

RETURN OF NAMES OF PERSONS DROWNED IN NEW ZEALAND.

MEMORANDUM by Mr. G. S. COOPER.

CONSIDERABLE pains have been taken to make this return as complete as possible, but I regret to say that, from the imperfect state of the old records, it is still far from being an accurate statement of persons drowned in New Zealand rivers.

The Registrar-General was first applied to, but that officer was unable to give any material assistance.

The records of the Colonial Secretary's Department have been searched. Inquest proceedings have been obtained from the Supreme Court, and during the five years (1853-58) when the Coroners were under Provincial control, from the Provincial Governments.

Upwards of 4,000 inquests recorded in the Colonial Secretary's Office have been examined. Information has been sought from the Provincial Police.

Old files of newspapers have been searched for reports of deaths by drowning, which, from the bodies not having been recovered, had not been the subject of a Coroner's inquest.

The Provincial Governments of Wellington, Taranaki, and Otago have not yet replied to the application made to them; consequently this is a part return to the order of the House. A further return will be made when replies are received from the Provinces named.

Names of persons ascertained to have been drowned in harbours, wells, waterholes, swamps, and in the sea, have been excluded from this return.

Cases of drowning in the River Grey are sometimes stated to have occurred in the Province of Nelson, and sometimes in the County of Westland. This is accounted for by the inquests being held indifferently on either side of the river, and the proceedings returned accordingly.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Wellington, 8th September, 1870.

G. S. COOPER,

Under Secretary.

ANALYSIS.

PROVINCE—	Number of Persons Drowned.
Auckland	227
Taranaki	17
Hawke's Bay	40
Wellington	165
Nelson	102
Marlborough	48
Canterbury	135
Otago	170
Southland	37
Westland	174
Total	1,115

NAMES of PERSONS DROWNED in NEW ZEALAND from 1840 to 1870, showing the Date when, and and the River or Stream and Province where Drowned.

NOTE.—The dates which have an asterisk (*) placed before them indicate when the bodies were found.

1840.	1847.
Sept. 17. Hopper, E. B., Hutt, Wellington.	Nov. 5. Baston, Henry; river not stated; Wellington.
1841.	Dec. 8. Askew, John, kiwaka, Nelson.
Jan. 14. Weller, John J.; river not stated; Wellington.	Dec. 25. Line, Benjamin; river not stated; at Wakefield, Nelson.
Mar. 27. Miller, James; river not stated; Wellington.	1848.
1843.	Mar. 7. Hutt, Joseph, Awamotu, Wellington.
Jan. 28. Halbert, Frederick, Kororarika, Auckland.	Mar. 9. Davis, Thomas, jun., Huatoki, Taranaki.
1844.	Dec. 8. Taylor, Henry Stephen; river not stated; at Porirua, Wellington.
Nov. Hipplesby, —; river not stated; Nelson.	1849.
1845.	Nov. —. Coward, Richard, Wairau, Marlborough.
Feb. 2. Dixon, J., stream near Korori Road, Wellington.	1850.
May 15. Tandy, Charles, Hutt, Wellington.	Mar. 3. Connor, John; river not stated; at Appleby, Nelson.
„ Friend, John, Hutt, Wellington.	June —. Davis, Thomas, Henui, Taranaki.
Sept. 3. Wiley, John, creek at Hutt, Wellington.	Aug. 3. Rayner, Alfred Howell, Hutt, Wellington.
1846.	Aug. 7. Drummond, Donald, ferry at Wairarapa Lake, Wellington.
Feb. —. Friggle, William Vaughan, Waimea, Nelson.	„ Drummond, John, ferry at Wairarapa Lake, Wellington.
May —. Morley, Henry C.; river not stated; Nelson.	„ A Native, not named, ferry at Wairarapa Lake, Wellington.
1846.	1851.
*July 26. Muat, Lewis, Akaroa, Canterbury.	Jan. 12. Packer, Peter, gully near Howick, Auckland.
1847.	July —. Mickle, William, creek at Riwaka, Nelson.
Jan. 19. Ibbetson, Mary J. S.; river not stated; Taranaki.	
Mar. 10. Cooke, William, Okatu, Wellington.	
June 30. Richards, Robert, Wanganui, Wellington.	
July —. Holmes, James; river not stated; Wellington.	
„ Adamson, John, Tamaki, Auckland.	
Aug. 2. Crosswell, Jane, Maitai, Nelson.	