

Canterbury Land District.

Ashton Block, of 703 acres, is situated in the Ashburton County, and although a great deal has been accomplished in establishing new pastures, clearing gorse, and repairing fences it is estimated that about 30 per cent. of the work still remains to be completed. When the development of this block was first undertaken it was practically worthless as a grazing proposition, but the work has now advanced to the extent that it is estimated that next year it will be self-supporting. Proceeds from the sale of sheep and wool amounted to £1,783 in the season just closed, and on the 31st March the total sheep carried was 1,180.

McKenzie Estate, which contains 199 acres, was being farmed and developed as an asset of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Account, but early in 1938 these operations were brought under the control of the Lands Development Board. Considerable progress has been made in draining, gorse-clearing, and the establishment of new pastures, and the year's operations resulted in a small profit. The carrying-capacity has been increased considerably, and on the 31st March, 1939, forty-seven cows, sixteen heifers, and fifty-five head of other stock was being carried.

(b) TOTAL COST OF DEVELOPMENT WORKS CARRIED OUT TO 31ST MARCH, 1939.

Block.	Expenditure on Development to 31st March, 1938.	Expenditure on Development during Year ended 31st March, 1939.	Total Expenditure on Development to 31st March, 1939.
<i>North Auckland Land District.</i>			
Wharekohe Block	£ 10,763	£ ..	£ 10,763
<i>Auckland Land District.</i>			
Arohena Block	207	..	207
Galatea Estate	120,778	20,599	141,377
Koromatua Block	4,466	..	4,466
Mangatutu Block	3,717	..	3,717
Ngakuru Block	84,825	..	84,825
Onepu Block*	20,120	..	20,120
Te Kauwhata Block	32,176	..	32,176
<i>Hawke's Bay Land District.</i>			
Kaheka Estate	134	3,547	3,681
Kakariki Estate	37,962	1,352	39,314
Parinui Block	590	1,736	2,326
Waihau Block	..	3,791	3,791
<i>Canterbury Land District.</i>			
Ashton Block	2,653	418	3,071
McKenzie Estate	1,263	..	1,263
Totals	319,654	31,443	351,097

* Part of Onepu Block taken over by Small Farms Board.

In addition to the expenditure on blocks as set out above, expenditure has been incurred on roading, survey, &c., of various areas which are being developed by the settlers themselves, bringing the total expenditure for developing, stock, roading, and surveys (apart from roading-costs payable out of the Public Works Fund) up to the 31st March, 1939, to £397,840, and providing for 590 farms exclusive of a number of blocks which have not yet been subdivided.

(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.
Galatea (part)	19	2,271	R.L.	17,045	852 5 0
Koromatua	4	538	R.L.	2,900	145 0 0
Mangatutu	5	771	R.L.	4,680	234 0 0
Ngakuru	45	8,697	R.L.	58,314	2,915 14 0
Onepu*	12	1,237	R.L.	11,675	583 15 0
Te Kauwhata	12	1,735	{ R.L.	8,325	416 5 0
Omahuta No. 2	1	230	{ D.P.	6,165	369 1 6
Wharekohe	15	1,879	R.L.	423	11 11 0
			R.L.	7,730	231 8 0
Totals	113	17,358	..	117,257	5,758 19 6

* In addition, eleven sections are held under the small-farms scheme.