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THE following Report by the Registrar-General, and the accompanying Tables relative to the Agricultural Statistics of New Zealand in February, 1869, are published for general information.

E. W. STAFFORD.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS OF NEW ZEALAND,
 FEBRUARY, 1869.

Registrar-General's Office, Wellington, 20th May, 1869.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward Tables showing the completed Results of the Collection of Agricultural Statistics for New Zealand, in the month of February last. The separate Returns for the several Provinces (and for the County of Westland) have already appeared in the *New Zealand Gazette*; as,—with a view of avoiding any delay in the publication of information the value of which depends greatly upon its being made known at the earliest possible date,—immediately on my receipt of any Return, I transmitted it for the *Gazette*. But it is obviously desirable that the information thus issued in detached portions should now be brought together, and presented so as to comprehend the whole Colony. I have accordingly prepared the accompanying Tables,—the First of which is a General Summary of the Results of the Collection in each Province (and in the County of Westland); while the Second shows those Results for each of the Electoral Districts returning Members to the General Assembly,—care being taken, of course, that in the cases of Electoral Districts running into more than one Province the particulars relating to the several portions were taken out of the Returns for the Provinces, and added together, so as to show fully and correctly the results for the Districts respectively. I have added to each of the Tables a column showing the Population in every instance, according to the latest enumeration; viz., that of the Census of New Zealand, taken in December, 1867. Although it is certain that since that date there have been considerable changes in the Numbers of the People in different parts of the Colony, (especially in the Province of Auckland, to which the development of the Thames Gold Fields has attracted a great increase to the Population), yet I have thought it desirable to give the Numbers then ascertained, as being the nearest approximation which it is possible to supply.

“The Census Acts Amendment Act, 1867,” besides greatly enlarging the number of subjects relating to Agricultural and Industrial Statistics on which information was required by “The Census Act, 1858,” further provided that, in addition to the General Triennial Census, an Annual Account of Land in Cultivation and of Agricultural Produce should be taken, fixing the month of February for the purpose in the year 1869. It was under this authority that the particulars in the following Tables were obtained. The collection, and the prompt publication of the information, have, I believe, on the whole been considered satisfactory and valuable; but there are two or three points which I think should be borne in mind in judging of the “Account,” either in itself or in view of the benefit which may be anticipated from similar Accounts in future years:—

- (1.) This being the first time of taking an Account corresponding to this in all respects, the machinery and regulations for effecting the object were new, and, to some extent, experimental. This hindrance,—unavoidable in any new undertaking,—will, of course, be gradually removed by experience of the working of the arrangements.
- (2.) The amount voted by the General Assembly for the purpose was generally regarded as insufficient. I have no doubt that some of those who exerted themselves zealously in the matter were actuated more by public spirit, and a desire that so useful a work should at least be initiated successfully, than by any consideration of the remuneration which it was possible to offer to them. The sum available did not admit of the employment to the extent that was desirable of Collectors to visit the Holdings and ascertain the requisite particulars by personal inquiry, so that no small part of the information was obtained through the Post Office, by application to individuals known to be Holders or Occupiers of Land;—a mode which although in many cases not only sufficient for the purpose but even the best that could be

adopted, yet in some localities may have left it open to doubt whether Holdings may not have been omitted, or Returns imperfectly made.

- (3.) Considerable difficulty in obtaining full information was experienced in several parts of the Colony in consequence of an idea that the Government required it for the purpose of some new taxation. Of course this notion had no evidence to support it, but, on the contrary, was discountenanced by such facts as that this was only an adoption in part of a system which has been carried out for years, and on a much more extended and searching plan, in the Australian Colonies,—and that the proposal to take such an Account (although approved and supported by the Government) was originally brought forward, not by the Government, but by private Members of the Legislature, (the Honorable Mr. Holmes in the Legislative Council, and Mr. Robert Campbell in the House of Representatives),—while the details as to the particular subjects to be included in the Schedule to the Act (for the more extended objects of the Census) were specified in a Report agreed upon after a Conference by Select Committees of both Houses. It may be hoped that the delusion upon this point will not operate on any future occasion; indeed I should not have thought it necessary to advert to it here had I not been assured that it has had an actual and injurious operation with respect to the Account for 1869.

There are not materials in the present instance for any lengthened Report such as those given in some other Colonies, (which are for the most part made up of comparisons with the results of similar Accounts taken in previous years, and of remarks relating to branches of information which were not included in the Schedules here). A few supplementary observations, however, may be useful, especially to persons at a distance who may not be able immediately to refer to the Census Statistics of this Colony.

According to these Returns, the Total Number of Acres under Crop was 687,015 (not including Holdings of less than one acre in extent, or Gardens attached to Residences, both of which were exempted from the inquiry). The subjoined Table will show the average proportions in which every 100 Acres of the Cultivated Land was divided amongst the respective Crops:—

	TOTAL NUMBER OF ACRES UNDER CROP.	CENTESIMAL PROPORTION OF LAND UNDER EACH DESCRIPTION OF CROP.						
		Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Hay.	Permanent Artificial Grass (including Land in Hay in previous column).	Potatoes.	Other Crop.
AUCKLAND—PROVINCE ...	122,394	1.89	1.47	0.11	3.24	92.73	2.68	1.12
TARANAKI " ...	19,521	4.17	1.69	0.61	3.72	88.83	3.60	1.10
WELLINGTON " ...	125,318	1.08	2.07	0.19	2.23	95.77	0.60	0.29
HAWKE'S BAY " ...	30,235	2.37	3.49	0.85	5.59	91.88	1.09	0.32
NELSON " ...	37,195	6.92	4.89	2.57	9.24	80.98	2.22	2.42
MARLBOROUGH " ...	18,944	12.47	6.63	7.67	5.73	70.62	1.35	1.26
CANTERBURY " ...	145,073	22.76	18.59	6.09	3.95	49.99	1.12	1.45
WESTLAND—COUNTY ...	682	...	3.66	0.15	8.06	55.57	26.10	14.52
OTAGO—PROVINCE ...	152,568	13.20	26.76	1.71	3.97	54.91	1.99	1.43
SOUTHLAND " ...	35,085	3.46	23.94	2.36	3.18	64.88	1.63	3.73
	687,015	9.39	12.38	2.25	3.88	73.01	1.68	1.29

The Numbers of LIVE STOCK were not ascertained under the arrangements for this Account, but as, in several other Countries, it has been usual to state them in connection with Agricultural Statistics, it may be convenient to show compendiously the Numbers of the principal descriptions when the last Census (December, 1867) was taken:—

	HORSES.	CATTLE.	SHEEP.	Pigs.
AUCKLAND—PROVINCE ...	9,436	53,066	172,030	25,814
TARANAKI " ...	1,441	3,406	19,772	2,112
WELLINGTON " ...	10,597	56,211	754,026	20,283
HAWKE'S BAY " ...	4,078	11,783	841,814	3,325
NELSON " ...	4,277	15,894	523,799	8,822
MARLBOROUGH " ...	2,608	7,913	611,757	5,243
CANTERBURY " ...	14,501	59,493	2,496,097	31,460
WESTLAND—COUNTY ...	619	2,103	852	1,535
OTAGO—PROVINCE ...	14,458	81,982	2,438,260	12,543
SOUTHLAND " ...	3,555	20,486	551,512	3,644

The General Totals for the Colony (including the Returns from the Chatham Islands not stated above) were, Horses, 65,715; Cattle, 312,835; Sheep, 8,418,579; and Pigs, 115,104. In addition to these Descriptions of Stock, there were in the Colony, 323 Mules or Asses; 11,964 Goats; and 676,065 Poultry.

The following items of information on kindred subjects are also taken from the Census Results.

There were then in the Colony, (in December, 1867), 579 Thrashing Machines, viz., 92 Steam, 17 Water, and 470 Horse:—736 Reaping Machines; 12 Steam Ploughs, and 28 Steam Harrows.....The production of Butter during the year (1867) amounted to 3,834,252 lbs.; and of Cheese to 1,300,082 lbs.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

The Honorable E. W. Stafford,
Colonial Secretary, &c.

JOHN B. BENNETT,
Registrar-General.

No. I.

SUMMARY OF AN ACCOUNT OF LAND IN CULTIVATION, AND OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE THEREOF, IN NEW ZEALAND, IN FEBRUARY, 1869.

	POPULATION ACCORDING TO THE LAST CENSUS (DECEMBER, 1867).	EXTENT OF LAND BROKEN UP, BUT NOT UNDER CROP. Acres.	IN WHEAT.		IN OATS.		IN BARLEY.		IN HAY.†		IN PERMANENT ARTIFICIAL GRASS (INCLUDING LAND IN HAY IN PREVIOUS COLUMN). Acres.	IN POTATOES.		IN OTHER CROPS. Acres.
			Acres.	Estimated Gross Produce (in bushels).	Acres.	Estimated Gross Produce (in bushels).	Acres.	Estimated Gross Produce (in bushels).	Acres.	Estimated Gross Produce (in tons).		Acres.	Estimated Gross Produce (in tons).	
PROVINCE OF AUCKLAND ...	48,321	9,572	2,321	35,668	1,797	31,180	134	2,829	3,972	5,292	113,494	3,278	13,084	1,370
" TARANAKI ...	4,359	924	815	15,920	329	7,125	120	2,437	728	1,299	17,340	703	3,469	214
" WELLINGTON	21,950	10,886	1,355	28,194	2,587	61,699	239	4,892	2,801	3,884	120,014	754	4,799	369
" HAWKE'S BAY	5,283	2,313	715	17,530	1,055	24,610	257	5,097	1,692	2,459	27,780	331	1,462	97
" NELSON ...	23,814	10,369	2,574	40,273	1,819	36,241	956	20,317	3,440	3,943	30,122	825	4,634	899
" MARLBOROUGH	4,371	2,188	2,363	46,211	1,256	34,851	1,453	33,629	1,086	1,306	13,378	256	1,445	238
" CANTERBURY	38,448	26,558	33,017	723,640	26,967	713,850	8,834	191,562	5,744	7,383	72,528	1,628	6,818	2,099
COUNTY OF WESTLAND ...	15,418	93	...	...	25	1,135	1	20	55	92	379	178	1,010	99
PROVINCE OF OTAGO ...	48,577	21,645	20,142	678,358	40,821	1,485,051	2,604	92,269	6,061	9,102	83,782	3,033	16,705	2,186
" SOUTHLAND ...	7,943	11,872	1,215	33,375	8,400	259,552	829	24,782	1,117	1,675	22,763	571	3,112	1,307
GENERAL TOTALS ...	218,484*	96,420	64,517	1,619,169	85,056	2,655,294	15,427	377,834	26,696	36,435	501,580	11,557	56,538	8,878

* To make this Total agree with the Number (218,668) previously published in the Tables of Census Results as the Population of New Zealand in December, 1867, it is necessary to add the Population of the Chatham Islands, viz., 184.

† In Otago, the Return for "Hay" includes a large quantity of Oats cut for Hay, principally in the Dunedin Suburban Districts.

No. II.

TABLE SHOWING THE LAND IN CULTIVATION, AND THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE THEREOF, IN THE SEVERAL ELECTORAL DISTRICTS OF NEW ZEALAND, IN FEBRUARY, 1869.

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS.	POPULATION ACCORDING TO THE LAST CENSUS (DECEMBER, 1867).	EXTENT OF LAND BROKEN UP, BUT NOT UNDER CROP. Acres.	IN WHEAT.		IN OATS.		IN BARLEY.		IN HAY.		IN PERMANENT ARTIFICIAL GRASS (INCLUDING LAND IN HAY IN PREVIOUS COLUMN). Acres.	IN POTATOES.		IN OTHER CROPS. Acres.
			Acres.	Estimated Gross Produce (in bushels).	Acres.	Estimated Gross Produce (in bushels).	Acres.	Estimated Gross Produce (in bushels).	Acres.	Estimated Gross Produce (in tons).		Acres.	Estimated Gross Produce (in tons).	
			MONGONUI	590	357	64	790	15	345	3		70	100		79	1,742	46	145	167
BAY OF ISLANDS	1,402	232	25	465	5	66	...	...	349	389	9,637	48	166	59
MARSDEN	3,918	1,021	642	8,620	350	4,378	2	50	342	479	14,705	322	1,304	365
NORTHERN DIVISION	4,024	1,641	209	3,526	248	4,577	25	379	366	545	20,716	379	1,610	252
CITY OF AUCKLAND EAST	3,251	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CITY OF AUCKLAND WEST	7,318	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
PARNELL	3,226	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	107	1	3	10
NEWTON	3,227	24	...	...	9	69	...	...	44	78	1,309	13	58	...
PENSIONER SETTLEMENTS	1,541	67	53	964	50	780	1	12	98	139	1,557	110	150	74
TOWN OF ONEHUNGA	2,168	201	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	30	225	17	59	3
FRANKLIN	9,758	3,166	539	6,606	490	8,001	31	820	1,075	1,390	28,418	906	3,415	234
RAGLAN	7,216	2,863	789	14,697	630	12,964	72	1,498	1,579	2,163	35,078	1,436	6,174	206
GREY AND BELL	1,578	589	488	9,055	224	5,010	74	1,624	582	1,094	10,331	468	2,210	150
TOWN OF NEW PLYMOUTH	2,180	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	326	4	14	11
OMATA	601	332	327	6,865	105	2,115	46	813	136	195	6,683	231	1,245	53
WANGANUI	3,906	721	139	3,095	139	3,322	24	490	204	307	16,842	153	862	6
RANGITIKI	2,511	8,390	626	12,739	1,548	36,856	197	4,023	869	1,280	43,347	240	1,611	61
PORIRUA	2,748	315	14	264	54	1,560	...	...	594	857	22,935	52	283	72
CITY OF WELLINGTON	7,301	19	...	...	5	156	...	...	19	34	603	...	...	60
HUTT	2,207	826	66	1,948	151	4,935	2	49	457	736	11,013	229	1,647	151
WAIRARAPA... ..	3,068	615	510	10,148	690	14,870	16	330	658	670	25,274	80	396	19
NAPIER	3,307	1,146	197	4,300	332	7,840	90	1,585	785	1,194	11,954	173	708	50

No. II—continued.

TABLE SHOWING THE LAND IN CULTIVATION, AND THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE THEREOF, IN THE SEVERAL ELECTORAL DISTRICTS OF NEW ZEALAND, IN FEBRUARY, 1869.

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS.	POPULATION ACCORDING TO THE LAST CENSUS (DECEMBER, 1867).	EXTENT OF LAND BROKEN UP, BUT NOT UNDER CROP. Acres.	IN WHEAT.		IN OATS.		IN BARLEY.		IN HAY.		IN PERMANENT ARTIFICIAL GRASS (INCLUDING LAND IN HAY IN PREVIOUS COLUMN). Acres.	IN POTATOES.		IN OTHER CROPS. Acres.
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			CLIVE	1,896	1,167	518	13,230	723	16,770	167		3,512	907	
COLLINGWOOD	975	49	6	75	31	495	8	168	161	187	1,810	58	275	7
MOTUEKA	2,451	4,190	1,251	22,165	777	17,692	535	13,181	649	833	10,404	453	2,746	545
CITY OF NELSON	5,480	24	...	...	3	150	...	...	33	47	348	2	10	93
SUBURBS OF NELSON	829	111	46	1,055	105	2,474	13	287	603	726	3,390	47	268	46
WAIMEA	2,687	5,297	1,270	16,958	789	13,595	390	6,431	1,542	1,638	11,257	123	538	120
WESTLAND NORTH... ..	10,466	49	...	...	5	40	...	...	227	256	151	112	604	64
WESTLAND SOUTH... ..	9,057	93	...	...	25	1,135	1	20	51	82	352	171	982	84
WESTLAND BOROUGHES	6,361	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	10	27	7	28	15
PICTON	1,729	269	361	7,978	154	3,668	57	1,190	222	315	5,111	65	337	32
WAIRAU	2,208	1,825	1,954	36,933	1,040	29,483	1,382	32,134	830	947	7,954	126	687	192
CHEVIOT	1,410	916	99	2,234	435	10,030	24	555	329	373	3,654	111	618	69
ASHLEY	2,863	5,577	6,588	109,348	5,289	114,796	1,580	25,911	527	407	6,638	279	786	329
KAIAPOI	3,966	1,129	2,740	59,607	3,058	77,704	1,680	42,150	1,018	1,353	11,163	228	925	437
AVON	4,287	1,237	1,574	42,420	1,902	55,031	856	17,103	1,121	1,472	14,805	289	1,154	494
HEATHCOTE	6,631	1,639	5,109	131,208	4,775	153,741	1,804	45,511	1,282	1,951	16,285	196	1,161	256
CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH	6,647	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOWN OF LYTTELTON	2,373	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
MOUNT HERBERT	603	889	229	7,670	226	8,775	46	1,360	141	255	3,432	51	220	34
AKAROA	1,743	4	20	633	6	160	...	...	148	356	6,916	17	86	12
SELWYN	2,042	7,313	6,263	169,879	3,803	120,532	1,991	38,835	320	372	6,201	189	577	281
COLBRIDGE	1,932	4,769	5,350	71,555	3,502	62,400	453	9,119	568	533	3,789	110	496	173

TABLE SHOWING THE LAND IN CULTIVATION, AND THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE THEREOF, IN THE SEVERAL ELECTORAL DISTRICTS OF NEW ZEALAND, IN FEBRUARY, 1869.

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS.	POPULATION ACCORDING TO THE LAST CENSUS (DECEMBER, 1867).	EXTENT OF LAND BROKEN UP, BUT NOT UNDER CROP. Acres.	IN WHEAT.		IN OATS.		IN BARLEY.		IN HAY.†		IN PERMANENT ARTIFICIAL GRASS (INCLUDING LAND IN HAY IN PREVIOUS COLUMN). Acres.	IN POTATOES.		IN OTHER CROPS. Acres.
			Acres.	Estimated Gross Produce (in bushels).	Acres.	Estimated Gross Produce (in bushels).	Acres.	Estimated Gross Produce (in bushels).	Acres.	Estimated Gross Produce (in tons).		Acres.	Estimated Gross Produce (in tons).	
			TIMARU	2,948	2,773	4,311	97,284	3,344	89,198	269		6,633	420		407	1,993	187	920	41
GLADSTONE	1,682	1,055	783	33,122	798	24,978	155	4,940	129	154	727	66	439	11
CITY OF DUNEDIN	12,693	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ROSLYN	3,004	89	18	595	257	7,135	5	220	840	1,081	3,403	62	267	33
CAVERSHAM	2,341	617	100	3,520	542	21,492	43	2,775	625	1,347	5,459	91	605	66
PORT CHALMERS	2,082	126	56	1,845	452	12,859	2	60	104	205	1,904	51	299	51
TAIERI	3,207	1,637	3,531	123,164	8,494	324,425	740	25,865	1,045	1,357	15,023	636	3,557	365
BRUCE	5,828	2,730	1,592	46,417	8,887	312,953	365	11,779	811	1,002	21,895	535	2,950	488
CLUTHA	2,802	5,702	1,536	40,843	6,729	230,177	271	8,687	677	780	15,735	350	1,974	776
OAMARU	3,692	6,716	10,136	358,548	7,498	294,872	926	32,533	671	1,554	7,438	429	2,571	210
WAIKOUAITI	2,805	2,861	1,722	56,329	4,780	177,518	154	6,925	517	632	11,612	240	1,394	89
MANUHERIKIA	4,053	111	64	2,031	1,804	55,660	66	2,405	364	465	280	408	1,685	45
HAMPDEN	1,925	841	1,357	44,305	880	34,390	31	1,000	253	384	518	165	1,035	53
GOLD FIELD TOWNS	2,110	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
INVERCARGILL	1,994	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
MATAURA	3,744	9,824	782	23,502	5,309	157,363	260	6,825	522	893	18,129	345	2,057	1,182
RIVERTON	1,224	1,756	433	9,873	2,743	92,570	560	17,749	406	520	4,009	178	812	113
WALLACE	2,504	507	30	761	846	23,189	10	228	343	557	1,140	114	611	22
GENERAL TOTALS ...	216,320*	96,420	64,517	1,619,169	85,056	2,655,294	15,427	377,834	26,696	36,435	501,580	11,557	56,538	8,878

* The "Electoral Districts" in the foregoing Table are those returning Members to the House of Representatives, as defined by the several Representation Acts of the General Assembly. The Population given for them does not include the Numbers in the Shipping in the various Harbours (viz. 2,164), or the Inhabitants of the Chatham Islands (viz. 184). These Numbers must therefore be added to the above Total, to bring out the General Total of 218,668 for the Colony.

† See Note to preceding Table.

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