

SIZES OF FARMS IN NEW ZEALAND.

THE average area of occupied holdings of over one acre in 1924 was 505·84 acres, the average for the North Island being considerably smaller than that for the South. The following table gives particulars by land districts:—

Land District.	Number of Holdings occupied.	Aggregate Area.	Average Area per Holding.		
			1924.	1923.	
North Island—		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	
North Auckland ..	13,898	3,022,819	217·50	220·85	
Auckland ..	12,287	4,126,880	335·87	339·35	
Gisborne ..	2,859	2,755,115	963·66	966·91	
Hawke's Bay ..	4,396	2,034,663	462·84	493·32	
Taranaki ..	6,661	1,724,336	258·87	261·29	
Wellington ..	11,271	4,904,444	440·46	441·86	
South Island—					
Nelson ..	3,870	1,301,687	336·35	338·94	
Marlborough ..	2,010	2,484,876	1,236·26	1,234·34	
Westland ..	1,497	1,780,719	1,189·53	1,200·15	
Canterbury ..	13,516	8,150,113	603·00	605·41	
Otago ..	8,006	7,994,927	998·62	997·54	
Southland ..	5,868	3,231,985	550·78	550·72	
Totals for Dominion		86,139	43,572,564	505·84	510·45

Since 1918 there has been a steady decrease in the average area occupied in holdings of one acre or more. This decrease was not stayed in 1924, the average for which is 4·61 acres less than for 1923. This decrease continues in spite of the fact that from time to time small holdings contained within boroughs (the boundaries of which are altered) are withdrawn from the scope of this inquiry.

—Census and Statistics Office Report.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

"NEW ZEALAND FLOCK-BOOK (SOUTH ISLAND)," vol. xx, 1924. Published by the Council of the New Zealand Sheep-breeders' Association (South Island), Christchurch. Comprises the following breeds: Lincoln, English Leicester, Border Leicester, Romney, Southdown, Shropshire, Merino, Corriedale, Ryeland, Suffolk, Dorset Horn, and Halfbred.

"FORDSON FARMING IN NEW ZEALAND." Compiled by the Charles Haines Agency, Wellington. Gives the experience of many New Zealand farmers with this machine and tractor-power generally.

Grading of Dairy-produce at Napier.—Napier has been appointed a grading-port under the Dairy Industry Act, with the buildings in the occupation of Messrs. Niven and Co., at Port Ahuriri, as a store for the storage, cooling, or freezing of dairy-produce prior to export. This came into force on 11th December.

Precautions against Foot-and-mouth Disease.—The State of Texas has been added to those States of the American Union from which the importation of certain goods into New Zealand is prohibited. The full order concerning this matter was published in the *Journal* for August last (page 140).