

## REPORT.

THE demands on the Department for the year ended 31st March, 1924, have again been heavy, the total acreage surveyed having increased by 289,792 acres as compared with last year's returns. Of the fifty-four surveyors employed, thirty-five were staff and nineteen contract; while apart from these a number of cadets and assistants were employed.

The Poverty Bay Land District, containing 1,580,000 acres, and portion of the Auckland Land District containing 942 acres, embracing the Opotiki County and portions of Whakatane and Wairoa Counties, has been declared a separate land district, and appears in the appended tables as the "Gisborne Land District."

The attached Tables A, B, and 1 to 5 inclusive, give a concise summary of the amount of work completed during the year under review. Full details are contained in the reports supplied by the Chief Surveyor, which are filed as departmental records.

Under the heading of "Rural Surveys," in Table B, an area of 266,308 acres is shown as completed work, as compared with 344,635 acres for last year, a decrease of 78,327 acres; and under the heading of "Native Land Surveys" the area of completed work is shown as 345,500 acres, an increase of 101,457 acres as compared with last year's return.

The average cost per acre of both rural and Native-land surveys shows an advance of 1d. per acre on the last year's rates, which were 1s. 6d. and 1s. 8d. respectively, the figures for the year under report being 1s. 7d. and 1s. 9d. The work, however, is being done at a reasonable price.

TABLE A.

Class of Work.	Area, &c.	Average Cost.	Total Cost.	
			£	s. d.
Topographical, by staff surveyors .. ..	71,516 acres	3·3d.	979	14 9
Triangulation, by staff surveyors .. ..	128,443 "	1·0d.	553	2 4
" by licensed surveyors .. ..	99,750 "	1·5d.	623	8 9
Rural, by staff surveyors .. ..	264,437 "	1·6s.	21,426	0 9
" by licensed surveyors .. ..	1,871 "	2·6s.	244	13 9
Village and suburban, by staff surveyors .. ..	723 "	15·6s.	562	10 8
Town, by staff surveyors .. ..	155 sections	£3·33	516	11 6
" by licensed surveyors .. ..	11 "	£3·63	39	19 0
Native Land Court, by staff surveyors .. ..	91,364 acres	1·24s.	5,693	11 7
" by licensed surveyors .. ..	254,136 "	1·82s.	23,166	9 0
Roads by staff surveyors .. ..	181·3 miles	£37·5	6,796	7 4
" by licensed surveyors .. ..	10·9 "	£25·1	273	11 4

TABLE B.

Land District.	Rural Surveys.	Native-land Surveys.
	Acres.	Acres.
North Auckland .. ..	31,169	9,400
Auckland .. ..	131,763	164,827
Gisborne .. ..	15,052	17,699
Hawke's Bay .. ..	1,156	101,934
Taranaki .. ..	1,399	5,734
Wellington .. ..	70,000	42,448
Marlborough .. ..	620	2,709
Nelson .. ..	9,341	..
Westland .. ..	726	..
Canterbury .. ..	2,365	248
Otago .. ..	2,717	501
Southland .. ..	..	..
Totals .. ..	266,308	345,500