

## GENERAL

In general, constructional work has still been restricted to a minimum by reason of the existing situation in regard to man-power and materials, and until such time as conditions improve the tempo of work will not materially alter. It is pleasing to report, however, that soil-conservation work has increased during the year, and as the greater part of this important work is now being undertaken, without recourse to outside labour, by the land occupier himself, under subsidy from the Council, a further increase in this direction may be expected. Expenditure under the vote increased from £212,000 in the previous year to £298,000 for the period under review.

## CATCHMENT BOARDS

The election and first meeting of the newly constituted Hauraki Catchment Board was held during the year.

Many of the administrative difficulties experienced by Catchment Boards in previous years have now been overcome, but as a result of experience gained by the operating Boards, and as indicated above, further amendments to the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act will require attention.

A further conference of Catchment Boards was held at Christchurch in May, at which a Catchment Boards Association was constituted. Much value was obtained as a result of the conference, which in future will be held annually by the Association, assisted by the Council where necessary.

## CATCHMENT DISTRICTS

Existing Catchment Districts now cover approximately 40 per cent. of the Dominion. Proposals for further catchment districts, particularly in Clutha, Bay of Plenty, Waikato, and Marlborough Districts, are under consideration, and will be submitted to the Local Government Commission at the earliest opportunity.

The following is a complete list of catchment districts, the statistics being obtained from Local Authorities Handbook, 1941-42:—

Name.	Area (Approximate) (Square Miles).	Rateable Capital Valuation. (Approximate) (£ Million).			Population (Approximate).	Headquarters of Board.
		Rural.	Urban.	Total.		
Hauraki .. ..	1,500	13.9	3.4	17.3	45,000	Te Aroha.
Rangitikei .. ..	2,756	13.0	3.2	16.2	26,470	Marton.
Manawatu .. ..	2,680	29.6	12.9	42.5	75,800	Palmerston North.
Hawke's Bay .. ..	3,070	18.3	10.3	28.6	57,800	Napier.
Wairarapa .. ..	2,230	13.8	4.0	17.8	26,250	Masterton.
Poverty Bay .. ..	2,097	10.8	4.3	15.1	31,500	Gisborne.
Nelson .. ..	2,460	5.1	4.4	9.5	30,570	Nelson.
Westland .. ..	6,254	2.3	2.2	4.5	26,820	Greymouth.
North Canterbury .. ..	4,290	21.6	35.1	56.7	162,750	Christchurch.
South Canterbury .. ..	4,326	21.0	8.5	29.5	61,850	Timaru.
Southland .. ..	11,000	17.4	9.9	27.3	71,850	Invercargill.
Totals, eleven catchment districts	42,663	166.8	98.2	265.0	616,660	..
Totals, New Zealand, 1st April, 1941	103,416	311.9	310.8	622.7	1,616,070	..
Percentage cover by catchment districts	41	53	32	42	38	..