

MAORI LAND BOARDS.

The operations of the seven Maori Land Boards have been fully sustained during the period under review.

The total receipts and payments for the year were respectively £415,805 and £439,827, as against £408,619 and £431,815 for the previous year. As at the 31st March, 1941, the liability to Native beneficiaries was £461,736, whilst funds held or invested by the Boards aggregated £626,370, under the following headings:—

	£
Government securities	75,238
Mortgages and charges	340,636
On deposit with Native Trustee	189,614
Cash balances	20,882
	£626,370

The area of Native land vested in the Boards as at the 31st March, 1941, amounted to 660,240 acres.

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 1,582 estates under administration, in respect of which funds total £77,088. 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	1,005
Proceeds of live-stock sold—	
Sheep	£15,826
Cattle	£8,683
Live-stock on hand at 31st March, 1941—	
Sheep	50,416
Cattle	5,693

The following are particulars of the funds invested or held by the Native Trustee at 31st March, 1941:—

	£
Local bodies' securities	5,100
Mortgages—	
To Natives	408,231
To others	6,617
	414,848
Station and other overdrafts	145,862
Properties acquired under mortgages	15,700
On fixed deposit	20,000
Cash balance	55,774
	£657,284

The Native Trustee's liability to beneficiaries, including the Maori Land Boards, at 31st March, 1941, was £395,272, 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, £1,789,876; receipts, £1,304,541:—

—	Total Payments.	Total Receipts.
Consolidated Fund—	£	£
Civil List (Native Purposes)	4,036	..
Special Acts (Arawa tribes)	6,000	..
Vote "Native"	145,634	24,400
Court fees	4,738
Public Works Fund—		
Vote "Native Land Settlement"	1,010,847	772,403*
Receipts under Native Housing Act	14,222
Native Trustee's Account	170,434	177,311
Maori Land Boards	439,827†	415,805†
	1,776,778	1,408,879

* Receipts from Native-land-development schemes, £478,114; grant from the Consolidated Fund, £291,669; sundries, £2,620. † Does not include deposits and withdrawals in respect of Deposit Accounts with Native Trustee.