

potato crop is reported to be a good average, but oat crops generally have been very light. The wheat-harvest weather was quite good, and the increased use of the header was most marked. Unfortunately the lower country suffered from the dry spring, more particularly as regards provision for haymaking and the closing of areas for grass-seed.

Irrigation works in Mid-Canterbury are being pushed ahead, and the dry conditions experienced over the past year have demonstrated the necessity of having an area of irrigated pasture on the light lands of this part of the district.

#### OTAGO.

(W. E. SHAW, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

In addition to heavy snowfalls in the winter, frequent high winds and occasional snowstorms extending right through the summer have been experienced on most of the run country during the year just ended. These climatic conditions have naturally had an effect on the lower country also, so with sheep properties generally it can be said that there has been a diminished wool-clip, a lighter lambing, and a greater death-rate. These difficulties have in most cases been more than offset by higher wool-prices and better prices for lambs and fat ewes.

North Otago has once again suffered from drought conditions, the rape and turnips being especially affected. With regard to the latter crop, the diamond-back moth appears to be so firmly established that it is almost impossible, particularly in a dry season, to obtain a satisfactory yield.

Grain crops have once again, with the exception of some of the lighter lands, given good yields, particularly autumn-sown wheat in North Otago. The unsettled weather slightly affected the grass-seed harvest in South Otago, but in Central Otago the results of the growing of fine seeds such as clovers have been satisfactory to the few that have engaged therein.

The fruit-farmers in Central Otago have had a fairly good season. Yields have been heavy in nearly all cases, and good prices were obtained over a fair period.

#### SOUTHLAND.

(T. CAGNEY, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

Although at the commencement of the period under review a favourable autumn and winter were experienced, the spring was ushered in with one of the severest snowstorms experienced in Southland for many years, resulting in heavy losses of stock, particularly on high-country holdings.

For the remainder of the period the weather was generally variable and disappointing to farmers, particularly towards the close of the period, when wet, cold conditions prevailed. The effect is apparent in a material reduction in the usual output of butter and cheese factories, and to a lesser extent in most lines of farming production.

Notwithstanding, however, the climatic conditions prevailing, wheat and oat crops have harvested remarkably well and reach the markets in good milling condition. No doubt drying winds at a critical stage of growth have assisted in this respect.

Lambs, owing to the softness of pastures, were slow to fatten, and the usual percentage fattened off the mothers showed a marked decrease, with the result that turnips and green crops, which ordinarily would have been conserved for feed later in the season, had to be encroached on to some extent.

Seed crops, with the exception of fescue, were poor, and early germination tests for samples of rye-grass are disappointing.

**Table 1.**—RETURN SHOWING (APPROXIMATELY) POSITION OF LANDS IN THE DOMINION AT 31ST MARCH, 1940.

District.	Total Area sold or granted and held on Freehold.	Total Area reserved for Public Purposes.	Total Area of Crown Lands leased under all Tenures (exclusive of Reserves leased by Crown).	Total Area of Crown Lands available for Future Disposal.	Total Area of Native Land.*	Land unfit for Settlement (including Area occupied by Rivers, Lakes, Roads, &c.).	Total Area in Land District.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
North Auckland ..	2,651,277	463,745	491,634	139,396	514,720	217,428	4,478,200
Auckland ..	2,849,194	1,281,860	767,951	555,462	1,632,111	1,133,995	8,220,573
Gisborne ..	1,152,102	486,979	509,151	277,986	834,739	254,966	3,515,926
Hawke's Bay ..	1,585,052	202,520	494,238	48,416	371,222	216,438	2,917,886
Taranaki ..	1,131,304	352,506	575,823	91,464	165,706	87,628	2,404,431
Wellington†	3,553,692	1,066,181	754,647	140,977	786,024	749,548	7,051,069
Nelson ..	666,290	2,522,148	604,194	232,524	30,051	659,793	4,715,000
Marlborough ..	783,002	348,627	1,309,818	195,979	22,292	108,282	2,768,000
Westland ..	175,382	2,168,566	560,872	477,205	12,281	469,072	3,863,378
Canterbury ..	3,563,164	1,569,326	3,816,766	66,469	15,089	447,966	19,478,780
Otago ..	1,980,553	932,514	5,442,552	15,074	25,000	612,084	9,007,777
Southland ..	1,863,760	4,442,496	1,369,445	37,693	126,776	129,356	7,969,526
Totals ..	21,954,772	15,837,468	16,697,094	2,278,645	4,536,011	5,086,556	66,390,546

\* Includes certain areas alienated by sale to Europeans. † Includes Chatham Islands.

‡ Increase of 350 acres revealed by resurvey.