

TOBACCO-GROWING DISTRICTS IN NEW ZEALAND.

The official statistics show that there has been a gradual increase in the acreage of tobacco cultivated annually since the National Tobacco Co. contracted with the growers of the Motueka-Nelson district in 1920 for the supply of leaf.

The value of the industry to the tobacco-growers is shown in the following table :—

Nelson.					Auckland.				Elsewhere.		
Year.	Grow-ers.	Acreage.	Production.	Value.	Growers.	Acre- age.	Production.	Value.	Acre- age.	Pro- duction.	Value.
			lb.	£			lb.	£		lb.	£
1925-26..	160	450	360,000	36,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1926-27..	140	300	240,000	24,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1927-28..	314	720	556,234	56,792	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1928-29..	539	1,450	1,062,392	107,586	53	78	45,200	3,540*	80	60,000	3,000
1929-30..	491	1,315	1,045,632	105,828	5 companies	272	215,600	21,460*	..	..	..
			3,264,258	330,206			260,800	25,000		60,000	3,000

* Not as yet marketed.

Judged by the usual tests applied to the determination of tobacco-growing areas—the importance of soil and rainfall, the absence of winds, the results obtained by the two manufacturing companies, and expert opinion before the Committee—the indications are that up till the present the following districts have been proved suitable and successful leaf-growing districts: Dovedale, Ngatimoti, Woodstock, Pokororo, Riwaka, Motueka, Thorpe, Brightwater, Upper Moutere, Lower Moutere, and the Waimea.

Season.	Acreage.	Number of Growers.	Yield.	Average Price.	Value.
			lb.	s. d.	£
1928	833	384	640,000	1 11	61,340
1929	848	387	561,000	1 9	49,100
1930	850	400	620,000	1 11	59,400

The leaf operations of the W. D. and H. O. Wills (N.Z.) Co. in these districts for the same seasons were, according to statistics handed in to the Committee by the growers' representatives, as follows :—

SUMMARY: FLUE-CURED TOBACCO.

District.	Season 1928.			Season 1929.			Season 1930.		
	Acre- age.	Leaf produced.	Value.	Acre- age.	Leaf produced.	Value.	Acre- age.	Leaf produced.	Value.
		lb.	£ s. d.		lb.	£ s. d.		lb.	£ s. d.
Riwaka	55	62,834	6,730 11 5	144	123,739	12,970 3 1	128	122,498	13,149 3 6
Motueka	10	3,735	288 8 7	22½	10,886	1,072 0 5	11	4,948	516 16 5
Dovedale, Thorpe, Pokororo, &c.	28	19,854	2,228 17 9	91	77,346	8,504 4 0	89	69,886	7,108 1 6
Waimea, Tadmire, &c.	51½	29,349	2,550 4 8	29	11,372	960 10 3	4	3,162	285 8 9
Upper and Lower Moutere	50½	28,533	3,082 5 10	79	28,764	2,912 6 6	58½	43,634	4,583 0 11
	194½	144,305	14,880 8 3	365½	252,107	26,419 4 3	290½	244,128	25,642 11 1

Another statement tendered in evidence by the growers indicates the number of employees engaged last season in the planting, cultivation, harvesting, and curing of the flue-cured leaf, other than members of the farmer's family, and also indicates the outlay to the growers in the cost of flue-barns, bulking-sheds, and other necessary appointments.

VALUE OF KILNS, NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, AND WAGES PAID, TOBACCO SEASON 1930.

District.	Value of Kilns.	Number of Employees.	Wages paid.
	£		£
Riwaka	8,096	333	4,012
Motueka	850	44	454
Pokororo	1,378	100	329
Dovedale and Thorpe	2,335	298	1,118
Waimea	600	29	105
Moutere	2,926	168	670
	16,185	972	6,688