

the Board's receipts at the high level of recent years. Considerable attention is paid to the best possible utilization of moneys held on behalf of Maori beneficiaries under the protective provisions of section 281 of the Native Land Act, 1931.

Funds not otherwise required by beneficiaries have assisted the Dominion's war effort, a further sum of £18,000 having been invested in the current year, bringing the total investments in the war loans, including specific investments on behalf of beneficiaries, to over £67,000.

### General Maori Welfare

While in the course of general administration all officers have endeavoured to assist and foster projects aimed at Maori welfare and betterment, efforts have been restricted in the past by the lack of appropriate personnel charged with this immediate responsibility; the recently created Welfare Division of the Department will now remedy this. The scope of activities and the field available gives promise that this phase of the Department's activities may well make a milestone in the progress of the development of the Maori race towards social and economic self-sufficiency. With good will and co-operation on the part of the Maori himself, this objective can be obtained.

### Ikaroa (Wellington) and South Island Districts

#### Native Land Court

There were twenty-two sittings of the Court in the Ikaroa District during the year and ten in the South Island. The volume of business showed an increase over the previous years' figures. The number of cases notified in the Ikaroa District was 2,939, as compared with 2,721 in the previous year, and in the South Island there were 677 cases, as against 595 in the previous year.

A matter of interest in the South Island was an inquiry into the mutton-bird industry conducted by Judge Whitehead at Invercargill. A considerable amount of evidence was taken from the interested Maoris and the shipping owners, and the submission of this evidence to the Price Tribunal was of assistance in the recently gazetted fixation of prices.

The number of alienations confirmed by the Court showed a substantial increase in both districts, but there has been comparatively little freeholding of the total area of approximately 12,000 acres affected by alienations, only 168 acres were included in the twenty-one sales confirmed.

#### Maori Land Boards

The finances of the Boards continue to show a sound position. During the year a further investment of £10,000 was made in war-loan stock by the two Boards and smaller investments were made on behalf of specific beneficiaries.

### General Maori Welfare

The Ikaroa and South Island Boards take a close interest in the general welfare of the Maori people of the districts. Annual donations have been made to the Ngati-Poneke Maori Association, which continues to carry out important welfare work in Wellington, and during the current year an additional contribution of £100 was made for general expenses and maintenance of the hall which was made available to the association by the Government. Similar voluntary organizations have recently been established in Palmerston North and Levin, and it is hoped that these ventures will prove successful. These three clubs, together with the Ngati-Otautahi of Christchurch and Ngai-te-Poti of Dunedin, have made valuable contributions to patriotic funds during the year.

TABLE A. — SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION OF NATIVE TRUSTEE AND DISTRICT MAORI LAND BOARDS AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1945

	Tokerau.	Waikato-Mauapoto.	Wairariki.	Tairā-whiti.	Aotea.	Ikaroa.	South Island.	Sub-total (including Native Trust Branches.)	Native Trust. (Head Office.)	Grand Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Total receipts ..	34,184	39,154	67,800	101,555	130,777	56,920	9,829	440,219	227,290	667,509
Total payments ..	31,896	35,981	60,634	99,674	109,613	80,238	14,713	442,779	223,774	666,553
Cash balances (including Special Housing Fund)	3,583	2,969	2,022	6,508	2,867	1,247	1,855	21,051	47,738	68,789
Investments —										
On deposit with Native Trustee	2,249	41,464	50,808	21,716	61,892	54,344	9,764	242,237	..	242,237
Government securities	23,865	21,350	40,065	86,710	70,175	20,370	8,494	271,029	181,830	452,859
Mortgages ..	9,459	21,563	30,098	55,060	71,585	28,483	5,211	221,489	372,560	595,049
Farming properties and primary production	..	11,571	47,117	6,760	4,909	..	..	70,318	134,319	204,667
Liability to Maori beneficiaries	47,767	86,318	103,601	111,674	152,371	191,720	23,075	626,526	222,935	849,461
Reserves —										
Assurance and Reserve Fund	..	7,698	..	5,203	50,089	5,448	1,475	69,913	123,692	193,605
Special ..	285	23,527	69,603	61,214	24,148	3,047	1,338	174,132	19,141	193,273