

WELLINGTON LAND DISTRICT (F. H. WATERS, Chief Surveyor).

Triangulation.—During the year 7 square miles of connecting triangulation in the Akatarawa District were completed.

Rural.—Subdivisions in Kuku, Almadale, Putorino, Heatherlea, Westmere, Tiraumea, Moroa, Falloon, and Makopua Settlements; surveys of Maungakaretu Block; part of Section 31, Rangitikei Agricultural Reserve; Section 26, Block VI, Hautapu Survey District; Section 132, Block IV, Tiffin Survey District; and Section 3, Block X, Ruahine Survey District—a total of 37 sections, of an area of 7,973 acres—were completed.

Village and Suburban.—Surveys of gravel reserve, Block VIII, Port Nicholson Survey District; parts of Hutt Valley Settlement; and Sections 12 and 15, Block VIII, Hautapu Survey District—a total of 7 sections, of an area of 120 acres.

Town.—Comprises surveys at Porirua, Heretaunga, and Foxton—3 sections, of an area of 3 acres; also subdivisions, Hutt Valley Settlement, 619 sections, of an area of 156 acres.

Roads and Railways.—5 miles of Wellington-Wairarapa Main Highway, 52·7 chains of railway, Hutt Valley Settlement, and 5·3 miles Otahome Settlement Road and Whakataki-Mataikona Road were surveyed during the year.

Topographical.—Comprises surveys of part Tongariro National Park, and watercourses, Block IV, Waitohu Survey District—a total of 272 acres.

Inspection Surveys.—During the year several inspection surveys were made in the district. The work generally was found to be satisfactory.

Other Work.—Includes surveys of land taken for road, part Section 170, Hutt District; sewer easement, Wilford Settlement, Lots 3 and 4, D.P. 1744; Sections 4 and 5, Block XII, Hutt Valley Settlement; part of Section 39, Hutt District; river erosion, Mangatainoka Block; school-site, Lansdowne; river erosion, Ahiaruhe Settlement; Carterton Post-office site; resurvey of roads, Hutt Valley Settlement; alteration, railway-workshops site; investigation of claims, Rangitikei River deviation; widening of Bouverie Street, Petone; report on Section 4, Block IV, Momahaki Survey District; redefinition old boundaries, Lot 3 of Section 23, Block IV, Kaitieke Survey District; and the measuring of bush area, Section 3, Block X, Ruahine Survey District.

Land Transfer Branch.—505 plans were received, 546 plans examined, 522 plans approved, 3 plans compiled, 26 applications were examined, 3,052 transfers and other dealings were examined, and 10,312 diagrams endorsed on new certificates of title.

Native and Crown.—42 Crown and 76 Native plans were received; and 34 Crown and 64 Native plans, of a total of 914 subdivisions, of an area of 34,922 acres; were approved.

Native.—66 authorities to survey; 177 partitions, of an area of 22,784 acres, at an estimated cost of £3,252, were issued; 63 plans and duplicate tracings have been received from surveyors for 200 partitions, of an area of 22,200 acres, at a cost of £3,032 12s. 3d.; 1,069 diagrams were endorsed on Court orders and forwarded to Native Land Courts; 364 applications for charging-orders were prepared and forwarded; 70 vouchers were prepared, checked, and passed for payment, amounting to £2,890 5s. 1d.; liens totalling £2,239 1s. 9d. have been received and notices of release forwarded to Native Land Courts; plans have been forwarded to the various Courts in this district.

Statutory Branch.—143 plans were received, 140 plans examined, 137 plans approved, 118 plans were sent forward for Proclamation purposes, 139 plans were recorded, 136 Proclamations were gazetted and received, and final action was taken on 115 plans. Other work includes general and special searches, recording alterations on local bodies' boundaries, the preparation of information for the issue of closed-road titles, technical descriptions of lands to be reserved and exchanged, the preparation of information in connection with the loading for roads in loan blocks, &c., and the preparation of plans and documents and the obtaining of consents in connection with legislation work undertaken by this Department.

Office-work.—10 plans were compiled, 50 photo-lithographic tracings were prepared, 872 diagrams were endorsed on Warrants, 1,174 diagrams on Crown leases, 904 diagrams on Native Land Court orders. In addition, the usual large amount of miscellaneous drafting, searching, and tracing has been carried out.

Changes of Staff.—Messrs. L. J. Poff and H. J. Fletcher were transferred to Auckland; Miss M. MacPherson and Messrs. Armstrong, Lowe, Reid, and Rogel joined the drafting staff, and Mr. Organ the field staff; Mr. A. J. Dry resigned.

It is with much regret that I record the death of Mr. S. Parkinson. For years he was on the field staff of this district, but latterly, on account of failing health, became a member of the Computing Branch of this office. A popular officer, he is mourned by all.

I must record my appreciation of the co-operation of the staff under the supervision of Land Transfer Draughtsman Mr. C. A. Gordon and Senior Draughtsman Mr. R. W. Collins, who have handled the increased volume of work in an entirely satisfactory manner.

MARLBOROUGH LAND DISTRICT.

(J. STEVENSON, Chief Surveyor.)

Topographical.—Under this heading an area of 170 acres is returned, which represents a portion of provisional State forest now added to a scenic reserve, and which at the present time does not warrant a more accurate survey.

Rural Surveys.—Three areas, aggregating 1,329 acres, are returned under this heading, of which two are of scenic reserves and the other a Crown-land selection.

Village and Suburban.—32 sections, totalling 131 acres, are returned under this heading, and range from the Marlborough Sounds to Kaikoura. Included under this heading is a survey in Queen Charlotte Sound of seaside-residence sites ranging from 1 to 10 acres.