

1944
NEW ZEALAND

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND SURVEY
SETTLEMENT OF CROWN LANDS

(ANNUAL REPORT ON)

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency

Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, 3rd July, 1944.

SIR,—

I have the honour to submit the annual report on the settlement of Crown lands for the year ended 31st March, 1944, together with particulars of operations under the Small Farms Act, 1932-33, the Land Laws Amendment Act, 1929, and the Servicemen's Settlement and Land Sales Act, 1943.

I have &c.,
R. G. MACMORRAN,
Under-Secretary.

The Hon. the Minister of Lands.

REPORT

GENERAL REVIEW

Reports from the districts indicate that, despite difficult climatic conditions at certain periods, Crown tenants generally have had a satisfactory year.

As stated in last year's report, the shortage of phosphatic fertilizers and the lack of man-power are adversely affecting farming operations, and in some cases necessary maintenance is being neglected to a certain extent. This position has arisen as a result of the war. It is hoped that the retrogression that is evident in certain localities will be overcome when normal conditions again prevail.

As all suitable blocks of Crown land are to be utilized for the settlement of ex-servicemen, very few sections were offered for selection by the general public during the past year, and the Department's activities in so far as ordinary land-settlement is concerned were connected mainly with the administration of areas selected in previous years. Additional properties were acquired during the year for the settlement of discharged servicemen, and particulars of the areas concerned are given in that portion of the report dealing with land-development.

In most districts there have been few applications for remission of rent, and the majority of the tenants have met their commitments to the Department.

At the 31st March, 1944, the tenants on the books of the Department numbered 35,127, occupying a total area of approximately 17,576,089 acres.

Extracts from reports of Commissioners of Crown Lands, dealing with settlement conditions in their respective districts, are included in an Appendix to this report.

LEGISLATION

By section 28 of the Statutes Amendment Act, 1943, the term "discharged serviceman," for the purposes of the Small Farms Act, 1932-33, is extended, and by section 29 of the same Act special provision is made with respect to leases to discharged servicemen.

The Reserves and other Lands Disposal Act, 1943, contains twelve sections dealing with Crown lands, reserves, endowments, and other lands.

Details concerning the Servicemen's Settlement and Land Sales Act, 1943, are given under a separate heading.

POSTPONEMENTS, REMISSIONS, AND ARREARS OF RENT AND INTEREST

Rents and interest the payment of which remained postponed at 31st March amounted to £16,576. Arrears of rent and interest at the 31st March (including arrears in respect of the current half-yearly charge) totalled £139,205, while remissions for the year totalled £23,120.

THE SERVICEMEN'S SETTLEMENT AND LAND SALES ACT, 1943

This Act came into operation on 18th October, 1943. The objects of the Act, as set out in the preamble, are—

- (1) To provide for the acquisition of land for the settlement of discharged servicemen ;
- (2) To provide for the control of sales and leases of land in order to facilitate the settlement of discharged servicemen ; and
- (3) To prevent undue increases in the price of land, the undue aggregation of land, and its use for speculative or uneconomic purposes.

Part I of the Act established the Land Sales Court consisting of a Judge, with the status of a Judge of the Supreme Court, and two other members appointed by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council. It also established such number of Land Sales Committees as the Governor-General in Council may think necessary. Each Committee has a distinctive name and consists of not more than three members.

On 18th October the Hon. G. P. Finlay, a Judge of the Supreme Court, was appointed Judge of the Land Sales Court, and Messrs. W. E. Scott, of Kapuni, farmer, and W. Stewart, of Wellington, retired Valuer-General, were appointed members of the Court. Fifteen Land Sales Committees, each of three members, were appointed ; the Chairmen in most cases are practising solicitors, and it has been necessary in a few cases to appoint deputy Chairmen, who act when required.

Part II of the Act provides for the taking of land for the settlement of discharged servicemen, provided such land is capable of subdivision into two or more economic units, and provided also that the owner shall have the right to retain one of the subdivisions.

To 31st March, 1944, only one property had been taken under Part II, an area of 1,200 acres, approximately, in Marlborough, which will be subdivided into three farms and balloted for shortly. The taking of other areas is under action.

Part III of the Act provides that, with certain exceptions set out in the Act, no land shall be sold or transferred, or leased for a period of not less than three years, without the consent of the Court. Application for the consent of the Court is filed in accordance with the prescribed forms in one of the eleven offices of the Court throughout the Dominion, and the application is then referred to the Land Sales Committee operating in the locality. If necessary, a public hearing is held at which all persons interested in the transaction have the right to be heard. Any person affected by the Order of the Committee has a right of appeal to the Land Sales Court, such appeal to be lodged within fourteen days of the filing of the order.

Up to 31st March, 1944, a total of 10,623 applications had been filed, of which 953 related to farm land and 9,670 to other than farm land. Of this number, 8,618 had been finally dealt with, of which 663 were farm land and 7,955 other than farm land. Of the applications granted, approximately 74 per cent. were granted without a hearing, 13 per cent. after a hearing, and 11 per cent. subject to conditions. The percentage of those refused by the Committee or withdrawn by the parties is only 2 per cent. Although the number of applications outstanding at 31st March, 1944, was 2,005, it should be noted that the number filed for the month of March alone was 3,213. Further, some of these cases had already been set down for hearing early in April. It can therefore be said fairly that the handling of the applications is running smoothly and expeditiously, and only a relatively small number of cases take any length of time for the Committee's decision to be known. Those applications which do take some while are cases where valuations are required or further particulars are necessary.

The main difficulty in the expeditious working of the Act is the obtaining of valuations. Additional Valuers are being employed by the State Departments, but it will be realized that with so many Valuers still serving in the Armed Forces it is not easy to obtain trained staff. Every endeavour is being made to employ additional Valuers, and, where necessary, Valuers outside the State Departments are being engaged to enable all applications to be considered as quickly as possible.

The number of appeals filed against Committees' orders is 44, but, of this number, 17 were subsequently withdrawn. Of the appeals heard, 5 were dismissed, 4 allowed, and 3 allowed in part. The Court makes the practice of travelling to the various centres for the hearing of appeals, and so far sittings have been held in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, Timaru, and Nelson.

Generally, it can be claimed that the Act is being administered with a minimum of friction and inconvenience to the applicants, and this has been made possible only by the sympathetic attitude and conscientious work of the Committees and the Court officers in the various registries working under pressure of understaffing on account of the prevailing war conditions.

Appended are tables showing the number of applications filed to 31st March, 1944, and how they have been dealt with, the number of cases where consent has been granted subject to a reduction in the consideration, and the number of appeals lodged and how they have been disposed of.

RETURN OF APPLICATIONS FROM BEGINNING OF ACT (18TH OCTOBER, 1943) TO 31ST MARCH, 1944

Registry.	Received.	Granted without Hearing.	Granted after Hearing.	Granted subject to Conditions.	Refused (or With-drawn).	Total finalized.	Action incomplete.
Farm lands—							
Auckland	381	129	76	8	16	229	152
Gisborne	21	14	4	1	1	20	1
Napier	44	31	1	1	..	33	11
New Plymouth	50	27	..	1	5	33	17
Wellington	76	45	1	4	..	50	26
Blenheim	21	4	8	3	..	15	6
Nelson	45	41	..	..	..	41	4
Hokitika	4	3	..	1	..	4	..
Christchurch	149	86	9	10	4	109	40
Dunedin	73	51	1	2	..	54	19
Invercargill	89	54	16	3	2	75	14
Totals	953	485	116	34	28	663	290
Other lands—							
Auckland	3,398	1,607	695	234	86	2,622	776
Gisborne	145	123	5	14	1	143	2
Napier	428	295	11	28	2	336	92
New Plymouth	357	284	17	21	3	325	32
Wellington	1,919	1,341	101	171	13	1,626	293
Blenheim	109	85	8	10	..	103	6
Nelson	189	149	4	3	9	164	25
Hokitika	88	66	7	8	..	82	6
Christchurch	1,650	900	113	238	27	1,278	372
Dunedin	962	749	15	98	5	867	95
Invercargill	425	276	62	66	5	409	16
Totals	9,670	5,875	1,038	891	151	7,955	1,715
Grand totals	10,623	6,360	1,154	925	179	8,618	2,005

REDUCTIONS IN CONSIDERATION DIRECTED BY LAND SALES COMMITTEES

Registry.	Farm Land.		Other Land.		Totals.	
	Number.	Amount	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
Auckland	19	£ 3,334	263	£ 21,576	282	£ 24,910
Gisborne	1	85	13	785	14	870
Napier	1	734	18	1,448	19	2,182
New Plymouth	1	301	21	1,337	22	1,638
Wellington	6	2,226	188	25,700	194	27,926
Blenheim .. ..	..	..	13	1,710	13	1,710
Nelson	1	50	18	1,900	19	1,950
Hokitika	1	25	9	423	10	448
Christchurch	7	1,129	239	20,198	246	21,327
Dunedin	2	1,071	96	5,284	98	6,355
Invercargill	5	528	65	4,009	70	4,537
Totals	44	9,483	943	84,370	987	93,853

RETURN OF APPEALS TO 31ST MARCH, 1944

District.	Number lodged.	Dis-mitted.	Allowed in Part.	Allowed in Full.	Heard, but Decisions not given.	With-drawn.	Referred back to Com-mittee.	Total Number disposed of.	Number remain-ing to be dealt with.
Farm land—									
Auckland	6	1	..	..	..	1	..	2	4
Gisborne .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Napier .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
New Plymouth	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Wellington	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..
Blenheim .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hokitika .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Christchurch	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Dunedin	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Invercargill .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	11	1	..	..	..	4	1	6	5
Other land—									
Auckland	11	1	1	..	..	1	..	3	8
Gisborne .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Napier .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
New Plymouth .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington	18	2	1	2	..	12	..	17	1
Blenheim .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
Hokitika .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Christchurch .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dunedin	3	1	1	1	..	..	..	3	..
Invercargill .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	33	4	3	4	..	13	..	24	9
Grand totals	44	5	3	4	..	17	1	30	14

LAND-DEVELOPMENT

SMALL FARMS ACT, 1932-33, AND LAND LAWS AMENDMENT ACT, 1929

General

During the year ended 31st March, 1944, the conditions which have obtained during the war years have not improved, and the Land Settlement Board has been obliged to confine its main operations to the farming and maintenance of the blocks under its control. The continued shortage of labour and materials has made it impossible to recommence active development operations.

During the year further areas were acquired under the Small Farms Act, 1932-33, for subdivision and settlement of discharged servicemen. Some of these blocks are more or less fully developed, and steps are being taken to open certain areas for selection during the present year.

One area of approximately 1,200 acres in the Marlborough District was taken compulsorily in terms of Part II of the Servicemen's Settlement and Land Sales Act, 1943. Prior to the 31st March no areas had actually been taken in terms of section 51 of the same Act, but activity in this connection is now evident.

The erection of dwellings and other farm buildings is essential before areas can be made available for the settlement of discharged servicemen, and arrangements are being made with the Housing Construction Department to erect buildings on those areas which can be opened for settlement at the present time. A start has been made on the Matanuku Block, where a gang of military defaulters is engaged on erecting buildings. It is hoped a considerable move forward will be made during the present year in the erection of buildings hand in hand with the proposals of Government to institute a vigorous rural housing programme.

In addition to the blocks which have already been purchased for discharged servicemen, a review of the areas which have previously been developed for settlement is being made with a view to ascertaining what areas can be made available this year for discharged servicemen.

On some of the areas which will be recommended for settlement during the coming year, it is very obvious that the existing allocation of manure will be insufficient for successful farming by the ex-servicemen, and it is considered that special allocations should be made to these men who have been fighting so ably overseas.

The Land Settlement Board is collaborating very closely with the Rehabilitation Board on all matters affecting the settlement of discharged servicemen.

During the year the Land Settlement Board undertook farming operations on two large defence areas. These areas had been acquired for defence purposes, but were not all required for immediate use, and it was considered advisable to keep the areas in production.

The following comments are made in respect of operations in the respective districts :—

Superintendent of Land Development, Auckland.—Fifteen blocks, containing 74,350 acres approximately, are under development in this district. During the year the majority of the occupiers on the Hoe-o-Tainui Block were granted leases and the block was placed under the control of the Commissioner of Crown Lands.

The Paratu Block, of 2,020 acres, near Walton, was purchased for the settlement of discharged servicemen. This area in the past has received a very low application of fertilizer, and it is anticipated this will affect farming operations.

All blocks were farmed with sheep and cattle during the year and, favoured with a good season for pasture growth, the results were generally satisfactory. The inadequacy of the fertilizer-supply, however, makes for difficulties.

On Mihi Block labour from the National Service Department's camp has been of much assistance, but shortage of materials has hampered progress. On three sub-blocks the new grass is being maintained in fair condition, but on Strathmore the pastures, owing to reduced fertilizer, show a decided deterioration, necessitating a reduction of stock.

On the Galatea Estate the main work has been carried out with defaulter labour. Here, again, pastures have deteriorated due to lack of fertilizer, but the farming returns have been kept at a satisfactory level by the provision of supplementary fodder.

Superintendent of Land Development, Te Kuiti.—The blocks under the control of the Superintendent number thirty-seven, totalling 66,076 acres, after allowing for certain alienations and increases. Included in this area is a block of 572 acres at Raetihi leased to the Department of Agriculture for the growing of vegetables.

Roughly half of the total area being developed is in grass, the remainder being still undeveloped, and, with minor exceptions, must remain so until labour, plant, and manure are available in sufficient quantities to warrant an extension of the development programme.

The number of employees engaged on the thirty-seven blocks has again been reduced during the year, and those now employed total only 125. The areas controlled from Te Kuiti stretch from Ohakune to Hamilton, and some of the blocks are an amalgamation of smaller areas. The number of men employed, therefore, leaves little room for maintenance work on fencing and draining.

Sixteen dairy herds were maintained in production, but the dry season, coupled with the shortage of manure, has resulted in a definite drop in revenue from butterfat, pigs, and fat stock.

No increase of any moment has been made in the ewe flocks or the run cows this year, and none is visualized until more manure can be allocated.

The drought experienced during the summer occasioned a good deal of alarm in respect of eczema, and the possible failure of the swede crop, but excellent rains in late February and March rectified the position. The winter-feed position promises to be up to expectations.

Completion of the purchase of two blocks of land in this district, totalling approximately 1,820 acres, for the settlement of discharged servicemen will be finalized shortly. In addition, two blocks, one in the Aria district and one some distance from Otorohanga, which have been developed and farmed by the Department for some years are in the process of being subdivided, and made ready for early settlement by discharged servicemen.

There are three blocks in this district—namely, Kairangi, Karakariki, and Wharepapa—which were taken over in 1938 from the Waikato Land Settlement Society. This body still acts in an advisory capacity in all matters regarding these blocks. During the year five settlers were permanently established on the Wharepapa Block. This makes a total of thirty-five men established to date on these blocks. The settlers generally have shown that they can make good, provided ample fertilizer is available.

Commissioner of Crown Lands, North Auckland.—There is only one area, Batten's Block, of 1,576 acres, under the Commissioner's control, and further development work has been checked owing to the difficulty in providing suitable labour, combined with the general shortage of top-dressing manures. Returns from this property for the year have been satisfactory.

Commissioner of Crown Lands, New Plymouth.—Two abandoned Crown securities, containing 1,287 acres, are the only areas being developed under the control of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, New Plymouth, and they are being farmed and held for future disposal. Owing to labour shortage, one man has been managing both areas, and it has been impossible to run breeding-ewes on both properties, with a consequent drop in returns.

Commissioner of Crown Lands, Napier.—Five areas in this district are under development—Kakariki, Kaheka, Waihau, and Parinui Blocks, approximating 31,798 acres, and the Ahuriri Lagoon, of 7,753 acres.

Following on a dry autumn, winter conditions were harder than usual, but the summer was unusually wet, and flush conditions now prevail, with good prospects for the winter. Owing to labour shortage and restricted supplies of fertilizer, little new development work could be undertaken, and operations have been confined mainly to the maintenance of present pastures. Scrub reversion has been evident on areas not top-dressed.

So far as the Ahuriri Lagoon is concerned, development operations have been limited. A new lucerne stand of 25 acres has been laid down, and existing pastures and other improvements have been well maintained. A satisfactory wool-clip was obtained, and good returns made from the sale of fat stock. From January to March the rainfall was fairly heavy, and present conditions are flush. There has been a big increase in the natural cover, and the winter carrying will be considerably greater than last year.

Commissioner of Crown Lands, Gisborne.—The Te Wera Estate, of 9,922 acres, is the only block under development in this district. It was acquired in 1927, since which date it has been developed and run as a station. To date an area of about 1,900 acres of bush land has been felled and grassed. A standard flock is established, and the surplus sheep and cattle are always in keen demand. The use of cobaltized salt on this country is reflected in the appearance and stamina of the stock.

Commissioner of Crown Lands, Wellington.—Experimental development has been undertaken on an area of 100 acres of Crown land at Tangimoana. The area is holding the pasture, and a small ewe flock is run. Present conditions prevent any extension of operations.

Commissioner of Crown Lands, Blenheim.—Two properties are under the control of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Blenheim, the first being a fully-developed orchard property of 68 acres, and the other Molesworth-Tarndale Station, containing 239,500 acres.

The Torode's Estate is a fully-developed orchard, and operations were confined to seasonal work. The past season has been a fair one, and it is anticipated that production will equal the previous season's total of 9,600 cases.

The Molesworth-Tarndale Station continues to show signs of improvement, and evidence of increase in plant cover is apparent over most of the eroded areas. Provided the rabbits are kept under control, the future prospects are encouraging. Here, again, the shortage of labour has restricted development operations, and the main effort has been confined to the eradication of rabbits and seasonal work.

The winter and spring were very severe with frequent falls of snow, and although there were no exceptional losses of cattle, the adverse conditions were reflected in a reduced calving.

The experimental area referred to in last year's report has been fenced in readiness for the establishment of trial plots by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The station was visited in February by the District Committee for Soil Conservation and River Control. The Committee expressed satisfaction at the evidence of natural regeneration as a result of the Department's control of grazing and rabbiting operations.

Two properties were acquired in this district during the year—Sedgemere Block, of approximately 1,200 acres, near Seddon, and Greenhills, of 4,900 acres, twenty miles from Kaikoura.

Sedgemere was acquired under Part II of the Servicemen's Settlement and Land Sales Act, 1943, and the Crown took possession on 22nd February, 1944. It comprises good-quality flats and easy downs, practically all ploughable and suitable for subdivision into three holdings adaptable for fat-lamb raising and cropping. The block is now stocked with 2,200 sheep, including 1,500 ewes.

Greenhills, which was purchased under the Small Farms Act, with possession on 29th March, 1944, comprises some 1,000 acres of fair flats and ploughable downs, the balance being easy to steep hill country. The stock at present on the property is 3,200 sheep, including 2,000 breeding-ewes.

Both blocks are being developed with a view to settlement of discharged servicemen.

Commissioner of Crown Lands, Nelson.—There are two blocks in this district—Pakihi and Organ's, containing together 2,292 acres. Maintenance work only is being carried out, and there has been no material alteration since last year's report.

Commissioner of Crown Lands, Christchurch.—Five blocks, containing 13,271 acres, are being farmed or developed under the Small Farms Act, and six blocks, containing 4,041 acres, under the Land Laws Amendment Act, 1929. An area of 640 acres was added to the Valetta Block during the year, and a property known as Templeton's, an area of 184 acres in the Woodbury District, was also taken over.

Weather conditions throughout the year have been generally unfavourable to cultivation, although the considerable rainfall in the late spring and again in February promoted quick growth in existing pastures. This rainfall benefited crops on the lighter plains land, but caused reduced returns on heavier land. A severe winter was experienced with a particularly heavy snowfall in Mid-Canterbury. Stock losses were lighter than anticipated, but the adverse conditions were reflected in the wool-clip, and caused a substantial drop in the lambing percentages.

During the year one block, McKenzie, was selected by a discharged serviceman, but he was unable to carry on due to war disability. The block was again taken over by the Department, and a discharged serviceman installed as manager with prospects of being granted a lease next season.

Commissioner of Crown Lands, Dunedin.—In the Otago District two blocks are being developed—Papanui, of 1,082 acres, and Arclif, of 4,804 acres. New development work has been curtailed due to the shortage of labour, but on Arclif 250 acres were worked and sown in new grass and 135 acres in turnips and swedes.

Generally speaking, the year has been a favourable one. The winter set in early with heavy snow on the high country, and a dry summer was followed by copious rains which have been beneficial to pastures but retarded harvesting operations. Owing to the lush feed, lambs have been late in fattening and weights have been lighter.

In March two blocks in the North Otago District were purchased, the Island Cliff Block, of 2,349 acres, some twenty-five miles from Oamaru, and Taipo Hill Block, 468 acres, nine miles south from Oamaru.

Island Cliff comprises easy rolling country lying well, and is at present carrying 2,300 ewes. It is proposed to subdivide into five holdings.

Taipo Hill is very heavy land and considered some of the best in North Otago, growing good wheat and potatoes. The area will subdivide into three good mixed farms.

Both blocks are being developed with a view to soldier settlement at a later date.

Commissioner of Crown Lands, Invercargill.—In the Southland District two blocks are subject to the Small Farms Act, the Spurhead Block, of 2,223 acres, and the Anderson Gift Block, of 600 acres. On both blocks development work was confined mainly to drainage operations.

The weather conditions were favourable and stock did well, as also did the crops, with the exception of 50 acres linen flax, for which the season was presumably too dry.

Individual Tenants under the Small Farms Act

The majority of the individual tenants established under the Small Farms Act, 1932–33, are in the North Auckland and Auckland Land Districts and occupy dairy units. The following particulars are supplied relative to these areas:—

North Auckland.—In most parts of the district there has been very little of the drought conditions of the previous years, and the season has been a good one. It is therefore difficult to gauge the extent of the decline in production due to the rationing of fertilizer. Practically all of the settlers who were with the Armed Forces have now returned to their holdings. Development has, for the most part, reached the stage which will enable the farms to be worked as economic units.

Auckland.—The effect of the shortage of top-dressing manures is now becoming apparent, particularly as most of the farms are situated in the light pumice area of Rotorua and Bay of Plenty. Returns were also affected by the unseasonable weather conditions.

The following statistical schedules give more particular detail and information in respect of the blocks at present under development. The blocks which are subject to the Small Farms Act, 1932–33, and Land Laws Amendment Act, 1929, respectively, are shown separately, while those blocks which have been purchased for the settlement of discharged servicemen have their names printed in bold type.

BLOCKS UNDER DEVELOPMENT (SMALL-FARMS ACT, 1932-33)

Superintendent, Auckland.

Particulars.	BRADLEYS.	Edgecumbe.	Kaitiaki.	Mangawai.	WATAIKUKU.	Mihini.	Murupara.	NGUTUWERA.	OTOTOA.	PARATU.	Pouarua.	Puriri.	TE TAWA.	Tokoroa.
	15/1/41	8/8/36	10/4/34	7/7/35	30/5/40	1/8/38	9/7/33	3/3/41	1/2/41	15/10/43	10/10/37	6/11/33	20/7/42	4/4/38
1. Date of acquisition or Crown land set apart	1,249	7,308	2,305	1,862	2,945	22,674*	180	1,301	1,611	2,029	12,147	1,403	200	4,855
2. Total area	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3. Area not suitable for development	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4. Area alienated for settlement, reserves, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Balance area under development	1,249	7,258	2,291	1,240	2,945	18,941	180	1,301	1,611	1,929	12,097	1,390	200	4,855
6. Condition of area under development (Item 5)—														
Undeveloped	866	1,580	1,129	275	90	12,325	90	1,023	100	1,000	4,957	177	20	2,669
Permanent grass	323	5,417	800	657	2,721	6,377	90	278	1,290	1,000	57	1,150	171	2,157
Temporary grass	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Crops	35	39	4	..	..	174	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cultivated, but not in grass or crops	25	..	..	40	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plantations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Water-supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fencing	1,310	1,560	300	100	650	383	20	..	460	..	58	..	140	420
Drains	7,783	7,783	3,064	2,657	3,639	9,580	193	660	1,082	1,200	9,348	1,736	440	2,786
Dwellings	150	1,770	2,458	2,454	..	1,438	..	..	..	..	16,384	15	162	544
Wool-sheds	1	3	..	1	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cow-sheds	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other farm buildings	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bridges	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Roads and farm tracks	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7. Capital expenditure to date on land (Item 2)—														
Land acquired, including Crown land set apart—														
Unimproved	3,738	4,447	2,771	466	9,911	12,118	90	3,564	5,100	18,109	7,603	3,009	2,000	2,427
Improved	5,933	790	25	..	23,389	22,798	..	1,722	11,356	19,449	3,004	..	2,754	17,393
Materials and expenses	1,892	39,411	17,685	20,484	11,289	39,556	1,478	420	179	342	25,822	7,665	1,423	18,687
Labour (gross)	148	25,918	27,202	18,564	3,305	34,122	886	152	..	..	57,870	15,416*	393	38,487
Total expenditure (gross)	11,711	70,566	47,683	39,454	47,907	108,564	2,404	5,858	16,615	37,941	94,395	26,090	6,570	68,667
Less substitutes on labour	110	15,213	22,631	12,948	2,457	19,585	807	125	..	..	35,790	10,108	263	13,015
Net expenditure	11,601	55,353	25,052	26,506	45,420	88,979	1,657	5,733	16,615	37,941	58,605	15,982	6,305	25,472
8. Capital charges on alienated land (Item 4)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9. Dairying on area under development (Item 5)—														
Area occupied	..	120	1,262	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Herd	..	1	..	..	..	..	180	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cows milked	..	39	..	..	..	..	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dry cows	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Breeding-sows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Butterfat sold	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10. Other farming on area under development (Item 5)—														
Breeding-ewes	559	2,005	..	1,241	6,183	3,297	..	..	2,318	4,337	1,823	1,671	..	2,149
Breeding-cows and heifers	444	4,245	..	1,019	3,634	5,416	..	702	1,197	1,197	4,172	1,161	..	1,101
Dry run cattle	94	831	316	77	320	205	..	..	304	279	205	205	..	386
Dry dairy stock	..	48	..	111	589	1,017	..	..	307	..	2,336	137	..	361
Horses	..	1,821	..	..	203	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wool produced	6	18	..	4	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sheep sold	10,288	11,886	..	19,587	75,483	87,443	..	..	29,413	21,562	33,323	19,396	..	24,658
Cattle sold	336	488	..	1,048	4,913	3,084	..	..	2,619	7,199	2,148	1,184	..	3,665
Cash crops	1	1,390	..	223	613	934	..	..	490	..	1,131	..	..	441
11. Receipts for year: Produce, livestock, &c. (Item 5)§—														
Butterfat	..	695	4,558	..	..	..	101	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wool	..	489	..	1,066	4,154	5,092	..	388	1,799	1,068	1,977	1,076	1,359	2,248
Sheep—Cash sales	334	574	..	1,027	4,086	2,964	..	1,226	2,428	4,691	3,262	1,130	..	3,920
Transfers to other blocks	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cattle—Cash sales	2	12,482	..	746	1,050	283	..	489	4	..	..	..	..	..
Transfers to other blocks	..	892	..	957	3,464	11,792	..	810	249	169	14,376	316	242	1,388
Pigs	..	80	..	..	1,572	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,008
Crops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	59	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Payments for year: Live-stock and seasonal (Item 5)—	28	354	264	33	441	336	9	5	107	38	137	298	5	85
Sheep—Cash purchases	..	4,267	..	624	797	1,740	..	666	208	11,953	121	..	..	256
Transfers from other blocks	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	820
Cattle—Cash purchases	..	1,892	..	513	275	308	..	..	94	2,349	8,331	..	..	184
Transfers from other blocks	..	3,335	..	..	18	723	..	..	350	736	410	..	..	579
Farming—expenses—Materials and expenses	302	794	..	1,108	801	2,192	..	518	1,036	1,166	1,166	289	..	1,036
Labour	130	2,171	..	485	1,894	665	..	54	639	658	2,178	672	..	1,036
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Labour employed (development and farming): Average for year (Item 5)	1	9	11	1	7	11	1	1	1	1	16	2	3	5

* Includes an area of 9,836 acres known as "Strathmore" which was purchased for discharged servicemen. † Fencing-posts sold. ‡ Herd milked part of season only. § Receipts under item 11 represent actual cash received during the financial year ended 31st March, 1944, and are not necessarily the proceeds of the sale of stock and produce listed under items 9 and 10. The blocks the names of which are printed in bold type have been purchased or acquired for ex-servicemen. ¶ Labour supplied by National Service Department (defaulters).

BLOCKS UNDER DEVELOPMENT (SMALL-FARMS ACT, 1932-33)—continued.

Particulars.	Superintendent, Auckland.										Superintendent, Te Kuiti.									
	Waikite.	Wharete.	Aria.	Arohama.	Bain's.	Benton's.	Brough's.	Burn's.	Ellicott's.	Foss.	Henderson's.	Kaiaea.	Kairangi.	Karakariki.						
1. Date of acquisition or Crown land set apart	10/10/38	11/8/33	1936-37	1933-40	1936	1936	1937	1936	1933	1933	1935	1937-40	1938	1938						
2. Total area	7,526	4,941*	413	4,130	169	1,013	1,054	139	3,129	438	776	1,639	1,682	2,150						
3. Area not suitable for development	1,440	320	10	980	..	733	653	33	400	10	3	820	96	827						
4. Area alienated for settlement, reserves, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	819	715
5. Balance area under development	6,086	4,621	403	3,150	169	280	401	106	2,729	428	773	1,319	767	598						
6. Condition of area under development (item 5)—																				
Undeveloped	3,900	2,042	36	1,318	9	..	50	..	400	16	55	643	41	387						
Permanent grass	1,986	1,559	322	1,681	147	280	314	84	2,195	316	673	613	705	210						
Temporary grass	1,170	1,000	..	..	..	..	12	..	..	60	..	..	..	..		
Crops	30	15	35	151	13	..	25	..	94	24	43	63	20	..						
Cultivated but not in grass or crops	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plantations	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	12	..	..	..	1
Water-supplies: Area reticulated	586	2,082	..	500	..	..	..	..	198	300	200	..	132	100		
Fencing	3,191	9,055	836	5,266	492	470	553	366	3,316	857	1,479	1,266	1,505	461						
Drainage	882	4,237	316	42	1	..	261	1	215	740	1	1,005	5	30						
Dwellings	1	4	1	10	1	1	1	..	13	1	1	..	..	..			
Wool-sheds	1	1	..	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cop-sheds	..	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other farm buildings	7	22	3	22	1	2	..	1	4	1	8	6	7	4						
Bridges	21	40	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	..	2	..	..	..			
Roads and farm tracks	102	90	159	143	35	..	227	5	100	5	170	616	20	80						
7. Capital expenditure to date on land (item 2)—																				
Land acquired, including Crown land set apart—																				
Unimproved	330	3,634	682	3,423	139	282	261	90	1,603	438	3,928	1,542	6,339	2,589						
Improvements	..	6,764	421	3,477	410	340	150	400	1,572	373	1,388	73	11,447	11,067						
Materials and expenses	25,368	27,286	9,459	21,774	1,300	1,678	2,902	1,495	33,382	6,370	7,968	8,616	9,833	6,089						
Labour (gross)	17,519	26,398	8,633	35,188	2,676	1,763	4,500	1,709	46,492	8,630	19,844	19,765	13,794	13,727						
Total expenditure (gross)	43,217	64,132	14,895	84,062	4,615	4,063	7,813	3,694	88,049	16,011	33,328	29,996	41,413	33,422						
Less subsidies on labour	9,853	19,741	6,106	39,893	1,930	1,271	3,220	1,237	33,804	6,298	14,291	14,309	4,658	4,191						
Net expenditure	33,364	44,391	8,789	44,169	2,685	2,792	4,593	2,457	49,245	9,713	19,037	15,687	36,755	29,231						
8. Capital charges on alienated land (item 4)	..	6,704	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19,308	16,500
9. Dairying on area under development (item 5)—																				
Area occupied	..	132	..	..	..	..	..	..	120	..	..	..	..	..	
Herds	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	
Cows milked	..	81	..	..	..	..	..	..	61	..	..	..	..	..	
Dry cows	..	31	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	
Breeding-sows	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	
Butterfat sold	..	16,182	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,535	..	..	..	104	..
10. Other farming on area under development (item 5)—																				
Breeding-ewes	2,193	1,054	597	1,425	388	374	645	243	2,085	644	1,303	505	959	399						
Dry sheep	1,932	1,185	763	7,956	187	346	230	241	4,447	21	1,884	2,176	1,284	..						
Breeding-cows and heifers	226	87	84	370	44	61	61	49	294	127	188	67	127	3						
Dry run cattle	756	1,026	32	305	20	30	11	11	157	78	101	120	27	30						
Dry dairy stock	167	37	..	4	..	..	..	..	33	..	..	..	..	..	
Horses	14	15	5	22	2	1	4	1	18	6	9	8	7	6						
Wool produced	21,891	4,340	10,413	59,780	4,347	6,891	8,924	2,818	55,819	5,697	24,757	17,093	19,013	1,875						
Sheep sold	1,065	1,128	874	4,472	511	404	328	..	5,100	705	1,238	1,929	1,537	870						
Cattle sold	324	874	53	355	30	31	28	15	424	..	98	32	203	76						
Cash crops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Type and quantity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11. Receipts for year: Produce, live-stock, &c. (item 5)†—																				
Butterfat	..	1,086	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,304	..	..	..	6	..
Wool	1,209	356	499	3,269	258	148	149	237	2,686	513	515	942	1,174	106						
Sheep—Cash sales	1,314	1,248	272	3,492	40	80	80	..	5,505	79	245	928	1,574	331						
Transfers to other blocks	..	..	427	684	249	258	172	..	432	384	935	1,352	187	50				
Cattle—Cash sales	3,752	9,968	181	2,760	1	4	4	..	516	..	659	240	419	1						
Transfers to other blocks	18	160	..	880	102	333	243	68	1,855	..	230	95	987	530						
Pigs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	189	..	..	..	..	..	
Crops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	94	..	29	184	26	10	30	2	206	52	57	7	25	13						
12. Payments for year: Live-stock and seasonal (item 5)†—																				
Sheep—Cash purchases	221	850	550	979	10	59	40	..	775	16	261	815	137	238						
Transfers from other blocks	283	..	36	2,091	..	..	..	..	1,747	374	59	1,758	374	61		
Cattle—Cash purchases	812	434	40	3,062	..	240	34	..	67	..	7	1,271	32	5						
Transfers from other blocks	..	3,914	..	3,062	..	292	167	..	292	384	628	1,171	236	385						
Farming-expenses—Materials and expenses	570	1,478	346	1,478	253	128	215	196	1,351	272	463	1,463	420	142						
Labour	556	2,181	415	1,988	294	315	337	242	2,472	278	1,000	525	1,000	66						
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	..	..	11	46	..
Average for year (item 5)	3	15	2	10	1	1	2	1	9	1	2	4	4	2						

* Includes an area of 894 acres known as "Billings" which was purchased for discharged servicemen. † Receipts under item 11 represent actual cash received during the financial year ended 31st March, 1944, and are not necessarily the proceeds of the sale of stock and produce listed under items 9 and 10.

BLOCKS UNDER DEVELOPMENT (SMALL-FARMS ACT, 1932-33)—continued

Superintendent, Te Kuiti.

Particulars.	Superintendent, Te Kuiti.										Piu.		
	Kohua.	Langdon's.	Maihiti.	Mangamahoe.	Mangarino.	Mangati.	Mapara.	Ngatamahine.	Nilson's.	Ohakune.		Otoru.	Patoto.	Piha.
1. Date of acquisition or Crown land set apart	1935-38	1938	1936-37	1934-38	1939	1933-38	1936-40	1934-43	1936	1933-37	1935	1936	1935-41
2. Total area	1,064	456	443	533	882	641	5,106	4,661	604	1,221	721	26	6,131
3. Area not suitable for development	306	104	30	40	47	32	2,296	1,028	279	1,580	287	4	1,888
4. Area alienated for settlement, reserves, &c.	788	382	413	463	785	609	4,810	3,633	325	694	434	22	4,243
5. Balance area under development	119	28	30	55	485	10	2,421	898	325	588	45	4	1,805
6. Condition of area under development (item 5)—	633	287	281	402	845	287	2,167	2,535	956	588	386	18	2,096
Permanent grass	35	10	17	14	5	58	222	115	36	105	18	..	1,119
Temporary grass	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	..	214
Crops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cultivated, but not in grass or crops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plantations	1	2	5	2	..	1	..	..	9	..	..	..	9
Water-supplies: Area reticulated	1,784	200	29	130	..	166	300	420	108	1	..	..	5,701
Fencing	760	770	1,385	5,901	782	1,331	4,125	5,901	1,815	2,105	866	115	5,701
Chains	164	164	164	340	48	159	1,368	2,069	48	10	39	..	578
Drains	2	1	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	..	14
Dwellings	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wool-sheds	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cow-sheds	8	7	4	2	5	5	15	20	5	4	4	..	68
Other farm buildings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bridges	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	..	9
Roads and farm tracks	388	50	4	105	80	52	173	393	400	5	42	..	739
7. Capital expenditure to date on land (item 2)—	650	680	600	1,085	1,148	728	3,361	5,637	169	1,272	639	107	4,869
Land acquired, including Crown land set apart—	345	753	4,202	2,691	1,185	65	2,931	8,702	540	2,044	20	..	6,344
Unimproved	10,647	5,862	4,202	7,086	2,075	7,981	23,546	34,850	11,188	12,275	4,225	326	21,403
Improvements	27,071	8,724	4,640	12,161	3,047	9,897	38,362	94,822	1,943	18,076	6,466	628	43,565
Materials and expenses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Labour (gross)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Labour (net)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total expenditure (gross)	88,713	16,019	10,348	22,973	7,455	18,671	68,200	144,011	3,481	28,667	11,350	1,061	76,241
Less subsidies on labour	19,440	6,275	3,344	8,751	2,225	7,172	27,716	68,117	1,401	9,404	4,685	444	31,643
Net expenditure	19,273	9,744	7,004	14,222	5,230	11,499	40,484	75,894	2,080	19,263	6,665	617	44,598
8. Capital charges on alienated land (item 4)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9. Dairying on area under development (item 5)—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Area occupied	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Herd	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Area occupied	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cows milked	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dry cows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Breeding-sows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Butterfat sold	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Butterfat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10. Other farming on area under development (item 5)—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Breeding-ewes	1,193	652	470	806	475	839	2,494	3,211	1,607	1,692	786	46	2,081
Dry sheep	120	24	31	319	745	289	5,646	5,598	1,562	1,737	851	23	5,162
Breeding-cows and heifers	70	95	3	3	18	18	308	308	18	215	28	..	2,869
Dry run cattle	57	32	3	192	61	37	274	430	68	44	1	..	293
Dry dairy stock	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Horses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wool produced	8	5	4	17	6	10	92	32	7	4	5	..	10
Sheep sold	20,409	6,350	5,586	9,669	6,196	12,443	49,118	62,366	9,014	21,861	12,304	394	59,880
Cattle sold	1,014	762	865	882	451	1,633	1,118	1,940	891	2,202	501	..	2,913
Cattle	32	54	90	39	..	82	30	273	36	67	40	..	173
Cash crops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Type and quantity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11. Receipts for year: Produce, live-stock, &c. (item 5)—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wool	1,378	346	250	615	110	714	1,780	3,406	730	1,033	1,368	3	2,604
Sheep—Cash sales	878	135	335	474	122	239	1,364	1,894	571	182	172	22	2,221
Transfers to other blocks	837	403	552	35	173	888	61	744	467	775	638	..	1,295
Cattle—Cash sales	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Transfers to other blocks	272	240	1,028	314	..	391	329	2,698	360	276	765	..	523
Pigs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Crops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	26	26	64	62	16	43	135	240	26	78	..	..	239
12. Payments for year: Live-stock and seasonal (item 5)—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sheep—Cash purchases	1	32	476	4	6	16	2,020	738	443	117	69	49	827
Transfers from other blocks	296	452	528	39	452	528	1	1,482	962	35	34	..	584
Cattle—Cash purchases	55	174	193	9	10	5	63	254	7	30	167	..	14
Transfers from other blocks	5	5	418	380	..	80	237	632	437	414	464	..	233
Farming-expenses—Materials and expenses	484	388	600	1,773	166	591	1,628	1,773	513	414	464	..	1,635
Labour	784	288	600	925	267	750	2,389	4,495	279	612	425	..	2,318
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Labour employed (development and farming)—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Average for year (item 5)	2	1	2	3	1	3	7	15	1	1	2	..	32

* Receipts under item 11 represent actual cash received during the financial year ended 31st March, 1944, and are not necessarily the proceeds of the sale of stock and produce listed under items 9 and 10.

BLOCKS UNDER DEVELOPMENT (SMALL-FARMS ACT, 1932-33)—continued

Particulars.	Superintendent, Te Kuiti.										Auckland.		Hawke's Bay, Marlborough.	
	Pratt's.	Pururu.	Racetibi.	Rumbles.	Tahaia.	Tapuavae.	Vincent s.	Waikuku.	Waingaruru.	Watson's.	Wharepapa.	Hoo-o-Tainui.	Alhuriri Lagoon.	GREENHILLS.
1. Date of acquisition or Crown land set apart	1933	1937	1936-41	1936	1938	1938	1936	1938-41	1933-41	1936	1938	9/9/35	2/4/34	29/3/44
2. Total area	166	2,376	3,133	379	105	3,328	196	2,330	10,466	1,046	3,671	1,439	7,753	4,912
3. Area not suitable for development	55	669	371	106	..	128	11	248	2,148	357	327	46	2,153	300
4. Area alienated for settlement, reserves, &c.	111	2,177	2,762	273	105	3,200	185	2,291	8,318	509	2,813	1,104	5,600	4,612
5. Balance area under development	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6. Condition of area under development (item 5)—														
Undeveloped	104	571	2,633*	30	33	2,975	147	1,777	2,804	475	475	69	3,884	3,150
Permanent grass	3	1,231	..	11	10	128	37	345	3,873	2,054	2,054	210	1,214	1,310
Temporary grass	4	75	104	14	22	90	..	119	1,303	..	..	..	340	..
Cultivated but not in grass or crops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	82	306	..	272	7	130	140
Plantations	..	3	19	2	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	3	20	..
Water-supplies: Area reticulated	111	300	..	..	..	..	1	2	32	..	12	..	12	..
Fencing	365	4,586	3,871	436	175	3,020	164	40	470	37	470	240	5,400	..
Drains	55	437	1,687	..	57	240	573	3,624	5,624	1,133	3,542	873	7,114	1,950
Dwellings	2	15	8	1	..	3	1	391	592	90	419	62	31,304	..
Wool-sheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	15	1	1	..	2	..
Cow-sheds	2	6	1	..	..	..	..	1	3	1	1	..	1	..
Other farm buildings	4	39	26	3	3	11	4	7	13	1	11	3	6	9
Bridges	..	..	16	..	..	..	..	2	4	..	..	..	3	..
Roads and farm tracks	..	547	236	..	..	400	80	126	970	169	71	..	2,028	30
7. Capital expenditure to date on land (item 2)—														
Land acquired including Crown land set apart—														
Unimproved	415	2,997	15,810	305	155	3,114	490	1,216	5,149	160	7,126	6,172	1,531	4,420
Improvements	530	2,574	4,614	184	132	16,098	387	730	8,678	389	12,528	19,123	99,886	4,330
Materials and expenses	4,924	26,496	82,807	2,255	1,343	8,344	3,161	9,552	38,596	3,685	19,786	14,288	160,049	..
Labour (gross)	1,286	30,443	96,656	2,675	3,099	20,169	3,323	23,111	79,215	4,611	21,487	..	..	..
Total expenditure (gross)	6,910	82,480	149,917	5,417	4,729	47,723	7,361	34,609	131,633	8,765	60,927	39,583	261,652	8,750
Less subsidies on labour	929	30,245	80,336	1,933	2,266	14,567	2,430	16,697	57,280	3,307	15,902	9,500	141,934	..
Net expenditure..	5,981	46,235	80,321	3,484	2,463	33,156	4,931	17,912	74,353	5,458	45,025	30,083	119,718	8,750
8. Capital charges on alienated land (item 4)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9. Dairying on area under development (item 5)—														
Area occupied	111	250	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Herds	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cows milked	57	145	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dry cows..	7	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Breeding-sows	12	34,286	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Butterfat sold	12,552	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10. Other farming on area under development (item 5)—														
Breeding-ewes	..	3,385	3,522	649	209	3,049	494	649	3,629	600	2,162	..	3,094	2,084
Dry sheep	..	242	3,287	18	114	3,645	222	1,076	14,821	778	5,792	..	14,209	1,163
Breeding-cows and heifers	2	133	457	54	..	543	58	91	636	44	258	..	..	..
Dry run cattle	..	93	188	12	..	269	19	31	963	61	211	..	..	..
Dry dairy stock	20	54	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Horses	3	19	20	5	1	15	5	9	4	..	152	52	..	..
Wool produced	..	43,039	59,811	6,096	3,197	49,686	7,396	15,214	117,638	8,773	33,264	5	..	..
Sheep sold	..	1,446	5,061	877	501	2,515	342	902	3,567	592	5,515	..	97,830	..
Cattle sold	19	215	311	58	..	187	45	34	467	..	724	11	7,381	..
Cash crops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11. Receipts for year: Produce, live-stock, &c. (item 5)*—														
Type and quantity														
Butterfat	951	2,491	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wool	..	1,147	1,858	306	145	528	289	1,436	7,568	467	108	1,135	5,869	..
Sheep—Cash sales	..	279	1,905	236	102	36	66	581	3,130	497	2,126	..	10,909	..
Transfers to other blocks	..	1,232	3,214	352	288	1,894	178	469	1,371	115	1,023	..	..	..
Cattle—Cash sales	83	954	286	78	..	340	3	..	8,667	..	3,713	..	..	..
Transfers to other blocks	..	382	1,529	366	..	986	172	137	1,964	..	2,065	..	21	..
Pigs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Crops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	54	230	2,764	26	..	27	28	38	217	..	..	..	141	..
12. Payments for year: Live-stock and seasonal (item 5)—														
Sheep—Cash purchases	445	445	488	5	2	313	1	6	2,699	4	655	..	14,602	..
Transfers from other blocks	..	230	38	395	197	..	..	70	3,054	59	3,514	..	..	..
Cattle—Cash purchases	95	230	90	..	..	124	10	16	2,574	..	1,508	..	..	..
Transfers from other blocks	8	895	10	54	..	..	5	..	2,574	..	1,920	..	500	..
Farming-expenses—Materials and expenses	289	1,366	1,524	164	102	1,971	116	417	2,106	452	1,451	..	7,068	7
Labour	625	2,606	2,635	251	99	2,696	268	481	3,236	420	2,111	..	3,939	..
Miscellaneous	..	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13. Labour employed (development and farming)—														
Average for year (item 5)	2	8	8	1	1	7	1	2	12	1	6	3	13	2

* Five hundred and seventy-two acres leased to Agriculture Department for vegetable-growing. † Asparagus, 4,002 lb., wheat, 143 bushels. ‡ Receipts under item 11 represent actual cash received during the financial year ended 31st March, 1944, and are not necessarily the proceeds of the sale of stock and produce listed under items 9 and 10. The Block, the name of which is printed in bold type, has been purchased or acquired for ex-servicemen.

BLOCKS UNDER DEVELOPMENT (SMALL-FARMS ACT, 1932-33)—continued

Particulars.	Marlborough.		Nelson.		Canterbury.			Otago.			Southland.		
	SEdge-MERE.	Pakihī.	Organ s.	DROMORE.	MOTUNAU.	TEMPLE-TONS.	VALETTA.	WAIKA-KAHI EXTN.	ISLAND CLIFF.	Papanui.	TAIPO HILL.	ANDERSON-SPUR HEAD.	
1. Date of acquisition or Crown land set apart	30/3/44	11/9/35	7/10/40	2/12/41	20/1/41	14/6/43	1940-41	22/8/40	24/3/44	1934	1/3/44	15/4/42	31/8/41
2. Total area	1,237	1,504	698	665	3,094	184	8,562	766	2,349	1,082	468	600	2,223
3. Area not suitable for development	..	..	..	..	500	..	..	..	300	121	25	..	..
4. Area alienated for settlement, reserves, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	151	..	..	..
5. Balance area under development	1,237	1,341	635	665	2,594	184	8,562	766	2,049	810	443	600	2,223
6. Condition of area under development (item 5)—													
Undeveloped	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Permanent grass	1,198	1,341	437	350	1,182	86	7,270	43	1,769	772	443	460	1,365
Temporary grass	18	..	198	202	1,040	10	273	521	180	..	..	32	128
Crops	15	..	..	109	309	88	403	187	..	38	..	104	225
Cultivated, but not in grass or crops	..	..	..	4	63	..	12	15	..	..	..	4	8
Plantations	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Water-supplies: Area reticulated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Perwings	1,522	3,322	605	944	1,700	352	7,380	1,115	1,696	2,069	407	928	1,687
Drains	..	6,906	721	..	..	..	..	500	..	..	..	665	493
Dwellings	2	..	..	1	3	1	5	2	3	8	1	1	2
Wool-sheds	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	1	1
Cow-sheds	..	13	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	5	..	..	..
Other farm buildings	..	10	9	..	7	..	10	4	11	8	..	..	..
Bridges	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	..	..	..	..
Roads and farm tracks	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	75	..	40	51
7. Capital expenditure to date on land (item 2)—													
Land acquired including Crown land set apart—													
Unimproved	..	881	500	2,450	22,790	928	23,386	14,440	21,789	9,719	7,511	..	6,980
Improvements	..	1,678	1,007	4,420	4,340	762	5,196	5,196	5,038	3,845	920	..	6,825
Materials and expenses	..	13,944†	3,805	1,014	5,003	123	2,651	1,308	7,367	7,180	..	1,291	6,253
Labour (gross)	..	20,753	15,328	1,224	1,499	35	1,082	1,848	..	5,180	..	518	992
Total expenditures (gross)	..	46,206	20,640	4,108	33,632	1,878	32,715	17,395	26,327	26,111	8,431	1,809	21,060
Less subsidies on labour	..	28,180	14,889	148	3,960	30	445	2,200	..	4,011	..	220	721
Net expenditure	..	18,016	5,751	3,960	32,650	1,848	32,270	17,195	26,327	22,100	8,431	1,589	20,339
8. Capital charges on alienated land (item 4)	..	390	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,840	..	..	..
9. Dairying on area under development (item 5)—													
Area occupied	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hens	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cows milked	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dry cows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Breeding-cows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Butterfat sold	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10. Other farming on area under development (item 5)—													
Breeding-ewes	1,522	..	188	560	3,826	301	2,714	1,785	2,823	1,362	..	1,490	1,658
Dry sheep	697	..	10	254	2,905	275	2,350	984	..	397	..	863	2,024
Breeding-cows and heifers	..	..	20	4	7	2	10	3	..	33	..	..	..
Dry run cattle	..	..	67	..	51	1	6	54	..	65	..	13	174
Dry dairy stock	..	237	..	..	21	2	7	..	..	66	..	3	2
Horses	..	..	8	3	11	4	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wool produced	..	4	999	3,310	49,519	715	31,974	16,914	..	11,603	..	13,971	14,533
Sheep sold	..	..	170	607	2,849	..	2,142	1,442	..	1,295	..	1,157	1,299
Cattle sold	..	..	8	†	8	..	..	3	..	127	..	††	153
Cash crops	..	128	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11. Receipts for year: Produce, live-stock, &c. (item 5)§—													
Butterfat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wool	..	..	67	202	3,150	37	1,928	944	..	688	..	1,461	1,890
Sheep—Cash sales	..	..	209	674	3,093	..	2,559	1,703	..	1,100	..	1,475	1,872
Transfers to other blocks	..	..	..	64	113	..	697	..	..	228	..	..	..
Cattle—Cash sales	..	1,830	619	..	139	..	..	1,625	..	1,695	..	128	2,769
Transfers to other blocks	..	48	120	..	24	..	..	..	..	..	..	126	..
Pigs	..	..	..	164	..	..	..	3,121	..	18	..	602	3,537
Crops	..	139	14	266	335	46	4	98	..	165	..	13	137
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12. Payments for year: Live-stock and seasonal (item 5)—													
Sheep—Cash purchases	2,779	..	95	295	150	308	169	59	..	294	..	8	750
Transfers from other blocks	..	..	..	515	..	295	292	..	..	577	..	62	2,091
Cattle—Cash purchases	..	878	295	..	..	21	18	..	..	..	..	..	126
Transfers from other blocks	..	120	48	664	1,242	250	1,844	24	..	485	..	970	4,120
Farming—expenses: Materials and expenses	76	144	270	664	1,242	239	1,244	1,550	..	689	..	429	1,249
Labour	14	374	1,027	412	1,623	..	..	..	..	..	..	250	..
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13. Labour employed (development and farming): Average for year (item 5)¶	1	..	6	1	5	1	4	4	..	3	..	2	5

* Compensation not yet fixed in terms of Part II of the Servicemen's Settlement and Land Sales Act, 1943.
 † Potatoes, 144 tons; wheat, 3,166 bushels; ryegrass seed, 606 bushels; clover seed, white, 435 lb.
 ‡ Lupins, 187 bushels; chaff, 2 tons; oats, 221 bushels.
 § Receipts under item 11 represent actual cash received during the financial year ended March 31st, 1944, and are not necessarily the proceeds of the sale of stock and produce listed under items 9 and 10. The blocks the names of which are printed in bold type have been purchased or acquired for ex-servicemen.
 ¶ Wheat, 793 bushels.
 †† Lincen flax.

BLOCKS UNDER DEVELOPMENT (LAND LAWS AMENDMENT ACT, 1929)

Particulars.	North Auckland		Superintendent, Auckland.		Taranaki.		Gisborne.		Hawke's Bay.		
	Batten's Block.	Galatea.	Kapiro.	Cole's.	Robinson's.	Te Wera.	Kahaka.	Kakariki.	Paritini.	Waipatu.	
1. Date of acquisition or Crown land set apart	1/3/38	1931	1938	26/8/32	31/1/27	1/2/38	25/3/31	1/11/36	1/5/38		
2. Total area	1,576	22,206	60*	593	694	19,922	19,213	1,043	963		
3. Area not suitable for development	..	..	..	110	150	500	4,402	30	23	
4. Area alienated for settlement, reserves, &c.	..	1,353	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Balance area under development	1,576	20,853	60	483	544	9,422	14,811	1,013	940		
6. Condition of area under development (item 5)—											
Undeveloped	606	4,617	60	..	..	1,179	5,748	251	..	934
Permanent grass	880	12,736	..	473	544	8,200	8,166	736	..	..
Temporary grass	..	2,785	..	10	..	3	..	..	..	..
Crops	..	445	..	..	..	..	243	..	..	..
Cultivated, but not in grass or crops	..	180	..	..	..	..	..	20	6	..
Plantations	..	87	..	..	..	40	..	..	..	..
Water-supplies: Area reticulated	..	5,240	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..
Fencing	..	18,023	..	490	537	3,254	1,800	73	70	865	
Drains	1,160	2,567	140	..	..	..	15	60	..	..
Dwellings	..	30	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
Wool-sheds	1	1	..	1	1	..	1	1	1	1	
Cow-sheds	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Other farm buildings	2	48	..	1	1	..	2	11	2	2	
Bridges	..	49	..	2	..	..	3	..	..	..
Roads and farm tracks	..	1,448	..	25	10	560	33	..	56	25	
7. Capital expenditure to date on land (item 2)—											
Land acquired, including Crown land set apart—											
Unimproved	1,185	100,000	..	683	450	39,453	34,927	5,220	3,370	..	
Improvements	2,325	2,115	..	2,115	716	27,867	3,083	7,417	1,100	..	
Materials and expenses	966	84,037†	1,034	62	6	8,622	8,622	3,311	4,636	..	
Labour (gross)	1,990	82,325	205	28	..	13,709	23,114	1,006	2,235	..	
Total expenditure (gross)	6,466	266,362	1,239	2,888	1,172	85,819	52,217	10,264	11,341	..	
Less subsidies on labour	1,051	25,405	..	..	..	105	1,936	5,345	3,865	..
Net expenditure	5,415	240,957	1,239	2,888	1,172	85,714	50,281	9,899	10,703	..	
8. Capital charges on alienated land (item 4)	..	11,655	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9. Dairying on area under development (item 5)—											
Area occupied	..	2,643	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Herd	..	15	..	..	..	..	25	1	..	..
Cows milked	..	970	..	..	..	..	8	8	..	..
Dry cows	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	..	..
Butterfat-sows	..	79	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Butterfat sold	..	204,185	..	..	..	..	..	1,537	..	..
10. Other farming on area under development (item 5)—											
Breeding-ewes	799	7,284	..	680	..	4,531	2,790	1,050	1,146	..	
Dry sheep	648	7,634	..	214	984	4,571	9,559	1,572	688	..	
Breeding-cows and heifers	..	1	..	63	81	947	2,280	43	95	..	
Dry run cattle	166	1,482	..	70	97	1,322	760	43	97	..	
Dry dairy stock	..	2,059	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Horses	5	487	..	..	..	..	11	..	..	..
Wool produced	10,721	141,148	..	8,634	2	39	..	46	..	..
Sheep sold	578	6,344	..	682	6,029	79,064	74,462	19,054	14,926	..	
Cattle sold	45	851	..	19	46	3,155	2,186	2,922	313	..	
Cash crops	..	..	..	..	..	..	581	63	..	..
11. Receipts for year: Produce, live-stock, &c. (item 5)§—											
Butterfat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wool	..	13,786	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sheep—Cash sales	526	7,456	..	469	304	4,259	4,632	8,654	590	844	
Transfers to other blocks	360	5,736	..	192	483	1,610	3,685	2,304	498	928	
Cattle—Cash sales	..	..	..	196	96	..	749	..	..	..
Transfers to other blocks	301	8,771	..	62	278	..	7,701	..	..	116
Pigs	..	1,376	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Crops	..	1,735	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	..	684	..	15	14	74	175	491	..	9	
12. Payments for year: Live-stock and seasonal (item 5)¶—											
Sheep—Cash purchases	63	653	..	84	880	403	2,248	2,110	..	..
Transfers from other blocks	..	96	..	186	749	..	749	..	..	..
Cattle—Cash purchases	77	2,391	..	180	39	270	3,384	1,585	..	11	
Transfers from other blocks	..	1,376	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Farming—Materials and expenses	240	19,867	..	53	53	1,654	3,666	5,214	1,046	1,017	
Labour	298	2,047	..	224	196	2,182	1,636	3,430	489	880	
Miscellaneous	..	19	..	..	..	..	14	28	..	..
13. Labour employed (development and farming): Average for year (item 5)	1	11	..	1	1	7	3	11	1	1	

* Experimental ironstone country, Crown land; grazing let.
 † Materials transferred to seasonal expenditure.
 ‡ Potatoes, 772 cwt.
 § Receipts under item 11 represent actual cash received during the financial year ended 31st March, 1944, and are not necessarily the proceeds of the sale of stock and proceeds listed under items 9 and 10.
 ¶ Labour supplied by National Service Department (defaulters).

BLOCKS UNDER DEVELOPMENT (LAND LAWS AMENDMENT ACT, 1929)—continued

Particulars.	Wellington.		Marlborough.		Canterbury.				Otago.	
	Tangimoana	Molesworth-Taradite.	Torode's Orchard.	Ashton-Acton.	Brinklands.	Broadfields-Woodlau.	Lauriston.	McKenzie.	Tripp.	Archf.
1. Date of acquisition or Crown land set apart	18/10/40	1/1/40	28/2/38	2/9/31 14/1/41	13/9/29	8/10/40	25/9/40	8/11/33	20/5/40	1941
2. Total area	117	239,624	68	1,253	1,120	624	329	188	665	4,807
2. Area not suitable for development	..	90,124	8	..	23	..	..	..	..	1,882
3. Area allocated for settlement, reserves, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,882
4. Balance area under development	117	149,500	60	1,253	1,097	624	329	188	665	2,975
5. Condition of area under development (item 5)—										
undeveloped	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Permanent grass	..	8,000	..	220	265	159	39	56	349	2,188
Temporary grass	..	141,430*	..	653	670	261	156	73	180	6,620
Cultivated, but not in grass or crops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plantations	5	46	41	278	138	147	80	..	78	185
Water-supplies : Area reticulated	..	16	5	18	20	22	..	25	38	17
Fencing	..	8	9	84	9	4	10	10	2	6
Drains	151	9,479	148	2,290	1,640	1,327	687	585	818	4,480
Dwellings	63	20	..	..	678	..	..	263	157	25
Wool-sheds	..	2	2	3	1	2	1	1	3	4
Cow-sheds	..	1	..	2	1	..	..	..	1	3
Other farm buildings	..	14	2	4	3	6	2	3	4	6
Bridges	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..
Roads and farm tracks	..	1,660	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	200
7. Capital expenditure to date on land (item 2)—										
Land acquired, including Crown land set apart—										
Unimproved	50	19,000	475	9,089	15,874	5,100	4,250	800	4,573	14,088
Improvements	181	4,230	2,100	5,541	1,986	1,115	700	615	1,037	5,189
Materials and expenses	610	1,739	286	2,848	3,848	1,021	1,021	318	1,430	2,870
Labour (gross)	368	1,437	64	2,787	2,950	1,287	494	3,148	3,107	3,948
Total expenditure (gross)	1,209	26,426	2,925	16,263	22,158	9,240	6,465	5,171	10,147	22,695
Less subsidies on labour	43	913	..	2,452	2,595	585	314	1,880	1,358	511
Net expenditure	1,166	25,513	2,925	13,811	19,563	8,655	6,151	3,291	8,789	22,184
8. Capital charges on alienated land (item 4)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9. Dairying on area under development (item 5)—										
Area occupied	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Herds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cows milked	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dry cows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Breeding-sows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Butterfat sold	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Breeding-ewes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dry sheep	224	167	..	1,858	1,472	731	673	..	651	2,765
Breeding-cows and heifers	..	1,125	..	696	1,453	357	74	..	482	1,844
Dry run cattle	23	939	..	4	4	3	2	..	1	23
Dry dairy stock	..	..	..	6	84	..	..	..	48	159
Horses	..	..	..	3	7	7	2	..	2	2
Wool produced	2,165	18	..	3	5	..	..	..	7	5
Sheep sold	408	..	..	14,358	17,922	7,197	3,484	..	7,242	22,761
Cattle sold	..	214	..	1,633	1,546	1,176	597	..	481	1,386
Cash crops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Butterfat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wool	139	..	..	883	440	425	206	783	192	1,251
Sheep—Cash sales	373	..	..	1,614	1,983	1,366	761	..	542	1,601
Transfers to other blocks	..	..	..	..	61	..	..	..	..	..
Cattle—Cash sales	..	2,281	..	..	756	..	..	..	72	1,785
Transfers to other blocks	..	..	..	..	285	..	..	..	21	..
Pigs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Crops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12. Payments for year : Live-stock and seasonal (item 5)—										
Sheep—Cash purchases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Transfers from other blocks	..	148	..	604	62	752	672	..	20	274
Cattle—Cash purchases	..	..	..	19	..	..	..	..	61	30
Transfers from other blocks	..	578	..	..	..	..	..	..	188	1,822
Farming-expenses—Materials and expenses	81	1,508	1,938	1,525	1,273	852	413	21	292	2,100
Labour	50	1,702	802	1,070	1,392	755	404	538	340	703
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Average for year (item 5)	..	6-14	2-14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13. Labour employed (development and farming) : Average for year (item 5)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

* Tussock. † Apples, 9,591 cases. ‡ Wheat, 304 bushels; chaff, 10 tons; oats, 385 bushels. § Oats, 162 bushels. || Wheat, 858 bushels; potatoes, 2½ tons; lupins, 186 bushels; hay, 17 tons; clover-seed, 1,240 lb. ¶ Wheat, 319 bushels; Italian rye-grass seed, 42 bushels; hay, 2 tons; oats, 40 bushels. ** Linen flax, 38 tons; brown-top seed, 3,968 lb. †† Receipts under item 11 represent actual cash received during the financial year ended 31st March, 1944, and are not necessarily the proceeds of the sale of stock and produce listed under items 9 and 10.

ADVANCES MADE TO CROWN TENANTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND STOCKING OF
THEIR HOLDINGS

Amounts advanced for the year ended 31st March, 1944 :—

	£
Improvements	726
Stock	255
Number of advances made	31
Readvances from sales of farm produce to meet obligations	7,241

DISCHARGED SOLDIERS SETTLEMENT ACT, 1915

The following particulars are supplied pursuant to section 14 of the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, 1915 :—

TOTAL AREA PROCLAIMED SINCE INCEPTION OF THE SCHEME

Class of Land.	Area (Acres).
Ordinary Crown lands	1,048,430
Land for settlements land	405,952
Cheviot Estate land	3,356
	1,457,738

Proclamations have been issued revoking the setting-apart of 257,936 acres of Crown land and 108,409 acres of land for settlements land.

From the inception of the soldier-settlement scheme in 1915 the total applications received number 15,181 and the allotments made number 4,112, covering a total area of 1,446,136 acres.

The Discharged Soldiers Settlement Account was abolished by section 6 of the Finance Act, 1937.

Provision for the settlement of discharged servicemen returned from the present war was made in the Small Farms Amendment Act, 1940.

EXPENDITURE

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE APPROVED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1944

Name of Vote or Account.	Net Amount voted.	Gross Expenditure.	Recoveries.	Net Expenditure.
<i>Voted Expenditure</i>				
Vote "Lands and Survey"—	£	£	£	£
Subdivision I	287,285	319,500	63,593	255,907
Subdivision II	108,238	82,151	..	82,151
Subdivision III	8,165	3,347	..	3,347
Total, vote "Lands and Survey"	403,688	404,998	63,593	341,405
Vote "Land for Settlements"	198,200	147,324	167	147,157
Vote "Small Farms Development"	834,250	459,178	331,913	127,265
Total, voted expenditure	1,436,138	1,011,500	395,673	615,827
<i>Other Expenditure</i>				
Land for Settlements Account: Expenditure from capital proceeds of sales of Crown and national endowment lands	..	1,228	..	1,228
Refunds of revenue: Deposits Account expenditure and miscellaneous expenditure	..	37,196	..	37,196
Total, departmental expenditure .. .. .	..	1,049,924	395,673	654,251

APPENDIX

SETTLEMENT OF CROWN LANDS

EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS OF CROWN LANDS

NORTH AUCKLAND

(L. J. POFF, Commissioner of Crown Lands)

The past farming year has proved to be a notable one, due chiefly to a prolonged dry period during spring to about mid-summer threatening a serious fall in butterfat-production. Fortunately, however, warm rains which were experienced near the end of the summer and continued throughout the autumn proved beneficial to pastures, bringing about a good recovery in butterfat-production, with the result that it can be reasonably anticipated that farming returns generally for the year will prove equally as good as was obtained for the preceding farming year. Larger quantities of hay have been stacked, and with the generally favourable state of pastures, stock are entering the winter in good condition.

Lack of man-power is now having a detrimental effect on the general maintenance of farms. Drains are not being cleaned, fences in many cases lack proper maintenance, and noxious weeds are not being controlled. This is a feature which will prove expensive to remedy and will tend to create a fall in production if not given early attention.

Wise and proper provision for replacement of cull cows by the serving of the best heifer calves is also a matter which is not receiving the attention it deserves.

Wool-production and lambing percentages should prove to be about average, and prices for wool, lamb, mutton, and beef should return a fair margin of profit to the producers.

AUCKLAND

(K. M. GRAHAM, Commissioner of Crown Lands)

A review of the past year's operations in farming under all headings points to a fairly satisfactory conclusion in so far as the whole season is concerned. An anxious time was experienced in mid-summer by many of our settlers due to a prolonged spell of dry weather which brought about a serious shortage of feed for stock and of pasture for haymaking, where under average conditions of rainfall ample supplies of both pasture and supplementary crops would have been available.

The position, however, has become much improved owing to the breaking of the drought and timely rains, which, with mild weather, have combined to bring about a rapid recovery with prospects of stock of all classes going into the winter in good or very fair condition.

The shortage of manure, due to limited supply, and the necessity for continued rationing, is having its effect on production where dairying is concerned, especially on our lighter and only partially-improved lands, and a reduction in the size of herds may become necessary due to the decreased carrying-capacity of the holdings concerned. Against this, the elimination of the old-time fluctuation and uncertainty of prices and the full and continued demand for everything that the farmer can produce off the farm is of inestimable benefit to all the existing settlement on the Crown lands throughout this district, and there should be no difficulty in the meeting of rents and interest accruing to the Department as they become due.

GISBORNE

(H. L. PRIMROSE, Commissioner of Crown Lands)

The season throughout the district may be regarded as having been a wet one, culminating with a very severe flood on the 7th March. The damage as a result of this flood on the Poverty Bay flats to the maize and vegetable crops was very extensive. Fortunately, apart from some isolated cases, the stock losses were light.

The lambing percentages throughout the district, especially the northern end of the East Coast district, were higher than the previous season. Due to the climatic conditions, the wool-clip was lighter. Stock-prices have been satisfactory for sheep, whilst the prices ruling for cattle have been higher than for the past six years. The opening of the railway-line to the Gisborne District has extended the market for the surplus stock from this district. Sheep and cattle are now sought after by the Hawke's Bay District, whilst a number of sheep have been purchased for the Wanganui District. Despite the wet season and the abundance of feed, facial eczema has not been prevalent.

The experience gained as a result of the flooding of the various rivers, especially the Waipaoa, over a number of years clearly shows that an extensive flood-prevention policy is long overdue. The erosion of the back country which has been deprived of its forest cover has resulted in the beds of the rivers on the flat and more fertile lands being built up, with the subsequent overflowing of the banks. An extensive afforestation programme in the watersheds of the rivers concerned appears the only solution, but this question can only be decided after a thorough investigation of the problem.

HAWKE'S BAY

(F. R. BURNLEY, Commissioner of Crown Lands)

The autumn of last year was a very mild and dry one throughout the district, but without the usual quantity of rain so necessary to promote a good autumn growth to carry the stock through the winter. Hence feed was not too plentiful and a considerable number of cattle had to be moved out of the district. Stock losses were accordingly higher than on the average, but early spring rains brought on a sufficiency of feed fairly early in the year and many farmers were able to make quite a good recovery in the quality of their stock.

Throughout the summer there have been constant rains well spread throughout the area and the country has at no time assumed the dry appearance one often associates with Hawke's Bay. There has been ample feed available, with a fairly good lambing percentage and a good weight of wool.

There still seems to be a tendency in some districts to change over from dairying to sheep, and this is probably due to the labour shortage. Conditions in this respect will no doubt right themselves as time goes on.

Weeds and rabbits seem to have increased fairly considerably, and will no doubt be a cause for much concern from now on. Likewise, no solution yet presents itself in respect of the deterioration of back country pastoral land. Reversion still continues, and will do so, no doubt, until normal conditions return.

Most of the settlers in this district seem to be in a fairly satisfactory position, judging by the payments of rent and the reduction in the arrears outstanding. The position is probably better now than it has been for a long time past.

There has not been a great demand for land, although inquiries are still received quite regularly for anything in the nature of first-class dairying or cropping land or for the 5-acre sections. Seaside subdivisions have also been readily inquired for.

Generally speaking, conditions have been very satisfactory throughout the district for the whole of the year, and these are likely to continue as far as Hawke's Bay is concerned.

TARANAKI

(A. F. WATERS, Commissioner of Crown Lands)

The year generally, from a productive point of view, was less favourable than the past few years. This was to some extent attributable to unfavourable climatic conditions, but largely to lack of labour combined with the restricted amount of fertilizer available.

The autumn of 1943 was not unfavourable and stock in most cases entered a moderate winter in good condition. Spring conditions were wet and cold, and about the middle of November a dry spell set in that persisted, with minor breaks, till the end of January. Adequate rains in February and March have greatly assisted recovery in the butterfat yield and have given Taranaki one of the greenest autumns experienced for years.

Labour shortage is at present the most serious problem confronting the farmer, and the position will remain acute while the war lasts. Practically no development work is being done, and in the majority of cases ordinary farm-maintenance is being neglected. This is particularly apparent in the hill country, where scrub-cutting and fence-maintenance demand constant attention.

Farmers are making the best use possible of the fertilizer available, eking it out with lime in many cases. Deterioration of pasture through insufficient top-dressing is noticeable, particularly on poorer types of land.

Ragwort is in evidence again in many localities, due no doubt to labour shortage combined with lack of sodium chlorate.

WELLINGTON

(H. W. C. MACKINTOSH, Commissioner of Crown Lands)

Following a good autumn, a wet, though not excessively cold, winter was experienced, which was not conducive to the best conditions for stock. The continuous wet weather in the spring had an adverse effect on the lambs, and weights were down about 3 lb. or 4 lb. on the previous season, and a longer period was necessary before lambs were fit for the works. From the end of November until the middle of February practically no rain fell in the southern and central portions of the district, with the result that much of the grasslands bear a parched appearance. The drought conditions prevailing at this period have been responsible to some extent for a reduction in butterfat-production in the locality. Prices for all classes of stock have been high, fat bullocks having been sold in the Feilding yards at up to £25 per head. The inability of farmers to obtain adequate supplies of fertilizers is being reflected in the pastures and may be the cause of lighter lambs and, to a lesser degree, the decline in butterfat. Those settlers who availed themselves of the Unemployment 4B Scheme to clean up weed- and scrub-infested areas on their farms are still deriving benefits from the work done, and it is pleasing to note that the areas operated upon are being maintained. The large number of tenants who applied to have their affairs adjusted in terms of the Mortgagors and Lessees Rehabilitation Act, 1936, are still feeling the benefits of the decisions of the Adjustment Commissions and the Court of Review and are for the most part able to meet their payments without difficulty. There is a good demand for farm lands, and any areas thrown on the market are eagerly sought after.

NELSON

(P. R. WILKINSON, Commissioner of Crown Lands)

Although the past winter was a reasonably mild one, a long dry spell during the summer months resulted in a drought which dispelled any possibility of a peak production season. Crops suffered mostly. Hops were very light generally, and the production thereof will show a marked decline. The dry spell also seriously affected tobacco crops, and an early frost completed the damage. I anticipate production will be down considerably. Exceptionally good growing weather in the latter part of the season should help dairy production considerably. Wool-production should be maintained, if not increased.

Crown tenants are meeting their annual charges in a satisfactory manner.

MARLBOROUGH

(G. I. MARTIN, Commissioner of Crown Lands)

Conditions were not of the best for the farming community in this district during the past season. The autumn was dry, and good rains did not come until June, and winter feed was short. A cold winter with several fairly heavy falls of snow in the high country was followed by an exceedingly wet spring, and this was succeeded by very dry conditions from early December to mid-February.

The unfavourable conditions were reflected in reduced lambing percentages and lighter wool-clips. Autumn-sown crops in the heavier land were affected by the wet winter and spring, but those on the lighter areas were satisfactory. Spring crops were late in the ground, and yields were poor as a result of the dry conditions from early December onwards. Small-seed crops, lucerne, and subterranean clover, however, have done exceptionally well.

The dairymen's returns also showed the results of the unfavourable conditions, and some of the factories show reductions ranging from 7 per cent. to 15 per cent., principally due to the dry conditions.

The orchardists enjoyed a general increase in the quality and weight of fruit this season.

Many of the more settled areas in Marlborough are free of rabbits, but those localities previously infested show a general increase due to the shortage of sufficient labour.

WESTLAND

(B. KING, Commissioner of Crown Lands)

Over the last year weather conditions have been remarkably good for farming operations. A mild winter followed by a spring and summer both exceptionally dry and warm resulted in good lambing percentages and few losses, and with prices for fat and forward stock maintaining a high level the farming industry must be accounted as having experienced a very profitable year.

There have been no major floods sufficient to cause much damage to pasture lands, though the question of erosion of the best alluvial country is one of sufficient importance to warrant attention being drawn to the need for planning effective preventive measures on a large scale.

The cumulative effect of the present haphazard methods of flood control and prevention of erosion is a major problem in a district which must eventually consider farming as one of its most important industries.

The shortage of labour for farm-work, combined with the high wages obtainable in alternative means of livelihood, has had the effect of Crown tenants neglecting to some extent the maintenance of their properties, which are in many cases showing the effect in excessive growth of noxious weeds and scrub, and consequently lowered productive capacity.

CANTERBURY

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

Crown tenants in this district have not had a good year, and the general conditions as regards the high and low country have been difficult. A very dry autumn was followed by a winter with several heavy falls of snow which extended over the whole district, but were particularly heavy on the plains of Mid-Canterbury. It is too early yet to estimate the full result of these snowstorms on the yearly revenue of tenants, but reports show that lambing is fully 20 per cent. lower, and indicate a lower return in the wool-clip. Few surplus sheep from high-country runs are offering, but any that are available are being purchased at good prices. Generally, it can be expected that high-country flocks will not be up to full strength.

The general outlook so far as high-country runs are concerned is not encouraging; difficulty is experienced in securing suitable musterers, packmen, &c., and the outlook for maintaining a full production of wool and surplus stock from runs is one for concern.

The lessees of settlement lands have only had a fair year so far as returns are concerned, although prices generally have been good.

The dry season caused a falling off of dairy returns, and the result of the full season will be dependent on an early or late winter. The wet spring caused a great growth of grass, and large quantities of hay were well harvested.

So far as grain crops are concerned, the early harvest was well saved, but the broken weather in February and March has made the late harvest a difficult matter, and it is too early to say what the final results will be. Good crops of cocksfoot-seed have been reported from the Peninsula, but in South Canterbury and the foothill country heavy loss of grass-seed is to be expected owing to the continued wet weather in February and March. In view of the autumn rains, the prospects for the coming season are brighter.

OTAGO

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

Generally speaking, the year has been a favourable one. The winter set in early with some heavy snow in the high country, accompanied by heavy frosts, but except in a few cases the stock losses were not severe. The dry weather in the early summer was later followed by copious rains, which have been of great benefit from a feed point of view, although all this moisture cannot be said to have been favourable to cropping, and harvesting operations were hampered by the rain. Stock-prices have been satisfactory. On the high country the wool has not been up to the usual standard, too much moisture resulting in a short staple and yolk stain in numerous clips.

The orchardist has had a good season, in spite of apricots and nectarines suffering through excessive rains.

Shortage of labour has been a serious problem for farmers, especially in regard to agricultural work.

From the dairyman's point of view the year has been quite satisfactory.

Rabbits have again been plentiful and high prices have been realized for skins. Blocks for winter poisoning have been eagerly sought after, but in spite of this it is unlikely that the pest will be brought under control while the man-power position remains acute.

Sweetbriar and St. Johns wart are still the biggest problem of the noxious weeds, but serious attention to this matter will no doubt have to wait until the war is over.

The revenue position has been good and rent receipts have been very satisfactory.

SOUTHLAND

(T. CAGNEY, Commissioner of Crown Lands)

Following a good autumn, unusually prolonged winter conditions, associated with a long succession of heavy frosts, found many farmers inquiring for extra winter grazing, with the result that high prices were paid for turnips and other classes of grazing. A warm and unusually dry mid-season followed, and beneficial showers towards the end of the period saved the district from a serious shortage of grazing and gives promise of a good supply of fodder for the coming winter.

Generally, and no doubt as the result of the number of heavy frosts during the winter loosening up the ground, pastures came on well afterwards, and stock rapidly recovered from the lean winter and spring conditions. The long winter, however, resulted in a somewhat heavy mortality, particularly amongst old ewes, and to some extent detrimentally affected the wool-clip.

High-country runs were generally free of any damaging snowfalls, but lambing percentage will be probably lower than usual on account of the long winter. The close of the period found runs well provided with pasture and the outlook for winter feed good.

The season was not conducive to the best results being obtained from dairy-farms, and no doubt production from this source will show a decline, and this will be also aggravated by a tendency on the part of some dairy farmers to turn towards sheep-grazing.

The season has been a patchy one for croppers. Clover was affected by a late frost in January, after which a second growth occurred, and this will probably detrimentally affect the yield and quality of the seed. The fescue crop, although good on the heavy ground, was disappointing on the lighter country. An outstanding feature of the small-seed production was the large area of cocksfoot harvested and the excellent yields obtained. Oat crops were patchy and below the average. Wheat-harvesting was interfered with by the damp weather conditions.

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