

1935.

NEW ZEALAND.

LAND FOR SETTLEMENTS ACT, 1925

(REPORT ON THE).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly pursuant to Section 109 of the Land for Settlements Act, 1925.

The LAND PURCHASE CONTROLLER to the Hon. the MINISTER OF LANDS.

Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, 1st August, 1935.

SIR,—

I have the honour to submit a report on land-purchase operations for the year ended 31st March, 1935.

Owing to the unstable prices for farm-produce, the marketing problem, and other difficulties it has not been deemed advisable to embark on any extensive scheme of land purchase during the past four years. Any areas offered which have been considered suitable for settlement under the Small Farms (Relief of Unemployment) Act have been diverted for that purpose, and this fact, combined with the serious difficulties that have surrounded land-purchase operations, has slackened the pace of settlement under the provisions of the Land for Settlements Act.

An area of 10 acres adjacent to the Remuera Settlement, in the North Auckland Land District, was purchased under the Native Land Act. Particulars thereof are to be found in Table D attached hereto.

As indicated in last year's report, share milkers were established on ten farms on the Galatea Settlement, and results have been for the most part satisfactory. Pending an improvement in the economic situation as affecting the dairying industry the offering of sections in this block has been further postponed, and no further share milkers have been installed. The Department's farming operations on the settlement have met with satisfactory results, and the stock capacity has materially increased through development. Over 18,000 sheep, including 9,000 breeding-ewes, 840 dairy cows, and 2,600 run cattle are being wintered, and it is estimated that by shearing-time there will be approximately 27,000 sheep on the station.

The Tapuwae Block is at present wintering 4,250 sheep and 700 head of cattle, and has responded well to development. In addition to having provided full interest on purchase and development costs, the area has returned a substantial profit, and it has also been possible from revenue to effect considerable improvement to pastures which existed at time of purchase.

Following development, the carrying-capacity of the Kakariki Block has materially increased, approximately 11,000 sheep and 1,400 head of cattle at present being run on the property.

Development operations on Brinklands Settlement are practically completed, but it is not proposed to subdivide and offer the area for selection until the prospects for small mixed-farm holdings are more encouraging. In the meantime the land is being successfully farmed by the Department, and is providing more than the annual interest charge on the capital expenditure involved.

During the year the four sections of the Arthurton Settlement, comprising sheep-farming areas, in the Otago Land District, were selected.

Tables are attached giving particulars of the properties considered and land acquired during the year, together with Revenue Account and Balance-sheet. The usual statement (duly certified by the Controller and Auditor-General) required under the provisions of section 109A of the Land for Settlements Act, 1925, of the moneys received into and paid out of the Land for Settlements Account during the year will be found in parliamentary paper B.-1 (Part I), being the Abstract of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Public Account for the year ended 31st March, 1935.

I have, &c.,

W. ROBERTSON,

Land Purchase Controller.

The Hon. the Minister of Lands.

I—C. 5.