

CANTERBURY.

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

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

Numerous applications from occupiers of lands purchased under the Land for Settlements Act were dealt with by the several Adjustment Commissions acting under the Mortgagors and Lessees Rehabilitation Act, and, given fair average prices, settlers on economic areas should carry on successfully with the relief given.

With the vagaries of prices and changing conditions numerous individual holdings have proved uneconomic, and, where possible, a regrouping of sections is being carried out.

Settlement lands being largely on the low country, the revenue returns for the past year should be very fair, and although weather difficulties have been experienced the mixed nature of the farming operations should average out reasonably well.

Following on the heavy rainfall of last year, drainage in many parts of this district requires attention, and a systematic method of dealing with drainage and river protection is one that will require to be given attention in the near future.

Settlers who did not take advantage of the Mortgagors and Lessees Rehabilitation Act as an avenue for having their rent adjusted under the present conditions are in many cases having their rent considered under section 216 of the Land Act, and numerous applications are being dealt with.

Some of the early renewable leases of settlement land are expiring shortly, and the valuations for assessing the rentals for the renewed leases are now receiving attention.

OTAGO.

(W. E. SHAW, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

No new estates were purchased during the year.

Owing principally to the favourable climatic conditions that have prevailed, the land-for-settlements settlers generally have, in common with the majority of other landholders, had a very successful season.

SOUTHLAND.

(T. CAGNEY, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

Four sections in the Lora Settlement were offered during the year, and all were selected. It is proposed to offer another section in this settlement during the ensuing year.

The readjustment of the areas of the holdings of the Stalker and Campbell Settlements has been practically completed, and the various occupiers concerned are much appreciative of the action taken to give them the benefit of increased areas, which hitherto were too small.

Settlements generally, with few exceptions, may be regarded as in a sound position.

Table 1.—RETURN SHOWING (APPROXIMATELY) POSITION OF LANDS IN THE DOMINION AT 31ST MARCH, 1939.

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	2,645,876	461,594	500,576	137,776	515,040	217,428	4,478,200
Auckland	2,824,865	1,244,733	806,285	538,478	1,634,634	1,171,578	8,220,573
Gisborne	1,150,178	485,679	508,103	74,189	1,041,954	254,832	3,515,926
Hawke's Bay	1,582,305	202,470	502,638	42,813	371,222	216,438	2,917,836
Taranaki	1,127,659	359,897	586,636	83,717	165,706	89,906	2,404,431
Wellington*	3,550,285	1,066,481	762,813	136,218	786,021	749,548	7,051,069
Nelson	665,588	2,455,829	536,937	298,371	30,051	728,224	4,715,000
Marlborough	782,965	253,239	1,320,920	202,612	..	108,264	2,768,000
Westland	172,897	2,169,603	616,846	435,520	..	469,112	3,863,378
Canterbury	3,568,029	1,579,638	3,792,706	90,074	..	447,983	9,478,430
Otago	1,977,463	958,759	5,450,220	9,213	..	612,113	9,007,777
Southland	1,863,270	4,569,050	1,370,385	37,494	..	129,327	7,969,526
Totals	21,911,380	15,897,883	16,755,073	2,086,475	4,544,331	5,194,753	66,390,196

* Includes Chatham Islands.