

1946
NEW ZEALAND

REPORT OF THE EARTHQUAKE AND WAR DAMAGE COMMISSION

**ESTABLISHED UNDER THE EARTHQUAKE AND WAR DAMAGE
ACT, 1944, FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1946**

*Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly pursuant to the Provisions of the
Earthquake and War Damage Act, 1944*

Wellington, 10th June, 1946.

IN accordance with the provisions of section 23 of the Earthquake and War Damage Act, 1944, the following report, with statement of accounts, is presented for the year ended 31st March, 1946 :—

(1) There has been no change in the personnel of the Commission during the year under review. Twelve meetings of the Commission were held.

(2) The following comparative statement shows the figures for each period since the scheme came into operation on the 19th December, 1941 :—

	Period 19th December, 1941, to 31st March, 1942.	Twelve Months ended 31st March, 1943.	Twelve Months ended 31st March, 1944.	Twelve Months ended 31st March, 1945.	Twelve Months ended 31st March, 1946.
Income—	£	£	£	£	£
Premium	877,369	1,611,218	1,423,305	320,274	365,861
Interest	Nil	16,623	57,469	99,516	104,725
Outgo—					
Claims	Nil	956	55	82	507
Salaries	1,018	5,696	2,070	2,042	2,035
Other working-expenses	1,261	919	368	965	1,220
Discount to insurance offices	Nil	Nil	943	7,891	8,733
Audit fee	Nil	120	190	75	75
Surplus	875,090	1,620,150	1,477,238	408,735	458,015
Total of Fund	875,090	2,495,240	3,972,478	4,381,213	4,839,228
Ratio, per cent., of working-expenses to premium income	0·260	0·418	0·245	3·426	3·297
Ratio, per cent., of working-expenses to total income	0·260	0·413	0·235	2·614	2·563

(3) A number of claims for earthquake damage were dealt with during the year, but the damage generally was of a minor nature, and on investigation the loss in many cases was found not to exceed the amount of the franchise applicable under the regulations.

Arising from the earthquakes at Hammer Springs on 30th August, 1945, forty-three claims were made, and from the shock of 12th February, 1946, when the maximum intensity was in the Wanganui district, seventeen claims were received. Both of these shocks were rated as Class VI on the Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale of 1931, which describes shocks of that intensity as "Felt by all; many frightened and run outdoors. Some heavy furniture moved; a few instances of fallen plaster or damaged chimneys. Damage slight."

Claims were also made for earthquake damage to property at Auckland, Napier, Dannevirke, Raetihi, Taihape, Marton, Palmerston North, Lower Hutt, Wellington, Christchurch, and Invercargill.

(4) The survey of buildings which was commenced two years ago is giving very valuable information from the insurance aspect, but progress is slow owing to lack of sufficient expert staff. Every effort is being made to have this essential work speeded up.

(5) The Commission desires to record its appreciation of the excellent service of the staff in dealing with the work of the Commission and the many inquiries made by insurance offices and of the public.

T. L. SEATOR, Secretary.

EARTHQUAKE AND WAR DAMAGE FUND
(Under Earthquake and War Damage Act, 1944)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1946

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Net premiums	365,860	15	9
Interest	104,724	19	2
				Claims .. .. .			..
				Salaries and overtime .. .. .			..
				Fees of members of Commission .. .. .			..
				Expenses of management .. .. .			..
				Discount allowed insurance offices .. .. .			..
				Balance transferred to Earthquake and War Damage Fund .. .. .			..
					458,015	8	6
					<u>£470,585</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>

BALANCE-SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1946

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
<i>Liabilities</i>				<i>Assets</i>			
Balance as at 31st March, 1945	4,381,212	14	3	New Zealand Government stock	4,270,000	0	0
Net income for year ended 31st March, 1946	458,015	8	6	Imperial stock	420,000	0	0
				Cash in Public Account to credit of Earthquake and War Damage Fund	71,340	8	9
Discount due on accrued premiums .. .. .	..	..	..	Interest accrued but not due	18,633	8	5
Premium and other deposits .. .. .	..	..	..	Premiums accrued but not due	63,442	19	11
				Sundry debtors	1,205	15	9
					<u>£4,844,622</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>

NOTE.—In the Balance-sheet, New Zealand Government stock has been included at par value and Imperial stock has been included at par value converted to New Zealand currency.
10th June, 1946.

I hereby certify that the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance-sheet have been duly examined and compared with the relative books and documents submitted for audit, and correctly state the position as disclosed thereby.—J. P. RUTHERFORD,
Controller and Auditor-General.

T. L. SEATOR, Secretary.

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