

*Maihihi (443 Acres).*

(Control : Superintendent of Land-development, Te Kuiti.)

This consists of three sections, on one of which a small-farm settler had been established. The country had become badly infested with ragwort and rabbits.

Two houses have been renovated, one set of sheep yards and dip erected, 73 acres cleared, 120 acres cultivated, and 104 acres sown in new grass. New fencing, 132 chains, have been completed, and 263 chains repaired. Work has been proceeding for over two years and is approximately 50 per cent. completed.

Stock have been carried intermittently for ragwort-control, up to 800 wethers being on the block at a time. Stock at present carried : Dairy cows, twenty-seven ; horses, three.

*Merrin's Block (312 Acres).*

(Control : Superintendent of Land-development, Te Kuiti.)

This was an abandoned section badly reverted and ragwort infested. There is 100 acres of bush which it is intended to reserve. This section is being worked in conjunction with Larsen's and has been under development for about fourteen months. One hundred and fifty-eight acres has been burnt and surface sown, 36 acres cultivated, and 15 acres of run-out pasture renovated. A water-supply from a dam and ram has been installed, and 410 chains of new fencing erected. The work is about 40 per cent. completed. Large mobs of sheep have been carried intermittently as well as run cattle.

*Metcalfe's (333 Acres).*

(Control : Superintendent of Land-development, Te Kuiti.)

This block was purchased by the Crown five years ago and is subdivided into three sections on which two small herds have been milked. It was practically unimproved when taken over.

Three cottages have been built and added to and three cow sheds and yards and three store-sheds constructed ; 200 acres has been cleared and the swamp drained, 207 acres cultivated, and 322 acres of new grass sown ; 748 chains of new fences have been erected and 85 chains repaired, while 490 chains of drains have been dug ; 38 chains of internal roads have been formed and 100 chains of shelter-belts planted. One set of sheep-yards has been erected and a water-supply installed. The work is approximately 90 per cent. completed.

Stock carried : Sheep, 866 ; run cattle, 98 ; dairy cattle, 56 ; horses, 3.

*Nilson's (1,158 Acres).*

(Control : Superintendent of Land-development, Te Kuiti.)

This was a forfeited section of which part had been milled. The original grass had reverted and was ragwort infested. Active work and stocking has been progressing for about four years. Approximately half of this block is severed by a deep gorge and is not being developed, while 145 acres is in bush and is being reserved.

The main work has been top-dressing, but 228 chains of new fences have been erected and 182 chains repaired. The wool-shed has been removed to a more central position and re-erected. A set of sheep-yards has also been constructed.

Some trouble has been experienced amongst young sheep, and licks have been necessary.

The work is practically completed on this section.

Stock carried : Sheep, 877 ; run cattle, 130 ; dairy cattle, 2 ; horse, 1.

*Pratt's Block (166 Acres).*

(Control : Superintendent of Land-development, Te Kuiti.)

This area of 166 acres was purchased from the adjoining owner and has been subdivided into three milking sections. Two herds have been milked ; a third will be added next season. Electric power has been installed and milking-machines will be provided. It has been necessary to bore for water, and three supplies have been installed. Work has been progressing for four years and is practically completed.

The improvements comprise three houses, three cow sheds and yards, and three sheds ; and the necessary pig-sties and calf-pens have been provided.

The whole area, except 18 acres in crop and shelter-belts, has been sown in grass. New fencing erected, 288 chains ; 55 chains drains have been cut and one set of sheep-yards has been constructed.

Stock carried : Sheep, 373 ; dairy cattle, 87 ; horses, 4 ; pigs, 27.

*Puketotara (201 Acres).*

(Control : Superintendent of Land-development, Te Kuiti.)

This was originally an unimproved Crown section and it was necessary to form and metal 50 chains of road for access. Approximately 190 acres has been cleared and grassed. It was found necessary to bore for water, and a satisfactory supply has been obtained.

Work has been carried on for three years, and the improvements consist of one house, one cow shed and yard, one set sheep yards and dip, 297 chains of new fencing, and 186 chains of old fencing repaired ; 65 chains of drains have been dug, and 184 acres has been cultivated and 174 acres sown in new grass. The work on this section is practically completed.

Stock carried : Sheep, 1,025 ; dairy cattle, 3 ; run cattle, 58 ; horses, 4.