16	Mixed farming	"
Mahora	20	15	"	"
Manga-a-toro	21	7	Agricultural and pastoral	"
Mangatahi	20	4	"	"
Marakeke	17	..	Mixed farming	Fair.
Omaha	9	1	Dairying	Good.
Otamauri	15	2	Agricultural and pastoral	"
Parinui	3	..	Mixed farming	Fair.
Pourerere	6	1	Agricultural and pastoral	Good.
Pukahu	2	..	Fruit	Fair.

SUMMARY OF THE SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED UPON ESTATES ACQUIRED AND DEALT WITH UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACT UP TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1937—continued.

Name of Estate.	Lease-holds.	Free-holds.	Principal Purpose for which Holdings are utilized.	Remarks as to Present Position.
<i>Hawke's Bay—contd.</i>				
Raumati	28	5	Pastoral and dairying	Very fair.
Raureka	10	9	Dairying and fruit-culture	Very good.
Rissington	5	..	Pastoral	Good.
Rylands	5	..	"	Poor.
Sherenden	20	1	Mostly pastoral	Very good.
Springhill	17	1	"	"
Te Kaihi	3	..	Mixed farming	Good.
Te Kura	11	..	Dairying	Fair.
Te Mata	12	41	Fruit farming	"
Tongoio	12	..	Mostly pastoral	"
Tomoana	4	10	Fruit and dairying	Very good.
Waihau	17	4	Mostly pastoral	Good.
Waipuka	1	..	Pastoral	Fair.
Watea	10	..	Mixed farming	"
Wilder	4	..	"	"
Woodlands	8	..	Dairying and Agricultural	"
Miscellaneous	3	..	Dwellings	"
Totals	587	161		
<i>Taranaki.</i>				
Araheke	3	..	Dairying	Fair.
Clandon	7	..	"	Very good.
Croydon	7	1	"	Good.
Hawke	1	..	"	"
Huatoki	29	5	Residential, small farming	Unsatisfactory.
Huia	6	..	Mixed farming	Fair.
Huinga	8	2	Dairying and mixed farming	Good.
Karu	5	..	Mixed farming	Satisfactory.
Katikara	3	..	Dairying	Good.
Kohura	11	..	Mixed farming	"
Kota	7	..	"	"
Mana	1	..	Grazing	Fair.
Mangamaire	1	..	"	Satisfactory.
Marco	2	..	Mixed farming	Fair.
Matane	..	1	Dairying	Freehold : very good.
Ngutu	1	..	Mixed farming	Unsatisfactory.
Okahu	1	..	Dairying	Fair.
Parkes	7	..	"	Good.
Piu	1	..	Mixed farming	Unsatisfactory.
Rahu	1	..	"	"
Ratapiko	4	1	Dairying and mixed farming	Good.
Spotswood	8	38	Residential, small farming	Very good.
Taitama	6	..	Mixed farming	Good.
Tariki	7	1	Dairying	"
Tawhiwhi	8	..	Mixed farming	Satisfactory.
Tokaora	2	14	Dairying	Very good.
Tututawa	3	..	Dairying and grazing	Good.
Totals	140	63		
<i>Wellington.</i>				
Ahiaruhe	10	..	Dairying	Fair.
Akitio	6	..	Grazing, sheep, and cattle	Good.
Almadale	8	..	Dairying	Lower, good; upper, fair (improving).
Aorangi	19	23	"	Good.
Arawhata	2	..	Dairying, also a few sheep	Very fair to fair.
Armstrong	1	..	Dairying	Good.
Bailey	1	..	"	Good; buildings poor.
Bartholomew	6	..	"	Improving.
Benge	1	..	"	Fair to poor.
Braemore	4	..	Pastoral	Good.
Brown	1	..	Dairying	"
Bruce	1	..	"	Fair to poor.
Bryce	3	..	"	Good.
Callender	1	..	Dairying, also a few sheep	Fair.
Carrington	34	2	Mixed	Improving.
Cherry Grove	3	..	Dairying, one section mixed	Sections 2 and 3, great improvement; Section 1, little improvement.
Cloverlea	17	..	Dairying and residential	Good.
Corliss	1	..	Dairying	Good (owner requires supervision).
Coyle	1	..	"	Poor.
Currie	2	..	"	One good, one fair.

SUMMARY OF THE SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED UPON ESTATES ACQUIRED AND DEALT WITH UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACT UP TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1937—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	Lease-holds.	Free-holds.	Principal Purpose for which Holdings are utilized.	Remarks as to Present Position.
<i>Wellington—continued.</i>				
Dawbin	1	..	Dairying and residential	Good.
Devonshire	1	..	"	"
Dixon	1	..	"	"
Dyer	36	11	Mixed	Fair.
Eaglesham	5	..	Dairying and grazing	Very good.
Epuni Hamlet	15	30	Mixed and garden	Good.
Evans	1	..	Dairying, also a few sheep	Fair.
Fairfield	7	1	Dairying	"
Falloon	6	..	Mixed dairying, also a few sheep	Good.
Gee	1	..	Dairying and residential	Fair.
Glasspole	1	..	"	Poor.
Gower	2	..	"	Fair.
Graham	1	..	"	Medium.
Greystoke	12	..	"	Good.
Greves	1	..	Dairying, also a few sheep	Fair.
Hall Jones	11	29	Gardening	Good.
Hammond	1	..	Dairying and residential	Fair.
Hawtrey	40	56	Residential	Doubtful, little demand.
Hardie	1	..	Dairying (reselected May, 1932)	Good progress being made.
Haunui No. 1	7	..	Dairying; one section mixed	Very good (mixed neglected).
Haunui No. 2	7	..	Dairying	Very good.
Harper	1	..	"	Good.
Heatherlea	17	10	"	"
Heretaunga	12	114	Residential	Showing up very well.
Heights	2	..	Sheep and dry cattle	Fair to poor.
Hill	1	..	Dairying, also a few sheep	Fair.
Horrobin	1	..	Mixed	Fair to poor.
Johnson	1	..	Grazing	Still improving.
Kairanga	11	..	Dairying	Good.
Kiweitea	1	..	Dairying and residential	"
Kopane	14	..	Dairying	"
Kuku	4	..	Mixed	"
Langdale	10	15	Grazing	"
Langley-Purdom	1	..	Dairying	"
Lean	1	..	Residential	"
Lewis	1	..	Dairying	Fair to poor.
Linton	5	..	"	Good.
Little	1	..	Sheep and dry cattle	Good to poor.
Littler	1	..	Dairying	Very good.
Loughnan	25	3	Residential	Very little demand at present.
Longbush and Mahupuku	15	7	Mixed	Good.
Makowai and extension	26	..	Dairying	Fair, improving per drainage.
Makopua	2	..	Pastoral	Improvement this year.
Marama-a-mau	6	..	Dairying	Fair.
Mangawhata	..	7	"	Good.
Marshall	1	..	"	Fair.
Maungaraki	17	4	Residential	Poor.
Mataikona	5	..	Grazing	Fair and improving.
Matamua	2	1	Dairying	One section much improved; others poor.
Melling	2	..	Residential	Good.
Moroa	19	..	Dairying	Improving
Motukai	3	..	Grazing	Fair and improving.
Muhunoa	2	..	Dairying	Fair to poor.
McDonnell	1	..	"	Fair.
McKenzie	1	..	"	Good.
McLean	1	..	"	"
Neligan	1	..	"	Fair to good.
Nesdale No. 1	1	..	Dairying and pastoral	Fair.
Nesdale No. 2	1	..	Dairying	"
Ngahape	6	..	Grazing	Good.
Ngakaroro	2	..	Dairying	Fair.
Ngarara	5	..	"	Good.
Normandale	21	27	Mixed	Poor.
Ohakea	3	14	Dairying	Fair.
Olliver	2	..	Grazing	"
Olver	1	..	Dairying	"
Omapu	4	..	"	Good (one section just changed ownership).
Oroua	2	..	"	Fair.
Osborne	5	..	"	Good.
Otahome	2	..	Grazing	"
Oturoa	7	..	Dairying	Failing.

SUMMARY OF THE SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED UPON ESTATES ACQUIRED AND DEALT WITH UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACT UP TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1937—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	Lease-holds.	Free-holds.	Principal Purpose for which Holdings are utilized.	Remarks as to Present Position.
<i>Wellington—continued.</i>				
Owenga	18	3	Residential	Fair.
Paa Creek	1	..	Dairying, also a few sheep	Good.
Paparangi	18	18	Residential	Fair to poor.
Paramu	1	..	Grazing	Poor.
Perham	1	..	Mixed	Fair.
Phillips	4	..	Dairying	Very good.
Pihautea	26	2	"	Good.
Pitt	..	5	Gardening	Fair.
Pohehe	1	..	Dairying, sheep, and cattle	Good.
Poroporo	16	2	Mixed	Fair.
Pukekoa	9	..	Dairying	"
Pukenamu and extension	8	..	"	Fair to poor.
Puketoi	8	2	Grazing, sheep, and cattle	Very good.
Putorino	14	..	Dairying	Fair.
Quillinan	1	..	"	Good.
Raumaewa	3	..	"	Fair.
Ruatangata	3	..	"	Good.
Sandilands	1	..	"	Fair.
Saxon	1	..	"	Fair to good.
Soland	1	..	"	Very good, improving ; sheep to check rag- wort.
Stanley	1	..	"	Fair, improving.
Stokes	1	..	"	Fair.
Tablelands and Hikiwera	12	5	Grazing	Good.
Taikorea	5	..	Dairying	Fair.
Tauherenikau	1	..	Mixed	Improving.
Taumaihi	2	1	Residential	Poor.
Tapuae	2	..	Grazing	Good.
Tawaha	24	1	Mixed	"
Te Matua	6	9	Dairying	"
Te Ore Ore	8	..	Dairying and mixed farming	Good to fair.
Te Whiti	6	..	Dairying	Fair.
Tikotu	3	..	"	"
Tiraumea	16	..	Grazing	Good to fair.
Tupurupuru	3	..	"	Good.
Tuturumuri	12	..	"	"
Waddington	13	3	Gardening	Poor.
Wahren	1	..	Dairying	Fair.
Waihora	3	..	Mixed	Good.
Waitawa	3	..	Dairying	"
Waterson	2	..	"	Fair.
Westella	12	..	"	"
Westmere	9	..	Mixed	Good.
White	1	..	Dairying	"
Wilford	64	135	Residential	"
Woulfe	1	..	Dairying	Very good.
Wright	1	..	"	"
Youle	1	..	"	Good.
Totals	904	540		
<i>Nelson.</i>				
Blue Glen	1	..	Grazing	Poor.
Braeburn	21	2	Mixed farming	Good.
Glenrae	1	..	"	"
Golden Downs	1	..	"	"
Homestead	1	..	Grazing	"
Lake	5	1	"	Fair.
Maruia	10	..	Grazing and dairying	"
Matakitaki	1	..	Grazing	"
Palmer	1	..	Mixed	"
Spittall	1	..	Dairying	"
Tutaki	4	1	Grazing	Poor.
Waimaunga	1	..	Dairying	"
Walker	1	..	"	Good.
Wangapeka	15	3	Mixed farming	"
Totals	64	7		
<i>Marlborough.</i>				
Alberton	4	..	Agricultural and dairying	Poor.
Blind River	18	..	Agricultural and sheep	Very good.
Bonford	1	..	Agricultural	Poor.
Erina	10	2	Sheep	Fair.
Fernleigh	6	..	Dairying	"
Flaxbourne	126	17	Agricultural and pastoral	Very good.
Goat Hills	3	..	Sheep	Fair.

SUMMARY OF THE SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED UPON ESTATES ACQUIRED AND DEALT WITH UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACT UP TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1937—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	Lease-holds.	Free-holds.	Principal Purpose for which Holdings are utilized.	Remarks as to Present Position.
<i>Marlborough—continued.</i>				
Hillersden	52	8	Sheep	Good.
Hillersden Bush ..	1	..		..
Linkwaterdale ..	5	..	Agricultural and dairying	Fair.
Lynton Downs ..	11	..	Sheep	"
Moorlands	6	..	Agricultural	"
Neville	1	1	"	"
North Bank	9	..	Sheep	Good.
Omaka	14	..	Agricultural, sheep, and dairying ..	"
Puhi Puhi	2	..	Sheep	"
Rainford	11	..	Dairying	"
Richmond Brook ..	12	..	Sheep	Very good.
Starborough	166	28	Agricultural and pastoral	"
Waipapa	4	..	Sheep	Good.
Warnock	2	..	Dairying	Poor.
Wither	17	5	Sheep and poultry	Fair.
Totals	481	61		
<i>Westland.</i>				
Kokatahi	8	..	Dairying and grazing	Satisfactory.
Poerua	23	5	"	"
Raupo	4	..	"	"
Runanga	1	..	Residential	..
Totals	36	5		
<i>Canterbury.</i>				
Acton	6	..	Mixed farming	Fair; holdings too small; land dirty, too much cropping.
Albury	78	3	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Very good.
Allanholme	10	..	"	Fair.
Annan	43	5	Mixed farming and grazing	Well established.
Ashley Gorge	7	3	Dairy-farming and grazing	"
Ashton	6	..	Mixed farming	Fair; holdings too small; land dirty.
Ashwick	8	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Fair.
Avenel	17	..	Mixed farming	Satisfactory.
Avenel Extension ..	12	..	"	Generally satisfactory.
Avonhead	18	1	Small farming	Still uncertain.
Avonhead No. 2 ..	17	1	"	"
Aylesbury	6	..	Mixed farming	Good.
Bankfield	9	..	Mixed farming and grain-growing ..	Fair.
Beach	10	..	Mixed farming	Fair; holdings too small.
Bourndale	10	..	Mixed farming and grain-growing ..	Fair.
Braco	2	12	Market-gardening	Well established.
Brinklands	..	2	Dairying and mixed farming	Under manager.
Broadfields	4	..	Mixed grain-growing	Still uncertain.
Brooksdale	14	..	Mixed farming	Uncertain; holdings too small.
Bruce	4	..	"	Fair.
Buckley	3	..	"	"
Buddo	9	6	Workers' dwellings	"
Burke's Homestead ..	1	..	Homestead site	..
Chamberlain	19	2	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Fair.
Clandeboyne	11	..	Dairy-farming and grain-growing ..	Very fair.
Clandeboyne No. 2 ..	6	..	"	Fair.
Claremont	11	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Poor to fair.
Clayton	6	..	"	Good.
Clunes	8	..	Mixed farming	Fair; cropping instead of dairying.
Coldstream	10	..	Mixed farming and grain-growing ..	Fair; holdings too small.
Cooper's Creek	1	..	Sheep-farming	Fair.
Copland	2	..	Sheep, dairying, and grain-growing ..	"
Craigmore	9	..	Mixed farming	Poor to fair.
Cricklewood	11	..	"	"
Culverden	53	18	Mixed farming and grazing	Good.
Douglas	36	..	Mixed farming and grain-growing ..	Fair.
Doyleston	5	..	Mixed farming	Uncertain yet.
Drayton	14	6	Agricultural	Improving.
Dromore	2	..	Mixed farming and grazing	Uncertain; holdings too small.
Eccleston	4	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Good.
Epworth	..	2	Now freehold	..
Finlay Downs	4	..	Mixed farming and grain-growing ..	Poor to fair.
Four Peaks	8	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Good.
Fyvie	4	1	Mixed farming	Not satisfactory.
Glenmark	27	3	Mixed farming and grazing	Good.
Glentanner	..	..	Homestead-site	Fair.

SUMMARY OF THE SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED UPON ESTATES ACQUIRED AND DEALT WITH UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACT UP TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1937—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	Leaseholds.	Freeholds.	Principal Purpose for which Holdings are utilized.	Remarks as to Present Position.
<i>Canterbury—continued.</i>				
Gorge Road	4	17	Worker's home	
Grange	3	1	Dairying and grain-growing	Fair; holdings too small.
Hadlow	1	..	Mixed farming	Fair.
Hawthorne	9	..	"	Satisfactory; holdings too small.
Hei Hei	12	4	Poultry-farming, &c.	Uncertain yet.
Hekeao	10	7	Mixed farming	Satisfactory.
Hewitt	1	..	Homestead-site	
Highbank	69	13	Mixed farming	Good.
Hillboro	3	..	Mixed farming and grain-growing	Poor to fair.
Homebrook	15	..	Mixed farming	Good.
Hornby	17	6	Agricultural and gardening	Fair.
Horsley Downs	7	23	Mixed farming	Well established.
Isleworth	18	..	Mixed grain-growing	Uncertain.
Jungle	2	..	Dairy-farming	Fair.
Kaimahi	4	9	"	Satisfactory.
Kakahu	5	..	Workers' homes and gardening	Poor to fair.
Kapua	12	..	Mixed farming and grazing	Good.
Kapuatohe	5	9	Market-gardening and dairying	
Keith	..	1	Workers' homes and gardening	Satisfactory.
Kereta	4	..	Mixed farming	Good.
Kinloch	30	2	Dairying and sheep-grazing	Well established.
Kohika	16	..	Mixed farming and grazing	Good.
Kohika No. 2	4	..	Mixed farming	Poor to fair.
Kowhatu	5	..	"	Fair.
Ladbrooks	14	..	"	"
Lambrook	6	..	"	"
Lansdown	10	1	Mixed farming and grain-growing	"
Lauriston	4	1	Mixed grain-growing	Fair; too much cropping.
Leeston	5	1	Agricultural	Well established.
Lees Valley	8	..	Sheep-farming	Position difficult; improving.
Lyndhurst	18	..	Mixed farming	Satisfactory.
Lyndon	7	1	"	Well established.
Lyndon No. 2	9	..	Mixed farming and grazing	
Macgregor	1	..	"	Very poor.
Marawiti	12	1	"	Good.
Maytown	8	3	Mixed farming and dairying	"
Mead	21	1	Mixed farming and grazing	Well established.
Meadows	14	..	Mixed farming and grain-growing	Fair.
Milford	4	..	Mixed farming	"
Mills	21	..	Mixed farming and dairying	Fair to good.
Moanaroa	3	..	Mixed farming	Fair, improving.
Morice	28	3	Dairying and grass-seed growing	Satisfactory.
Morten	17	1	Poultry, &c.	Uncertain yet.
Montford	7	..	Mixed farming and grazing	Improving.
Mount Nissing	11	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing	Fair.
New Park	7	..	Mixed farming	Fair; holdings too small.
Oakwood	5	..	Mixed farming and grain-growing	Fair.
Ohapi	6	..	Mixed farming	Good.
Omihi	..	..	Homestead-site	
Orakipaoa	26	1	Market-gardening	"
Otaio	9	..	Mixed farming	"
Otarakaro	..	7	Small farming and dairying	Well established.
Papaka	9	..	Market-gardening	Good.
Pareora	26	2	Mixed farming	"
Pareora No. 2	26	7	"	"
Patoa	1	3	Grazing and small farming	Satisfactory.
Pawaho	7	18	Market-gardening	"
Peaks	9	3	Mixed farming	"
Puhuka	9	1	Workers' homes	"
Punaroa	15	2	Dairying, sheep-farming, and grain-growing	Good.
Raineliff	1	..	Sheep-farming	Fair.
Rakitairi	20	2	Mixed farming and grain-growing	Fair to good.
Rapuwai	5	..	"	Fair.
Rautawiri	6	..	Mixed farming, grain-growing, and small farming	Good.
Riverina	3	..	Mixed farming	Fair; holdings too small.
Roimata	7	22	Workers' homes	"
Rosebrook	11	3	Small farming and dairying	Fair to good.
Rosewill	151	11	Sheep-farming and grain-growing	Good.
Ruapuna No. 2	15	..	Mixed farming	Satisfactory.
Scargill	9	..	Mixed farming and grazing	"
Scotston	2	..	Mixed farming	Fair; improving.
Seafield	6	..	"	Fair; holdings too small.
Seaforth	7	..	Small farming and dairying	Fair.

SUMMARY OF THE SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED UPON ESTATES ACQUIRED AND DEALT WITH UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACT UP TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1937—continued.

Name of Estate.	Lease-holds.	Free-holds.	Principal Purpose for which Holdings are utilized.	Remarks as to Present Position.
<i>Canterbury—continued.</i>				
Sherwood Downs ..	29	1	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Poor to fair.
Springwell ..	6	..	Mixed farming and grain-growing ..	Fair to good.
Stoke ..	7	..	Mixed farming ..	Good.
Strathmore ..	3	..	" ..	Fair.
Studholme Junction ..	4	..	Small farming and dairying ..	Good.
Takitu ..	5	..	Sheep-farming ..	"
Tamai ..	8	33	Workers' homes ..	Satisfactory.
Tara ..	9	1	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Good.
Tarawahi ..	3	25	Workers' homes ..	Satisfactory.
Teschemaker ..	14	..	Mixed farming and grain-growing ..	Poor to fair.
Timaunga ..	16	..	Mixed farming ..	Fair to good.
Timaunga Extension ..	7	..	" ..	Fair.
Tripp ..	25	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Poor to fair.
Valverde ..	10	..	Mixed farming ..	Holdings too small, land dirty.
Waiapi ..	11	4	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Good.
Waikakahi ..	181	23	" ..	"
Waimate ..	34	..	Sheep-farming, fruit, and grain-growing ..	Poor to fair.
Wairere ..	7	..	Mixed farming ..	Fair; holdings too small.
Waitohi Peaks ..	8	..	Sheep-farming ..	Improving.
Welburn ..	6	..	Mixed farming and dairying ..	Uncertain.
Wharentui ..	11	14	Workers' homes ..	Well established.
Winchester ..	10	..	Sheep-farming and grain-growing ..	Fair.
Woodlau ..	4	..	Mixed farming and grazing ..	Uncertain yet.
Totals ..	1,845	353		
<i>Otago.</i>				
Airedale ..	10	1	Dairying and general ..	Good.
Ardgowan ..	66	6	" ..	"
Armore ..	5	..	Mixed ..	Fair.
Arthurton ..	4	..	Grazing ..	Good.
Aviemore ..	1	..	" ..	"
Awamoa ..	1	1	Mixed ..	"
Barnego ..	20	4	Dairying and general ..	"
Bellamy ..	13	..	Grazing ..	Poor.
Clareview ..	5	..	Dairying and general ..	Good.
Clifton ..	8	..	General ..	Fair.
Conical Hills ..	45	2	Grazing and general ..	Poor.
Crosshill ..	5	1	Mixed ..	Fair.
Croucher ..	1	..	" ..	Good.
Dalmain ..	3	..	Grazing ..	Fair.
Downs ..	8	..	Mixed ..	Good.
Duncan ..	4	5	Dairying ..	Poor.
Earnsclough ..	25	1	Fruit ..	Fair.
Elderslie No. 1 ..	34	3	General ..	Good.
Elderslie No. 2 ..	16	..	" ..	Very good.
Galloway ..	11	1	Fruit and homestead-sites ..	Very fair.
Gladbrook ..	46	3	Dairying ..	Fair.
Glenn ..	4	..	Mixed ..	"
Greenfield ..	36	7	" ..	Good.
Hilderthorpe ..	19	..	General and workers' homes ..	Fair.
Hyde ..	2	4	Mixed and general ..	Good.
Janefield ..	19	3	Dairying and fruit ..	"
Kauroo Hills ..	42	3	General ..	"
Kelso ..	3	..	Dairying ..	"
Kurou ..	11	3	Dairying and general ..	Only fair.
Lakeview ..	1	..	General ..	Good.
Maerewhenua ..	77	1	" ..	Very good.
Makaraeo ..	32	1	" ..	Very fair.
Makaraeo Extension ..	3	..	" ..	Poor.
Manuherikia ..	9	..	General, with irrigation ..	Very fair.
Maraeweka ..	8	..	General ..	"
Matakanui ..	3	..	General and grazing ..	Good.
Meadowbank ..	11	..	General ..	Very good.
Melville Park ..	7	..	Dairying and mixed ..	Poor.
Momona ..	5	9	Dairying ..	Very good.
Murrayfield ..	2	..	Mixed ..	Good.
Oakleigh ..	1	..	" ..	Only fair.
Otanomomo ..	25	1	Dairying ..	Good.
Otekaike ..	64	1	Mixed ..	Fair.
Plunket ..	18	2	" ..	Good.
Pomahaka ..	24	3	" ..	Very fair.
Poplar Grove ..	21	2	Dairying ..	Fair.
Pukeawa ..	14	2	Mixed ..	Good.
Pukenni ..	6	..	" ..	"
Puketapu ..	6	5	Dairying ..	"
Rockford ..	4	..	Mixed ..	"
Rosebery ..	15	..	Grazing and general ..	"
Rugged Ridges ..	1	..	Grazing ..	Very fair.

SUMMARY OF THE SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED UPON ESTATES ACQUIRED AND DEALT WITH UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACT UP TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1937—*continued*.

Name of Estate.	Lease-holds.	Free-holds.	Principal Purpose for which Holdings are utilized.	Remarks as to Present Position.
<i>Otago—continued.</i>				
Steward	51	4	Mixed	Good.
St. Helens	3	..	General	Very fair.
Tahawai	7	1	Dairying	Good.
Tapanui	7	..	General	"
Taumata	9	..	Mixed	"
Teaneraki	23	..	Dairying	Very fair.
Te Puke	4	..	Mixed	Good.
Teviot	24	1	Grazing	Fair.
Tilverstowe	7	..	Mixed	"
Tokarahi	75	2	"	Good.
Tokoiti	4	..	"	"
Totara	27	..	"	"
Wairuna	11	..	"	Fair.
Waitahuna No. 1 ..	1	1	"	"
Waitahuna No. 2 ..	6	1	"	Poor.
Westcott	7	..	"	"
Wilden	13	..	Mixed, agricultural, and pastoral ..	Good.
Windsor Park No. 1 ..	36	2	Mixed	Very good.
Windsor Park No. 2 ..	10	..	"	"
Totals	1,149	87		
<i>Southland.</i>				
Allenby	5	..	Dairying	Fair.
Ardlussa	5	..	Pastoral	Very poor.
Beaumont	10	2	Mixed farming	"
Brydone	2	..	Dairying	Fair.
Campbell	3	..	Mixed farming	Poor.
Crichton Park	4	2	Pastoral	Fair.
Edendale	95	59	Dairying	Very good.
Ermedale	10	3	Mixed farming	Fair.
Fern Hill	6	..	"	"
Fortification Hill ..	6	..	Pastoral	"
Glenham	30	14	Mixed farming	Very good.
Knowsley Park	9	..	Pastoral	Poor.
Lambert	1	..	Dairying	Fair.
Lamont	6	..	"	"
McCallum	4	..	"	"
Maori Hill	16	5	Mixed farming	Good.
Merrivale	44	13	"	"
Merrivale No. 1 ..	9	..	"	Fair.
Merrivale No. 2 ..	7	..	"	"
Monte Cristo	4	..	Dairying	"
Otahu	5	3	Mixed farming	"
Ringway	4	3	"	"
Simpson	1	..	"	Poor.
Stalker	8	1	Dairying	Fair; holdings too small.
Strathvale	9	..	"	Very good.
Tamatea	7	..	"	"
Teihoka	2	..	Mixed farming	Good.
Te Wae Wae	3	..	Dairying	Fair.
Waiarikiki	7	..	Pastoral	Poor.
Waikiwi Town	28	33	Suburban building-sites	Fair.
Totals	350	138		

EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS OF CROWN LANDS.

NORTH AUCKLAND.

(W. D. ARMIT, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

A general development improvement is taking place on the majority of the settlements in this district. As in the case of Crown-land tenants, the difficulties which arose as a result of the depression required to be faced, and every deserving case where assistance could reasonably be given by way of postponement or remission of rent received sympathetic consideration.

The financial stress under which many settlers have carried out farming operations during the past few years has considerably improved owing to the heavy rainfall experienced during the past two summer seasons, and pastures have greatly benefited owing to this factor, combined with regular top-dressing with suitable manures, thus resulting in increased production.

In view of the general increase in prices received for farm products settlers should be able to face the future with a considerable degree of confidence.

No new settlements have been acquired during the year.

AUCKLAND.

(K. M. GRAHAM, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

No new estates have been purchased during the year.

In view of the guaranteed price for butterfat and the very satisfactory prices realized for wool, lambs, and beef cattle most of the settlers on the older-established farms have had a good year, while the improved conditions prevailing have given the settlers on the newer settlements a chance of consolidating their position.

The improved financial position of settlers is indicated by the satisfactory manner in which they have met their annual charges for rent and interest, while in many cases arrears which have been accumulated during the slump period have been cleared or substantially reduced.

Development-work on the Galatea Estate has been steadily proceeding. A further area of 2,134 acres has been cleared and grassed, 1,459 chains of fencing erected, while other essential improvements have been effected. The greater part of the estate continues to be worked as a sheep and cattle station, and owing to the good prices ruling for wool, sheep, and fat cattle the results of the year's operations from a financial point of view have been highly satisfactory.

GISBORNE.

(H. L. PRIMROSE, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

With good prices all round prevailing during the year and considerably less trouble from flooding, such as was experienced last year, most of our settlements are in a fairly good position, although perhaps a greater proportion of them have applied for relief under the Rehabilitation Act than in the case of ordinary Crown tenants. That, of course, may be due to the higher-priced land in the former case.

A good start has now been made on the Wharekaka drains, and the work will be pushed on to completion. Three sections held by one settler on the Ohuka Settlement were abandoned during the year, and it is doubtful if they will be again suitable for settlement on account of the recurring manuka and the cost of keeping it in check. This is one of the drawbacks to this settlement, although we have a good class of settler there.

Te Wera Estate is still farmed by the Department, and this year's revenue position is very satisfactory. That is the result of farming the property as a whole, and it is doubtful if the time has yet arrived for cutting the estate up.

HAWKE'S BAY.

(F. R. BURNLEY, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

No new areas have been purchased during the year.

The settlers on sheep and dairy propositions have had a good year. The results from orchard properties have been disappointing owing to unfavourable weather conditions.

TARANAKI.

(A. F. WATERS, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

No estates have been purchased under the Act during the year. The position of settlers generally shows a good improvement, owing to the phenomenal rise in the price of wool and, to a lesser extent, the guaranteed price for butter. There have been a few remissions of rent, but from now on the average efficient farmer should be able to pay his way.

WELLINGTON.

(H. W. C. MACKINTOSH, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

No new estates were acquired for settlement during the year. The majority of settlers on land-for-settlements estates are dairying and have received the benefit of the guaranteed price for butterfat. Those tenants who follow sheep-farming entirely have had a good year and should have something available for the improvement of their pastures and maintenance of buildings, fencing, &c.

Some settlements, in southern Wairarapa particularly, are menaced by erosion when the Ruamahanga River is high, and this matter is receiving consideration. The problem is one of considerable magnitude, and it seems as if some very comprehensive scheme of protection will require to be evolved to prevent further damage by the river.

NELSON.

(P. R. WILKINSON, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

There have been no purchases under the Land for Settlements Act during recent years, and most of the settlers now established are progressing satisfactorily.

MARLBOROUGH.

(G. I. MARTIN, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

No new estates were purchased in this district during the past year.

The whole of our land-for-settlement areas is devoted to pastoral and mixed farming, and my general report applies to areas under this heading.

WESTLAND.

(B. KING, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

No new estates were purchased in this district during the year.

The remarks embodied in the report on ordinary Crown lands applies equally to lands for settlement, and if prices ruling at present are maintained, with more favourable climatic conditions prevailing for the coming year, settlers generally should face the future without any misgiving.

CANTERBURY.

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

The settlement areas generally have experienced a good year with present prices ruling for sheep, lambs, and dairy-produce. The majority of lessees who have acquired their holdings since about 1912 are taking advantage of the Mortgagors and Lessees Rehabilitation Act, 1936, to have their affairs adjusted, and the various committees set up to deal with applications under the Act are kept continually at work.

There is still a large number of holdings which are too small for the class of country occupied.

The Department is farming Brinklands, McKenzie, and Ashton Settlements, which have been greatly improved during the past year.

An area of over 306 acres was purchased during the year and added to the holdings on the Acton Settlement.

OTAGO.

(F. H. WATERS, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

No new areas were acquired under the Land for Settlements Act during the year in this district.

Of the many settlements acquired in previous years the majority are situated in North Otago, and as a result of the beneficial rains experienced the settlers on the northern settlements have had a good year and one that can be regarded as above the average. Generally the wheat crops have threshed out heavier than was expected; and although showery weather made harvesting difficult the crops mostly were well saved.

With the good prices for coarser wool and fat lambs the settlers' financial position has been much improved. However, the difficulty still remains with the man on the area too small to be regarded as an economic unit. Such areas are in evidence on some of the older settlements and give cause for much thought.

On the settlement lands in the southern end of the district, especially on the low-lying land utilized principally for dairying, heavy flooding has been experienced during the dairying season, with the result that the returns have suffered accordingly.

On the whole, the settlements subject to the Land for Settlements Act can be regarded as having experienced a good year, with corresponding increases in revenue.

SOUTHLAND.

(T. CAGNEY, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

No new estates were purchased during the year nor any settlement land opened for selection.

With regard to conditions of existing settlements, my report on ordinary Crown land settlement generally applies. There are a few of these settlements which stand little chance of ever being successful selections owing, in some cases, to the limited area of the holdings and, in other cases, to the quality of the land.

APPENDIX III.—LAND-DRAINAGE AND LAND-DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS.

(R. G. MACMORRAN, Chief Drainage Engineer.)

In accordance with statutory requirements, separate reports deal with (1) Hauraki Plains, (2) Rangitaiki, and (3) Swamp Land Drainage Districts—viz., Kaitaia, Hikurangi, Waihi, and Poukawa Drainage Works.

Land-development operations have been carried out on ten areas under the Small Farms Act, whilst development operations on the Galatea Estate, purchased under the Land for Settlements Act, have been steadily pushed forward. The number of development blocks has been increased by one during the year, whilst in addition detailed proposals have been prepared for an extension of the Tarawera Block, as well as a neighbouring block, which will be known as Edgecumbe. Both these new blocks are similar to the land on the Tarawera Block, being pumice soil with a covering of Tarawera ash from the eruption of 1886.

Operations on the majority of the small-farms blocks reached such a stage during the year that completed farms were handed over to the Commissioners of Crown Lands for the two Auckland Land Districts. These farms, in most cases, were all grassed, fenced, stocked, and provided with the necessary buildings and, where required, with water-supplies.

The following schedule shows the number of completed farms handed over in the respective blocks :—

Mangatete	5 during previous year.
Wharere	5
Tarawera	10
Murupara	11 ; in addition, two B class applicants were settled.
Broadlands	7

On all the above farms dairying was carried out under the control of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, whilst on another twelve milking was carried out on a wages basis.

The available returns of butterfat from the blocks were as follows :—

	Butterfat. lb.
Kaitaia	24,056
Mangatete	30,500
Wharere	20,635
Tarawera	54,770
Murupara	53,000
Broadlands	41,000

223,961

These returns show an increase of output of butterfat from the respective blocks varying from 50 per cent. to 110 per cent. over the corresponding period for the previous year. The returns from the Tarawera and Broadlands Blocks have been particularly gratifying, those from the former being very even from the respective farms. The highest return was from the farm occupied by J. Marshall at Murupara with 7,322 lb., whilst the next was that of T. W. James at Broadlands with 7,072 lb.

A study of the figures from the respective farms shows that some of the occupiers are not obtaining the desired results, and in these cases a weeding-out process is necessary.

The following schedule shows the stock on the blocks at the end of the year :—

	Cows.	Dry Stock.	Heifers.	Calves.	Horses.	Sheep.	Bullocks.
Kaitaia	135	48	50	32	4	..	..
Mangatete—							
Settlers	186	..	26	29	12	92	..
Department	30	4	..	10	2	467	..
Hoe-o-tainui*	6	6	152	..	17	304	..
Wharere—							
Settlers	138	5	30	15	5	..	..
Department	..	2	91	..	5	759	341
Tarawera—							
Settlers	285	10	60	42	10	..	..
Department	32	11	6	..	1	..	27
Murupara—							
Settlers	301	11	66	69	11	..	..
Department	25	28	..	5	1	..	35
Broadlands—							
Settlers	186	7	18	44	5	..	..
Department	22	..	..	6	2	..	38
Grand total	1,346	132	499	252	75	1,622	441
Department total	109	45	97	21	12	1,226	441

* At the close of the year the value of departmental stock on hand was £6,790. The recoveries from sales, together with stock issues to settlers and departmental stock on hand, amount to £25,110, and in all cases of stock in hand the values are on a conservative market basis.

The expenditure on stock to date has been £14,986, and the total returns for last year from all sources, excluding pigs, were as follows:—

Butterfat	£	12,140
Fat cattle (Tarawera, Wharere)	1,335	
Sheep and lambs	3,264	
Wool	384	
	<u>£17,123</u>	

Some of the blocks have not been fully stocked owing to the excessive growth, but it is hoped that this will be rectified for next season.

The outstanding carrying-capacity is that of the Wharere Block, which averages over a grown beast for each acre of grassed land. Details of the works carried out on the various blocks are as follows:—

Mangatete (1,270 acres).—The development of this block was continued, the average number of men employed being nineteen, this number being in addition to the seven men who have been allotted sections. On the two sections which were felled and grassed last year the Department has grazed sheep, and buildings are now in course of erection to enable these to be farmed by new settlers during the coming season.

At the end of the year the Department had 467 sheep and lambs on this area, and these will be transferred to the Puriri Block as soon as the newly sown grass is sufficiently far ahead. Some consignments of fat lambs were forwarded to the works at Moerewa.

The development of the block will be completed during the coming year.

There has been a surplus of posts, and these have been made available for the Kaitaia and Mangawai Blocks.

The following schedule shows the principal work carried out during the year, together with the total to date:—

	During Year 1936-37. Number.	Total to Date. Number.
Posts and stays	9,842	21,484
Strainers	260	750
Battens	4,939	7,269
Gates constructed	64	195
Cow-sheds erected	2	8
Pig-shelters erected	2	14
	Square Feet.	Square Feet.
Timber felled and cross-cut	23,939	100,491
Timber milled	20,824	68,828
	Acres.	Acres.
Bush felled and grassed	175	380
Area top-dressed	80	480
Clearing fern and wiwi	60	235
Stumping and logging up	20	220
	Chains.	Chains.
Fences erected	303	781
Fences repaired	26	181

Puriri (1,400 acres).—This block adjoins the Mangatete Block, and at the beginning of the year was covered with mixed bush. A timber company was working the bush on a royalty basis, but the license has now lapsed.

Bush-felling operations were commenced last year, approximately 120 acres being felled, this being satisfactorily burnt and sown. Every endeavour is being made to save areas of bush at the heads of the main gullies, in order to conserve the water-supplies, and some 30 acres were saved above the area recently burnt.

This area will be farmed by the Department, and it is my opinion that it would be more satisfactory for the Department to farm the whole area until the clearing and grassing is completed, and the work is being planned accordingly.

Contracts are now being prepared for fencing the grassed area, as well as for the felling of bush and the splitting of posts.

Kaitaia (1,000 acres).—The work on this area has consisted of continuation of the works previously carried out and the extension of operations to portion of the adjoining peat lands. This latter type of country will not be nearly as good as the alluvial land already grassed, but should it hold the grass it will provide a change for the stock. Best results have been obtained by disking and harrowing this land after clearing and burning, but it is yet too soon to state the results.

Only minor floods have been experienced during this year, and these have not affected the farming operations, although a large amount of work has had to be carried out to rectify the damages suffered by severe flood of February, 1936.

As stated in the introduction to this report, the milkers on the block are employed on wages, and it is intended to build up their herds for next year. Ordinary farm operations were carried out by these men, and approximately 50 tons of ensilage and 80 tons of hay were saved. Owing to the very wet summer and the consequent excessive growth it was found necessary to top a large area of this block. During next season's operations it is hoped that it will be possible to carry some young steers on this area to cope with any flush of feed.

Building operations were continued, five houses and four cow-sheds being erected, so that the number of fully equipped farms is now eleven.

The following schedule shows the main works carried out during the year :—

	During Year 1936-37.	Total to Date.
	Number.	Number.
Artesian bores sunk	12	27
Concrete troughs	16	23
Culverts and bridges erected	16	44
Houses erected	5	11
Cow-sheds erected	4	11
	Chains.	Chains.
Fences erected	495	1,190
Drains constructed	463	1,375
	(10,931 cubic yards)	
Drains cleared	900	1,200
	Acres.	Acres.
Manuka, &c., cut	340	435
Area harrowed	174	194
Area sown	230	490
Area harvested for hay and ensilage	56	..

Hoe-o-tainui (900 acres approximate).—Development on this block consisting of clay country was commenced in September, 1935.

The cultivation operations have been continued with horse teams, and satisfactory progress has been made, although at the critical period of the year the ploughed land was too hard for satisfactory breaking down with the disks. In the autumn of 1936, 279 acres were sown down in grass, whilst at the end of March, 1937, an additional 357 acres had been ploughed in readiness for autumn sowing. In addition, 16 acres were sown down in swedes. The grass, particularly on the lower country, has done very well, and it is proposed to commence milking on some of the sections during the coming season. The stock carried last winter was approximately 500 ewes, these being sold recently, together with 471 fat lambs. The stock at present carried comprises 17 horses, 6 cows, 67 heifers and bulls, 304 sheep, whilst 88 heifers and bulls for this block are at present grazed at Waitakaruru.

The number of men employed has fluctuated between seventeen and eleven, ten of them being prospective settlers who are living on the block with their wives and families. Six of these families have been occupying houses built by the Department, and in February a further contract was let for six more houses.

In November work was commenced on a high-pressure water-supply from the Maungatea Stream, some 126 chains of 3 in., 2½ in., and 2 in. pipe being laid since that date.

A considerable amount of fencing has been carried out, and general operations include planting shelter-trees, care of stock, and haymaking.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year :—

Ploughing and cultivation	375 acres.
Fencing	733 chains.
Buildings	6 cottages, 1 cow-shed.
Water-mains laid	126 chains.

Blackshaw's (250 acres).—The development of the peat area on this block was again delayed by the wet summer, as it was found impossible to burn the peat. Having experienced three wet summers in succession, proposals are being framed to fence the area and then graze stock in order to control and, if possible, eradicate the young blackberry and gorse.

Men have been employed only intermittently on this area, the work consisting of the grubbing of gorse and blackberry and the cleaning and deepening of drains.

The work carried out is as follows :—

Gorse and blackberry cut or grubbed	70 acres.
Drains cleaned	120 chains
Drains deepened	61 chains.

Henderson's (700 acres).—In April, 1936, men were employed principally on agricultural work, but in May the number was increased to twenty-five, so that the drainage and clearing of the swamp could be undertaken.

In February of this year the drain-construction was practically completed, and the formation of the access road was taken in hand. A considerable amount of work was necessary in connection with the control and eradication of ragwort and other noxious weeds.

The appearance of this block, particularly the swamp portion, has considerably improved by the stocking, details of which are being supplied by the Superintendent of Land Development, Te Kuiti, who is in charge of this particular phase of the work.

The work carried out was as follows:—

Drain-construction	..	..	..	..	414 chains (15,400 cubic yards).
Road-construction	..	..	..	..	2,230 cubic yards.
Road-construction	..	..	..	..	1,700 fascines.
Ploughing and cultivation	..	..	..	..	164 acres.
Clearing scrub	..	..	..	..	138 acres.
Fences (new)	..	..	..	..	140 chains.
Fences (repairs)	..	..	..	..	305 chains.
Buildings	..	..	..	..	1 cottage.

Wharere (930 acres).—On this area of low-lying swamp land good progress has been made with development during the year, and the past summer has witnessed a noticeable response to the drainage-work carried out in the previous years. By careful stocking with both cattle and sheep water-logged areas which were previously carrying a heavy growth of scrub, flax, and raupo are being gradually turned into excellent pasture lands.

Ragwort had obtained a good hold on the adjoining lands, and every endeavour has been made, both by stocking and the use of sodium chlorate, to eradicate this pest. Unfortunately, the lessees of the adjoining Crown and Native lands have not prevented the plants from seeding, and it is apparent that more rigorous methods of control are required.

A considerable length of drains was constructed, and in all cases these were double fenced and bridged.

Two gravity water-supply schemes, operated by electric pumps, were installed, and these reticulate all but two sections on the area. Extensions will be made to these two at an early date.

Further areas of scrub were cleared and grassed, the total area in grass now being 738 acres. Dairying was carried out on five fully equipped farms, and although two additional farms were equipped these were grazed with cattle and sheep. It is apparent that the best policy is to farm the grassed area, apart from that occupied by the dairy-farms, for at least another year, as better consolidation and pasture will result.

The carrying-capacity of this block is very heavy, and it has been possible to sell both fat lambs and bullocks.

In the original proposals for the development of this block, it was stated that it would be necessary to install electric flood-pumps in order to obtain good drainage. At the end of the year, as the electric power had been made available, a pump was being installed on the northern portion of the block.

The following schedule shows the works carried out during the year and to date:—

				Year 1936-37.	Total to Date.
				Chains.	Chains.
New drains	..	..	..	735	1,811
				(5,824 cubic yards)	(37,116 cubic yards)
Clearing drain-lines	..	..	..	1,035	1,322
Cleaning drains	..	..	..	991	2,276
Widening and deepening drains	..	..	..	109	396
Fences erected	..	..	..	1,128	3,673
				Number.	Number.
Floodgates	..	..	..	..	2
Bridges and culverts	..	..	..	34	55
Cottages	..	..	..	2	7
Cow-sheds	..	..	..	5	8
				Acres.	Acres.
Clearing scrub	..	..	..	138	738
Stumping	..	..	..	58	196
Grassing	..	..	..	188	738
Grass harrowing	..	..	..	116	166
Ploughing and cultivation	..	..	..	28	88
Disking for grass	..	..	..	35	35

Tarawera (900 acres).—The programme of development was practically completed during the year, the ten fully equipped farms being handed over to the Commissioner of Crown Lands. The pastures on this land, which in its original state carried a fairly uniform covering of coarse Tarawera ash, have made remarkable progress and, with stocking, the ash is rapidly consolidating and disintegrating into a volcanic soil. Lucerne has also been satisfactorily established straight from the virgin state of fern and tutu.

The water-supply by means of a ram was installed and has given every satisfaction.

The returns from this type of country are very encouraging, and my opinion is that all the ploughable Crown land in the locality should be developed. The Department still retains 134 acres of this block which is stocked with bullocks and heifers.

The following is a summary of work completed to date :—

Area cleared and stumped	..	..	..	..	..	802 acres.
Area ploughed and grassed	..	..	..	..	..	204 acres.
Area harrowed and grassed	..	..	..	..	..	470 acres.
Area surface sown	..	..	..	..	..	128 acres.
Area sown in lucerne	..	..	..	..	..	21 acres.
Drains excavated	..	..	..	..	..	201 chains.
Fences erected	..	..	..	..	..	2,768 chains.
Drains cleared	..	..	..	..	..	365 chains.
Houses erected	..	..	..	..	..	10
Cow-sheds erected	..	..	..	..	..	10
Store-sheds erected	..	..	..	..	..	10
Farms equipped	..	..	..	..	..	10
Water-supply	..	..	..	..	..	Hydraulic ram, reservoir, 35,000 ft. piping and 28 troughs.

Murupara (1,470 acres).—Development-work was practically completed during the year, when thirteen fully equipped and stocked farms were handed over to the Commissioner of Crown Lands. On another farm a small herd was milked on wages, whilst on the remaining area bullocks and heifers were depastured.

Generally speaking, the prospects for this block are promising, but difficulty has been experienced in rearing some of the young stock, and it is evident that calves will require more care in the future.

Good pasture establishment has been obtained under favourable seasonal conditions, and it is anticipated, despite the very light nature of the soil covering, that with stocking and proper attention to fertilizing, a steady improvement in the soil fertility will take place. The gravity-water-supply scheme has functioned well and requires very little attention except for the cleaning-out of the settling-tanks and the opening of all sluice-valves.

The recently completed valuations of the settled areas disclose that these are generally slightly below actual cost. In view of the extremely barren nature of the country in its original state and the heavy cost of transport on all supplies, the results can be deemed satisfactory.

The following is a summary of work completed :—

Clearing and grassing	..	..	..	..	..	1,211 acres.
Fencing	..	..	..	..	..	3,327 chains.
Plantations	..	..	..	..	..	232 chains.
Houses	..	..	..	..	..	16
Cow-sheds	..	..	..	..	..	15
Store-sheds	..	..	..	..	..	15
Farms equipped	..	..	..	..	..	14
Water-supply	..	..	..	..	..	Reservoir and headworks, 43,000 ft. pipes and 46 troughs.

Broadlands (1,000 acres).—Development-work on this area is practically completed, and seven fully equipped and stocked farms were handed over to the Commissioner of Crown Lands. Of the remaining sections one was dairied on, whilst the grass on another was controlled by dry stock.

The pastures on this area have done exceptionally well, particularly on the better-class land, and no trouble has been experienced with stock, consequently it must be considered as very healthy country. Lucerne was laid down on two areas and is satisfactorily established.

Two water-wheels were erected in the central stream and provided the necessary power for reticulating water over the whole block.

The following is a summary of the work completed :—

Clearing	..	..	..	..	..	764 acres.
Grassing and lucerne	..	..	..	..	..	665 acres.
Crops	..	..	..	..	..	34 acres.
Fencing	..	..	..	..	..	2,307 chains.
Plantations	..	..	..	..	..	176 chains.
Cottages	..	..	..	..	..	10
Cow-sheds	..	..	..	..	..	9
Store-sheds	..	..	..	..	..	9
Farms equipped	..	..	..	..	..	8
Water-supply	..	..	..	..	..	2 water-wheels, pumps, and towers; 28,000 ft. pipes and 25 troughs.

Galatea Estate.—The following is a summary of operations carried out on this estate :—

Clearing : Some 2,195 acres were cleared of scrub, stumped, and burnt in readiness for ploughing for either grass or swedes.

Fencing : The fencing of section boundaries, roads, and internal subdivisions necessitated the erection of 1,459 chains. This total includes fencing required for the control of pastures and the fencing-off of swedes. All posts were, as in previous years, obtained from an area of Crown bush at Te Whaiti, and a reserve supply of over 30,000 has been built up with a view to selling posts to incoming settlers on the estate. In addition, posts from this source have been forwarded to other development areas as far afield as Hoe-o-tainui. This particular small area of bush will be worked out during the coming year, and it will be necessary for another area to be made available for the operations of this Department.

Buildings : The buildings erected comprised two large store-sheds for manure and thirty-three huts, the majority of the latter being transferred to small-farm areas. The existing quarters at the camp were improved by lining the huts and providing bathroom and other facilities. All existing buildings were maintained. The staff cottage was burnt down in March, and no reasonable solution can be given to this occurrence. It is necessary that this building should be replaced at an early date, and consequently tenders are now being called for its replacement, as well as for two other buildings.

Water-supply : The gravity-water-supply scheme was maintained, and has given good service throughout the year not only for the stock, but also for the houses on the property. Minor extensions were made as required.

Ploughing and Cultivation : The work carried out under this heading was for the sowing of station and share-farm swedes, as well as for new pasture. A total area of 2,887 acres was ploughed, and of this, 1,000 acres was sown in swedes and turnips, the balance in grass. An additional area of 326 acres was disked after the swedes were fed off and sown in grass. Experiments in controlling the brown-heart in swedes, by using 4 lb. of borax per acre when distributing the manure, were tried out in the crop fed off last year. The results were so promising that with this year's sowing of swedes the amount of borax was increased to 8 lb. per acre for all the area sown.

Top-dressing : The area of station pasture top-dressed with manure during the year amounted to 7,080 acres.

Plantations : All plantations were blanked as required, and it is noticeable that the pines have made very good progress during the year, this being especially the case along the terrace above the Whirinaki River, where some trees are now about 20 ft. in height.

Draining : The drains were maintained as required, some 2,363 chains being cleaned. A length of 138 chains of new drain was constructed.

Haymaking : Approximately 220 tons of hay was harvested, mostly with a view to providing some hay for the successful applicants for sections this winter.

Workshop : A blacksmith and a mechanic were employed throughout the year in carrying out necessary repairs and overhaul of the cultivation and general plant, shoeing, &c.

General : This included the maintenance of roads, bridges, fences, the receipt and issue of all stores for development-work, station, and share farms, destruction of ragwort, &c.

Ballot : Late in the year a ballot was held of sections at the southern end of the property, sixteen being disposed of. In addition, it is proposed to allot to the share farmers the sections at present occupied by them.

The following schedule shows the main works carried out during the year :—

Clearing	..	..	..	..	..	2,195 acres.
Cultivation	..	..	..	..	..	2,808 acres.
Disking for grass	..	..	..	..	..	326 acres.
Grassing	..	..	..	..	..	2,134 acres.
Swedes sown	..	..	..	..	..	1,000 acres.
Turnips sown	..	..	..	..	..	150 acres.
Top-dressing	..	..	..	..	..	7,080 acres.
Fencing	..	..	..	..	..	1,459 chains.
Drain-cleaning	..	..	..	..	..	2,195 chains.
Drain-construction	..	..	..	..	..	138 chains.
Buildings	..	..	..	..	..	2 store-sheds, 33 huts, 1 benzine-shed.
Harvesting	..	..	..	..	..	5,100 bales hay and 59 tons in stack.

Wharekohe Block.—The construction of the water-supply scheme for this block was practically completed during the year. The water is being raised by a hydraulic ram on a stream on the eastern end of the block to a concrete reservoir on an adjoining hill, from whence it is gravitated over the block. The working fall is 40 ft., whilst the lift is 300 ft., and the ram has developed a capacity of 21,000 gallons per day.

Summary of Work done : 8 Y Blake Hydram installed, 1 ; reservoir constructed, 1 ; water-pipe laid, 62,000 ft. ; sections reticulated, 13 ; troughs constructed and connected up, 40. Mains have also been laid to the seven remaining unselected sections.

Summary of Work done.

	Miles ch.		Number.
Drains cleaned	320 78	Milking-sheds erected	25
Drains widened and deepened	26 30	Huts, sheds, and pig-shelters erected	62
Drains constructed (new)	7		Cubic Yards.
River channels and canals maintained	19 72	Spoil excavated by machines	239,020
Roads formed	42		Acres.
Roads metalled	2 32	Area cleared	3,193
Fences erected	77 64	Area stumped	210
Stop-banks repaired	10	Area ploughed	3,436
		Area grassed	2,590
		Area top-dressed and limed	7,160
	Number.	Area disked and harrowed	455
Floodgates, culverts, and bridges constructed	55	Area cultivated	1,639
Cottages erected	21	Area cropped	1,072

Office.—The expenditure recorded totalled £229,129 11s. 3d., and of this amount £73,171 6s. 7d. was paid through the Thames and Whakatane Imprest Accounts. Vouchers numbering 5,430 were prepared and passed for payment. The revenue collected, including drainage rates, amounted to £16,069 2s. 5d.

Drainage Rates.—Drainage rates levied on the various areas totalled £17,580 18s. 2d., entailing 1,995 rate notices. Rates collected amounted to £17,354 12s. 5d.

APPENDIX IV.—EXTRACTS FROM REPORT ON SMALL-FARMS SCHEME.

(A. B. JORDAN, Superintendent of Land Development, Te Kuiti.)

A satisfactory advance has been made during the year in all of the activities of the Branch. The number of blocks under active development has increased from thirty to forty, the total area being approximately 40,000 acres. The area of new grass has increased considerably, and the total area of newly grassed land is now 3,872 acres.

On most of the blocks the work is carried out in conjunction with the Public Works Department's District Office at Taumarunui and the Branch Offices at Te Kuiti, Hamilton, and Raetihi.

A number of blocks are administered solely by this Branch and more have reached the stage at which the administration can be taken over with advantage.

The total stock on thirty blocks at 31st March, 1937, was :—

Sheep	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24,114
Dairy cattle	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	938
Run cattle	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,505
Horses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	164
Pigs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	182

On the twenty-eight blocks carrying stock and for which trading accounts have been prepared the following information has been summarized :—

	£	s.	d.
Price of land or valuation	50,985	18	0
Development-costs, chargeable	118,821	2	7
Valuation of live-stock on hand	54,901	10	0
Interest at 5 per cent. on the above items	11,235	9	9
Gross returns	27,665	8	0
Gross surplus	21,633	13	0
Net surplus for the year	10,398	3	3

In preparing the trading accounts the live-stock has been taken at a reasonable market value. Four of the blocks have shown a net deficiency totalling £1,203 2s. 1d., and this is mainly due to the fact that development operations are not far advanced and consequently returns from stock are low.

The revenue for the year is made up from sales, &c., as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Butterfat	4,439	5	4
Fat sheep	11,800	12	0
Store sheep	1,640	8	9
Wool	4,823	0	10
Cattle	4,152	0	3
Pigs	525	7	0
Sundries	109	16	10
Total	£27,490	11	0

The expenditure during the year has been, on materials and wages chargeable to the land, £118,821 2s. 7d., and on live-stock, £40,167 10s. 10d., making a total of £158,988 13s. 5d. chargeable to the land.

The following information is of interest, being the gross expenditure on the twenty-eight blocks from their inception to 31st March, 1937 :—

	£	s.	d.
Unemployment Board expenditure not chargeable to the land	109,111	5	1
Wages—			
Vote, Settlement of Unemployed Workers	40,099	0	4
Vote, Lands and Survey	67,156	13	1
Considered not chargeable to land	9,076	4	2
Total	£225,443	2	8
Materials and other charges: Vote, Settlement Unemployed Workers	78,722	2	3
Considered not chargeable to land	21,023	0	3
Total	£99,745	2	6
Grand total of all expenditure	£325,188	5	2

Total Work completed on Thirty Blocks.

Fencing, new	14,156 chains.
Fencing, repaired	3,872 chains.
Shelter-belts	875 chains.
Posts split	31,060
Strainers split	4,566
Battens split	368,800
Roads formed	1,868 chains.
Roads metalled	1,508 chains.
Stumping and clearing	6,478 acres.
Bushfelling	443 acres.
Clearing ragwort and other weeds	6,541 acres.
Ploughing and cultivation	5,181 acres.
Sown in grass	3,872 acres.
Sown in crops	2,503 acres.
Fern cleared	2,161 acres.
Water-supplies	8,058 chains.
Top-dressed	7,289 acres.
Drains (new)	2,353 chains.
Drains (clearing, &c.)	1,678 chains.
Logging and burning	599 acres.

The population of the blocks is :—

Prospective settlers and wives	300
Children	253
Workmen	268
	821

Results from the four main blocks—Pururu, Ngatamahine, Lee's and Mairoa are again compared :—

	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.
	£	£	£
Development-costs	16,795	24,361	46,669
Interest charges	1,827	2,450	4,086
Gross returns	3,200	8,002	9,979
Net surplus	436	3,214	5,631

On these four blocks the following are the figures showing the sales of produce for the three years :—

	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.
	£	£	£
Butterfat	617	1,912	3,449
Fat lambs*	941	1,571	1,118
Fat sheep	181	1,222	1,817
Store sheep	550	1,049	275
Wool	286	576	1,543
Dairy cattle	382	166	521
Run cattle	185	1,281	737
Pigs	62	194	416

Sales of fat lambs have dropped as an increasing number have been bred and retained for replacements and adding to flocks. Store-sheep sales have decreased, as it was not necessary this year to cull as heavily as last year, while run-cattle sales are lower because of the need to run more cattle, and younger stock have been purchased. The increases in sales of butterfat, wool, and pigs are very satisfactory and indicate that the farming practice adopted is sound.

Four Main Blocks.

	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.
Number of lambs sold	1,021	1,579	918
Weight (total pounds)	31,250	49,648	29,877
Gross return†	£910	£1,494	£1,041
Net return	£866	£1,419	£1,005
Average weight per lamb (lb.)	30.60	31.44	32.55
Average price per lamb	17s.	18s.	21s. 11d.
	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.
Number of bales	48	55	76
Weight of wool (lb.)	17,717	20,597	28,471
Value of wool	£285 15s. 2d.	£576 10s. 3d.	£1,541 15s. 8d.
Price per pound	3.87d.	6.72d.	12.99d.
Price per bale	£5 19s. 1d.	£10 9s. 8d.	£20 5s. 9d.

* Includes sales and transfers.

† Cash sales only.

Thus during the year on the four main blocks the increases most notable are :—

Butterfat	£1,537 (80 per cent.).
Wool	£967 (168 per cent.).
Pigs	£222 (115 per cent.).
Fat lambs (average weight)	1.11 lb. (3½ per cent.).
Weight of wool	7,874 lb. (38 per cent.).

The carrying-capacity of the four blocks at 31st March, 1936, as compared with that at 31st March, 1937, is as follows :—

	31st March, 1936.	31st March, 1937.	Percentage Increase.
Sheep .. .	2,800	6,345	120
Dairy cattle .. .	574	638	11
Run cattle .. .	233	479	106

The major improvements effected to 31st March, 1936, and 31st March, 1937, on the four blocks are as under :—

*Improvements effected on the Four Main Blocks.**

	At 31st March, 1936.	At 31st March, 1937.	Increase.
Fencing (chains) .. .	4,412	6,469	3,057
Drains (chains) .. .	540	1,552	1,012
Stumping and clearing (acres) .. .	1,189	2,489	1,300
Ploughing and cultivation (acres) .. .	999	1,699	700
Permanent pasture (new) (acres) .. .	1,024	1,996	972
Sown in crops (acres) .. .	295	906	611

Total expenditure on the four blocks as at 31st March, 1937, was :—

Unemployment Board Expenditure: Not chargeable to land ..	£	s.	d.
Wages—	41,613	15	9
Vote, Settlement of Unemployed Workers ..	13,807	16	2
Vote, Lands and Survey ..	23,013	0	1
Considered not chargeable ..	6,696	10	1
Total ..	£85,131	2	1
Materials and other charges (chargeable) ..	22,860	18	7
Materials and other charges (considered not chargeable) ..	18,949	4	5
Total ..	£51,810	3	0
Grand total ..	£136,941	5	1

* Major improvements effected (approximate).

The increasing demand for stock has been partly met by breeding, and this year approximately eight thousand ewes are in lamb to Romney rams. It is intended to extend this practice so that in time all replacements will be bred.

A commencement has been made to breed cattle for the schemes, and this year 450 Polled Angus heifers were run with Polled Angus bulls. This will also be extended, as the need for cattle is constant, and great difficulty has been experienced in procuring sufficient of the right class.

In regard to the dairy herds, this year all replacements necessary have been bred and also sufficient for extending the herds. Five herds have been tested, and it is satisfactory to find that with the total number of tested cows (334) the average production per cow for an average period of 236 days was 230 lb. of butterfat and forty-one of the cows had a production exceeding 300 lb.

The class of stock bred and the general condition of the stock is most satisfactory.

It is a matter of considerable satisfaction to report that sheep-breeding has been accomplished at Mairoa which, on account of its unsoundness for sheep and very bad state of ragwort-infested deterioration, was considered to be a very difficult proposition to rehabilitate. Though it is too soon to make a definite statement that the problem has been completely overcome, yet it is felt that a definite advance has been made.

Another experiment of considerable interest was that undertaken at Arohena, a "bush sick," badly ragwort-infested district lying to the south of the Arapuni Dam. In this case it was decided to endeavour to control the ragwort as well as assist the Crown settlers with their farming operations. This district was originally bush-clad and has been in grass for about twenty years. Every year great difficulty has been experienced in rearing lambs, and consequently purchases of sheep have been necessary. Ragwort has rendered dairying operations unsatisfactory, and altogether the settlers were in serious difficulty, but were considered to be a hardworking lot of men well worth any assistance that could be given.

It was decided to purchase wethers and allot them to settlers, special arrangements having been made for their financial requirements.

Two thousand wethers were distributed amongst nine settlers, and a further 1,200 wethers were placed on the Arohena Central Farm, an area of 960 acres of abandoned Crown land being now developed by this Branch.

The results were most satisfactory, as, in spite of the very large amount of ragwort, there were very few losses and the wethers were all fattened and sold at a profit.

The additional sheep enabled a much better pasture-control on the various sections which were carrying ewes, and this had the effect of reducing the losses due to the "bush sickness" very considerably and also enabled a much larger number of lambs to be sold than has been the case previously.

The settlers who participated in this experiment are now under the control of the State Advances Corporation and arrangements are being made to ensure that a fresh supply of sheep will be available in time this season. The success of the first year's experiment warrants close attention being given to this district to make certain that proper provision is made for winter feed, additional fencing erected so that grazing can be properly controlled and adequate arrangements for the marketing of produce, especially fat lambs.

The standard of work has been maintained and it has been found advisable to adopt standard plans for houses, cow-sheds, store-sheds, fences, gates, &c., on all of the later blocks. There has been an increased output of work due to higher wages being paid, and also to the greater experience of the men.

Although some of the blocks are producing well, it is desired to stress the desirability of continuing the farming of them by this Branch as at present. By this means not only will settlers have a better start, but also the capacity of the blocks to produce will be better known, as strict accounts will be kept, and although there will be delay it is felt that this disadvantage will be more than offset by there being a far better chance of the settler succeeding and the Crown's security will be better protected.

It must be remembered that in the past it has taken the old pioneer settlers a lifetime to reach the stage that can now be reached in from five to ten years by the present methods.

The prospective settlers who are placed on land which has been properly developed will be fully occupied in maintaining the improvements and increasing the production, and it is both possible and desirable to lay down a satisfactory policy of farm routine and have it carried out than to expect a settler to develop new ground and maintain improvements, which may be beyond his capacity. This would lead to the creation of dissatisfied men and women and Crown securities again reverting.

In conclusion, it is desired to draw attention to the fact that there has been very little sickness or dissatisfaction amongst the 820 men, women, and children who depend on the schemes for their living.

SCHEDULE I.—COMPARATIVE TABLE OF GROSS PRODUCTION ON FOUR MAIN BLOCKS FOR THREE YEARS ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1937.

	Butterfat.			Fat Lambs.			Fat Sheep.			Store Sheep.			Wool.		
	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.
Pururu ..	£ 201	£ 547	£ 1,059	£ 135	£ 293	£ 56	£ 126	£ 185	£ 15	£ 188	£ 456	£ 175	£ 53	£ 93	£ 415
Lee's ..	Nil	268	556	74	129	301	Nil	6	82	32	2	93	10	28	133
Ngatamahine ..	416	1,097	1,834	732	1,149	435	55	264	804	330	591	7	223	386	717
Mairoa ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	326	Nil	767	916	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	69	278
Totals ..	617	1,912	3,449	941	1,571	1,118	181	1,222	1,817	550	1,049	275	286	576	1,543

	Dairy Cattle.			Run Cattle.			Pigs.			Sundries.			Total Gross Revenue.		
	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.
Pururu ..	£ Nil	£ 86	£ 61	£ 185	£ 501	£ 556	£ 14	£ 36	£ 149	£ 4	£ 11	£ 19	£ 899	£ 2,208	£ 2,505
Lee's ..	2	Nil	123	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	38	53	Nil	1	5	118	472	1,346
Ngatamahine ..	380	80	337	Nil	304	181	48	120	214	4	19	33	2,190	4,010	4,562
Mairoa ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	476	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	1	Nil	1,313	1,521
Totals ..	382	166	521	185	1,281	737	62	194	416	8	32	58	3,207	8,003	9,934

SCHEDULE 2.—AVERAGE WOOL RETURNS FROM FOUR MAIN BLOCKS DURING THE THREE YEARS ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1937.

	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	Increase 1936-37 compared with	
				1934-35.	1935-36.
Number of bales ..	48	55	76	28	21
Weight of wool (pounds) ..	17,717	20,597	28,471	10,754	7,874
Value of wool ..	£285 15s. 2d.	£576 10s. 3d.	£1,541 15s. 8d.	£1,256 0s. 6d.	£965 5s. 5d.
Price per pound ..	3.87d.	6.72d.	12.99d.	9.12d.	6.27d.
Price per bale ..	£5 19s. 1d.	£10 9s. 8d.	£20 5s. 9d.	£14 6s. 8d.	£9 16s. 1d.

SCHEDULE 3.—COMPARATIVE TABLE OF TRADING RESULTS OF FOUR MAIN BLOCKS FOR THREE YEARS ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1937.

Block.	Development-costs.			Interest Charges.		
	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Pururu	6,500	8,863	15,188	423	616	1,082
Lee's	1,395*	2,655	4,098	86*	248	338
Ngatamahine	6,600	7,823	16,702	1,160	1,184	1,804
Mairoa	2,300*	5,020	10,681	158*	402	862
Totals	16,795	24,361	46,669	1,827	2,450	4,086

Block.	Gross Returns.			Net Surplus.			Accumulated Net Surplus as at 31st March, 1937.
	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Pururu	898	2,207	2,505	95	592	1,402	2,089
Lee's	116	471	1,391	65†	363	672	970
Ngatamahine	2,186	4,011	4,562	550	2,351	3,125	6,026
Mairoa	Nil	1,313	1,521	144†	92†	432	196
Totals	3,200	8,002	9,979	436	3,214	5,631	9,281

* Approximate.

† Approximate loss.

Summary.

—	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	Increase 1936-37 compared with	
				1934-35.	1935-36.
	£	£	£	£	£
Development-costs	16,795	24,361	46,669	29,874	22,308
Interest charges	1,827	2,450	4,806	2,259	1,636
Gross returns	3,200	8,002	9,979	6,779	1,977
Net surplus	436	3,214	5,631	5,195	2,417

Table 1.—RETURN SHOWING (APPROXIMATELY) POSITION OF LANDS IN THE DOMINION AT 31ST MARCH, 1937.

District.	Total Area sold or granted and held on Freehold.	Total Area reserved for Public Purposes.	Total Area of Crown Lands leased under all Tenures (exclusive of Reserves leased by Crown).	Total Area of Crown Lands available for Future Disposal.	Total Area of Native Land.	Land unfit for Settlement (including Area occupied by Rivers, Lakes, Roads, &c.).	Total Area in Land District.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
North Auckland	2,621,141	445,417	526,546	151,717	515,951	217,428	4,478,200
Auckland	2,752,937	1,244,735	868,684	544,084	1,634,634	1,175,499	8,220,573
Gisborne	1,147,135	486,075	508,162	78,256	1,042,029	254,269	3,515,926
Hawke's Bay	1,560,258	202,528	539,773	65,517	371,360	178,450	2,917,886
Taranaki	1,124,661	345,470	610,679	85,462	165,716	72,443	2,404,431
Wellington*	3,533,010	1,073,186	787,221	131,902	786,024	739,726	7,051,069
Nelson	660,981	2,392,943	757,351	100,106	30,051	773,568	4,715,000
Marlborough	790,810	350,407	1,502,382	16,082	..	108,319	2,768,000
Westland	168,579	2,173,035	647,440	405,232	..	469,092	3,863,378
Canterbury	3,565,055	1,458,338	3,936,215	38,285	..	480,537	9,478,430
Otago	1,982,456	955,619	5,451,924	19,151	..	612,127	9,021,277
Southland	1,858,686	4,526,485	1,354,381	87,147	..	129,327	7,956,026
Totals	21,765,709	15,654,238	17,490,758	1,722,941	4,545,765	5,210,785	66,390,196

* Includes Chatham Islands.

Table 2.—LANDS SELECTED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1937.

Land District.	Cash.		Deferred Payments.		Renewable Lease.		Small Grazing-runs.		Pastoral Runs.		Pastoral Licenses in Mining Districts under Special Regulations.		Mining Districts Land Occupation Leases.		Miscellaneous Leases, &c.		Education Endowments.		Totals.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
North Auckland	22	945	62	940	27	5,642	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	3,861	16	363	153	11,751
Auckland	43	6,594	94	3,781	36	8,986	..	..	..	..	409	..	1	3	97	13,621	2	349	275	33,743
Gisborne	4	5	1	9	3	3,370	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	8,573	1	8	25	11,965
Hawke's Bay	3	6	5	6,747	17	8,203	1	4,327	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	1,115	1	..	37	20,398
Taranaki	5	264	..	4,747	18	4,747	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	91	5	272	33	5,374
Wellington	16	23	30	1,013	10	6,864	..	..	..	..	962	..	..	..	74	12,226	11	1,833	141	21,959
Nelson	1	..	2	267	9	2,978	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	167	5,222	..	..	182	9,429
Marlborough	1	1	..	..	3	893	..	..	3	59,524	..	..	..	..	8	153	1	2	16	60,573
Westland	6	2	3	1	6	206	..	..	..	..	5	1,078	6	12	92	7,303	2	147	120	8,749
Canterbury	14	86	1	4	19	4,197	..	..	6	120,890	..	..	..	..	126	4,903	14	2,750	180	132,830
Otago	12	309	3	2,104	9	1,412	2	5,695	3	10,835	..	..	5	50	44	3,660	9	2	87	24,067
Southland	2	11	2	152	4	549	1	549	8	114,501	..	..	..	..	42	4,085	34	2,493	93	122,340
Totals	129	8,246	203	15,018	161	48,047	4	10,571	20	305,750	10	2,449	12	65	707	64,813	96	8,219	1,342	463,178

Table 3.—LANDS HELD ON LEASE AT 31ST MARCH, 1937.

Land District.	Deferred Payments.		Lease in Perpetuity.		Renewable Lease.		Occupation with Right of Purchase.		Small Grazing-runs.		Pastoral Runs.		Pastoral Licenses in Mining Districts.		Mining Districts Land Occupation Leases.		Perpetual Leases.		Miscellaneous Leases and Licenses.		Education Endowments.		Totals.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
North Auckland	579	57,069	422	67,123	1,169	235,931	524	83,155	..	..	553	..	..	1	64	6	202	496	97,848	777	44,824	3,975	586,769	
	1,550	167,320	353	94,242	1,372	276,417	617	170,291	6	22,264	8,755	96	23,666	133	1,815	..	..	926	75,832*	186	34,227	5,240	874,829	
	68	17,484	81	42,648	328	186,338	78	52,412	72	162,283	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	134	23,155	70	38,696	831	523,016	
	138	33,995	405	108,345	590	227,092	135	40,525	21	41,221	62,034	..	..	..	..	..	2	123	26,738	192	51,961	1,614	591,913	
	154	19,094	580	142,091	503	173,463	323	124,889	2	3,336	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	328	287	49,939	617	46,183	2,467	559,323
	831	103,148	1,019	142,122	1,134	215,569	360	132,066	15	24,667	10,825	..	..	..	..	..	2	476	640	38,428	516	103,180	4,523	770,481
	67	15,553	341	105,469	640	248,388	42	17,158	6	9,603	3	195,714	128	26,346	17	538	1	104	441	114,243	132	7,820	1,818	740,936
	39	17,660	542	173,776	298	161,414	68	18,298	108	276,207	42	846,482	..	..	..	..	7	53	226	12,421	34	1,410	1,364	1,507,721
	80	8,177	350	40,061	712	82,326	16	3,233	..	..	38	514,035	260	48,502	142	881	1	50	802	193,814	135	15,483	2,536	906,562
	83	26,547	1,444	251,067	898	362,674	7	1,031	130	448,935	121	2,795,060	..	..	..	..	54	1,663	1,035	199,595†	235	70,847	4,007	4,157,419
89	45,323	1,296	276,681	1,110	372,045	119	16,957	385	1,449,149	316	3,290,025	..	..	..	..	67	3,412	1,382	127,955†	442	46,472	5,576	5,640,296	
109	15,004	534	90,240	431	86,467	145	23,363	21	65,538	64	1,120,057	..	..	..	..	16	188	440	52,731	811	336,189	2,612	1,791,047	
Totals	3,787	526,374	7,367	1,533,865	9,185	2,628,124	2,434	683,378	766	2,503,203	601	8,843,540	484	98,514	704	16,845	156	6,478	6,932	1,012,699	4,147	797,290	36,563	18,650,312

* Includes Thermal Springs District leases.

† Includes Hammer Crown Leases.

‡ Includes Agricultural Leases.

NOTE.—This table includes national endowments and education endowments, but excludes other endowments administered by Land Boards.

Table 4.—LANDS DISPOSED OF UNDER THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACT TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1937.

Land District.	Area acquired.	Area occupied by Roads and Reserves unlet.	Area of Land unlet, including Land forfeited, surrendered, or resumed, and not relet, and also Land not yet offered for Selection.	Total Area purchased for Cash and made Freehold to Date.			Total Lands leased to Date.			Rent and other Payments received during the Year.	Total Receipts from inception to 31st March, 1937.
				Number of Purchasers.	Area.	Price realized.	Number of Selectors.	Area.	Annual Rental.		
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.		Acres.	£		Acres.	£	£	£
N. Auckland	53,941	1,131	1,843	260	3,890	44,173	297	47,077	15,449	16,510	264,059
Auckland ..	360,730	77,464	17,413	887	152,520	365,996	816	113,333	35,321	66,108	1,232,831
Gisborne ..	87,808	423	12,958	57	9,171	73,594	224	65,256	25,101	23,590	400,053
Hawke's Bay	228,649	2,430	2,870	161	32,147	202,681	587	191,202	70,039	75,286	1,208,276
Taranaki ..	28,236	258	3,177	63	2,228	42,271	140	22,573	9,223	8,847	253,267
Wellington ..	161,641	1,046	5,403	540	18,732	212,796	904	136,460	74,699	65,420	1,550,772
Nelson ..	60,370	973	10,654	7	1,636	2,959	64	47,107	2,729	2,120	70,247
Marlborough	235,867	2,641	697	61	12,006	49,714	481	220,523	31,958	31,407	954,734
Westland ..	6,033	80	101	5	576	550	36	5,276	850	1,051	21,027
Canterbury ..	607,335	4,603	3,326	353	25,835	198,785	1,854	573,571	156,661	148,234	4,301,557
Otago ..	340,220	3,862	168	87	8,269	43,473	1,149	327,921	86,680	82,428	1,984,419
Southland ..	100,974	1,048	539	138	18,751	73,671	350	80,636	19,709	19,079	541,482
Totals ..	2,271,804	95,959	59,149	2,619	285,761	1,310,663	6,902	1,830,935	528,419	540,080	12,782,724

Table 5.—ENDOWMENT LANDS ADMINISTERED BY LAND BOARDS AND LEASED AT 31ST MARCH, 1937.

Land District.	National Endowment.			Education Endowments.			Other Endowments.			Totals.		
	Number	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number	Area.	Annual Rental.
		Acres.	£		Acres.	£		Acres.	£		Acres.	£
North Auckland	476	105,159	7,652	777	44,824	8,912	9	1,554	33	1,262	151,537	16,597
Auckland ..	525	149,672	4,973	186	34,227	664	19	2,529	854	730	186,428	6,491
Gisborne ..	74	130,840	9,807	70	38,696	6,901	13	1,073	313	157	170,609	17,021
Hawke's Bay	53	39,568	4,621	192	51,961	10,038	4	41	31	249	91,570	14,690
Taranaki ..	160	61,310	2,751	617	46,183	10,839	18	9,698	1,195	795	117,191	14,785
Wellington ..	118	60,935	4,208	516	103,180	31,889	60	17,156	2,733	694	181,271	38,830
Nelson ..	625	225,019	3,761	132	7,820	601	609	16,415	1,694	1,366	249,254	6,056
Marlborough	199	541,338	8,377	34	1,410	519	..	..	..	233	542,748	8,896
Westland ..	936	192,384	3,531	135	15,483	863	20	10	109	1,091	207,877	4,503
Canterbury ..	154	1,668,589	39,918	235	70,847	27,951	205	17,092	1,906	594	1,756,528	69,775
Otago ..	762	2,508,746	40,806	442	46,472	6,023	68	177,290	8,145	1,272	2,732,508	54,974
Southland ..	229	765,670	7,177	811	336,189	20,410	13	109,259	2,258	1,053	1,211,118	29,845
Totals ..	4,311	6,449,230	137,582	4,147	797,292	125,610	1,038	352,117	19,271	9,496	7,598,639	282,463

Table 6.—TOTAL RECEIPTS, ARREARS, AND POSTPONEMENTS.

RECEIPTS, YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1937.

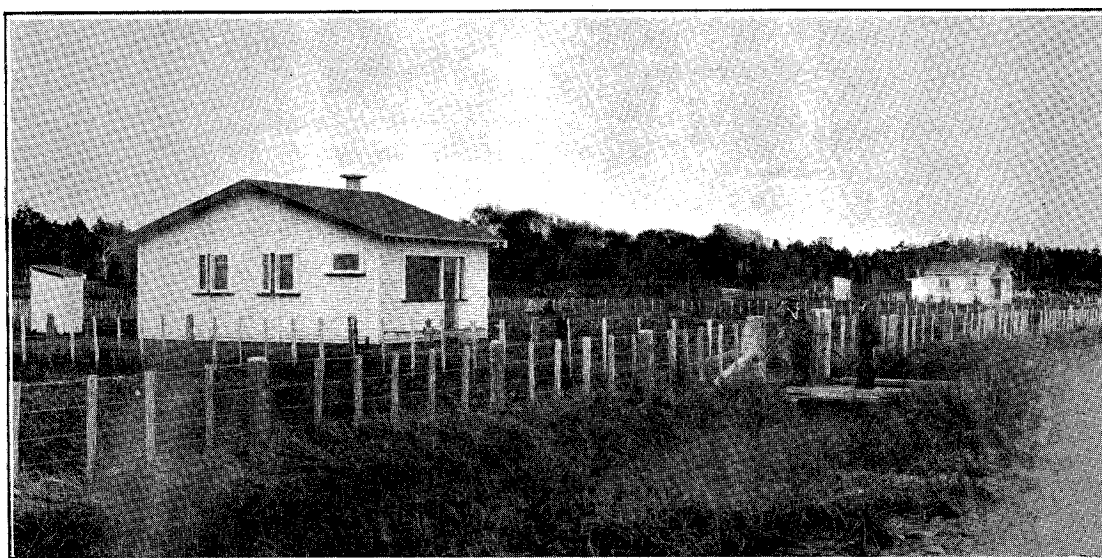
(Total receipts from debtors and exclusive of credits on account departmental expenditure, &c.)

	Total.	Head Office.	North Auckland.	Auckland.	Gisborne.	Hawke's Bay.	Taranaki.	Wellington.	Marlborough.	Nelson.	Westland.	Canterbury.	Otago.	Southland.
<i>Ordinary Revenue.</i>														
Territorial revenue—														
Crown lands ..	263,846	1,377	15,750	32,401	22,031	47,371	19,125	28,129	8,852	3,802	4,656	28,089	38,394	13,869
Hauraki ..	9,634	..	..	9,634	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Swamp ..	455	..	..	455	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small farms ..	5,800	..	2,452	724	16	1,803	83	99	28	117	..	75	185	218
Miscellaneous fees ..	2,475	..	264	346	48	89	182	179	53	373	184	215	337	205
National endowment ..	152,632	15,185	5,682	4,271	8,820	5,586	2,567	3,727	7,511	3,544	6,253	42,053	40,615	6,818
Westport Harbour Board Endowment ..	2,057	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,057	..	..	..	..
Interest on public moneys—														
Survey liens ..	920	..	..	257	80	79	110	365	..	..	..	10	..	19
Small farms ..	10,764	..	4,541	3,779	49	183	672	720	141	33	30	55	113	448
Miscellaneous ..	199	..	114	..	..	13	9	7	..	..	..	22	34	..
Registration and other fees ..	19	..	11	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1
Other receipts—Miscellaneous—														
Hauraki Plains ..	685	..	..	685	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kauri-gum ..	14	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rangitiki ..	3,560	..	..	3,560	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scenery-preservation ..	1,120	..	447	4	2	44	4	136	3	28	330	3	19	100
Swamp ..	286	..	..	286	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Deposits Account.</i>														
Education Reserves, primary—														
Sales ..	8,771	..	135	8,610	..	8,849	9,094	26,447	565	484	1,754	25,495	4,879	21,927
Rents ..	117,412	1,922	6,200	2,640	7,156	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	22
Education Reserves, secondary—														
Sales ..	13,854	1,573	3,141	525	..	1,938	1,191	4,060	78	106	27	179	768	268
Rents ..	6,651	..	..	77	..	2,228	1,486	2,340	..	..	520	..	..	..
Miscellaneous ..														
<i>Public Works Fund.</i>														
Small farms : Capital receipts	52,988	..	18,082	21,056	22	875	3,127	2,896	107	174	54	5	3,823	2,767
Survey liens : Principal ..	8,426	5,004	..	914	262	970	167	1,052	27	..	..	10	..	20
Hauraki Plains : Sales ..	8,697	..	78	8,697	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	10	..
Miscellaneous ..	208	80	..	..	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Land for Settlements Account.</i>														
Receipts derived from estates—														
Rents, &c. ..	461,367	38	13,558	36,583	17,574	62,745	8,630	61,017	26,119	2,010	714	141,851	73,986	16,542
Sales ..	78,712	..	2,952	29,525	6,016	12,542	216	4,403	5,288	110	337	6,344	8,442	2,537
Sales of Crown land ..	98,602	2,579	22,296	25,409	1,724	20,342	3,760	12,938	183	652	947	2,658	1,674	3,440
Land Act, 1924, section 208 ..	3,345	..	..	360	..	..	207	..	..	..	..	1,502	1,276	..
Farm receipts ..	12,700	..	..	..	10,225	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,475	..	..

KAITAIA BLOCK.



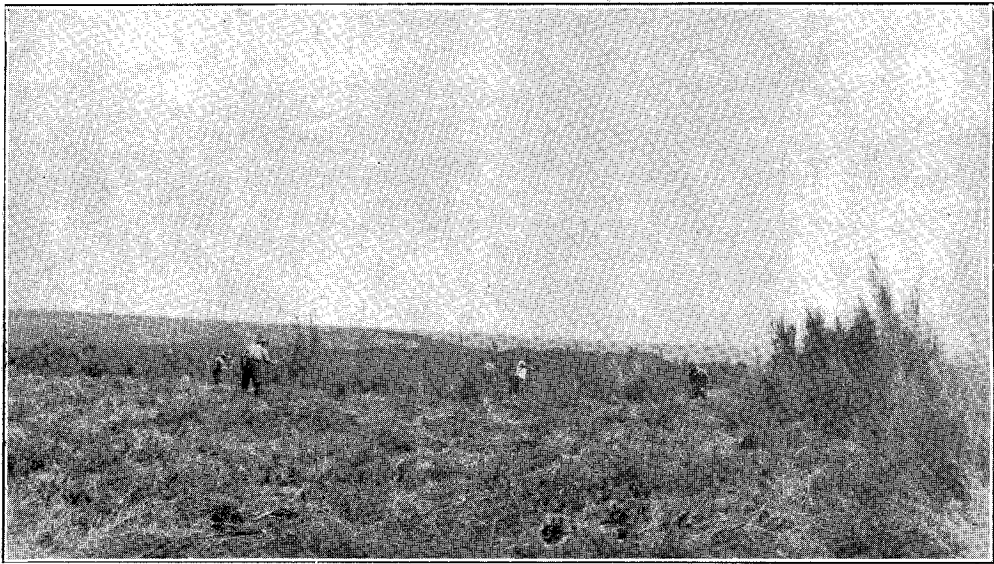
No. 1.—DRAINING SWAMP LANDS FOR SMALL FARMS.



No. 2.—SHOWING TYPES OF SMALL FARMS COTTAGES.

C.—1.

BROADLANDS BLOCK.

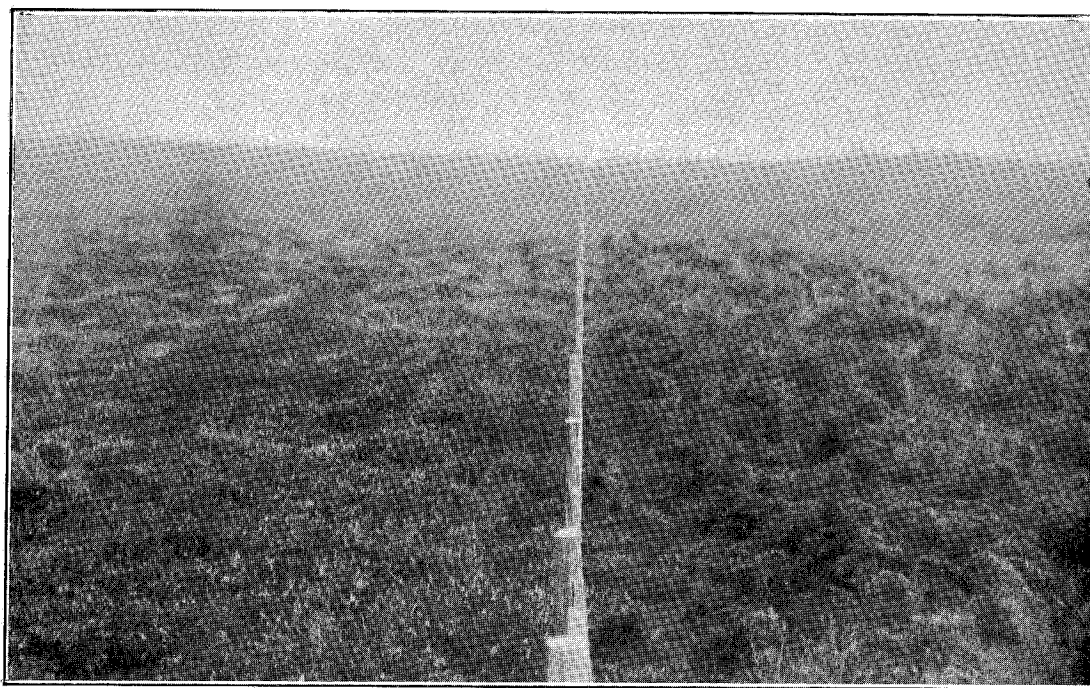


No. 1.—CUTTING SCRUB.



No. 2.—SAME AREA ONE YEAR LATER, IN GOOD GRASS.

TARAWERA BLOCK.

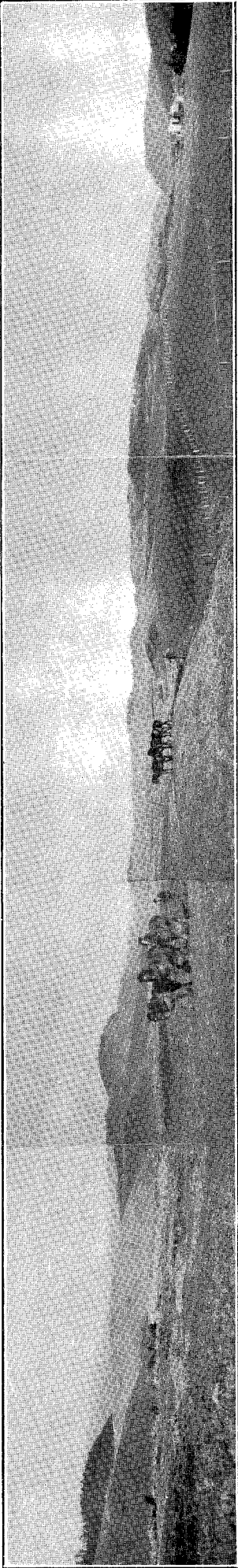


No. 1—FROM SCRUB AND FERN (RIGHT) TO GRASSES AND CLOVER (LEFT) IN TWO YEARS.



No. 2.—BLACK CATTLE IN TWO-YEAR PASTURE OF GRASSES AND WHITE CLOVER.

NGATAMAHINE BLOCK: COMPREHENSIVE VIEW OF DEVELOPED AREA.

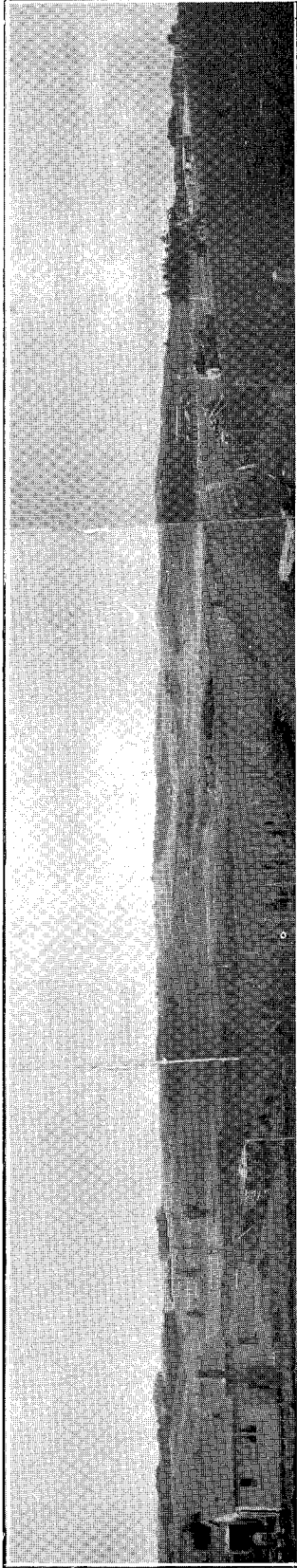


PARTLY-DEVELOPED SWAMP.

HARROWING PERMANENT PASTURES.

NEW GRASS.

PURURU BLOCK: COMPREHENSIVE VIEW OF DEVELOPED AREA.

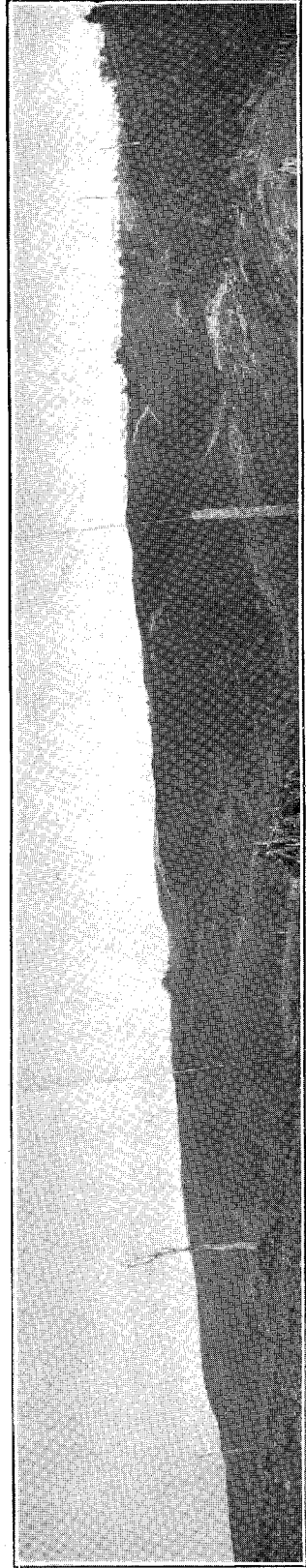


PARSON'S.

CAMP.

PITTAM'S SECTION.

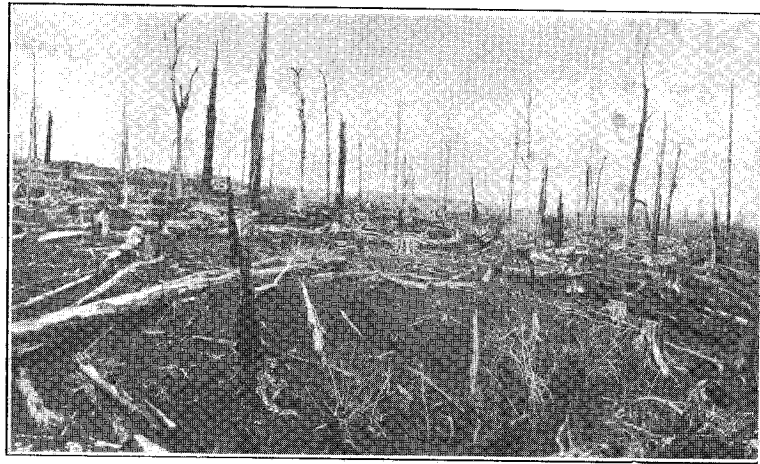
PURURU BLOCK: WESTERN BOUNDARY OF PRESENT DEVELOPMENT.



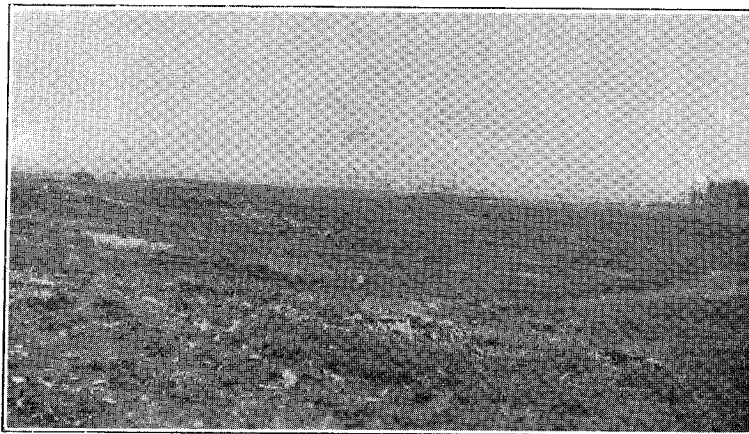
CLEARED, READY TO PLOUGH.

BEING STUMPED. FERN AND TUTU. BEING CLEARED AND STUMPED.

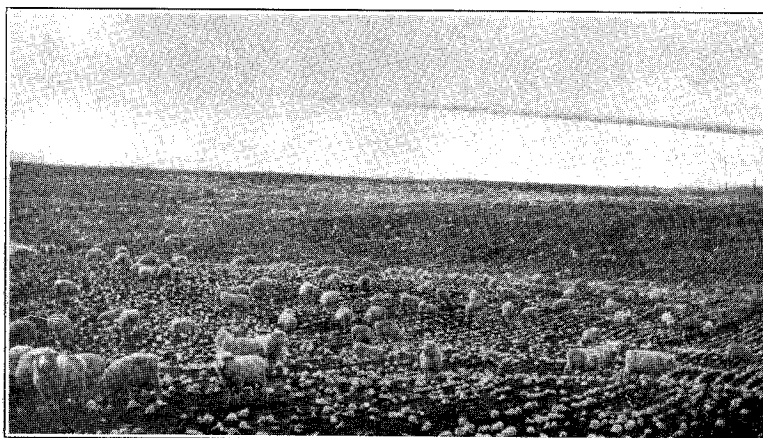
OHAKUNE BLOCK.



No. 1.—ORIGINAL STATE.



No. 2.—AFTER STUMPING, LOGGING, AND BURNING.



No. 3.—AFTER PLOUGHING AND SOWING IN SWEDES;
SHEEP ON SWEDES.

C.—1.

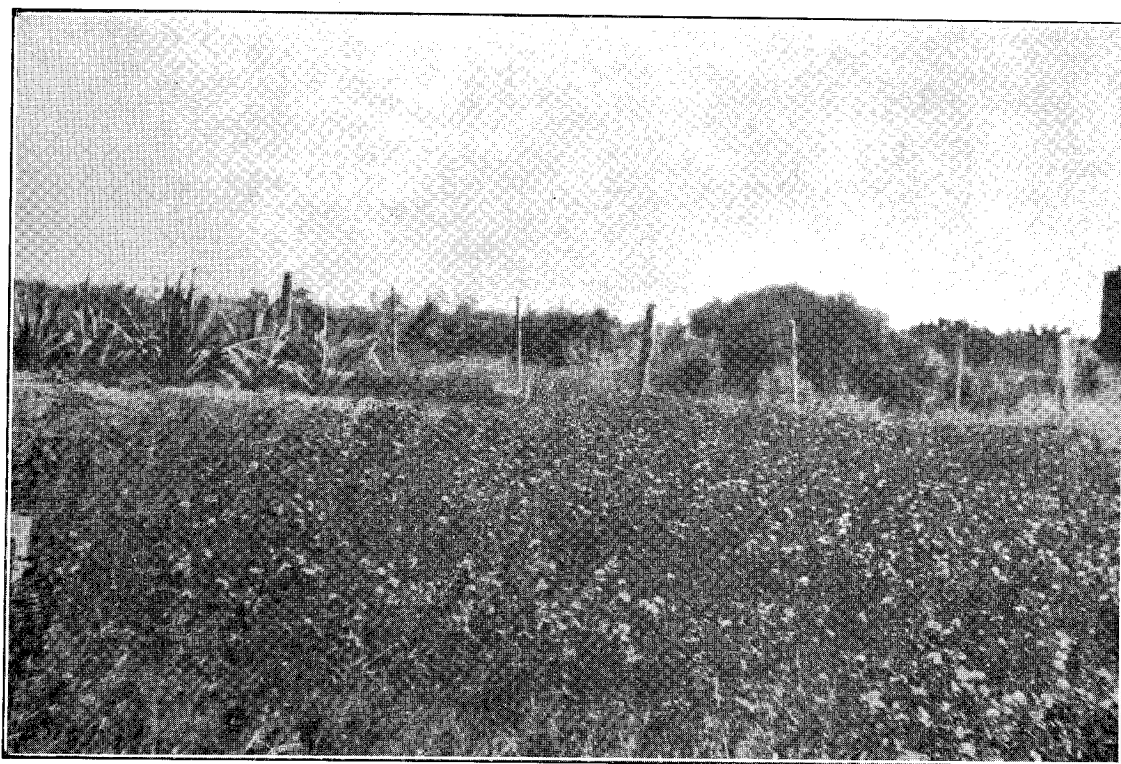
PAKIHI DEVELOPMENT.



PROFILE OF PAKIHI SOIL ON GORGE ROAD, JUST PAST MCKAYS.

(NOTE.—Grey peaty topsoil, white leached layer below, pan formation at the bottom, resting on gravels.)

PAKIHI DEVELOPMENT.



ORIGINAL PLOT OF GRASS AND CLOVER, ILLUSTRATING SUCCESS OF SURFACE-SOWING METHOD OF PASTURE ESTABLISHMENT.

(Treatment: Slaked lime and basic slag.)

WHARERE BLOCK.



No. 1.—NATURAL GROWTH, BEFORE DEVELOPMENT.



No. 2.—SHOWING COUNTRY AFTER DEVELOPMENT.

