

The expenditure on stock to date has been £23,867, and the total returns for last year from all sources, excluding pigs, were as follows :—

	£
Butterfat	17,450
Fat cattle	5,755
Sheep and lambs	1,853
Wool	236
	25,294

At the close of the year the value of departmental stock on hand was £10,970, and in all cases the values are on a conservative basis.

Mangateke (1,270 acres).—The development of this block was completed during the year, and there are now on the block nine settlers, two of whom are still on a wages basis.

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

	During Year 1937–38.	Total to Date.
	Number.	Number.
Posts and stays	2,505	23,989
Strainers	86	836
Battens	3,400	10,669
Gates constructed	..	195
Cow-sheds erected	1	9
Cottages erected	2	7
Pig-shelters erected	..	14
	Square Feet.	Square Feet.
Timber felled and crosscut	..	100,491
Timber milled	20,824	89,652
	Chains.	Chains.
Fences erected	308	1,089
Fences repaired	..	181
	Acres.	Acres.
Area top-dressed	200	680
Clearing fern and wiwi	..	235
Stumping and logging up	25	245

Puriri Block (1,400 acres).—The development of this block has been continued during the year. An average of twenty-three men have been employed. The felling of approximately 750 acres was completed, and the timber, posts, and strainers removed and stacked. The bush was fired on 3rd March and a very satisfactory burn ensued. The prolonged dry season has delayed the sowing of grass-seed, but this will be done at the first opportunity.

The following schedule shows the principal works effected to date on this block :—

	Number.
Posts and stays	11,402
Strainers, rough	1,252
Strainers, squared	1,212
Battens split	4,000
Puriri-trees felled	1,203
Sheds erected	4
	Chains.
Fences erected	196
	Acres.
Bush felled	881
Grass sown	112
Stumping	9
Ploughing	18
Turnips sown	12
	Square Feet.
Timber crosscut	71,638
Timber milled	32,427

Kaitaia (1,000 acres).—The work on this area has consisted of the continuation of the works previously carried out and the extension of operations to portion of the adjoining peat lands. This country is very wet, and it has been found necessary to construct small surface drains to dry out the ground before sowing.

Thirty-three men were employed on the block for most of the year, the majority being employed on drainage-works.

The opening-up of the Waipapakauri Outlet should have a beneficial effect on this area, but this will not be completed for some time to come.

Minor floods only were experienced during the year, none being of a longer duration than thirty-six hours.

The milkers on this block are employed on wages, and have carried out the ordinary farm operations over the area. Owing to the very dry summer the growth has not been as heavy as last year, but although the quantity of hay saved is less the quality is excellent.