

stock on the land consists of 1,456 sheep, 834 cattle, 98 horses, and 325 pigs. 1,497 acres are laid down in new grass, 32 acres in white crops, and 44 acres in green crops. The improvements are valued at £14,465. The settlers are all prosperous, and this is undoubtedly the most successful settlement on the west coast.

Mangawhata Settlement.—The area purchased was 1,240 acres 2 roods 36 perches. Seven sections, aggregating 1,226 acres, are occupied, the total number of souls on the land being fifty-seven. The improvements are estimated to be worth £4,377, and the stock on the land consists of 1,200 sheep, 651 cattle, 67 horses, and 238 pigs. 1,159 acres are in new grass, 4 acres in green crops, and 64 acres in native grass, orchards, &c. The settlers have been troubled by floods during the year, but the protective works along the Oroua River have been put in good repair, and it is hoped that the flooding of the land by the river will now be obviated. The selectors are doing well, and the settlement as a whole is a decided success.

Epuni Hamlet.—An area of 100 acres 3 roods 14 perches was acquired by the Government. Forty-two sections are occupied, the total number of souls on the land being 180. Forty acres are in new grass, and an area of 54 acres is sown in native grass and orchards, &c. The improvements on the land are valued at £9,785, and the stock consists of 16 cattle and 19 horses. Most of the selectors use their holdings for residential purposes, but some on the larger areas go in for market-gardening, fruit-growing, poultry-keeping, &c. All the selectors appear to be doing well, and the settlement is a most successful one.

Maungaraki Settlement.—This settlement comprises an area of 472 acres 1 rood 20 perches. Twenty sections are now under occupation, and the number of souls now on the land is seventy-seven. One hundred and thirty-six acres are in new grass, and an area of 131 acres is occupied by native grass, orchards, &c. The total value of the improvements on the land is estimated at £3,799, and the stock consists of 48 cattle, 18 horses, and 30 pigs. The holdings are for the most part used for residential purposes, while some few settlers on the larger areas keep poultry and go in for market-gardening. The settlement is favourably situated near the Petone Railway-station, and has proved a successful one.

Linton Settlement.—The area acquired by the Crown was 551 acres 1 rood 36 perches. Five sections of a total area of 549 acres are under occupation, the total population of the settlement being thirty-four souls. Four hundred and twenty-seven acres are laid down in new grass, 97 acres in green crops, and 43 acres are in native grass, orchards, &c. The improvements are valued at £2,306. The stock running on the land consists of 420 sheep, 156 cattle, 14 horses, and 62 pigs. The settlers are doing well, and the settlement is fairly prosperous.

Normandale Settlement.—The area acquired by the Government was 1,623 acres and 9 perches. Thirty-one sections are under occupation, the total number of souls on the land being 118. Three hundred and thirty-nine acres are laid down in new grass, and the stock on the land consists of 31 cattle, 21 horses, and 10 pigs. The improvements on the land are worth £6,918. The sections are wholly used for residential purposes by men who are absent during the day at their various callings. All have gardens under cultivation, and grow vegetables, &c., for home consumption. The settlers appear satisfied with their holdings, and the settlement is fairly prosperous.

EAST COAST.

Langdale Settlement.—The area purchased was 9,405 acres. The number of sections under occupation is thirty-one, and the total population is seventy-nine souls. The stock on the land consists of 14,475 sheep, 1,088 cattle, and 156 horses. 8,422 acres have been laid down in new grass, 139 acres were in white crops, and 279 acres in green crops, the balance being native grass, orchards, &c. Improvements to the value of £6,583 were required to be made, whereas 13,790 pounds' worth have been effected, being an excess of £7,207 over requirements. The settlement is well established, and the selectors, who are experienced and industrious men, seem to be prospering, and are well satisfied with their prospects for the future.

Longbush Settlement.—The area purchased by the Crown was 3,021 acres 3 roods 26 perches. Eight sections are occupied, and the number of souls on the land is twenty-eight. The stock consists of 3,085 sheep, 455 cattle, 31 horses, 30 pigs. 2,098 acres are laid down in new grass, 5 acres in white crops, 23 acres in green crops, 115 acres in native grass, orchards, &c. The improvements on the land are valued at £3,309. The settlers are practical men who work on their holdings, utilising their sections for pastoral purposes. Although the season has been an exceptionally dry one, the settlers seem to be now well established, and the settlement is a most successful one.

Table-lands Settlement.—An area of 5,496 acres 3 roods 30 perches was purchased by the Government. Ten sections are under occupation, and the total number of souls on the land is twenty-seven. The stock consists of 7,969 sheep, 600 cattle, and 50 horses. 4,410 acres are laid down in new grass, 30 acres in white crops, 59 acres in green crops, and 386 acres are in native grass, orchards, &c. The improvements on the land are valued at £4,057. The settlers are experienced men who work on their holdings, the sections being wholly used for grazing purposes. The settlement is well established and has proved a successful one.

Tawaha Settlement.—An area of 2,328 acres 2 roods 31 perches was purchased by the Government. Twenty-four sections, of a total area of 2,304 acres, are under occupation, the total population being fifty-nine souls. 1,714 acres are laid down in new grass, 314 acres in white crops, 144 acres in green crops, and 129 acres are in native grass, orchards, &c. The stock consists of 1,000 sheep, 678 cattle, 68 horses, and 95 pigs. The improvements are valued at £4,016. The settlers have experienced an adverse year owing to high floods late in the spring, and a drought during the summer months. Given a few favourable seasons, however, it is considered that the settlers would be satisfied with their selections and prospects for future prosperity.