

New Zealand Rainfall for September, 1916—continued.

Station.	Total Fall, Points (100 to Inch).	Days with Rain.
SOUTH ISLAND—continued.		
(G.) EAST ASPECT—KAIKOURA TO CAPE SAUNDERS—continued.		
Livingstone	171	5
Armore, Windsor	64	3
Totara Station, near Oamaru	64	4
Dunroon	66	4
Pukeuri, Oamaru	37	2
Oamaru	77	3
Steward Settlement, Oamaru	52	3
Trotter's Creek, Hillgrove	92	7
Kauroo Hill, Maheno	57	4
Bairuddery, Kauroo Hill, Maheno	59	6
Bushey Park, Palmerston South	90	6
Opoho, Dunedin (383 ft.) .. .. .	..	..
Burnside, Dunedin	146	10
Fish-hatchery, Portobello	134	8
Whare Flat	253	10
Mosgiel	117	9
(H.) SOUTH ASPECT—CAPE SAUNDERS TO PUYSEGUR POINT.		
Paerau	179	7
Great Moss Swamp, via Patearoa	118	10
Eweburn Nursery, Ranfurly	134	6
Waipiata	73	5
Naseby	180	6
Kokonga	115	5
Gladbrook Station, Middlemarch	192	10
Mount Pisa Station, Cromwell	246	5
Maungawera, Otago	214	7
Luggate, Cromwell	229	7
Manorburn Dam	117	7
Queenstown	436	7
"Craigroy," Arrowtown .. .. .	..	..
Poolburn, Central Otago	77	7
Moa Creek	88	7
Galloway, Alexandra South .. .. .	..	..
St. Bathans	251	11
Blackstone Hill	266	7
Clyde	154	7
Roxburgh
"Fruitvale," Ettrick	331	7

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(H.) SOUTH ASPECT—CAPE SAUNDERS TO PUYSEGUR POINT—continued.		
Sunnyvale Orchard, Island Block	232	11
Balclutha	163	11
Owaka	287	10
Tapanni Nursery	262	14
Waikawa Valley	377	12
Wharuarimu	494	19
Uplands, Waimahaka	413	16
Roslin Estate, Woodlands	511	16
Wyndham South	378	16
Dipton	450	7
Bluff .. .. .	..	..
Nightcaps	552	14
Rannock, Orawia .. .. .	..	..
Otautau	661	16
Riverton	865	13
Manapouri	688	14
(I.) ISLANDS.		
Centre Island	687	17
Stewart Island	873	23
Horse-shoe Bay, Stewart Island	940	24
Niue Island	703	16
Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands	547	15
Aitutaki Island, Cook Islands	350	13
Mangaia, Cook Islands .. .. .	..	..
Chatham Island .. .. .	..	..
LATE RETURNS.		
Mount Eden, July, 1916	823	22
Ngatimaru, August, 1916	1094	19
Mangaporau, August, 1916	963	20
Bainham, July, 1916	2140	15
Puysegur Point, August, 1916	994	23
Gore Bay, August, 1916	242	9
Niue Island, August, 1916	426	12
Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands, August, 1916	141	16

Estimated Areas under Wheat and Oats, Season 1916-17.

Census and Statistics Office,
Wellington, 1st November, 1916.

IN submitting an estimate of the areas to be sown in wheat and oats this season it is deemed advisable to give the following explanation as to the new system being adopted for the collection of these statistics and as to the method of arriving at the estimates here given.

Formerly the agricultural and pastoral statistics were collected in the spring-time, but in 1916 these statistics were obtained after the harvest: the collections during the past few years were made by means of returns through the post, but in 1916 there was a holding to holding canvass throughout the Dominion by Police officers acting as Sub-Enumerators.

The areas sown or intended to be sown are estimated in the spring-time, the information on which the estimate is based being obtained by issuing cards through the post to every grain-grower of the previous season. Such of these cards as are returned are tabulated, and the proportion which the total areas so returned as sown or intended to be sown bears to the total areas actually reaped in the previous harvest by those persons is applied over the whole areas reaped at the previous harvest, and the result is taken as the estimated area for the ensuing season.

This briefly is the new system which will be continued in future, and the principal differences between it and the previous system are that the actual areas reaped and the actual yields are obtained in the harvest-time, and the areas sown or intended to be sown are estimated in the spring-time, whereas previously the actual areas sown or intended to be sown were obtained in the spring-time and the estimated yields obtained in the harvest-time. The average yields were applied to the areas obtained in the spring, which resulted in the total actual yield for the Dominion being frequently stated inaccurately.

For the estimate now being prepared, cards were sent out by post to 26,000-odd grain-growers in the Dominion asking

them to state the areas of wheat and oats which they had sown or proposed to sow for the present season. Of these, over 24,000 cards have been returned to the office and duly tabulated, with the following results:—

In the North Island 19,197 acres were under wheat last year, and cards representing 15,416 acres (or 80 per cent.) of this area have now been returned to the Census and Statistics Office. The growers returning these cards state that they have sown or intend to sow 5,937 acres in wheat this year, and assuming that those growers who have not yet returned their cards sow proportionate areas, the total area in wheat for the 1916-17 season should be 7,395 acres. Treating the figures for oats on the same basis it is estimated that a total of 76,208 acres will be grown this season.

Similarly, in the South Island 316,225 acres were under wheat in 1915-16. Cards representing 92½ per cent. of this area have been returned, and show a proposed 1916-17 area of 195,610 acres. It may, therefore, be assumed that in the South Island a total of 211,482 acres will be sown.

Oats harvested for all purposes in the South Island in 1915-16 covered 518,101 acres, and cards representing 91 per cent. of this acreage have been returned, showing an area of 428,379 acres. The estimated oat area for 1916-17 is therefore 472,318 acres.

The estimates are given in tabulated form below:—

WHEAT AND OATS.—AREAS HARVESTED 1915-16, AND AREAS ESTIMATED AS SOWN OR TO BE SOWN 1916-17.		
	Wheat, Acres.	Oats, Acres.
Actual area reaped 1915-16—		
For threshing	329,207	212,688
For other purposes	6,216	427,539
Total	335,423	640,227
Estimated area sown for 1916-17	218,877	548,526

MALCOLM FRASER,
Government Statistician.