

SUMMARY OF THE SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED UPON ESTATES ACQUIRED AND DEALT WITH UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACT UP TO THE 31ST MARCH 1926—*continued.*

Name of Estate.	Leaseholds.	Freeholds.	Principal Purpose for which Holdings are utilized.	Remarks as to Present Position.
<i>Otago continued.</i>				
Wairuna	13	..	Mixed farming	Fair.
Waitahuna No. 1	1	1	Mixed farming	Fair.
Waitahuna No. 2	6	1	Mixed farming	Good.
Westcott	9	..	Mixed farming	Poor.
Windsor Park No. 1	37	2	Mixed farming	Very good.
Windsor Park No. 2	10	..	Mixed farming	Very good.
Totals.. .. .	1,121	57		
<i>Southland.</i>				
Allenby	5	..	Dairying	Good.
Ardlussa	6	..	Pastoral	Fair.
Beaumont	9	2	Mixed farming	Fair.
Campbell	4	..	Mixed farming	Fair.
Crichton Park	4	2	Pastoral	Good.
Edendale	102	50	Dairying	Very good.
Ermedale	11	2	Mixed farming	Fair.
Fortification Hill	6	..	Pastoral	Good.
Glenham	36	8	Mixed farming	Very good.
Knowsley Park	9	..	Pastoral	Poor.
Lambert	1	..	Dairying	Good.
Lamont	6	..	Dairying	Fair.
Maori Hill	16	..	Mixed farming	Good.
Merrivale	45	10	Mixed farming	Good.
Merrivale No. 1	9	..	Mixed farming	Fair.
Merrivale No. 2	7	..	Mixed farming	Fair.
Monte Cristo.. .. .	3	..	Dairying	Fair.
Otahu	7	1	Mixed farming	Fair.
Ringway	4	3	Mixed farming	Fair.
Stalker	8	1	Dairying	Very good.
Strathvale	9	..	Dairying	Good.
Teihoka	2	..	Mixed farming	Fair.
Waiarikiki	7	..	Pastoral	Poor.
Waikiwi Town	38	16	Suburban building-sites	Good.
Totals.. .. .	354	95		
Grand totals	7,122	1,710		

EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS OF CROWN LANDS.

NORTH AUCKLAND.

(H. J. LOWE, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

A number of estates were offered under the Land for Settlements Act during the year. Seven were inspected by my Board and eight others inspected by officers of the Department. The prices asked were such that, together with the high cost of roading, rate of interest on borrowed capital, and the fact that the Department had many abandoned farms on hand which it was necessary to try and dispose of first, it was found impossible in most cases to recommend them for purchase. The area inspected, comprising fifteen estates, totalled 33,417 acres, and one estate, comprising 1,355 acres, was purchased under the provisions of the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act.

Upokonnui Settlement.—Contains four sections, of which three are occupied. These sections are being worked: but, not being altogether suitable for dairying, the settlers have changed over to sheep and grazing, with satisfactory results. One is bound to do well, but a careful watch must be kept on the other two.

Pakaraka Settlement.—There are eleven settlers on this settlement all engaged in dairying and well established, and with the possible exception of one can be considered permanent. The gorse problem on this block is still acute. Many years ago the land was deliberately planted in gorse by the then owner to feed sheep. The late vendor got the place into beautiful order, and on most of the sections now occupied the settlers are keeping the land free from the weed. On the unallotted sections, however, comprising an area of 320 acres, although under a temporary grazing tenancy, the gorse is very bad and rapidly getting worse. This is, of course, a menace to the other settlers, and it will probably be necessary to offer the whole unallotted area as one proposition for sheep at a low price, as it would be fatal for the Department to hang on to it.