

Plans and specifications of three miles and a half of roads were prepared and issued; 92 copies of these plans were hand-coloured. Drawings of four bridges were made; and the quantities per chain for one mile and a half of Kaikoura-Clarence Road were computed.

The work in hand for the Representation Commission at the date of last year's annual report was completed. It consisted of 198 hand-coloured maps of electoral districts for Registrars of Electors and others; also 3,500 copies of the general maps, showing electoral divisions, were printed.

One hundred and one plans, and 93 descriptions or schedules of lands taken for roads, &c., under the Public Works Act, and the Native Lands Acts, were examined and recorded.

The describing and recording of the boundaries of Resident Magistrates' districts, Supreme Court districts, licensing districts, road districts, factory districts, boroughs, ridings; births, marriage, and deaths districts; special-settlement blocks, and blocks brought under the provisions of the Loans to Local Bodies Act, necessitated the writing of 264 descriptions.

Seventeen schedules for Local Bills Committee, House of Representatives, were revised.

The work of recording lands disposed of on the county maps has been kept up to date; but much of the information shown on these maps will have to be reproduced in the near future, as through age and constant wear the old records are becoming obliterated.

There were five drawings made on stone, one being a chart of the principal stars.

During the year corrections and additions were made on 449 stones; and 1,155 maps and tracings were mounted.

The two litho.-printing machines were kept at work constantly, except during a period of five days while repairs to the machinery were being effected. The output for the year is 526,183 copies, of 1,542 separate printings, or 903,616 pulls. The hand-presses are to be credited with 34,256 copies of this result. Printing was executed for nineteen departments of the Service; and 1,011 jobs were undertaken.

Mr. Ross has taken 784 plates for photo.-lithographs, made 6 silver prints, and 732 bromide prints.

As the work in the photo.-lithograph gallery and printing-office increases, one becomes more sensible of the imperfection of their appointments, and of the loss sustained by being housed in unsuitable buildings. To these drawbacks may be attributed the slow progress made in perfecting the half-tone engraving process of Mr. Ross, which opens up a path of usefulness by means of which the scenery of the colony may be cheaply and effectively illustrated. Specimens of this process are being produced to accompany the annual report. The pictures are from sketches made by Mr. C. E. Douglas during his exploration trip, and reflect credit on Mr. Sturtevant and Mr. D. Ross.

LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTING and PHOTOGRAPHING from 1st April, 1892, to 31st March, 1893.

Department.	Number of Separate Printings.	Number of Impressions.		Number of Plates.	Bromide Prints.	Bromide Enlargements.
		By Machine.	By Hand.			
Lands and Survey	1,114	454,800	23,683	612	216	6
Public Works	58	14,800	2,644	18	...	...
Mines	50	78,370	66	33	...	...
Marine	35	12,800	823	2	...	...
Colonial Secretary	5	...	25	...	516	...
Justice	21	...	1,650	...	...	...
Registrar-General	12	27,300	...	...	...	...
New Zealand Institute	36	18,940	65	18	...	...
Customs	2	500	1	...	...	...
Postal and Telegraph	9	15,200	100	13	...	...
Agricultural and Stock	16	21,300	580	6	...	...
Defence	12	6,200	141	10	...	...
Education	16	8,900	3,303	11	...	...
Land- and Income-tax	4	8,000	2	...	...	...
Railways	55	117,150	767	24	...	...
Government Insurance	2	2,000	100	1	...	...
Labour	4	3,150	...	...	...	...
Treasury	2	4,000	1	...	...	...
Legislative	89	75,950	305	36	...	...
Totals	1,542	869,360	34,256	784	732	6

Abstract of Lithographs printed during the twelve months:—

At the Head Office ... ..	...	903,616 impressions.
Auckland " ... ..	...	4,050 "
Canterbury " ... ..	...	250 "
Otago " ... ..	...	4,250 "
Southland " ... ..	...	300 "

Total 912,466 "

Maps mounted at Head Office, 1,155; maps mounted at Wellington District Office, 285.