

1890.
NEW ZEALAND.

WILLS AND ESTATES ADMINISTERED BY THE PUBLIC TRUSTEE

(RETURN RELATIVE TO), FOR EACH YEAR SINCE 1872.]

Return to an Order of the House of Representatives, dated 17th July, 1889.

Ordered, "That there be laid upon the table a return showing, for each year since 1872, (1) the number of wills administration of which has been accepted by the Public Trustee in each provincial district; (2) the number of intestate estates administered by the Public Trustee; (3) the number of all other estates in the hands of the Public Trustee; (4) the aggregate value of each of the above-named classes of estates administered or managed by the Public Trustee for each year since 1872; (5) the average expense of administration or management per estate in each class of such estates for each year since 1872."—(Mr. WALKER.)

Return to an Order of the House of Representatives, dated 27th June, 1890.

Ordered, "That there be laid upon the table a detailed statement of the expenditure incurred by the Public Trustee's Office in the preparation of returns ordered by the House on the 17th July, 1889, and laid on the table by the Colonial Secretary on the 26th June, 1890."—(Mr. WALKER.)

RETURN OF WILLS, ETC.—*continued.*

4. The Aggregate Value of each of the above-named Classes of Estates administered or managed by the Public Trustee.

	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wills	6,038 10 0	4,960 10 0	18,970 0 0	27,079 0 0	33,178 0 0	37,410 0 0
Intestate estates	22,665 5 0	35,433 5 0	36,817 0 0	43,612 10 0	50,799 10 0	54,366 10 0
All other estates	14,560 10 0	23,572 10 0	29,545 10 0	34,536 10 0	36,586 0 0	39,529 0 0

	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wills	36,458 0 0	69,340 0 0	71,200 10 0	70,105 0 0	86,856 10 0
Intestate estates	51,968 0 0	64,164 14 0	72,391 10 0	78,426 0 0	84,718 15 0
All other estates	42,607 0 0	54,076 0 0	68,162 0 0	428,915 10 0	864,136 10 0

	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wills	96,267 12 0	125,753 0 0	124,510 10 0	175,308 10 0	187,436 0 0
Intestate estates	98,317 15 0	107,117 15 0	102,726 0 0	111,610 0 0	115,936 10 0
All other estates	884,256 0 0	902,152 0 0	914,843 10 0	954,421 0 0	1,062,950 0 0

5. Average Expense of Administration or Management per Estate in each Class for each Year.

	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wills	42 8 8	41 2 7	81 9 2	21 11 3	13 13 8	6 3 5	4 8 5	15 17 5
Intestate estates	0 0 1	2 12 7	1 5 5	1 4 4	0 19 6	1 1 10	0 14 4	0 13 7
All other estates	0 1 6	0 19 10	0 13 3	0 5 5	0 6 8	0 4 6	0 5 0	0 4 6

	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wills	13 11 1	10 2 7	10 2 4	8 3 0	19 3 9	10 19 3	10 15 5	12 4 11
Intestate estates	0 19 11	1 0 10	0 19 11	0 17 4	1 7 11	1 3 9	1 4 8	1 14 4
All other estates	0 11 0	0 7 4	1 19 3	2 0 11	2 17 8	2 3 5	2 6 8	2 11 4

6. Average Expense of Administration or Management per Estate per Centum.

	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wills	0 13 6	1 13 2	1 14 4	0 14 4	0 14 0	0 7 7	0 6 7	0 12 10
Intestate estates	0 0 1	3 2 2	1 19 8	2 1 7	1 12 4	1 17 0	1 8 4	1 3 9
All other estates	0 0 9	0 10 2	0 6 11	0 2 8	0 4 2	0 2 11	0 3 4	0 2 7

	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wills	0 13 8	0 14 2	0 15 4	0 14 0	1 13 3	1 4 2	0 16 0	0 18 0
Intestate estates	1 13 6	1 13 10	1 8 11	1 3 9	1 16 9	1 8 9	1 5 3	1 12 11
All other estates	0 5 11	0 1 2	0 3 9	0 4 1	0 5 6	0 4 5	0 4 8	0 4 7

NOTES.

In the section of the return relating to wills, only those wills which have been finally accepted by the Board of the Public Trust Office and administered have been included.

In each of the three classes of estates the total number of estates under management in each year is shown, as also the total number of estates managed by the Public Trustee during the whole period.

The average expense of administration or management: The Public Trust Office remuneration being mainly by way of commissions ranging from 7 per cent. to 2 per cent. on property realised and income received, the effect of reducing these charges to an annual average per estate brings out the result shown in the return, the amounts, of necessity, coming out apparently lower than the scale, for an estate may be under management for some years subject to the charge on income, which reduces the rate of charge when calculated on the capital value. Thus, if an estate worth £100 is managed for a year for a commission of 5 per cent. on its income of, say, £6, the cost of managing that estate for the year would be 6s. per cent. on the capital value; the charge for realisation once made does not recur.

The average has been calculated two ways: to show the average per estate, and the average per cent.

Public Trust Office,
Wellington, 24th June, 1890.

R. C. HAMERTON,
Public Trustee.

NAMES of the OFFICERS engaged upon the Work of preparing the Return, and the AMOUNT drawn by each; also the cost of Stationery used, and the Amount charged by the Property-tax Department for Values furnished.

	£	s.	d.
J. C. Moginie	46	14	6
J. J. M. Hamilton	38	14	0
E. F. Warren	35	17	0
T. S. Ronaldson	35	1	3
C. J. Alexander	35	6	9
J. C. Small	35	1	3
R. J. Buckland	35	1	3
H. Beyer	21	12	0
R. A. Pyke	9	12	0
A. de Castro	17	14	0
H. Oswin	8	12	8
T. D. Kendall	9	12	6
H. Hewson	9	16	0
S. G. Hamerton	9	5	6
R. Whitaker	1	10	0
Paid Property-tax Department	7	10	0
Stationery: 2 reams, specially ruled	2	10	0
Total	£359	10	8

Analysis of the Time occupied and Work involved.

Two reams of paper (all but a few sheets) were used to schedule the information taken out. In compliance with the order of the House, the total value of each estate during each year it remained in the office, also the total charged each year for its administration or management, had to be ascertained, making a group of two separate totals for each year for each estate; and, as the schedules prepared show that on an average each estate runs into five years' accounts, five groups of two separate totals were required, involving the getting out of 24,773 groups of totals.

The value of all unrealised property both real and personal where not known had to be ascertained, and in the case of leases under which improvements belonged to lessees the value of such improvements had to be ascertained and deducted from the figures used, and summaries of all the above had to be made to arrive at final totals.

Prior to 1881 it was not the practice to collate the assets of an estate into any book, in consequence of which it became necessary to refer to the respective files of papers to get at unrealised assets.

The total number of estates administered or managed, arranged in the three separate classes as indicated in the return (one of which classes was also arranged provincially), had to be ascertained; also the total number of estates administered or managed for each year since 1872; also the aggregate value of each of three classes for each year since 1872, and the average and aggregate expense of administration or management per estate in each class for each year since 1872.

The compilation of the above information would involve the casting up of some 4,500 columns of figures.

Taking into view the whole of the work in connection with the return, and reducing it to an average per estate for each year's group of totals, it is found that—

- (1.) Total time occupied in the preparation of the return in the Public Trust Office, 2,930 hours;
- (2.) Total number of groups of annual values and cost of management, 24,773; and
- (3.) The average time for working out and completing each group of two separate totals was 6 minutes 11 $\frac{4}{5}$ seconds.

The method of working out these facts is shown below :—

Total number of estates administered, 5,674.

Total number of hours worked, 2,930.

Therefore—5674) 2930 (0h. 30m. 59secs.
60

175800
17022

5580
60

334800
28370

51100
51066

34

Thus, the average time taken per estate, 30 minutes 59 seconds.

The number of estates administered each year was as follows :—

Year.					No.	Year.					No.
1873	..	..	..	..	315	1881	..	..	..	1,631	
1874	..	..	..	..	542	1882	..	..	..	2,004	
1875	..	..	..	..	733	1883	..	..	..	2,124	
1876	..	..	..	..	923	1884	..	..	..	2,305	
1877	..	..	..	..	1,088	1885	..	..	..	2,382	
1878	..	..	..	..	1,196	1886	..	..	..	2,307	
1879	..	..	..	..	1,937	1887	..	..	..	2,227	
1880	..	..	..	..	1,460	1888	..	..	..	2,199	

Total, 24,773.

From the foregoing figures it will be seen that the average time that an estate will remain in the office is 4·366 years, as shown below :—

Number of estates under administration each year for the whole sixteen years aggregate to 24,773, and this number divided by 5,674 (the total number of estates administered) gives 4·366 years ; each estate thus runs into five years' accounts.

The average time taken for each estate was shown to be 30 minutes 59 seconds, and, as each estate runs into five years, it follows that 6 minutes 11½ seconds was the average time taken in bringing out each annual pair of totals required.

Public Trust Office,
Wellington, 3rd July, 1890.

R. C. HAMERTON,
Public Trustee.

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