

WELLINGTON LAND DISTRICT.

Raetihi Block (2,937 Acres).

(Control: Superintendent of Land Development, Te Kuiti.)

Two areas have now been amalgamated to form this block—namely, Raetihi and Makaranui. A control depot has been established on the block and new buildings erected. As a whole the development has been confined to stumping and cultivation for crops. Some excellent turnip and swede crops are at present established, and the permanent grass areas are satisfactory but require further top-dressing and consolidation.

On the Raetihi area work is approximately 80 per cent. completed.

On the Makaranui area development work is approximately half-completed. With the planting of shelter-belts and good pasture establishment this area should subdivide into good mixed-farming units.

Ohakune Block (1,087 Acres).

(Control: Superintendent of Land Development, Te Kuiti.)

At the present time there are 365 acres in new grass and 210 acres in crops. A further 120 acres have been logged and burnt and are now ready for ploughing. Good crops have been grown, and the new grass pastures are most promising. The work is approximately 60 per cent. completed.

Blocks in Course of Development in the Wellington Land District.

Block.	Area.	Number of Men employed.	Stock carried.					
			Dairy Cows.	Run Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Horses.	
	Aces.							
Ohakune	1,087	11	1	278	..	1,688	7	
Raetihi	2,937	30	4	294	..	5,308	16	
Totals	4,024	41	5	572	..	6,996	23	

Sales.

Block.	Butterfat.		Wool.		Cattle.		Sheep.		Pigs.		
	Pounds.	Value.	Bales.	Pounds.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
		£			£		£		£		£
Ohakune	16	6,083	218	215	937	4,047	4,233
Raetihi	126	46,690	1,908	400	1,013	4,079	3,280
Totals	142	52,773	2,126	615	1,950	8,126	7,513

HAWKE'S BAY LAND DISTRICT.

Ahuriri Lagoon (7,153 Acres).

Development operations have been progressing steadily during the year.

Owing to a very dry spring, summer, and autumn, there was a very large surface of salt deposit which adversely affected both the grassed land and the crops. It is anticipated that when the rains come there will be a very large quantity of salt quickly removed. However, the effect of the salt has been to decrease the area and quality of grass, and this will necessitate a slightly reduced winter-carrying capacity.

A pea crop of 5 acres was successfully grown for canning, and yielded nearly 20 tons and returned a profit of approximately £22 per acre. It is intended to grow another 6 to 8 acres of peas for canning this coming season. There was a satisfactory mangel crop, but the other crops were adversely affected by dry weather, so that it has been decided during the coming season to concentrate on producing crops such as mangels and pumpkins for stock fodder rather than the growing of crops for sale.

Barley has again proved to be a reliable winter fodder, 180 acres were grown and gave valuable grazing. This area will be laid down in permanent pasture.

Approximately 700 acres of grass were top-dressed with superphosphate.