

1939.  
NEW ZEALAND.

# KAURI-GUM INDUSTRY

(REPORT ON THE) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1939.

*Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly pursuant to Section 5 of the Kauri-gum Industry Amendment Act, 1911.*

SIR, - Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, 1st August, 1939.  
I have the honour to submit herewith the annual report under the Kauri-gum Industry Amendment Act, 1911, for the year ended 31st March, 1939.  
I have, &c.,  
R. G. MACMORRAN, Under-Secretary.

The Hon. Frank Langstone, Minister of Lands.

ALTHOUGH during the year there was a steady demand for high grade chip gum at a fairly good price, there was a marked falling off in inquiries for the lower grades of this type of gum, and as a whole conditions in the market did not improve appreciably.

As in previous years, the sale of the higher-quality gum, suitable for use in the varnish trade, remained sluggish: shipments were made to the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, the United States of America, Fiji, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden, France, Germany, and Italy, and, as hitherto, Great Britain took the bulk of these exports. The demand from America was poor, but sufficient to show that there was still possibility for expansion in that direction.

Production during the year was ample to meet all demands. It appears, however, that the present stagnant conditions prevailing will continue until such time as kauri-gum can be produced for marketing in a purer form.

During the year research work has been carried out by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in connection with the development of a process for the refining of the lower grades of kauri-gum. This matter is dealt with in detail in the Dominion Laboratory section of the annual report of that Department.

The Director of Internal Marketing has supplied the following report on the Division's activities in the kauri-gum marketing arrangements:

"In October, 1937, the Internal Marketing Division undertook to render a measure of assistance to kauri-gum diggers by arranging minimum prices for various types and qualities of gum at which buyers would operate.

"In the event of buyers or merchants failing to purchase at these figures, the Division agreed to find a market for diggers' gum. It is pleasing to be able to say that buyers have co-operated with the Division to the fullest extent and it has not been necessary to actually make any purchases, although on many occasions the Division has assisted diggers to find a buyer at arranged prices.

"The object of the Division's activities has obviously been to enable diggers to remain on the fields, and the confidence given the market by the Division's action has made this possible. Appreciation of the Government's action has been expressed by kauri-gum diggers.

"The Division has also investigated the internal and overseas markets, with the object of expanding and continuing sales.

"During the visit of the Hon. Minister of Marketing to America and England in this year an opportunity was taken to meet gum-importers, with the object of encouraging the further use of New Zealand's kauri-gum."

## EXPORT OF KAURI-GUM.

For the year ended 31st March, 1939, the export amounted to 2,360 tons, of the value of £105,169, an average price of about £45 per ton. The tonnage, value, and average price per ton of the export for the past sixteen years are

Year ended 31st March,	Tonnage exported.	Value.		Average per Ton.
		£	£	£
1924	6,923	640,712		92
1925	5,432	446,019		82
1926	5,495	114,420		75
1927	4,529	301,335		66
1928	4,531	267,559		59
1929	4,566	241,223		53
1930	4,941	264,452		53
1931	3,145	155,602		49
1932	3,164	124,757		39
1933	2,060	57,970		28
1934	3,378	83,945		25
1935	3,412	91,070		27
1936	2,669	75,802		28
1937	3,613	119,649		33
1938	2,491	126,612		51
1939	2,360	105,169		45

Details of the yearly export, and the country to which exported, from 1927 to 1939 are given below :

*Particulars of Kauri-gum exported from New Zealand from 1st April, 1927, to 31st March, 1939, inclusive.*

Country to which exported.	1st April, 1927, to 31st March, 1928.		1st April, 1928, to 31st March, 1929.		1st April, 1929, to 31st March, 1930.		1st April, 1930, to 31st March, 1931.		1st April, 1931, to 31st March, 1932.		1st April, 1932, to 31st March, 1933.	
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
United States of America	2,087	120,349	2,337	139,672	1,967	127,723	823	46,510	681	33,082	268	11,208
United Kingdom	2,043	127,401	1,504	77,479	2,425	117,677	1,957	96,679	1,968	71,572	1,298	36,150
Germany	119	6,613	234	7,949	100	2,646	62	1,508	52	6,725	70	1,104
Canada	165	6,329	208	7,448	202	7,169	127	4,726	173	4,156	169	3,157
Australia	33	1,448	8	408	106	3,908	37	1,423	65	1,862	91	2,251
Belgium	..	..	60	1,094	30	635	43	975	69	1,154	15	230
France	60	3,915	150	5,206	89	3,764	71	2,791	94	4,173	83	2,452
Switzerland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Netherlands	3	483	29	1,068	2	285	4	218	..	..	..	..
Sweden	1	132	..	..	..	..	10	282	32	837	11	218
Italy	..	..	10	127	..	..	..	..	..	..	31	555
Japan	20	843	26	772	20	645	11	580	30	1,196	24	645
Hong Kong	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
China	..	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South African Union	..	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fiji	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	4,531	267,559	4,566	241,223	4,941	264,452	3,145	155,602	3,164	124,757	2,060	57,970

Country to which exported.	1st April, 1933, to 31st March, 1934.		1st April, 1934, to 31st March, 1935.		1st April, 1935, to 31st March, 1936.		1st April, 1936, to 31st March, 1937.		1st April, 1937, to 31st March, 1938.		1st April, 1938, to 31st March, 1939.	
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
United States of America	875	30,174	394	20,602	553	24,488	478	28,844	548	38,010	169	13,179
United Kingdom	1,730	37,218	2,267	54,365	1,570	59,181	2,200	62,963	1,486	65,921	1,535	60,484
Germany	325	5,093	251	4,986	41	769	78	2,241	37	1,910	36	1,806
Canada	94	2,530	114	2,623	62	1,689	263	8,228	205	9,988	237	11,035
Australia	126	3,355	150	3,588	171	3,058	311	7,575	27	1,238	135	6,243
Belgium	11	208	..	..	42	889	21	618	13	837	..	..
France	143	3,642	116	2,768	122	3,193	144	5,584	47	2,639	73	3,721
Switzerland	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	512	..	..	..	..
Netherlands	..	..	3	90	11	262	37	943	21	1,021	33	1,810
Sweden	20	461	..	..	57	1,043	16	560	61	2,247	22	785
Italy	28	494	75	825	4	245	..	..	..	..	30	1,160
Japan	32	744	42	1,223	36	985	45	1,581	46	2,801	87	4,937
Hong Kong	..	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
China	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South African Union	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fiji	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	9
Totals	3,378	83,945	3,412	91,070	2,669	75,802	3,613	119,649	2,491	126,612	2,360	105,169

## PRODUCTION DURING THE YEAR.

The kauri-gum received at Auckland from the gumfields for the past eight years is shown, month by month, in the following table:—

	1931-32.	1932-33.	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
April .. .. .	309	405	240	202	221	346	305	65
May .. .. .	394	245	161	224	211	229	249	251
June .. .. .	263	144	238	118	164	107	350	100
July .. .. .	214	153	162	150	258	139	368	204
August .. .. .	251	43	150	193	172	181	162	427
September .. .. .	208	128	219	201	131	142	164	75
October .. .. .	192	176	320	307	220	154	252	284
November .. .. .	276	182	326	243	260	501	74	243
December .. .. .	172	188	209	268	190	291	127	226
January .. .. .	194	167	165	312	182	160	136	113
February .. .. .	277	213	325	274	220	265	86	208
March .. .. .	224	185	289	336	160	233	200	100
Totals .. .. .	3,004	2,229	2,804	2,858	2,392	2,748	2,473	2,296

## KAURI-GUM INDUSTRY ACCOUNT.

The assets of the Kauri-gum Industry Account have been realized, and the account has been abolished by statute.

*Approximate Cost of Paper.* Preparation, not given; printing (585 copies), 31

By Authority: E. V. PAUL, Government Printer, Wellington. 1939.

*Price 3d.*

