

SOUTHLAND.

(T. CAGNEY, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

Favoured by climatic conditions, Southland experienced one of its best production years. The particularly mild winter, with little snow in the back country, resulted in high lambing percentages being obtained, perhaps the best for many years. Feed held well throughout a somewhat dry summer and lambs fattened early and reached the markets in prime condition.

Due to the dry summer, feed was somewhat short for dairy herds towards the latter part, but, on the whole, the usual output of dairy-produce was substantially maintained, if not increased.

Seed and grain crops were grown and harvested under excellent conditions. Root crops were, however, somewhat patchy, and growth was to some extent retarded by attacks of blight, encouraged probably by the unusually dry climatic conditions.

The introduction of linen-flax growing opened up a new avenue for farming in Southland, and reports to hand indicate that good yields were obtained, notwithstanding the dry summer.

Towards the close of the period some beneficial rain was experienced, and there should be no shortage of stock feed for the coming winter.

Table 1.—RETURN SHOWING (APPROXIMATELY) POSITION OF LANDS IN THE DOMINION AT 31ST MARCH, 1941.

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 ..	2,663,167	469,448	484,038	129,513	514,606	217,428	4,478,200
Auckland ..	2,888,617	1,288,312	730,902	544,072	1,634,663	1,134,008	†8,220,574
Gisborne ..	1,152,960	487,045	507,871	278,155	834,423	255,472	3,515,926
Hawke's Bay ..	1,600,120	279,824	470,867	56,707	371,222	139,146	2,917,886
Taranaki ..	1,134,216	353,630	571,340	91,925	165,697	87,623	2,404,431
Wellington‡ ..	3,561,230	1,067,885	749,814	5,407	786,024	880,709	7,051,069
Nelson ..	668,892	2,533,146	596,167	219,488	30,051	667,256	4,715,000
Marlborough ..	785,157	359,340	1,261,504	231,425	22,292	108,282	2,768,000
Westland ..	177,207	2,317,783	537,448	349,587	12,281	469,072	3,863,378
Canterbury ..	3,554,593	1,621,840	3,808,013	31,068	15,089	448,177	9,478,780
Otago ..	1,984,971	932,703	5,436,801	16,184	25,000	612,118	9,007,777
Southland ..	1,870,274	4,443,134	1,363,257	36,729	126,776	129,356	7,969,526
Totals ..	22,041,404	16,154,090	16,518,022	1,990,260	4,538,124	5,148,647	66,390,547

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

† Increase of 1 acre revealed by resurvey.

‡ Includes Chatham