

APPENDIX, NO. 6

REPORT UPON VILLAGE-HOMESTEAD SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st MARCH, 1895.

THE following returns give full details of village-homestead settlements in each of the provincial districts of the colony for the year ended 31st March, 1895:—

During the past year twenty-four new settlements have been formed, seven in the North Island, and seventeen in the Middle Island. Two hundred and ninety-five new selectors have taken up sections of land, representing in the aggregate 7,616 acres,—an average of $25\frac{3}{4}$ acres to each settler.

The position of the settlements on the 31st March last was as follows:—

Number of settlements in the colony	...	...	...	...	144
In the North Island	...	...	...	...	43
In the Middle Island	...	...	...	...	101
					— 144
Number of original settlers	...	...	...	...	1,814
Original settlers now remaining	...	...	...	...	1,150
Number of present settlers	...	...	...	...	1,395
Resident	...	...	...	...	939
Non-resident	...	...	...	...	401
Not reported on	...	...	...	...	55
					— 1,395
In the North Island	...	...	...	...	580
In the Middle Island	...	...	...	...	815
					— 1,395

The number now settled on the land under the village-homestead settlement system, including wives and families, is 4,561, namely:—

In the North Island	...	...	...	...	2,556
In the Middle Island	...	...	...	...	2,005
					— 4,561

There is still a large number not residing on their sections; it is partly due to the fact that many of them are sadly in want of means to build on their holdings before they can settle there with their wives and families; the others are new selectors, and the time allowed for residing has not yet expired.

The total acreage originally taken up was	...	...	...	...	Acres. 48,156
In the North Island	...	...	...	...	26,959
In the Middle Island	...	...	...	...	21,197
					— 48,156
The total acreage now held is	...	...	...	...	33,804
In the North Island	...	...	...	...	15,520
In the Middle Island	...	...	...	...	18,284
					— 33,804
Average area to each settler	...	...	...	...	24
Total area laid down in pasture, or cultivated	...	...	...	...	13,067
In the North Island	...	...	...	...	5,705
In the Middle Island	...	...	...	...	7,362
					— 13,067
The amount advanced this year for dwelling-houses, bush-felling, and grassing was...	...	...	...	...	£ s. d. 460 12 6
In the North Island	...	...	...	...	410 12 6
In the Middle Island	...	...	...	...	50 0 0
					— 460 12 6

The total amount advanced from the commencement of the system to the 31st March last is as under:—

North Island—For dwelling-houses	...	...	9,104	8	1			
Bushfelling, &c.	...	...	11,353	8	2			
						20,457	16	3
Middle Island—For dwelling-houses	...	...	4,511	0	0			
Bushfelling, &c.	...	...	810	2	2			
						5,321	2	2
Total advanced	...	...				£25,778	18	5

Equivalent to an advance of 15s. 3d. per acre.