

APPENDIX III.—LAND-DRAINAGE AND LAND-DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS.

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In accordance with statutory requirements, separate reports deal with (1) Hauraki Plains, (2) Rangitaiki, and (3) swamp land drainage districts—viz., Kaitaia, Hikurangi, Waibi, and Poukawa drainage-works.

Land-development operations have been carried out on thirteen areas under the Small Farms Act, whilst development operations on the Galatea Estate, purchased under the Land for Settlements Act, have been steadily pushed forward. The number of development blocks has increased by three during the year, and proposals in detail have been prepared for commencing on two further blocks—viz., Tokoroa, and Whirinaki, an area adjoining Ngakuru Block. The Tokoroa Block, in the vicinity of Putaruru, is situated in a bush-sick area, but it is confidently anticipated that the use of licks and prepared manures will overcome this trouble.

Two further completed farms were handed over to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Auckland, during the year, and the following schedule shows the number of completed farms handed over in the respective blocks :—

Mangatete	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Wharere	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Tarawera	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Murupara	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Broadlands	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8

Dairying was carried out on all these farms under the control of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, whilst on another twelve farms milking was carried out on a wages basis.

The available returns of butterfat from the blocks for the year are :—

lb.								
Kaitaia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46,908
Mangatete	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43,710
Wharere	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29,118
Tarawera	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	73,343
Murupara	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	58,389
Broadlands	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	47,577
								299,045

These returns show a considerable increase over last year's figures. This is especially noticeable on the Kaitaia Block, where, however, the sizes of the herds were increased. The highest return was from the farm occupied by A. T. Doidge at Tarawera, with 9,548 lb., whilst the next was that of R. W. Hogg, on the same block, with 8,635 lb.

The following schedule shows the stock on the blocks at the end of the year :—

—				Cows.	Dry Stock.	Heifers.	Calves.	Horses.	Sheep.	Bullocks.
Kaitaia—										
Department	..	..	..	192	73	31	55	5	..	..
Settlers	..	..	..	281	21	77	26	13	65	..
Mangatete—										
Department	..	..	..	55	5	6	9	..	..	..
Hoe-o-Tainui—										
Department	..	..	..	6	11	273	29	13	629	..
Wharere—										
Settlers	..	..	..	172	8	29	43	5	..	..
Department	..	..	..	37	1	..	..	5	502	364
Tarawera No. 1—										
Settlers	..	..	..	347	18	80	92	13	..	..
Tarawera No. 2—										
Department	..	..	..	10	27	50	4	..	78	..
Murupara—										
Settlers	..	..	..	450	12	62	97	12	..	..
Broadlands—										
Settlers	..	..	..	296	10	42	76	8	..	..
Puriri—										
Department	..	..	..	..	54	..	..	2	822	..
Edgcumbe—										
Department	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	4	..	..
Grand total				1,846	243	650	431	80	2,096	364
Department total				294	174	360	97	29	2,031	364