

## NATIVE-LAND SETTLEMENT.

The net expenditure from the Public Works Fund for the year under review was £357,818, as compared with £493,695 for the previous year. The gross expenditure this year was £1,052,777, as against £1,166,103 last year. The difference between the gross expenditure and the net capital expenditure this year—viz., £694,959—is represented by grants from the Consolidated Fund for promotion of employment of Maoris (£400,000) and farm receipts from Native lands in course of development and settlement totalling £294,959.

With the exception of £38,953 expended under the Native Housing Act, 1935 (an additional amount of £22,657 advanced during the year 1939–40 from the Special Housing Fund for disbursement by the Maori Land Boards is reflected in the Native Trustee's Account), the above figures represent expenditure on the development, settlement, cultivation, and improvement of Native lands, and the progress achieved in regard to these activities is indicated in the following statement, which shows the position at 31st March, 1940 :—

Area gazetted for development (acres)	..	..	903,000
Area under development (acres)	..	..	269,000
Individuals settlers established	..	..	1,900
Labourers employed	..	..	3,000
Dependants (excluding settlers and labourers)	..	..	17,000
Houses erected to date (total)	..	..	1,222
Live-stock tallies—			
Dairy stock	..	..	53,000
Run cattle	..	..	24,000
Sheep	..	..	199,000
Receipts for year—			
Butterfat (Department's proportion only, 40 per cent.)	..	..	£ 118,600
Wool	..	..	55,900
Live-stock	..	..	107,500
Sundries	..	..	12,959
			£
			294,959

The development and settlement of Native lands, the construction and repair of houses for Maoris, and the promotion of employment amongst the people are measures which are directed by the Board of Native Affairs and controlled by the Native Department. A full report dealing with the operations of the Board, and the policy adopted to encourage and assist the Maori people in their establishment as self-supporting members of the community, is contained in parliamentary report G.—10.

Further detailed particulars in respect of public works activities are included in the attached reports by the Engineer-in-Chief, the Government Architect, and the Chief Electrical Engineer.

In accordance with section 24 of the Main Highways Act, 1922, the annual report of the Main Highways Board for the year ended 31st March, 1940, together with a statement of accounts duly audited by the Audit Office, is also attached, *vide* Appendix E.