

1944
NEW ZEALAND

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND SURVEY
SWAMP DRAINAGE

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1944

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly pursuant to Section 13 of the Swamp Drainage Act, 1915

Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, 1st May, 1944.

SIR,—

In pursuance of section 13 of the Swamp Drainage Act, 1915, I have the honour to forward the report of the Chief Drainage Engineer covering operations on lands proclaimed under the Swamp Drainage Act, and amendments.

I have, &c.,

R. G. MACMORRAN,

Under-Secretary for Lands.

The Hon. the Minister of Lands.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF DRAINAGE ENGINEER

SIR,—

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year ended 31st March, 1944, on the areas proclaimed under the Swamp Drainage Act, 1915, and its amendments.

KAITIARA DRAINAGE AREA (61,430 ACRES), MANGONUI COUNTY

Although a few minor floods were experienced during the late winter and early spring, the past year has been a very satisfactory one for the drainage area. As the drain-cleaning contracts were completed before any heavy rain fell, the farm lands did not suffer unduly from the flooding.

The only main drain to receive attention during the year was Berghan's Western Drain, which was straightened and deepened. It is hoped that other main drains will be cleaned when plant and labour become available.

The Waipapakauri Outlet is functioning well, although a vigorous growth of weeds is in evidence in parts. The stop-banks and flood-gates around the Awanui foreshore are in fair order.

The rainfall for the year was 59.58 in., an increase of nearly 21 in., as compared with the previous year, which was exceptionally dry.

Expenditure and Rates.—Owing to greatly increased costs, tenders for drain-cleaning were high, and the net expenditure on maintenance during the year was £2,722.

With few exceptions, European ratepayers in the district took advantage of the Government's offer to accept approximately 50 per cent. of the arrears of rates to 31st March, 1942, in full settlement. A compromise was also arranged with the Natives, and of £285 struck for 1943-44, over half has already been paid.

Rates struck: Special, £2,793; general, £2,183.

Rates collected, including arrears: Special, £3,467; general, £2,354.