

areas burnt in this manner, and to arrange for an immediate supply of grass-seed. As a result, every settler who was in need of seed, and unable to buy it immediately, was either given an order upon a seed-merchant nominated by himself, or supplied by the local Commissioner of Crown Lands direct, with seed in such mixture as applied for, the terms of payment being the signing of a promissory note for amount owing, payable in two, three, or four years without any interest thereon being chargeable. These very liberal terms were availed of by 647 settlers in the North Island, who have been supplied with grass-seed to the value of £24,082. In the South Island sixty-seven cases have been dealt with, for a value of £2,756. The several land districts and their disbursements are shown in the accompanying table.

TABLE H.—RETURN showing NUMBER of SETTLERS to whom GRASS-SEED has been SUPPLIED by the GOVERNMENT and the COST of such SEED.

District.	Number of Settlers supplied with Grass-seed.	Amount of Seed so supplied.	Value of Seed.	Amount of Seed sown on Burnt Areas on Crown Land.	Cost.
		lb.	£	lb.	£
Auckland ... ..	197	217,511	7,913	24,000	784
Hawke's Bay ... ..	19	39,415	905	39,342	1,345
Taranaki ... ..	103	58,400	1,686	1,420	50
Wellington ... ..	328	467,087	13,578	18,360	578
Nelson ... ..	44	36,577	1,022	18,152	787
Marlborough ... ..	22	72,523	1,717	34,546	1,550
Southland ... ..	1	790	17½	16,146	403
Totals ... ..	714	892,303	26,838½	151,966	5,497

#### IMPROVED-FARM SETTLEMENTS.

Very satisfactory reports on these settlements have again been received from the Commissioners of Crown Lands. Some indication of their general prosperity is shown by the fact that since the initiation of the system in 1894 to 31st March last improvements to the value of £177,537 have been placed on the land. Full particulars regarding each settlement will be found in Table 32.

It is hoped during the present year to open a number of sections in the Waimarino Block in the vicinity of the Main Trunk railway-line for the benefit of workers thereon, as the line is now approaching completion, when many of the men now employed will be anxious to settle on the land with the money they have saved. Details of the land for occupation in this manner are not yet available. The various blocks of Native lands in the Aotea Rohepotae districts, the purchase of which is now being concluded, are either too far removed from the railway-line, or are not of sufficiently good quality to warrant their subdivision into the small areas required for improved farms. It is very doubtful, therefore, if any considerable area of land can be placed at the disposal of applicants under these conditions.

#### VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS.

As foreshadowed in last year's report, owing to the absorption of this class of settlement into the general system of the prevalent land-tenures, no special report will be published. The settlements themselves have fulfilled the purpose for which they were originally created, but with the changing conditions of land-settlement, it has not been found necessary to provide for their continuance, more especially so as the Workers' Dwellings Act and the Government Advances to Workers Act have met most of the needs for which the village settlements were originally designed.

#### REVENUE.

The total receipts amount to the handsome sum of £658,794, being an amount considerably in excess of the estimated revenue. Territorial revenue (which embraces all the ordinary receipts from Crown lands proper) totalled £288,317, or £32,317 beyond what was expected; whilst non-territorial revenue (which includes rents of land-for-settlement estates, endowments of all kinds administered by the Department of Lands, State forest receipts, &c.) realised £370,476, or £60,276 over the estimate. In the following table is shown the amounts received from each land district.