

Estimated Areas under Wheat, Oats, Barley, and Potatoes (Season 1929-30).

Census and Statistics Office,

Wellington, 6th November, 1929.

AS in previous years, cards were sent out by post to grain-growers and to potato-growers throughout the Dominion, asking them to state what areas they had sown or planted, or intended to sow or plant, in wheat, oats, barley, and potatoes this season.

WHEAT, OATS, AND BARLEY.—FINAL AREAS, 1928-29, AND AREAS ESTIMATED AS SOWN OR TO BE SOWN IN 1929-30.

						Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.
						Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Areas, 1928-29 :—								
For threshing	..	..	..	..	..	255,312	73,101	19,500
For chaffing	..	..	..	..	..	1,272	194,638	340
Total harvested	..	..	..	..	..	256,584	267,739	19,840
Not harvested	..	..	..	..	..	1,289	15,394	..
Grand totals	..	..	..	..	..	257,873	283,133	19,840
Areas, 1929-30 (estimated) :—								
North Island	..	..	..	..	..	2,650	15,500	1,700
South Island	..	..	..	..	..	231,850	259,500	18,800
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	234,500	275,000	20,500

Particulars as to varieties of wheat and of oats sown or intended to be sown were asked for. The following table gives a summary of results in cases where varieties were specified :—

	Wheat.				Oats.				
	Tuscan or Long-berry.	Hunter's (Varieties).	Velvet or Pearl.	Total Specified Varieties.	White.	Dun.	Black.	Algerian.	Total Specified Varieties.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
North Island	1,184	579	509	2,272	767	197	49	10,371	11,384
Nelson, Marlborough, and Westland	2,744	1,517	319	4,580	1,087	579	84	10,156	11,906
Canterbury	149,318	27,722	9,610	186,650	66,224	13,857	1,913	44,210	126,204
Otago and Southland	15,273	7,108	4,456	26,837	69,437	7,267	6,283	6,363	89,350
Dominion totals	168,519	36,926	14,894	220,339	137,515	21,900	8,329	71,100	238,844

Tabulation of statistics for potatoes gives the following results :—

POTATOES.—FINAL AREA, 1928-29, AND AREA ESTIMATED AS PLANTED OR TO BE PLANTED, 1929-30.

	Final Area, 1928-29.	Estimated Area, 1929-30.
	Acres.	Acres.
North Island	4,951	4,900
South Island	16,353	17,700
Totals for Dominion	21,304	22,600

On the average of the last five seasons (viz., 5.49 tons per acre) the total yield from the estimated area shown for 1929-30 should approximate 124,000 tons, as against 123,607 tons last season.

It may be well to note that only holdings of 1 acre and over outside borough boundaries are covered by these figures. In the case of potatoes a fair amount is undoubtedly grown on the smaller holdings and on holdings situated within boroughs.

MALCOLM FRASER,
Government Statistician.