

## NATIVE TRUSTEE.

The Native Trustee acts in the capacity of agent or trustee for some ten thousand Native beneficiaries, and the various functions of the Native Trust division have been maintained.

There are 1,821 estates under administration, in respect of which funds total £82,823. Native reserves comprise an area of approximately 94,000 acres, and the aggregate amount received annually by way of rental from those areas under lease is approximately £41,000.

A detailed account of the operations of the ten stations farmed by the Native Trustee appears in the report of the Board of Native Affairs, but the following table indicates the scope of operations during the year :—

Total area of farm stations	42,510 acres.
Number of bales of wool produced	1,270
Proceeds of live-stock sold—	
Sheep	£19,522
Cattle	£6,637
Live-stock on hand at 31st March, 1940—	
Sheep	50,491
Cattle	5,362

The following are particulars of the funds invested or held by the Native Trustee at 31st March, 1940 :—

	£
Local bodies' securities	5,100
Mortgages—	£
To Natives	405,676
To others	6,617
	412,293
Station and other overdrafts	170,634
Properties acquired under mortgages	14,501
Cash balance	36,650
	£639,178

The Native Trustee's liability to beneficiaries, including the Maori Land Boards, at 31st March, 1940, was £418,071, and his accumulated reserves totalled £120,000.

## FINANCE.

The volume of business transacted by the Department during the year is indicated by the following figures. The corresponding amounts for last year were Payments, £1,930,187 receipts, £1,297,977

	Total Payments.	Total Receipts.
	£	£
Consolidated Fund—		
Civil List (Native Purposes)	4,625	
Special Acts (Arawa tribes)	6,000	
Vote "Native"	161,511	25,767
Court fees		5,658
Public Works Fund—		
Vote "Native Land Settlement"	1,052,777	694,959*
Receipts under Native Housing Act		7,176
Native Trustee's Account	168,895	197,948
Maori Land Boards	396,068†	373,033†
	1,789,876	1,304,541

\* Receipts from Native land development schemes, £294,959; grant from the Consolidated Fund, £400,000.

† Does not include deposits and withdrawals in respect of Deposit Accounts with Native Trustee.

## NATIVE LAND COURT.

A statistical return of the activities of the Native Land and Appellate Courts during the year is appended in Table A. The volume of business shows a slight decrease as compared with that of the preceding year.

## PROMOTION OF EMPLOYMENT AMONGST MAORIS.

Approximately four thousand Native workers were employed by the Department during the year. The total expenditure on wages was £454,600, of which £383,000 was in respect of Native land development schemes and the balance applied towards the improvement of privately owned Native land and the erection of dwellings financed from the Special Housing Fund. On land development schemes subsidies ranged from 50 per cent. to 100 per cent. With a few exceptions all works were undertaken on a contract basis enabling reasonably efficient workmen to earn not less than 16s. per day