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1945 NEW ZEALAND

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND SURVEY SURVEYS

(ANNUAL REPORT ON)

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency

Wellington, 22nd August, 1945. The Surveyor-General to the Hon, the Minister of Lands.

SIR,-

I have the honour to present herewith my report on the survey operations of the Department for the year ended 31st March, 1945.

I have, &c., R. G. DICK, Surveyor-General.

The Hon. the Minister of Lands.

REPORT

DURING the past year the technical branch of the Department has been unable to cope with the many demands made on its staff for special works brought about by the activities of Government in rehabilitation and post-war reconstruction. It has been necessary to concentrate on such projects as land settlement surveys, holding other works such as topographical mapping and regional planning in abeyance pending the return of staff from overseas. The following summarizes briefly the various activities carried out by the Department during the past year :---

ROUTINE ACTIVITIES

Land Surveys

Summary of Field-work

Road and railway surveys42 miles£55·29 per mile2,3222Maintenance of survey marks1676Inspection and investigation surveys1,08417	Class of Survey.		Area, Mileage, &c.	Average Cost.	Total	Cos	t.
Topographical survey for settlement \cdots $71,515$ acres $4\cdot91d$. per acre $1,462$ Topographical survey for housing \cdots 130 acres $13\cdot2s$. per acre 85 Rural and settlement surveys \cdots $45,495$ acres $2\cdot49s$. per acre $5,671$ Village and suburban surveys (2 acres to 10 acres) 284 acres $49\cdot07s$. per acre 696 Town sections (including housing) \cdots $2,177$ sections $f3\cdot2$ per section $6,968$ Standard traverse surveys \cdots 8 miles $f40$ per mile 320 0 Maori land surveys \cdots 412 acres $10\cdot34s$. per acre 212 17 Road and railway surveys \cdots 42 miles \cdots $1,084$ 17 Location of boundaries and compass surveys \cdots \cdots $1,948$ 0 Precise levelling \cdots \cdots $1,928$ 1 Topographical mapping (ground control) \cdots \cdots $1,928$ 1 Specialized surveys (radio location, defence posts, chain testing, &c.) \cdots 148 7	· · · · ·		1	1	£	8.	d,
Topographical survey for housing130 acres13.2s. per acre85 14Rural and settlement surveys45,495 acres2.49s. per acre5,671 9Village and suburban surveys (2 acres to 10 acres)284 acres49.07s. per acre696 16Town sections (including housing)2,177 sections£3.2 per section6,968 3Standard traverse surveys8 miles£40 per mile320 0Maori land surveys412 acres10.34s. per acre212 17Road and railway surveys42 miles10.34s. per acre212 17Road and railway surveys111Location of boundaries and compass surveys111Precise levelling1111Topographical mapping (ground control)1111Specialized surveys (radio location, defence posts, chain testing, &c.)111Police Department (accident sites, &c.)11111487			36 square miles	1·4d. per acre	137	- 0	- 0
Rural and settlement surveys45,495 acres2·49s. per acre5,6719Village and suburban surveys (2 acres to 10 acres)284 acres49·07s. per acre69616Town sections (including housing)2,177 sections£3·2 per section6,9683Standard traverse surveys8 miles£40 per mile3200Maori land surveys412 acres10·34s. per acre21217Road and railway surveys42 miles1676Inspection and investigation surveys1,08417Location of boundaries and compass surveys1,9480Precise levelling1,9281Specialized surveys (radio location, defence posts, chain testing, &c.)1487			71,515 acres	4.91d. per acre	1,462	0	3
Village and suburban surveys (2 acres to 10 acres) Town sections (including housing) 284 acres $49\cdot07s$, per acre $\pounds 3\cdot2$ per section $\pounds 49\cdot07s$, per acre $\pounds 3\cdot2$ per section $\pounds 40$ per mile 696 16 $\pounds 3\cdot2$ per section ± 40 per mileMaori land surveys8 miles $\pounds 40$ per mile 320 0 $10\cdot34s$, per acre $\pm 55\cdot29$ per mile 320 0 $10\cdot34s$, per acre ± 212 17 $\pounds 320$ 0Maori land surveys 412 acres $10\cdot34s$, per acre $\pm 55\cdot29$ per mile $22,322$ 2 167 6 $1,084$ 17 $1,084$ 17 $1,948$ 0Naintenance of survey marks $1,084$ 17 $1,948$ 0Inspection and investigation surveys $1,948$ 0 $1,928$ 1Precise levelling $1,928$ 1 $1,928$ 1Specialized surveys (radio location, defence posts, chain testing, &c.) $1,48$ 7			130 acres	13.2s. per acre	85	14	6
Village and suburban surveys (2 acres to 10 acres) Town sections (including housing) 284 acres $49\cdot07s$, per acre $$3\cdot2$ per section 696 16 $$6,968$ Standard traverse surveys $2,177$ sections $$13\cdot2$ per section $6,968$ 3 Maori land surveys $2,177$ sections $$10\cdot34s$, per acre $$20$ 0 Maori land surveys $2,177$ sections $$10\cdot34s$, per acre $$212$ 17 Road and railway surveys $2,222$ $$2222$ $$23222$ $$232222$ Maintenance of survey marks $2,322$ $$2,32222$ $$1676$ Inspection and investigation surveys $2,3217$ $$2,32222$ $$2,32222$ Precise levelling $2,322$ $$2,32222$ $$2,32222$ Topographical mapping (ground control) $$2,3217$ $$2,32222$ $$2,32222$ Specialized surveys (radio location, defence posts, chain testing, &c.) $$2,322$ $$2,32222$ $$2,32222$ 1,948 $$2,32222$ $$2,32222$ $$2,32222$ $$2,322222$ $$2,322222$ 1,08417 $$2,928122$ $$2,322222222222222222222222222222222222$	Rural and settlement surveys.		45,495 acres		5,671	- 9	8
Town sections (including housing) \dots $2,177$ sections£3·2 per section $6,968$ 3 Standard traverse surveys \dots ∞ 8 miles $10.34s$. per acre 320 0 Maori land surveys \dots \dots 412 acres $10.34s$. per acre 212 17 Road and railway surveys \dots \dots 42 miles $10.34s$. per acre 212 17 Maintenance of survey marks \dots \dots 167 6 $1,084$ 17 Location of boundaries and compass surveys \dots \dots $1,948$ 0 Precise levelling \dots \dots $1,948$ 0 Topographical mapping (ground control) \dots \dots $1,928$ 1 Specialized surveys (radio location, defence posts, chain testing, &c.) \dots \dots 148 7	Village and suburban surveys (2 acres to 10 ac	res)			696	16	1
Standard traverse surveys8 miles£40 per mile320 0Maori land surveys412 acres10.34s. per acre212 17Road and railway surveys42 miles10.34s. per acre212 17Maintenance of survey marks42 miles167 6Inspection and investigation surveys1,084 17Location of boundaries and compass surveys1,948 0Precise levelling1,948 0Specialized surveys (radio location, defence posts, chain testing, &c.)1,928 1Police Department (accident sites, &c.)148 7	Town sections (including housing)	••			6,968	3	5
Maori land surveys412 acres10·34s. per acre212 17Road and railway surveys42 miles£55·29 per mile2,322 2Maintenance of survey marks167 6Inspection and investigation surveys1,084 17Location of boundaries and compass surveys1,948 0Precise levelling35·15 miles1,975 2Topographical mapping (ground control)1,928 1Specialized surveys (radio location, defence posts, chain testing, &c.)148 7			8 miles				- 6
Road and railway surveys42 miles£55·29 per mile2,3222Maintenance of survey marks1676Inspection and investigation surveys1,08417Location of boundaries and compass surveys1,9480Precise levelling35·15 miles1,9281Topographical mapping (ground control)1,9281Specialized surveys (radio location, defence posts, chain testing, &c.)1487		• •	170		212	17	10
Maintenance of survey marks167Inspection and investigation surveys1,084Location of boundaries and compass surveys1,084Precise levellingTopographical mapping (ground control)Specialized surveys (radio location, defence posts, chain testing, &c.)1,928Police Department (accident sites, &c.)148					2.322	2	5
Inspection and investigation surveys1,08417Location of boundaries and compass surveys1,948Precise levelling35·15 milesTopographical mapping (ground control)1,928Specialized surveys (radio location, defence posts, chain testing, &c.)1,336Police Department (accident sites, &c.)1487	Maintenance of survey marks				· ·	6	0
Location of boundaries and compass surveys1,948Precise levellingTopographical mapping (ground control)Specialized surveys (radio location, defence posts, chain testing, &c.)Police Department (accident sites, &c.)					1.084	17	3
Precise levelling35·15 miles£53·3 per mile1,8752Topographical mapping (ground control)1,9281Specialized surveys (radio location, defence posts, chain testing, &c.)17336Police Department (accident sites, &c.)1487							10
Topographical mapping (ground control)1,928Specialized surveys (radio location, defence posts, chain testing, &c.)1Police Department (accident sites, &c.)1487							
Specialized surveys (radio location, defence posts, chain testing, &c.)733 6Police Department (accident sites, &c.)148 7					1 '		6
chain testing, &c.)148Police Department (accident sites, &c.)1487							
Police Department (accident sites, &c.) 148 7		,,	,,,		100	Ģ	•
					148	7	7
					1	9	2
		•••					
Total cost	Total cost	• •	• •	••	26,267	16	4

It will be noted that the expenditure under this heading is more than double the relative expenditure for the previous year---namely, $\pounds 12,667$ - due to the almost complete transfer of field staff from military mapping to land-settlement surveys. These latter surveys include preliminary topographical surveys for the scheming of subdivisions and the classification of the land, as well as the final land survey for title purposes.

Preliminary surveys for settlement embrace an area of 71,515 acres, as against 5,646 acres for the previous year, while rural and settlement title surveys have increased from 27,459 acres to 45,495 acres. So far these surveys have been kept up to date, the preliminary survey work being in advance and in many cases awaiting final action in respect to purchase.

Any acceleration in purchases for settlement will tax the capacity of the field staff to the utmost and have a detrimental effect on the accumulated arrears of other classes of survey work. So far it has not been necessary to employ private surveyors under contract on this class of work to any great extent. Surveyors in private practice are fully engaged on land-transfer surveys and will probably be unable to render much assistance.

There has been over 100 per cent. increase in the number of town sections surveyed for housing purposes. Most of this work has been carried out under contract by private surveyors. A large increase in this type of work can be anticipated with the acceleration of the housing programme.

The total expenditure and the field staff engaged on survey work is distributed among the various districts as follows---

District.			Totals.	Percentage.	Number of Staff Surveyors.	Number of Contract Surveyors.
			£ s. d.	1		
orth Auck	land		10,355 18 11	$39 \cdot 4$	8	28
			$406 \ 16 \ 2$	1.6	2	2
			$1,660 \ 15 \ 6$	$6 \cdot 3$	2	4
			1,106 7 3	$4 \cdot 2$	1	2
			2,232 13 0	8.5	4	
			$1,860 \ 6 \ 2$	7 · 1	1	1
			$768 \ 15 \ 4$	$2 \cdot 9$	2	1
			$350\ 15\ 1$	$1 \cdot 3$		$\overline{2}$
			$4,275\ 10\ 9$	16.3	3	8
			1,920 4 10	$7 \cdot 3$	1	6
•••			$1,329 \ 13 \ 4$	$5 \cdot 1$	3	1
	• •	•••	26,267 16 4	100	27	55
	orth Auck 	orth Auckland	orth Auckland 	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $

The number of staff surveyors employed on survey work has been reduced from 35 to 27, due to the promotion of surveyors to executive posts and the transfer of surveyors to purely land-development work. More use has been made of the services of private practising surveyors, the number employed increasing from 52 to 55.

It should be noted that there has been a slight increase in survey work for roads and railways due to the resumption of the Public Works Department operations. The post-war period will bring a great influx of survey work as the country resumes its normal public-works programme. To cope with this and the many other survey works that are now held in abeyance the field staff will have to be materially increased. There will be a lapse of a year or more before survey Cadets at present serving with the forces will be able to qualify.

Field-work in Hand

The following summarizes the field-work for land-title purposes that is at present awaiting action :---

	Rural and settlement surveys					(64,530 acres.	
	Maori land surveys						1,826 acres.	
	Road and railway surveys	•	••				1 07 miles.	
	Town section surveys (housing	;)					2,000 sections.	
n	major portion of the gree und	or surol	and	wittlement	()	in a land of	. 1.1 1 1	1

The major portion of the area under rural and settlement surveys includes blocks that have been purchased but are awaiting other action before final surveys can be put in hand.

Town Scheme Subdivisions

The following table summarizes the number of plans, saleable lots, and areas dealt with under the provisions of section 16 of the Land Act, 1924, for the year ended 31st March, 1945 :---

District.			Number of Plans.	Number of Sale- able Lots.	Total Area.
Auckland and Nor	th Auck	land	144	1,522	A. R. P. 577 1 12
Gisborne			5	1,011	5 3 19
Hawke's Bay			3		2 2 34
Taranaki .			$\frac{1}{2}$	6	$\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ 07
Wellington			30	407	167 0 35
Marlborough			11	40	35 0 18
Nelson .			14	67	24 0 19
Westland	• •		3	26	6 3 16
Canterbury			50	431	138 0 26
Otago .			9	27	8 2 24
Southland	••	••	۰.	• •	
${ m Totals}$			271	2,552	969 2 10

This return indicates that there is an ever-increasing demand for house sites outside the limits of municipalities. At no period since prior to the depression years has this demand been greater, the only comparable figure being that of the year 1938-39, when 2,098 saleable lots were dealt with.

There is an urgent need for amending legislation to provide for the better control of subdivisions, the making of more adequate provision for the setting-aside of areas for reserves, and the limitation of closer urban development to assure of more economy in roading, and drainage and water-supply services. The following problems have been revealed in dealing with subdivisions during the past year.

- (1) Approximately 50 per cent. of the areas dealt with are near and adjoining the more closely built up areas of the cities, boroughs, and town districts. The demand for housing sites in these areas is to some extent influenced by the lower rating in the counties. In a number of cases it is evident that the boundaries of the municipalities should be extended to embrace these rapidly developing areas. Drainage and water-supply services within the municipal areas can generally be easily extended to serve these new subdivisions :
- (2) There is a tendency for the owners of properties adjoining main highways and existing formed roads to subdivide only the land fronting such roads creating a ribbon development that increases the traffic problem, particularly on main highways and adds to the cost of providing the necessary services. Steps have been taken from time to time to limit this development by requiring owners to develop more compact areas and to provide suitable parking spaces and service roads to relieve traffic congestion on main highways:
- (3) The closer subdivision of small farm areas creates a problem in the provision of reasonable roading lay-outs. Some success has been achieved in requiring adjoining owners to co-operate by providing new roads either on their common boundary or intersecting their properties to assure of future extension. The local authorities concerned can render greater assistance in this respect if they will be prepared to form road links which are no direct benefit to the owner but which would assure of an economic and planned development.

The amending legislation at present under review will greatly assist in the better administration of newly developing urban areas.

Office	Work	(Plan	Examination)

The office work carried out in connection with land survey plans and documents for the year ended 31st March, 1945, is scheduled hereunder :---

			Diama sila and	Survey Plans examined and approved.					
District.		Plans placed on Instruments of Title.	Crown.	Other Depart- ments.	Maori.	Land Transfer.			
Auckland and I	North Au	ickland		11,309	130	208	46	602	
Gisborne	••			518	24		6	30	
Hawke's Bay		••		1,045	16	16	6	78	
Taranaki				862	13	23	5	58	
Wellington		••		3,725	21	125	7	219	
Marlborough				371	7	12	2	34	
Nelson .		• •		1,271	15	16		120	
Westland				551	15	9		21	
Canterbury	••			3,159	8	39	·	200	
Otago .	• •		• •	1,418	19	46		87	
Southland	••	••	• •	714	4	16		40	
Totals		•••	• •	24,943 (21,359)	$\begin{array}{c} 272 \\ (246) \end{array}$	510 (393)	72 (75)	1,489 (1,176)	

Last year's returns shown in parenthesis.

The increase on the previous year is approximately 20 per cent. To cope with this increase in the larger districts it has been necessary to employ staff on overtime. Land transactions and land title registrations for the Dominion are dependent on this essential service, which must take priority over any other classes of work.

Other Office Work

The following schedule summarizes the routine miscellaneous office work carried out by the staff during the year, the figures for the previous year being shown in parenthesis :---

Record maps (revised or redrawn)	••	••	••	 47	(32)
Cadastral maps (revised or redrawn)				 17	(Nil)
Tracings		• •		 4,842	(3, 209)
Photostats and prints	••	••		 40,333	(53, 644)

The drop in the number of photostats and prints produced by the Department is due to the fallingoff of the demands of the armed services and the United States Forces. The three photostat machines installed have, however, been working to capacity, though there has been a reduction in the overtime over the period.

The slight easing up in the number of drawings required for topographical maps has permitted the employment of a small staff on the drawing of record and cadastral maps. This vital work is approximately ten years in arrears, and will have to be brought up to date. The preparation of maps for census purposes, referred to hereunder, revealed the lack of up-to-date cadastral maps, many of which had to be reprinted without revision. Efficiency in land administration which is a function of many Departments of State is dependent on the availability of complete and up-to-date record and cadastral maps. A large staff will have to be employed in the post-war years to overtake the arrears in this class of work.

Census, 1945

In August, 1944, in anticipation of the census which is to be taken in September, 1945, it was necessary to put in hand the preparation of enumerator and sub-enumerator maps for the purpose of the division of the Dominion into population mesh blocks. The first step in this work was the preparation in duplicate of 89 enumerator maps on a scale of 1 mile to an inch of each of the counties and, on larger scales, some of the major cities and boroughs showing enumerator, county, borough, town district, and riding boundaries. These maps were prepared by the Head Office staff, the new 1 mile to an inch topographical series being used where available.

These enumerator maps were then forwarded to the Government Statistician, whose responsibility it is to subdivide each enumerator district into sub-enumerator districts for the subsequent preparation of sub-enumerator maps by each Chief Surveyor's Office. This involves the preparation of 1,325 sub-enumerator maps and the division of each district into population mesh blocks and the showing of local authority district boundaries, electoral districts, urban areas, &c. This work was put in hand late in March and must be available to the Government Statistician in the first week in August, 1945.

Approximately 40 per cent. of the office staff have been diverted from other work to cope with this large undertaking.

Warrants

During the year 103 warrants for certificates of title comprising 468 items and 12 proclamations of road-lines under the Native Land Act, 1931, were dealt with.

Summarized Expenditure

The following schedule sets out the salary expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1945, as apportioned among the various classes of work carried out during the year. In each case the relative amount expended the previous year is shown in parenthesis. The salaries of both field and office staff are included in this summary: -

General (Crown surveys, records, in	vestigat	ions, tracing	zs, diag	rams,	£	s.	d.	£	в.	d.
and general office work)	۰.		• •		34,300	15	4	(31, 172)	- 8	11)
Triangulation			• •		882	1	11	(839	- 6	-8)
Topographical mapping			••		4,218	5	6	(9,435	8	$\overline{7}$
Standard traverse		••			591	-8	10	(7	8	6)
Survey maintenance (standard bloc	eks and	trig signals)			144	- 6	6	(24	19	11)
Precise levelling					1,807	19	3	(286	- 0	-4)
Inspection and investigation					708	11	2	(282)	1	- 5)
Town scheme plans (section 16, La					464	15	4	(260	11	- Ó
Land development (topographical :			• •		2,274	7	$\overline{7}$	(244	16	- 5)
Tidal analyses					295	15	2	(125)	3	-5)
Work for								,		- /
Native Department					1,450	-9	1	(1,735)	2	4)
Lands and Deeds Department		••			9,863	15	6	(8, 425)	10	- 3ý
Public Works Department					4,439		4	(3,278)		11)
Housing Department					1,442	3	5	(1,673)		4)
Other Departments		• •	••		31,349	0	1	(45, 615)		-6)
								(109 100		
					£94,233	1	0	(103, 406)	6	6)
					·					

There has been a sharp decline in the work carried out for other Departments, due largely to the drop in Armed Services requirements. This is also reflected in the falling-off of expenditure in topographical mapping, staff having been transferred to the more urgent land-settlement work.

	District.	Expendit	Percentage.			
				£	s. d.	······
Head Office					0 8	8.0
Auckland and No	rth Auek	rland		32,046 1	8 8	34.0
Gisborne		• •		2,343	8-3	$2 \cdot 5$
Hawke's Bay				4,665	7 0	5.0
Taranaki				3,531	6.11	$4 \cdot 0$
Wellington	• •	••	• • •	12,894	0 8	$14 \cdot 0$
Marlborough				3,071	2^{-9}	$3 \cdot 0$
Nelson				4,552	2^{-9}	5.0
Westland				905	$8 \ 2$	1.0
Canterbury				9,533-1	$9 \ 5$	10.0
Otago				4,747	3^{-9}	5.0
Southland	• •		• •	8,103	2^{-0}	8.5
Total				94,233	1 0	100.0

Map Sales

The restriction on the sale of cadastral maps was uplifted during the year. Negotiations for the release of the new 1 mile to an inch and 1:25,000 topographical series are being pursued with the Army Department, and it is expected that these maps will be available for sale to the public early in the next financial year. These latter maps will be most popular editions, and it is anticipated that existing stocks will have to be replenished at an early date. To date they have been used extensively for many purposes of Government enabling decisions in respect to proposed development works to be made without the need for extensive field investigations.

The following is a schedule of the returns from the maps sold or issued to other Departments :---

				£ s. d.
• •	• •	• •		$900 \ 14 \ 6$
				$300 \ 15 \ 0$
• •			• • •	825 11 - 6
				$432 \ 18 \ 6$
• •				$433\ 14\ 0$
• •	• •	• •	£	2,893 13 6
	••• •• ••	··· ·· ·· ·· ·· ··	··· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ··	··· ·· ·· ·· ··· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ··

The bulk of the topographical maps was disposed of by Head Office to other Departments with the prior approval of the Army Department.

Specialized Activities

Owing to the urgency of land-settlement work it has not been possible to undertake on any large scale any special works. The staff engaged on topographical mapping has been depleted to cope with normal routine activities. Until additional staff is available it will not be possible to proceed with certain classes of work that are urgently required for national post-war development. A brief statement of the present position in respect to these activities is given hereunder :---

Triangulation

Geodetic Triangulation.—As reported last year, this work, commenced in 1910, could be finalized in two years if the staff were available. It is hoped that some progress will be made during the ensuing year. The Head Office computing branch has carried out some computation work preparatory to the final adjustment of the South Island triangulation net, which cannot be finalized until further field-work is carried out.

Second Order Triangulation. —During the winter months the Southland mapping party was taken off the high country and employed on the second order triangulation of portion of the Southland district where the old original triangulation circuits laid down in the "sixties" require considerable adjustment and co-ordination for land survey and mapping purposes. It is proposed to complete a further triangulation net in this district with the same party during the coming winter months.

Tidal Analysis and Special Computations.—Five analyses for the Port of Auckland and one for the Port of Lyttelton were computed during the year for tidal prediction purposes. Mean sea-level for the Port of Greymouth was computed from existing tide gauge records.

An inspection of the tide gauges operated by the Harbour Boards at Auckland, Wellington, Lyttelton, Dunedin, and Bluff, was carried out by the Senior Computer. Certain defects in the operation of tide guage equipment were thus corrected, and in two cases surveys were subsequently carried out to tie in guages to nearby standard bench marks.

As a result of investigations carried out by the Senior Computer into the methods employed for the computation of tidal analyses it has now been decided to adopt the method devised by Dr. A. T. Doodson, of the Liverpool Tidal Institute, in substitution of Darwin's method.

Other work carried out by the computing branch includes the computation of map projections, triangulation and traverse adjustments, and the compilation of miscellancous tables.

Precise Levelling

It will be noted in the summary of field-work at the beginning of the report that 35 miles of precise levelling has been carried out. This additional work was required by the Public Works Department for the purpose of controlling engineering levels in connection with the drainage of Lake Ellesmere in the Canterbury District. The traverse was linked to the existing precise level traverse between Lyttelton and Timaru tide gauges.

At two or three of the major ports the standard tide guage datum has been checked and referenced to fundamental marks. This is a requisite preliminary to the establishment of fundamental marks throughout the Dominion which will be subsequently referenced to mean sea-level by a series of precise level traverses, thus establishing a common datum for all engineering projects. The necessity for a common level datum has become more urgent in view of the comprehensive nature of such projected works as irrigation, river control, drainage and hydro-electric development.

Topographical Mapping

As already indicated in this report, it has been necessary to considerably curtail this important work. The urgency for the production of topographical maps for purely military purposes had disappeared. The major portion of the staff engaged on the work has been released either for overseas service or diverted to rehabilitation settlement surveys. Only four small parties have been engaged on mapping work in the field during the year—namely, in Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury, and Southland.

The urgency of other work has also had a serious effect on the drawing of the final maps for reproduction, the services of draughtsmen being required to cope with the large increase in routine activities. A number of draft maps compiled for both the 1:25,000 and 1 in. provisional series are awaiting final drawing for reproduction.

The following schedules summarize the present position in respect to the 1:25,000 series, and 1 mile to an inch provisional series :---

	Area (Square Miles).	Number of Sheets.
Maps published as at 31st March, 1944 . Maps published during year Mapping in hand	150	$\begin{array}{c} 22\\ 6\\ 26\end{array}$
Totals	2,430	54

1:25.000 Series

North Isla	nd.	South Isla	nd.	Totals.		
Area (Square Miles).	Sheets.	Area (Square Miles).	Sheets.	Area (Square Miles).	Sheets.	
 12,025	48	15,225	49	27.250	97	
 4,098	17	7,600	23	11,698	40	
 436	1	935	4	1,371	5	
 5,696	24	4,010	15	9,706	39	
 22,255	90	27,770	91	50,025	181	
•••	Area (Square Miles). 12,025 4,098 436 5,696	$(\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	$\begin{tabular}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	$\begin{tabular}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	

1 Mile to an Inch Provisional Series

The progress made in the mapping for the 1:25,000 and 1 mile to an inch provisional series is illustrated on the index maps attached to this report.

A further 7,700 square miles of mapping on a scale of 1 mile to an inch was completed during the year, making a total area of 50,025 square miles mapped to date. Mapping activities will be severely curtailed during the coming year.

The production of the 1: 25,000 series of the more closely settled areas has virtually come to a standstill, the small staff originally engaged on the work being concentrated on the following special topographical mapping :—

Hawke's Bay (Forestry Department)	 20.5 square miles for afforestation purposes.
Gisborne (Catchment Board)	 7 square miles for river control purposes.
Fiji (Fiji Government)	 70 square miles for map publication.

The latter work was undertaken at the request of the Fiji Government embracing areas in the environs of Suva and Lautoka. New Zealand Aerial Mapping, Ltd., carried out the photography, while two officers of the Department proceeded to Fiji, and with field assistance from the Lands Department, Suva, carried out the necessary ground control surveys. The plotting and drawing of these sheets are at present in hand.

There is an ever-increasing demand from Public Works, Forestry, and Scientific and Industrial Research Departments for special topographical plans and maps for immediate post-war development, purposes. Every endeavour is being made to fulfil their requirements, but until there is an increase in staff much of the work will have to be held in abeyance. During the year the equipment installed in the Aerial Mapping Branch has been supplemented

During the year the equipment installed in the Aerial Mapping Branch has been supplemented by the addition of a Saltzman Projection Printer for the preparation of enlargements and ratioed prints. Improved plotting methods have been developed during the year, which, when extra staff are available, will increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the branch in its contribution towards the topographical mapping of the Department.

Aerial Photography

New Zealand Aerial Mapping, Ltd., Hastings, have had the new Beechcraft aircraft in full operation during the year. A total of 5,800 square miles was photographed for mapping and development works.

The demand for photographs and mosaics has been steadily on the increase. The index and library maintained at Head Office is proving of great value to all State Departments. The establishment of similar libraries in the various districts is proceeding.

Area photographed	••		5,800 square miles	(5, 160)
Number of photographs indexed	••	• •	11,500 square miles	(11, 654)

Town-planning Act, 1926

Early in the year the Department undertook for the Raglan County Council an extra-urban survey of the Huntly-Pukemiro Mining District comprising approximately 37,000 acres and embracing all mining townships, industrial works, and other factors that have any bearing on the development of the district. The purpose of the survey was to study the housing conditions in the mining townships and to bring down recommendation to the Raglan County Council for the future development of the district as a mining centre. It is anticipated that the final scheme will be submitted to the Townplanning Board in the near future.

The Department also has under action two other extra-urban schemes—namely, at Wanaka and Lake Tekapo. These schemes are primarily for the purpose of providing for the development of the two centres as tourist holiday and health resorts.

Regional Planning

As part of the post-war reconstruction and rehabilitation programme the Organization for National Development called meetings of the representatives of local authorities in the twenty-four regions—previously determined as defining communities of interest—for the purpose of recommending to Government works and projects that could immediately be put in hand and also, as a long-term project, to bring down regional plans that would provide for the future development of each region.

The preparation and assembly of data for the regional planning is to be undertaken by the Department in collaboration with the regional councils. The task is stupendous and cannot be put in hand until staff in excess of normal requirements is made available. Some experimental work in the methods of presentation of the data has been carried out, the results of which will be passed on to the various districts to assure of uniformity in the methods of assembly and representation. Some of the features and factors that will have to be dealt with in this survey are land slopes, vegetation, population, geology, soil fertility, utilities and amenities, climate, valuation, land uses, production, and any other features that may have a bearing on the planning of a region. A considerable portion of this data is available from various governmental and private sources, while some features will necessitate the employment of field officers.

HONORARY GEOGRAPHIC BOARD

The ninteenth annual meeting of the Board was held in Wellington on 29th June, 1944, when 129 place-names were approved. This Board is comprised of leading authorities in nomenclature in the Dominion and is responsible for the correct spelling of place-names appearing on departmental maps.

SURVEY BOARD

The examinations for the qualification of surveyors was held by the Survey Board during the year, the results of these examinations being as follows :--

September, 1944 .-- Fourteen candidates, all obtaining credits in various subjects :

March, 1945 .- Seventeen candidates, one passing the final examination, while twelve obtained credits in various subjects.

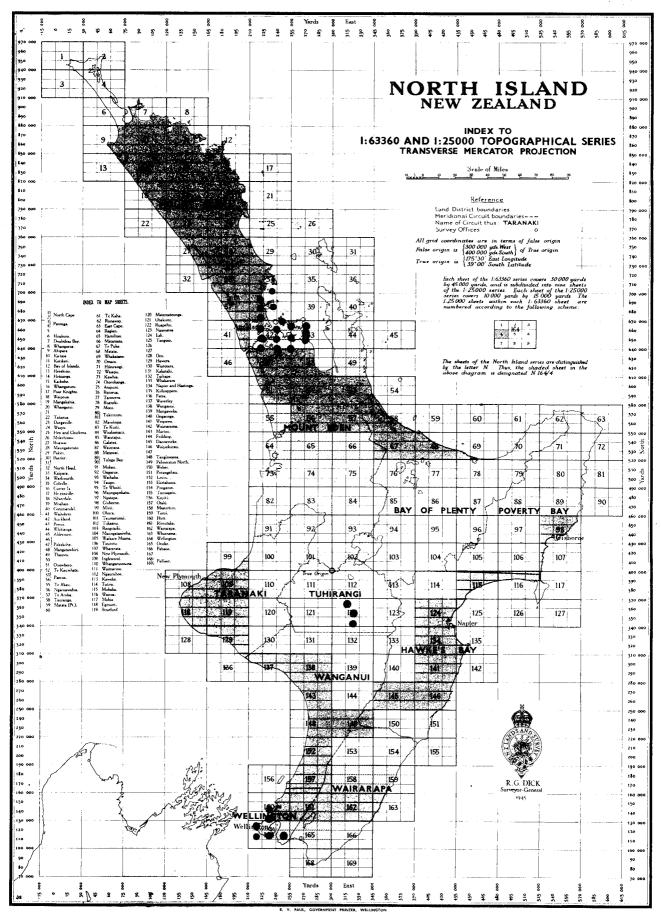
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GENERAL

In January, at the invitation of the Commonwealth Government of Australia, I attended at Canberra a conference of representatives of all State and Commonwealth authorities to consider the setting-up of a central authority for the co-ordination of the mapping policy for the whole of Australia. The Australian authorities were anxious to obtain first-hand information of the methods adopted by the Dominion in the production of topographical maps for the New Zealand Army. The work carried out by New Zealand was very favourably commented on by the Australian authorities, some of the methods being adopted as a basis for the mapping of Australia. While in Australia I took the opportunity of visiting and inspecting the Service mapping establishments and Departments in Sydney and Melbourne.

I wish to express my thanks and appreciation of the loyal co-operation of the staff during the past year.

Approximate Cost of Paper .-- Preparation, not given ; printing (725 copies, including maps,) £17-10s.



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