

ALIENATIONS OF NATIVE LAND

The number of alienations during the year was 508 and the area affected 38,766 acres, compared with 526 alienations and 59,490 acres last year. Particulars are as follows:—

	1938-39.		1939-40.	
	Number.	Acres.	Number.	Acres.
Sales	175	10,158	146	3,664
Leases	351	49,332	362	35,102
Totals	526	59,490	508	38,766

NOTE.—A proportion of these alienations was in favour of Native alienees.

The estimated area of Native land remaining to Maoris is 4,014,800 acres.

LEGISLATION.

The Native Purposes Act, 1939, included important amendments to the general law in relation to Natives and Native land. For example, section 3 confers jurisdiction upon the Native Land Court to determine questions arising as to the status of persons or land, sections 4 and 5 relate to Crown lands taken over for development and settlement for Natives, and provide for the issue of titles in respect of these lands, against which dealings may be registered, section 6 prevents merger of the title to European lands acquired by the Board of Native Affairs on behalf of the Crown with any other Crown interest, and enables the titles to these lands to be dealt with by the Board of Native Affairs, section 7 provides proper safeguards for the recording of marriages between Natives which are celebrated without full compliance with the Marriage Act.

The remaining provisions of the Act relate principally to local matters.

EXPENDITURE FROM CONSOLIDATED FUND.

For the year ended 31st March, 1940, the gross expenditure from Consolidated Fund vote "Native" was £561,511, and the recoveries totalled £25,767. Brief particulars of the net expenditure covering general costs of administration and grants for Native purposes are as follows:—

General administration—	£	£	£
Salaries and staff expenses (including travelling)	118,563		
Office expenses (rent, stationery, postages, &c.)	13,718		
	132,281		
Less recoveries from the Native Trustee, Maori Land Boards, and miscellaneous	24,854		
	107,427		
Purchase of equipment (motor-vehicles, office building, and furniture)		1,030	
		108,457	
Grants for Native purposes—			
Ahuwhenua Trophy		20	
Maori employment promotion		400,000	
Maori participation, Centennial Exhibition		6,534	
Maori Purposes Fund		600	
Memorials		300	
Rehabilitation, Hawke's Bay flood areas		685	
Survey liens written off		8,000	
Water-supplies		50	
		416,189	
Protection of Native land—			
Destruction of rabbits		1,098	
Clearing of noxious weeds		5,000	
		6,098	
Taranaki lands compensation			5,000
			£535,744

Although the total cost of administration amounted to £133,311, representing approximately 4.25 per cent. of the year's turnover of £3,094,417, the net cost to the State was only £102,799 after deducting sums of £24,854 (recovered from the Native Trustee and the Maori Land Boards) and £5,658 (fees of the Native Land Courts and the Maori Land Boards collected in stamps and credited to the