

LAND DEVELOPMENT AND SETTLEMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN

During the year ended 31st March, 1948, the following areas were purchased or acquired for development and for the settlement of ex-servicemen :—

—	Acres.	Estimated Number of Units.
Purchased by voluntary negotiation	137,758	202
Acquired compulsorily under Part II, Servicemen's Settlement and Land Sales Act, 1943	38,465	106
Acquired compulsorily under section 51, Servicemen's Settlement and Land Sales Act, 1943, and capable of subdivision	25,429	26
Acquired compulsorily under section 51, Servicemen's Settlement and Land Sales Act, 1943 : Single units	3,597	27
Totals	205,249	361

The total area purchased or acquired for development and for the settlement of ex-servicemen up to 31st March, 1948, is—

—	Acres.	Estimated Number of Units.
Purchased by voluntary negotiation	451,391	922
Acquired compulsorily under Part II, Servicemen's Settlement and Land Sales Act, 1943	75,231	213
Acquired compulsorily under Section 51, Servicemen's Settlement and Land Sales Act, 1943, and capable of subdivision	84,474	195
Acquired compulsorily under section 51, Servicemen's Settlement and Land Sales Act, 1943 : Single units	29,692	175
Totals	640,788	1,505

The number of ex-servicemen who have been established on permanent tenure or on wages or other similar basis with the promise of permanent tenure upon completion of the development programme and the area involved at 31st March, 1948, is—

Land District.	Area.	Number.	Land District.	Area.	Number.
	Acres.			Acres.	
North Auckland	9,664	59	Nelson	1,169	12
Auckland	49,295	305	Westland
Hawke's Bay	26,893	35	Canterbury	73,965	119
Gisborne	24,381	77	Otago	37,810	54
Taranaki	9,237	63	Southland	18,202	50
Wellington	37,409	134			
Marlborough	16,453	31	Total	304,478	939

These figures do not include ex-servicemen who have been assisted by way of rehabilitation loans to purchase established farms on their own account.

During the year, development operations have been hampered by the limited supply of essential materials, particularly fencing-wire, and by the difficulty in getting buildings, especially houses, erected. As sections are made available for settlement by ex-servicemen as soon as the development has been completed, it will be realized that the output of developed farms, and consequently the progress made with the settlement of ex-servicemen, is restricted by the supply difficulties.