

1950
NEW ZEALAND

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

(ANNUAL REPORT OF THE) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1950

Laid on the Table of the House of Representatives by Leave

SIR,— Department of Internal Affairs, Wellington, 21st August, 1950.

I have the honour to submit herewith the annual report of the Department for the year ended 31st March, 1950.

I have, &c.,

A. G. HARPER,
Under-Secretary.

The Hon. W. A. Bodkin, Minister of Internal Affairs.

REPORT

I. CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

The necessary action was taken in regard to the following matters :—

- (a) Summoning, proroguing, and dissolving of Parliament.
- (b) Appointments to and a resignation from the Legislative Council.
- (c) Leave of absence for a member of the Legislative Council.
- (d) Vacation of office by a Parliamentary Under-Secretary.
- (e) Appointment of Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the Writs.
- (f) Issue of writs and other steps for the general election of members of Parliament.
- (g) Consequent on the defeat of the Labour Government at the 1949 parliamentary elections the necessary constitutional steps were taken on 13th December, 1949, regarding the resignation of members of the Executive Council, Ministers, and Parliamentary Under-Secretaries, and the appointment and swearing-in of the new Government.
- (h) Retention of the title of "Honourable" by eight former members of the Executive Council.
- (i) Preparation of messages to both Houses of the General Assembly notifying the Governor-General's assent to Bills passed by the General Assembly.

II. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

A. GENERAL ORGANIZATION

The Local Government Branch was fully occupied in carrying out the various statutory duties required by the local-government Acts administered by the Department.

Close contact with local authorities and local government organizations and Government Departments was maintained, and advice and assistance was given when requested with regard to problems confronting local authorities and others interested. It is not possible to deal in detail with all the matters which came before the Branch, but some idea of the work involved may be gained from the following :—

(1) *Boroughs*

The thirty-seventh annual Conference of the Municipal Association was held in Auckland from the 7th to 9th March, 1950. The Conference was officially opened by the Hon. W. A. Bodkin, Minister of Internal Affairs, who addressed the Conference on matters of interest to municipalities. The annual Conference of the New Zealand Institute of Town Clerks was held at the same time. A representative of the Department was present throughout the proceedings of both Conferences. The necessary action was taken to circulate remits from the Conference to the Departments concerned and to obtain decisions thereon for transmission to the Association.

In accordance with a directive issued by the Minister of Internal Affairs, as mentioned in the last annual report, the Local Government Commission held a public inquiry into the financial and economic position of the Borough of Waihi. A report of the inquiry was duly received from the Commission, and its recommendations are under review by the various Governmental authorities concerned. When this review has been completed, the recommendations of the Commission will be submitted to the Government for final decision.

During the year the population of the Borough of Napier reached 20,000, the figure required for city status, and a Proclamation was issued declaring this borough to be a city, thus increasing the number of cities in New Zealand to thirteen. Appropriate celebrations were held in the city to mark this event at which the Department was officially represented.

Preliminary action was taken in connection with the receipt of a number of petitions praying for the alteration of the boundaries of districts. These petitions were duly forwarded to the Local Government Commission for consideration, and following the issue by the Commission of final schemes in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Commission Act, 1946, the boundaries of the Cities of Nelson and Palmerston North and the Boroughs of Whangarei, Tauranga, Lyttelton, Papatoetoe, and Whakatane were altered by the inclusion of areas of land previously under County Council control. The boundaries of the Boroughs of Rotorua and Papatoetoe were also altered by the exclusion of certain areas. Consequent on the alteration of the boundaries of the Borough of Whangarei, provision was made for the transfer from the North Auckland Electric-power Board to the Whangarei Borough Council of responsibility for the supply of electric power in the areas involved. The boundaries of the Cities of Dunedin and Hamilton and the Boroughs of Port Chalmers and Whangarei were redefined consequent on previous alterations of boundaries.

Consequent on an inquiry by the Local Government Commission into a proposed alteration of boundaries of the Borough of Whangarei, the question was raised of the desirability of the merging with the borough of the Town District of Kamo. The Commission's finding was favourable to the proposal and a final scheme was duly issued. The Local Government Commission Act, 1946, provides, however, that when requested by 20 per cent. of the electors in the area concerned a poll shall be held on any proposal to merge one such district with another. In this case a poll was requested by the requisite number of electors and resulted in the proposal being defeated. Accordingly the proposal was allowed to lapse.

The Masterton Borough Council was authorized to raise a loan under section 7 of the Local Bodies' Finance Act, 1921-22, to provide temporary offices. The Lower Hutt City Council and the Papatoetoe and the Pukekohe Borough Councils were authorized to purchase certain areas of land on the instalment system. The New Lynn Borough Council was authorized to utilize a closed street for the purpose of the erection of a residence for the borough foreman. The Invercargill and Palmerston North City Councils and the Hastings, Blenheim, and Picton Borough Councils were authorized to publish booklets containing information and matters of interest regarding their respective districts. Members were appointed to Assessment Courts set up under the Urban Farm Land Rating Act, 1932, for the Cities of Palmerston North and Invercargill, the Boroughs of Gore and Waipukurau, and the Town District of Glen Eden. Judges were appointed to the Assessment Courts for the Boroughs of Northcote, Papatoetoe, and Otaki. A Judge was appointed to the Assessment Court under the Rating Act, 1925, for the City of Dunedin and the Borough of Green Island. Amendments to a fire-prevention by-law of the Te Puke Borough Council were approved by the Minister of Internal Affairs. The Tauranga and Rotorua Borough Councils were declared to be leasing authorities under the Public Bodies' Leases Act, 1908.

Considerable progress was made in the preparation of a Standard Code of General By-laws for adoption by Borough Councils which is being undertaken by the New Zealand Standards Institute. Officers of the Department gave assistance and attended meetings of the various Committees of the Standards Institute set up in this connection.

(2) *Counties*

The twenty-fourth annual Conference of the New Zealand Counties Association was held in Dunedin from the 14th to 16th June, 1949. The Conference was addressed by the Under-Secretary for the Department, Mr. A. G. Harper, who conveyed a message from the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Hon. W. E. Parry, who was unable to be present. Mr. Harper spoke on local government matters of interest to the Association. The annual Conference of the New Zealand Institute of County Clerks, which was held in conjunction with the Conference of the Association, was also addressed by Mr. Harper. The Department was officially represented throughout the proceedings of both Conferences. Following the submission of remits from the Association Conference, the necessary action was taken to obtain departmental decisions thereon for transmission to the Association.

Close attention was again given during the year to the financial difficulties facing the Buller County Council. The geographical configuration of the county, with a lengthy mileage of roads, together with the extremely high annual rainfall, the heavy volume of coal and timber transport, and other factors, leads to the maintenance of roads being very costly. The usual close liaison in this matter was maintained with the Treasury, and discussions took place with a view to discovering some means whereby the County Council might attain a satisfactory degree of financial independence. It is not possible yet to see how this can be achieved.

The usual close contact was maintained with the Matakaoa County Commissioner, and discussions were held with him regarding the administration of the county affairs. In accordance with past practice the overdraft limit of the County Council for the year was fixed by the Minister of Internal Affairs.

Further progress was made in the amendment of the Standard Code of Building By-laws for adoption by County Councils and the Department has been actively associated with the New Zealand Standards Institute in this connection. It is anticipated that the Code will be available for adoption by County Councils within the next few months.

The boundaries of the Counties of Whakatane, Opotiki, Matamata, Taupo, Rotorua, Tauranga, Waipa, and Raglan were altered by the exchange of certain areas of land, and the boundaries of a number of other counties were redefined consequent on the alteration of the boundaries of certain cities, boroughs, and a town district.

The Taumarunui County Council passed a special order altering riding boundaries and adjusting representation and this special order was duly gazetted. The Ellesmere County Council was authorized to levy rates on a uniform scale over internal drainage districts. The Hutt County Council obtained approval to the publication of a booklet containing information concerning part of its district.

The Rotorua, Otorohanga, and Manukau County Councils passed special orders under the authority of the Counties Amendment Act, 1931, abolishing the system of separate riding finance. A total of eighty-nine County Councils have now availed themselves of this legislation.

A by-law of the Geraldine County Council was confirmed under the provisions of the By-laws Act, 1910.

(3) *Town Districts*

The boundaries of the Town District of Otorohanga were redefined following on a previous alteration of boundaries.

Following the holding of a public inquiry and the issue of a final scheme by the Local Government Commission, the necessary arrangements were made to merge the Town District of Tahunanui in the City of Nelson. Incidental provision was made for three members of the Town Board to be Councillors of the Nelson City Council until the next general election of members of the Council is held in November, 1950.

(4) *Drainage Districts*

The Eltham Drainage Board was authorized to vary the mode of publication of its balance-sheet for the year ended 31st March, 1948. Trustees of the Te Rapa Drainage District were appointed. The Hutt Valley Drainage Board was authorized under section 3 of the Local Bodies Finance Act, 1921-22, to borrow moneys by way of overdraft during the first year of its existence.

In accordance with the provisions of a final scheme issued by the Local Government Commission steps were taken to dissolve the Tumu-Kaituna and Te Puke Drainage Boards, and to transfer their powers and functions to the Kaituna River Board.

(5) *River Districts*

The Abikouka, Kahutara, South Wairarapa, Te Ore Ore, and Waiohine River Districts were abolished on the recommendation of the Local Government Commission consequent on petitions presented under the provisions of section 141 of the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act, 1941. River-protection work in these areas will now be undertaken by the Wairarapa Catchment Board.

Consequent on the issue of a final scheme by the Local Government Commission the boundaries of the Kaikoura River District were altered by the inclusion of an area of land.

A petition was received from the Manawatu Catchment Board praying for the dissolution of the Manawatu-Oroua River Board and for the transfer of its powers and functions to the Catchment Board. A notice was published in the *Gazette* calling for objections to the proposal. The matter is still under consideration.

(6) *Fire Districts*

After several conferences with the interested organizations the Fire Services Act, 1949, was passed providing for the reorganization of the fire services of the Dominion. The legislation provided for the setting-up of a Fire Service Council to administer the service, and the Council comprising two Government members and one member each to represent the underwriters, municipalities, Fire Boards, firemen's unions, and volunteer fire brigades was constituted in November, 1949. The Council held its first meeting immediately after its constitution and is now actively pursuing the functions imposed on it by the Fire Services Act.

Most of the powers previously vested in the Minister of Internal Affairs are now assumed by the Fire Service Council. In terms of the Act, the Under-Secretary for Internal Affairs may attend meetings of the Council and an effective liaison is maintained in this way.

The Act set up thirty-four new fire districts and seventy-nine secondary fire districts, and by subsequent Order in Council six new fire districts were created and one secondary fire district was reclassified as a fire district.

During the year action was taken to fill twenty-one extraordinary vacancies on Fire Boards. Of these new appointments three were in respect of Government members, twelve were insurance representatives, and six were elected by contributory local authorities. Action was also taken in respect of the appointment of members of the Fire Committees of the Urban Fire Authorities for the newly constituted fire districts and secondary fire districts.

Prior to the passing of the new legislation extension of borrowing-powers was granted to the North Shore Fire Board in respect of new building proposals, loan authorities were issued to several Boards, and several agreements for fire protection of property outside fire districts were approved.

The usual list of fire-insurance companies carrying on fire-insurance business in New Zealand was published, and by notification in the *Gazette* the date was fixed for furnishing returns by fire-insurance companies in respect of premium income.

(7) *Local Elections and Polls*

It was mentioned in the last annual report that a Conference had been called for the 16th August, 1949, to discuss the unification in one Act of all provisions dealing with local-body elections. The Conference was duly held on this date and was attended by representatives of the Municipal Association of New Zealand, the New Zealand Counties Association, the New Zealand Institute of Town Clerks, the New Zealand Institute of County Clerks, the Law Drafting Office, and the Electoral Office, as well as by officers of the Department. The Conference reached agreement without difficulty upon the desirability of unifying in one Act all provisions dealing with local-body elections, and decided that a comprehensive system of committees would be the most satisfactory method of carrying out the detailed work of unification. The functions of the various committees were determined as follows :—

- (a) *General Committee*.—Comprising representatives present at the Conference. To consider and approve all final proposals of Working Committees.
- (b) *Steering Committee*.—Consisting of six members appointed at the Conference. To determine the ultimate objective in regard to the unification of local-government electoral law and to determine the order of reference for the various Working Committees.
- (c) *Working Committees*.—
 - (i) Procedure and conduct of elections.
 - (ii) Qualification and disqualification of electors and members.
 - (iii) Preparation and form of rolls.
 - (iv) Postal and absentee voting.

These committees consist of representatives nominated by the various organizations represented at the Conference.

Since the Conference, detailed investigations have been made into the possibility of unifying local-government electoral law, and a meeting of the Steering Committee has recently been held. This Committee decided that owing to the difficulties involved, particularly in relation to *ad hoc* authorities, complete unification was not immediately practicable, and that the matter should be confined at this stage to a consolidation of the existing law common to all local authorities, plus such amendments as may be

necessary to the Counties Act, 1920, to meet the administrative difficulties of County Councils in relation to their electoral procedure. The Committee also decided to refer to the General Committee for consideration a proposal to set up a Standing Committee to conduct further investigations into the possibility of consolidating into one Act all the provisions of the various local government Acts relating to local elections.

The Committee also decided that the title of each Working Committee was sufficient to indicate a general order of reference. These committees have now been set up and the initial meetings will shortly be held.

B. LEGISLATION

(1) *Counties Amendment Act, 1949*

This Act gave legislative effect to certain proposals of the New Zealand Counties Association in regard to county townships, and to a number of remits passed at recent Conferences of the Association and approved by the Government. The provisions relating to county townships represent an attempt to deal with the problem of providing services and facilities to urban areas in counties without constituting such areas as separate units of local government. This is a new experiment in county government in New Zealand which will be watched with great interest. The Act is divided into two Parts—

Part I authorizes County Councils, on a petition of a majority of ratepayers within a defined area, to constitute that area a county township for the purpose of constructing and maintaining public works for the improvement and development of the area. Provision is also made for areas to be added to or excluded from constituted townships. County Councils may also on the petition of a majority of ratepayers within a county township, make and levy a separate improvement rate on all rateable property within the township for the purpose of meeting the cost of the works to be carried out. A majority of ratepayers within a county township may petition the County Council to appoint a committee of the ratepayers to act in an advisory and consultative capacity.

Part II contains a number of miscellaneous provisions which cover the following range of subjects: Extraordinary vacancies: duration of office of Councillor; when triennial election not necessary; appointment of deputy chairman; annual allowance to chairman; making of special orders; travelling-allowances of officers; penalty for breach of by-laws; signing of cheques; balance-sheets; public recreation; private works; land for afforestation; fire-prevention by-laws; and renewal funds.

(2) *New Zealand Counties Association Act, 1949*

This Act provided for the incorporation of the New Zealand Counties Association and authorized the Association to engage in trading activities on behalf of County Councils.

(3) *Patriotic and Canteen Funds Amendment Act, 1949*

The purpose of this Act, which is more fully discussed under the heading patriotic purposes, was to provide for the amalgamation of all patriotic and war funds. The Act contained five major provisions. First, provision was made for the vesting of the funds of the National War Funds Council in the New Zealand Patriotic Fund Board; secondly, the trustees of war funds were authorized to transfer their funds to the New Zealand Patriotic Fund Board; provision was also made for the vesting in the New Zealand Patriotic Fund Board of the war funds of the Joint Council of the Order of St. John and the New Zealand Red Cross Society; the definition of "serviceman" contained in the

Patriotic and Canteen Funds Act, 1947, was extended to include servicemen of wars previous to the Second World War; finally, the constitution of the New Zealand Patriotic Fund Board was amended to include two representatives of discharged servicemen who served in wars prior to the Second World War.

(4) *Statutes Amendment Act, 1949, and Finance Acts, 1949*

Several sections included in these Acts, covering a wide range of local-government activities, were promoted by the Department.

Local authorities were authorized to contribute towards the cost of holding the British Empire Games in Auckland in February, 1950. Local authorities in the Canterbury Provincial District were empowered to expend moneys in connection with the Canterbury Centennial Celebrations. The powers of Borough Councils were extended to allow them to purchase publications containing photographic views of their respective boroughs.

The definition of "dangerous goods" in the Explosive and Dangerous Goods Act, 1908, was amended, and provision was made for the issue of certificates of proficiency in the use of explosives for blasting.

The provisions of the New Zealand Institute of Architects Act, 1913, and the New Zealand Society of Accountants Act, 1908, requiring the publication in the *Gazette* of lists of members of these bodies were repealed, and provision was made for such lists to be maintained at the registered office of each body.

The quota provisions of the Cinematograph Films Act, 1928, were extended until the year ending 31st December, 1954.

(5) *Anzac Day Act, 1949*

This was a consolidating enactment relating to the observance of Anzac Day in New Zealand. Anzac Day was declared to be a public-holiday, and the transfer of the holiday to any other day was prohibited.

(6) *Local Legislation Act, 1949*

As finally passed, this Act contained forty-one clauses covering a wide field of local-government activity.

(7) *Local Acts*

Fourteen local Bills were submitted to the Department for examination and report. In accordance with the usual practice the Department was represented at the meetings of the Local Bills Committee when these Bills were under consideration.

The Christchurch Tramway Board was authorized to increase its maximum rate in respect of the year ending 31st March, 1951. Certain lands which formed part of the bed of the Auckland Harbour were vested in the Auckland Harbour Board, in connection with the construction of harbour works. The Bluff Harbour Board was authorized to borrow moneys for the improvement of the Bluff Harbour. The Thames Borough Council was given authority to make and levy rates on behalf of the Hauraki Catchment Board; to remove trust provisions and mining reservations in respect of certain lands vested in the Council; to prevent the granting of mining privileges over the surface of such lands; and to sell or lease lands held in trust and to apply the proceeds for Council purposes. The Lyttelton Harbour Board was authorized to borrow moneys for the acquisition of land and the erection thereon of a waterfront industry building. The

Dunedin City Renewal Fund Commissioners were empowered to make advances to the Dunedin City Council for certain purposes. The Dunedin City Council was also empowered to engage in forestry operations. The Hutt Valley Drainage Act, 1948, was amended in regard to the Hutt Valley Drainage Board's borrowing-powers and the method of calculation of the assessment of contributions from contributing local authorities. Powers were vested in the Riccarton Bush Trustees to let the building known as Riccarton House. Additional powers were conferred on the Napier Harbour Board and the Napier Borough Council. The Whangarei Milk Authority was authorized to buy and sell certain milk-products and eggs. The Balclutha Borough Council was empowered to sell certain endowment land and to utilize the proceeds from the sale in the purchase for street-widening purposes of other land in the borough. The Lower Hutt City Council was empowered to establish and maintain community centres within the City of Lower Hutt, to raise and expend loans for such purposes, and to strike a rate or a levy to cover the costs involved.

(8) *Subsidiary Legislation*

The necessary action was taken in connection with the making of the following regulations :—

- (i) The Municipal Corporations Amending Regulations 1949.
- (ii) The Local Government Commission (Travelling Allowance) Regulations 1950.

C. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOOK

Publication of the book entitled "Local Government in New Zealand" which was edited by the late Mr. F. B. Stephens, was completed. Containing, as it does, the substance of the various lectures delivered at the two refresher courses held in 1947 for ex-servicemen local government officers, this book will prove invaluable to students of local government in this country, and will be of great interest to visitors from other countries who are connected with local-government work. These lectures, which were prepared by the foremost authorities in this country in their various spheres, will meet a long-felt want for an authoritative exposition of local government in New Zealand, and the demand for copies of the book is expected to be very keen. One thousand seven hundred copies of the book were printed of which 1,152 have been sold, the balance being held in stock for sale.

D. PETITIONS

The following parliamentary petitions were considered and reports duly submitted to the Local Bills Committee of the House of Representatives :—

- (1) F. Parker and others praying that a grant be made to the Waikiwi River Board for the purpose of repaying a loan.
- (2) P. Ryan praying for an amendment to the Rating Act, 1925.
- (3) Napier Leaseholders' Association praying for grant of freehold title to building-sections.
- (4) Marewa Ratepayers' Association praying for appointment of a Commission to investigate matters in the Marewa area of the Borough of Napier.

E. PATRIOTIC PURPOSES

The last annual report mentioned negotiations which were then proceeding for the purpose of amalgamating the Sick and Wounded Funds of both world wars. During the year the Joint Council of the Order of St. John and the New Zealand Red Cross

Society and the New Zealand Patriotic Fund Board successfully concluded these negotiations. Negotiations were also successfully concluded between the National War Funds Council and the New Zealand Patriotic Fund Board for the amalgamation of the various patriotic and war funds of both world wars. The Department was represented at the various discussions that took place. Consequent upon the successful outcome of these negotiations, the organizations concerned approached the Government for legislation to give effect to the agreements reached, and the requisite legislation was enacted in the Patriotic and Canteen Funds Amendment Act, 1949. This Act constitutes a milestone in the history of the administration of patriotic and war funds in this country, envisaging, as it does, the ultimate control of all funds by the one organization, the New Zealand Patriotic Fund Board. Apart from the Joint Council of the Order of St. John and the New Zealand Red Cross Society and the National War Funds Council which transferred their respective funds to the New Zealand Patriotic Fund Board on the 1st December, 1949, and the 1st April, 1950, the trustees of a number of other war funds have already commenced to transfer their funds to the New Zealand Patriotic Fund Board under the voluntary provision contained in the legislation. It is anticipated that numerous advantages will accrue to all the servicemen concerned as a result of the amalgamation of these funds, particularly as administration expenses will be reduced to a minimum and equal treatment will be given to all servicemen.

During the year, also, the necessary action was taken in regard to the presentation to both Houses of the General Assembly of the annual reports and statements of accounts of the New Zealand Patriotic Fund Board, the Canteen Fund Board, and the various Provincial Patriotic Councils. Approval was given to the constitution of a further two Provincial Patriotic Councils. All Provincial Patriotic Councils are now operating under constitutions drawn up and approved in terms of the Patriotic and Canteen Funds Act, 1947.

The necessary legislation was also promoted for the purpose of validating an agreement between the Auckland Veterans' Home Board and the New Zealand Patriotic Fund Board and the Canteen Fund Board for the purchase by the latter Boards of the Auckland Veterans' Home. This home will be used as a home for aged veterans of any war.

A number of inquiries and requests of a varied nature were also dealt with during the course of the year.

F. MISCELLANEOUS

The Spray, Waihaorunga, Hakataramea Valley, Conway, Kawareau, Pahau, Waitohi, Culverden, Cheviot, Amuri, Waitaki, Benmore, Earnsclough, Cairnhill, Aria, Lilburne, Wairaki, Glenorchy, Lindis, Forks, and Hawea Rabbit Boards were authorized to borrow moneys by way of overdraft for the first year of their existence.

The necessary arrangements were made for the appointment of members to fill vacancies occurring on the Board of Trustees of the National Art Gallery and Dominion Museum.

Land-agents and Auctioneers

During the year, 694 (720) land-agents' licences were issued and 2 (9) transfers granted; 510 (515) auctioneers' licences were issued and 1 (3) transfers granted. (Last year's figures in parentheses.)

One case of a defaulting auctioneer came before the Department during the year, the fidelity bond being estreated and the amounts owing to creditors being paid therefrom.

III. PHYSICAL WELFARE AND RECREATION

The work of the Physical Welfare and Recreation Branch has continued to expand in several directions.

GENERAL

Leadership training has once more held a prominent position among Branch activities, while community-centre projects have received a large measure of assistance in the way of advice and planning, and the introduction of suitable indoor-recreation programmes.

The general policy of assistance to sports clubs on request has been maintained.

Those sports and pastimes which have only recently been introduced, or are experiencing difficulty in becoming established, have also been substantially assisted by Branch Officers. Activities which have thus benefited include firms' recreation groups, women's cricket, women's bowls, indoor bowls, volleyball, and cycle-touring.

As a result largely of Branch activities in the past, softball and indoor basketball are now firmly established in the main centres and urban areas. Promotion of these sports during the period under review has therefore been confined in the main to rural districts, and the work has been well worth while.

Rural areas have also received coaching in cricket and athletics. A notable example of this was the work done in the Central and North Otago areas.

"Learn to swim" campaigns were conducted in seven districts during the summer months, in conjunction with the national "prevent drowning" campaign, with classes for all age-groups. The campaign in the Wellington district was again very successful and 1,254 people were taught to swim, an increase of over 700 on the number who received tuition last year. In future years it is proposed to place more emphasis on the safety angle of learning to swim.

Details of major projects and work carried out on a national basis are given below.

HUTT RECREATION WEEK AND PLAYGROUND SCHEME

A Hutt Valley "recreation week" was held in May, 1949, and was essentially an experiment towards creating a community spirit among the residents of a newly-settled and rapidly-expanding area.

The Branch, assisted by the Naenae Community Centre Committee wherever possible, organized and conducted the week's programme of recreation to show what could be accomplished with limited facilities.

Co-operation was sought and received from the Lower Hutt City Council and also all the Church groups in the area (who readily made their Church halls available), so that a full programme of recreation was enjoyed by children during the day and by adults at night.

As a follow-on from this recreation week, and as a consolidation of a certain community spirit aroused, a few recreation clubs were formed. However, the most important resulting project was the Naenae Community Playground Scheme.

The City Council set aside an area of land for a playground, which was developed so as to give most recreation to the greatest number.

Some of the residents who had shown particular interest in the recreation week were formed into a committee which was called the "Naenae Community Recreation Leaders Group." The function of this group was to teach games, allot playing times, and generally control the running of the playground, and towards this end two Branch officers conducted a course in leadership and games skills.

The playground was opened towards the end of 1949, and the activities were well patronized during the following summer months. However, as the entire scheme is the first of its kind to be organized in New Zealand and is still at present in the experimental stage, it is yet too early to prophesy its future popularity.

RECREATION LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The training of leaders for Church and community recreation groups has continued to be a major activity in all districts. A total of 201 Certificates of Leadership Proficiency were issued to candidates who completed the thirty-hour recreation leadership courses. From the commencement of the courses to date 544 certificates have been issued.

The second half of the hundred hour Advanced Leaders Course which commenced at Marton in January, 1949, was completed in May of the same year at St Andrew's College, Christchurch. Of the 60 leaders who commenced, 53 completed the course and 37 of those passed. Before any official recognition was made, a check on the practical application of the knowledge gained was carried out in the various districts. In some of the urban areas several of these leaders combined to form a "flying squad" and travelled from club to club providing direct instruction and leadership where needed.

Courses have been conducted in different areas for coaches and officials connected with various purely sporting activities. A decisive step in this line was the holding of the National Athletic Coaches School, marking the beginning of a wide scheme to provide trained coaches, officials, and leaders for many types of recreation. Organized and conducted by the Physical Welfare and Recreation Branch in full co-operation with the New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association, the course was held in two periods, each of seven days duration. The first period was in August, 1949, at Wellesley College, Wellington, and the second was over the Christmas and New Year holidays 1949-50 at Hukarere Girls' College, Napier. Forty coaches nominated by the athletic centres completed the course, and of these only 3 failed to qualify. The National Association has agreed that those coaches who passed the course will receive official recognition. As a result of the success of this first course of specialized training, it is proposed to conduct similar courses for other major sports, dependent on the specialist staff available.

PREVENT DROWNING PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN

Arising from representations to the Hon. the Minister of Internal Affairs by members of the National Committee of Swimming and Life-saving regarding the growing concern over the high rate of drowning during the summer months, a decision was made to have the matter considered by a representative committee. The Physical Welfare Branch convened a committee comprising representatives of the National Council of Swimming and Surf Life-saving, Education, Health, Broadcasting, Prime Minister's, and Internal Affairs Departments to consider this question and to bring forward recommendations to the Minister. The committee recommended unanimously that a large-scale educational campaign be conducted, and a sum of £5,500 from the Physical Welfare funds was subsequently approved to cover the expenses involved.

From November, 1949, to February, 1950, extensive use was made of press and radio publicity. Ten thousand copies of each of six posters were printed for distribution throughout the country. The production of publicity folders and stickers was delayed through printing difficulties, so that they could not be used during the campaign, but will be available for future campaigns.

Owing to the experimental nature of the campaign, and a late start, all the publicity was not distributed throughout the country at an ideal time, but the valuable lessons learnt will facilitate the running of future campaigns.

The following comparable figures are available :—

Year.	Deaths by Drowning.	Year.	Deaths by Road Accidents.
1947-48 (November to April) ..	87	1947-48 (November to April) ..	88
1948-49	82	1948-49	102
1949-50	67	1949-50	123*

* Subject to revision.

While it is possible that the decrease in drowning fatalities during the 1949-50 season may be partly attributable to the prevent drowning campaign, the committee does not feel that it can claim full credit. However, although the figures have shown a definite decrease, there is still much room for improvement, and to that end it is hoped that it will be possible to conduct further campaigns.

GRANTS

The allocation for grants available under the Physical Welfare and Recreation Act, 1937, remained at £50,000 for the period under review. Expenses for the National Athletic Coaches School and the prevent drowning campaign were drawn from this fund.

The approved grant expenditure was £46,649 5s., which, together with the accounts for the two above-mentioned schemes and a number of grants approved during the 1948-49 financial year, but not paid, brought the total expenditure during the 1949-50 financial year to £49,646.

Of 820 applications for grant assistance received during the year, 372 of those investigated as at 31st March, 1950, were approved.

The beneficiaries from grants were as follows :—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Bands	4,195	0	0	Memorials	900	0	0
Bowling clubs	3,310	0	0	Croquet clubs	805	0	0
Miscellaneous	3,170	0	0	Local authorities	600	0	0
Tennis clubs	2,976	0	0	Hockey clubs	565	0	0
Church organizations	2,532	0	0	Athletic clubs	535	0	0
Sports clubs	2,527	10	0	Girl Guides	500	0	0
Hall committees	2,486	0	0	Councils of sport	500	0	0
Boy Scouts	2,246	0	0	Basketball clubs	335	0	0
Mountain clubs	2,105	0	0	Rifle and gun clubs	261	0	0
Young peoples' clubs	2,065	0	0	Cricket clubs	253	0	0
Community centres	1,927	15	0	Archery clubs	125	0	0
Residents associations	1,822	0	0	Softball clubs	110	0	0
Golf clubs	1,535	0	0	Gymnasiums	100	0	0
Y.M.C.A.'s and Y.W.C.A.'s	1,500	0	0	Badminton clubs	97	0	0
Recreation grounds	1,305	0	0	Table tennis clubs	51	0	0
Swimming clubs	1,218	0	0	Boxing and wrestling clubs	10	0	0
Football clubs	1,050	0	0				
Boating and rowing clubs	1,025	0	0				
Recreation clubs	1,000	0	0				
R.S.A.'s	907	0	0				
				Total	£46,649	5	0

On a physical welfare district basis, payment of grant moneys was approved as follows :—

District.	Population.	Total Grants.		
		£	s.	d.
NORTHLAND (Mangonui, Hokianga, Whangaroa, Bay of Islands, Whangarei, Hobson, Otamatea, and part Rodney County)	73,290	2,602	0	0
AUCKLAND (Auckland Metropolitan Area, Eden, Waitemata, Manukau, Franklin, Coromandel, and part Rodney County)	381,150	9,665	0	0
WAIKATO (Waikato, Thames, Hauraki Plains, Ohinemuri, Piako, Raglan, Waipa, Kawhia, Otorohanga, Matamata, Waitomo, Taumarunui, and Kaitieke Counties)	162,220	3,766	0	0
ROTORUA (Taupo, Rotorua, Whakatane, Tauranga, and Opotiki Counties)	63,280	642	0	0
POVERTY BAY (Matakaoa, Waiapu, Uawa, Waikohu, Cook, and part Wairoa Counties)	41,180	820	0	0
HAWKE'S BAY (Hawke's Bay, Waipawa, Waipukurau, Patangata, Dannevirke, Weber, and part Wairoa Counties)	83,870	805	0	0
TAKANAKI (Ohura, Clifton, Whangamomona, Inglewood, Stratford, Taranaki, Egmont, Waimate West, Eltham, Hawera, and Patea Counties)	82,190	1,504	0	0
CENTRAL (Waimarino, Wanganui, Waitotara, Rangitikei, Kiwitea, Pohangina, Oroua, Manawatu, Kairanga, and part Horowhenua Counties)	113,960	2,643	0	0
WAIRARAPA (Woodville, Pahiatua, Akitio, Eketahuna, Mauriceville, Castlepoint, Masterton, Wairarapa South, and Featherston Counties)	38,080	725	0	0
WELLINGTON (Wellington Metropolitan Area, Hutt, Makara, and part Horowhenua Counties)	231,150	9,227	5	0
NELSON (Takaka, Collingwood, Waimea, and Murchison Counties)	37,300	1,005	0	0
MARLBOROUGH (Marlborough and Awatere Counties)	19,050	345	0	0
WEST COAST (Buller, Inangahua, Grey, and Westland Counties) ..	39,350	1,628	0	0
CANTERBURY (Christchurch Metropolitan Area, Kaikoura, Amuri, Cheviot, Waipara, Tawera, Kowai, Ashley, Oxford, Selwyn, Rangiora, Malvern, Eyre, Paparua, Springs, Ellesmere, Halswell, Wairewa, Akaroa, Mount Herbert, Heathcote, and Waimairi Counties)	211,641	5,040	0	0
SOUTH CANTERBURY (Ashburton, Geraldine, Mackenzie, Levels, and Waimate Counties)	66,160	866	0	0
OTAGO (Waitaki, Waihemo, Waikouaiti, Taieri, Peninsula, Bruce, Tuapeka, Vincent, Lake, and part Clutha Counties)	145,970	4,366	0	0
SOUTHLAND (Fiord, Wallace, Stewart Island, Southland, and part Clutha Counties)	83,460	1,000	0	0
Totals	1,873,301	£46,649	5	0

CAMPS AND CONFERENCES

As in the past, Branch assistance was made available for the organization of recreational activities in various camps, such as Y.M.C.A. and health camps, and at the New Zealand University Students' Congress held at Curious Cove, Marlborough Sounds. Another camp for business girls of the Otago area was conducted during the Christmas period. The venue this year was Stewart Island.

INFORMATION SERVICE

Material available for distribution to certificated and advanced recreation leaders has been kept up to date, assisted to a large extent by the interchange of information with overseas recreational agencies.

The Branch film library, which is slowly being built up with specialized coaching and recreation films, is receiving extensive use from the district offices. The introduction of film-loops from England into the library has been of great benefit to specialized coaching schemes. Extensive use was made of the athletic series at the Athletic Coaches School.

Motion shots of the 1948-49 National Athletic Championships taken by the Branch were also converted into loops and used at the Coaches School for pointing out common faults in technique. The Branch also holds sets on indoor basketball and association football, which receive much use during the winter season.

A further progressive step during the year was the purchase of five film-projectors, one of which is held at Head Office and four distributed among the main centres. The value of such visual aids in the promotion of all types of recreation cannot be over-emphasized and is supported by reports from similar organizations in Great Britain, the United States of America, and Canada, as well as from our own districts.

Information bulletins on a number of major sports played throughout the country have been published and are in great demand. The bulletins are made available through the various district officers to newly-formed clubs, coaches, and other instructors.

Arrangements are in hand for the cataloguing and filing of the large number of photographs on all forms of recreation held by the Branch. When this is completed, displays will be made available through the districts for publicity purposes in connection with any campaign being conducted.

The first series of photographs and sketches of athletes in competitive action has been completed and was used with noteworthy success at the Athletic Coaches School. As it was not possible to again obtain the services of the artist who originally drew for the scheme, the production of further series has been unavoidably delayed, but it is hoped that this work will be continued during the coming year.

STAFF TRAINING

At the end of 1949, 5 junior women officers completed a two years' training course and were posted to districts as qualified officers.

Early in 1950, a further 10 women trainees were appointed and will undergo a similar course, covering all aspects of Physical Welfare work. In addition to this scheme, young or relatively inexperienced officers are placed under direct supervision in the larger district offices and undergo systematic training in a practical way.

During the year a number of Branch officers underwent a "Training Within Industry" Course conducted in Wellington by the Labour and Employment Department. It was evident from this course that the methods demonstrated were definitely applicable to Physical Welfare work, and a ten hours' T.W.I. Course was held at the annual conference for all officers.

PHYSICAL WELFARE OFFICERS CONFERENCE

A combined conference of all Physical Welfare Officers was held at the City Mission Camp, Otaki, in December, 1949. This conference was the first to be held since 1947, and therefore presented an opportunity for evaluating work done over the past two years. The programme consisted mainly of lectures and discussions, and the opportunity was taken to acquaint officers with the work being done in similar directions by other Departments. The plans for the 1950 work were considered comprehensively, and a set programme was laid down for each district. It was decided that the main objectives on a national basis would be the popularizing of indoor bowls and volleyball, and the conducting of "learn to swim safely" campaigns and recreation leadership courses. A new departure was the decision of conference to hold regional courses to adopt uniform methods of implementing this programme. As a result, three courses—each of two weeks duration—were held at Dunedin, Palmerston North, and Auckland, respectively, during March and April.

RURAL RECREATION

The work of providing recreation in rural areas has continued and has been most successful in the Poverty Bay, Central Otago, Southland, Northland, and Waikato areas. Various types of indoor recreation were the most popular, with an emphasis on indoor bowls in the Northland and Waikato areas. Padderminton was popular in Poverty Bay, and in Central Otago and Southland preference was given to indoor basketball as a winter activity.

MOUNTAIN TRACKS AND HUTS

To facilitate as far as possible access to the scenic beauty of the back country, assistance in the way of grants has been given to tramping, alpine, and ski clubs, for the establishment of tracks and huts for use by the public.

The chain of huts through the Harper Pass (from Canterbury to Westland) has not been used as much during the past year as previously. This has been due to the non-replacement, as yet, of a key hut which was destroyed early last year by floodwaters. Negotiations for the completion of this chain are at present in hand, and it is hoped that the public will be able to make full use of the huts again in the near future.

IV. WILDLIFE BRANCH

A. STAFF

During the year several more appointments were made to the field staff. Most of these were men who had had a number of years experience as deer-hunters and had proved their suitability for permanent appointment. There are still a number of vacancies unfilled, and while quite a number of applications for appointment have been received, most of these men have not the required attributes for the work nor the years of experience in the wildlife fields to warrant appointment. During the year a special course was held at Rotorua for likely appointees, and those who measured up to the Department's needs were appointed as Second Grade Field Officers.

The clerical staff has been strengthened by the appointment of a divisional clerk, and applications have been called for an officer to deal with correspondence. The filling of these positions should ensure that the important aspects of clerical administration will keep pace with the ever widening field-work.

A Senior Field Supervisor's position has also been created, and this officer will be responsible for co-ordinating all field-work and for the preparation and conduct of training courses to impart the latest techniques.

The shortage of trained biologists has meant that a great deal of necessary research work has had to be curtailed and important spheres of research, extremely vital for the effective carrying-out of the work of the Branch, have not been touched. It is hoped that further appointments, to replace recent resignations, will be made this year and so enable the research work to be extended to meet the need.

Two additional technical trainees were appointed during the year. One was seconded to the Marine Department for training in fresh-water fisheries work. The other was placed in the Investigation Section for training on biological problems.

B. FIELD INVESTIGATIONS AND RESEARCH

(1) *Waterfowl*

The biologist assigned to this work spent several months at the University preparing a thesis. Portions of this thesis, together with a number of other works on field activities, are now in the course of preparation and should be released for publication at an early date.

The work at the existing trapping and banding station in the Manawatu was augmented this year by the addition of two further stations at Lake Waikare, Ohinewai, and at Titiri, Lake Waiholo. This will give an improved basis for the statistical analysis of hunting losses, longevity, and range of flight. The banding was done by specially-trained members of the ranging staff, under the supervision of a Field Officer attached to the research section. In the course of these operations, between January and March, over 4,000 ducks were banded.

A biologist studied ecological aspects of vegetation in relation to waterfowl while participating in the ecological survey of the Northland lakes conducted by the Fresh-water Fisheries Division of the Marine Department.

The Wellington Acclimatization Society again gave valuable assistance through the services of its ranger, Mr. T. Andrews. Acknowledgments are also made to the Councils and staffs of the Otago and Auckland Acclimatization Societies for assistance in banding operations.

(2) *Wallabies*

No further studies have been possible on the economic significance of these animals.

(3) *Opossums*

Further experiments in methods of poisoning opossums were continued in the Poverty Bay area.

Surveys on the distribution and incidence of this pest were continued in the central and southern portions of the North Island, Wanganui, Auckland, Blenheim, and Canterbury districts. To fulfil the need of educating the public in regard to the damage done by this animal, articles containing suitable methods of trapping which were published during the year in the *Journal of Agriculture*, were reprinted in bulletin form and widely distributed to interested persons. Many additional inquiries for this information have been received.

When the survey has been completed it is intended to institute a campaign throughout the country against this pest in an effort to regain control.

(4) *Deer*

An ecological survey on the habits of deer in the Kaimanawa Ranges has been carried out. A report is in course of preparation and will soon be ready for release.

Further work of a similar nature is being pursued in the Southern Tararuas.

(5) *Native Birds*

Surveys have been made of island sanctuaries with the object of finding suitable refuges for species of rare birds. This work is in continuance of that instituted in the previous year.

Parties were organized to visit the habitat of the takahe (*Notornis*) to conduct fundamental research into the little-known habits of the species. Prominent ornithologists were invited to participate.

Evidence of a camp of moa hunters was discovered by Mr. K. Miers, an officer of the Department. Authority was granted to ethnologists to study the moa remains and much valuable historic data has accrued.

(6) *Fisheries (Rotorua and Southern Lakes Acclimatization Districts)*

Details of eel-trapping operations in the Southern Lakes District were made available by the Senior Fisheries Officer of the Marine Department. He proposed that eels should be trapped at varying depths with nets and hand-lines to provide further data for the assessment of eel populations and the effectiveness of trapping programmes. He remarked that it would be useful to have information regarding the size of eels in Lake Wakatipu. These suggestions are being carried out.

Statistics of catches have also been compiled from the diaries of private anglers, and this year has seen greater co-operation in this method of procuring data. This was only the second year of operation and it is hoped the coming years will find an even greater measure of co-operation.

(7) *Field Observers' Reports*

Further conservation directives were issued to field officers to encourage recording of rare species of native birds. The response has been gratifying and has assisted in clarifying contemporary distribution.

(8) *Field Records and Library*

The indexed collection of photographs is steadily growing. Reports on wildlife and the collection of data are being registered and these, together with pictorial illustration, are proving to be of great value and interest. A recent addition to the photographic collection included a series depicting the takahe.

The field staff have shown a keen interest in the library established for their use. Reference material was catalogued and arranged on the basis of an orthodox library system in order to make the contents more easily available.

(9) *Other Research Work*

In the course of the expedition to Fiordland last year a visit was paid to Resolution Island by a biologist to search for takahe and to determine the suitability of the island as a sanctuary for kakapo which are rapidly decreasing. Large numbers of these birds were transported there at the end of the nineteenth century by Mr. R. Henry, an eminent authority on New Zealand native birds. It was unfortunate that the visit was hampered by bad weather and only a limited survey could be made of the high country of the island. No positive signs of the birds were found. Small numbers were found, however, in the area between Charles and George Sounds.

In conjunction with Dr. O. J. Murie, the scientific leader of the expedition, a study was made of the effects of red deer and wapiti on the forests of Fiordland. Before Dr. Murie's return to America the material collected was examined and assessed by departmental officers. Data obtained from this study has been the subject of an internal departmental report, but further work will be necessary before this information can be published.

An interim report on the whole of the activities of the Fiordland expedition is in course of publication as an interdepartmental report.

The possibility of using virus disease to destroy the cat population on Great Barrier Island was studied.

Studies of quail and chukor were conducted mainly in the Southern Lakes Acclimatization District, and a short preliminary paper on the findings of these investigations in regard to chukor has been published.

A full survey was made of the distribution and economic importance of Canadian geese. They have proved to be destructive to farm lands at Lake Ellesmere, but they are a difficult game bird to shoot and, except during the moulting season, are difficult to control. Measures are at present being considered when control can be obtained at the breeding-grounds in the ranges.

C. ADMINISTRATION OF ANIMALS PROTECTION AND GAME ACT, 1921-22

(1) *Absolutely Protected Birds*

The second meeting of the committee of field ornithologists took place in September. This committee was set up to advise the Department on measures required for the protection of rare native birds. The preservation of the takahe, kiwi, kakapo, brown duck, native crows, and other birds was discussed. Action was taken in regard to the Committee's recommendations.

Takahe.—During the year four parties entered the Takahe Valley. All were led by an experienced field officer. Representatives of the National Film Unit and the National Publicity Studios were authorized entrance. The comprehensive films and stills obtained for public screening and reference met to a great extent the public interest in this bird. An exhaustive statement which described the official policy for preservation of the birds, their life history, and rediscovery, was released to the press.

Plans were prepared before the breeding-season to control vermin in the valley. It is too early to assess whether these practical measures will help to preserve the takahe from extinction.

Bird Protection on Otago Peninsula.—To encourage successful breeding of albatrosses at Taiaroa Head existing fences were repaired and a new fence erected in the sanctuary. The area was infested by rabbits and in order to discourage illegal shooting they were poisoned. One chick was killed by a ferret and action has been taken by the Department to destroy any such animals which may prove a danger to the birds. Additional honorary rangers have now been appointed.

Reliable information has shown that interference and destruction of habitat is steadily reducing the number of protected shags and penguins on the peninsula. Interference by visitors and by dogs has accelerated the reduction. Flax planted the previous year in various bays has become established and further plantings have been carried out in two more localities in order to establish nesting cover for yellow-eyed penguins.

North Island Weka.—Several birds have been taken from the restricted area where they still survive and placed in captivity for breeding in order to establish a stock. At a later date surplus birds will be released in a suitable environment.

Kakapo.—Presence of the kakapo on Stewart Island has now been confirmed. Only the feathers of the parrot had previously been seen there.

Parakeets.—The illegal retention of these birds has been widespread. It is realized that aviculture plays an important part in the preservation of rare species but it can also be harmful. An appeal was therefore made to holders of native parakeets to notify the Department and so legalize the retention of the birds. Permits to keep them will be issued where suitable conditions exist.

Brown Duck.—As a result of recommendations made by landowners in the Waipu district a habitat of brown duck was declared an excepted area from shooting in the game season.

Small numbers were found on the Great Barrier Island. To assist with the survival of this interesting bird in this area four honorary rangers were appointed.

King Shag.—Inspections were made of islands in the Cook Strait area where these birds breed. Four honorary rangers were appointed for the birds' protection.

Ringling Schemes.—Members of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand were authorized to ring several species of sea-birds under the supervision and control of the Society.

(2) Sanctuaries

Two new sanctuaries were declared: Portion of the Gisborne Borough Waterworks Reserves in the East Coast Acclimatization District and a portion of the Tore Paru Swamp in the Auckland Acclimatization District.

(3) Revision of District Boundaries

The headwaters of the Ruakituri River were transferred from the East Coast Acclimatization District to the Rotorua Acclimatization District for the more efficient fisheries management of certain waters. The new boundary lies on the upper watershed between the Ruakituri and Hangaroa Rivers.

(4) *Imported and Native Game*

Shooting seasons were declared in all acclimatization districts.

Throughout the year special permits were issued to destroy Canada goose and pukeko where damage was being done to private property.

Inquiries in regard to the habits and the food of the Australian stubble quail were completed.

(5) *Importation of Animals and Birds*

A large number of applications for permission to import animals and birds was received. Authority to import several undesirable species was requested. After careful consideration such applications were declined.

Requests to release the ban on the importation of parrots were received, but after consultation with interested Departments it was decided that the ban was to stand, because the risk of introducing parrot fever was too great.

(6) *Opossums*

Further representations have been made that a flat rate of bounty on opossums should be paid generally throughout New Zealand. The field survey, which should be completed during the coming year, already shows, however, that the problem differs greatly in various parts of the country. It is apparent from the evidence available that any bounty suggested would be costly with no guarantee that the money expended would bring about any marked improvement in vital watershed areas. To ensure the achieving of such an improvement a high rate of bonus coupled with adequate field supervision would be necessary.

A grant of £1,000 was made to assist the Egmont National Park Board in coping with the special situation which has arisen in the area under its control. This sum has been used by the Board to augment its own available funds in payment of a bounty in that area. This scheme, carried out under strict supervision by the Board's field staff, has obtained useful results. Further proposals are under consideration, and the methods employed are being closely watched to see whether or not they are useful for adaptation elsewhere.

(7) *Acclimatization Societies*

At meetings of the North and South Island Councils several questions of administrative importance have been discussed. The lively initiative of societies in such questions as the amalgamation of small societies into stronger units more in keeping with modern communications, technical training for their employees, financial assistance for weaker societies, and research into vermin problems is most encouraging. Departmental officers have, by invitation, attended several meetings relating to amalgamations and have given all possible assistance.

(8) *Animals Protection and Game Act, 1921-22*

It has long been realized that the existing Act, which has not been substantially amended since it came into force in 1922, was in need of overhaul and amendment in order to orient it to present-day conditions but the extremely difficult staffing conditions have, in the past, precluded the undertaking of this work. During the year it has been found possible to assign an officer of the Branch to this work and considerable progress has been made.

D. NOXIOUS WILD ANIMALS CONTROL OPERATIONS

(1) *Operations*

General operations were undertaken over the main areas of infestation. A total of 104,815 animals including 37,404 deer were destroyed and 13,111 deer-skins were recovered.

Some of the areas worked in previous years were again made available for private stalkers and good work was done by this means in keeping down the deer population in such areas.

(2) *Special Campaigns*

The experimental campaign against opossums in a limited area was continued with improved results.

A winter campaign against wallabies in the Hunters' Hills region of South Canterbury was again undertaken. Further action against these animals is required to bring them under control in this region.

(3) *Wild Pigs*

Control work in east Taranaki - western King-country was continued during the winter months in conjunction with operations against wild goats. As a result of this campaign it is considered that the numbers of these animals in the areas concerned are now so reduced that efforts by local residents can keep the animals in check.

(4) *Tahr and Chamois*

No special operations were conducted in the Mount Cook region, but the numbers of these animals destroyed during the year has increased and this is particularly so as far as chamois are concerned. As an incentive to deer-destruction employees to destroy tahr and chamois encountered during normal deer-destruction operations, the bonus on the former animals has been increased and this step has given satisfactory results.

A survey of country in south Westland where chamois occur was undertaken during the year from which it is evident that operations against those animals will be necessary in that area.

(5) *Wild Goats*

The wild-goat population in the Marlborough-Nelson area having been reduced by previous years' operations to a degree where their numbers can be kept in check by locally-controlled operations, an arrangement with the Marlborough East Coast Branch of the Federated Farmers Institute was entered into regarding wild goats in that area. The arrangement has achieved successful results and several requests for a similar arrangement have been received from other branches of the Federated Farmers' Institute.

(6) *Stewart Island*

As a result of the cutting of additional tracks to deer-infested areas and of the inception of a more permanent form of organization very satisfactory results are being obtained. The number of animals destroyed during the year was more than double the number destroyed during the previous year.

(7) *Noxious Animals Destroyed*

The table set out hereunder covers the numbers destroyed in the various operational districts. For comparative purposes a similar table covering the year ended 31st March, 1949, is also included.

FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1950

Operational District.	Deer.	Goats.	Chamois.	Tahr.	Pigs.	Wild Sheep.	Wild Cattle.	Wallabies.	Oposums.	Rats.	Cats.	Totals.
Central North Island ..	..	10,398	..	..	871	720	5	..	..	..	..	17,832
Southern North Island ..	5,838	3,657	..	..	367	235	..	..	..	..	..	4,463
Nelson-Marborough ..	1,213	1,239	..	..	130	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,642
Canterbury - North Westland ..	13,632	35	2,363	278	54	..	..	..	121	..	..	16,503
Southern Lakes ..	14,943	116	215	369	7	..	..	7,947	137	..	..	28,334
Stewart Island ..	971	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	87	13	8	1,080
Colaga Bay ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38,804	..	..	38,804
North Auckland ..	..	4,537	..	..	..	..	..	..	224	16	..	5,137
Totals ..	37,404	19,463	2,578	847	1,436	955	5	7,717	34,373	29	8	104,815

FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1949

Operational District.	Deer.	Tahr.	Chamois.	Goats.	Pigs.	Wild Sheep.	Wallabies.	Oposums.	Wapiti Cross.*	Wild Cattle.	Wild Cats.	Rats.	Hares.	Totals.
Central North Island ..	2,880	..	..	6,322	688	274	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,016
Southern North Island ..	1,060	..	..	2,907	64	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,942
Nelson-Marborough ..	1,020	..	..	10,467	864	1,639	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14,492
Canterbury-Westland ..	14,718	883	..	35	139	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,482
Southern Lakes ..	13,004	..	..	391	338	2	..	..	16	..	..	..	..	13,601
Stewart Island ..	415	..	..	..	14	..	..	..	27	..	8	..	..	472
Special campaigns—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poverty Bay (oposums) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16,809	..	..	..	525	60	17,394
Waitemate (wallabies) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,790	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,790
Totals ..	33,906	887	1,858	17,924	1,807	1,915	6,790	16,886	16	2	8	533	60	82,592

* Wapiti x Red Deer.

DESCRIPTIONS OF DISTRICTS REFERRED TO ABOVE

1. The *Central North Island District* embraces the country lying to the north of a line commencing at Wangamui, running thence due east to the Manawatu Gorge, and thence in the same direction to Napier, and bounded on the north by a line running due east from Kawhia Harbour to Tauranga.

2. The *Southern North Island District*—All that portion of the North Island lying to the south of the southern boundary of the Central North Island District.

3. The *Nelson-Marborough District*—That portion of the South Island lying to the north of a line commencing at the mouth of the Grey River on the west coast, thence following the left bank of that river to its source, thence along the summit of Spencer Mountains to the watershed between the sources of the Clarence and Sabine rivers, and thence in a straight line to the mouth of the Conway River.

4. The *Canterbury District*—All that portion of the South Island to the south of the southern boundary of the Nelson-Marborough District and bounded in the west by the Southern Alps from the point where that range is crossed by the southern boundary of the Nelson-Marborough District to Mount Cook, thence due east to Timaru.

5. The *Southern Lakes District*—All that portion of the South Island lying to the south of the Canterbury District and including the west coast south of a line running due west from Mount Cook to the sea.

6. The *Canterbury-Westland District* (in table for year ended 31st March, 1949, only).—All that portion of the South Island bounded on the north by the southern boundary of the Nelson-Marborough District, on the south by a line commencing at Akaroa, passing through the mouth of the Rakaia River, and thence along the coast to the Point of the Sails, thence to the mouth of the Rakaia River, and thence along the coast to Makahia and Karamea Rivers to the main divide at the head of the Muller Glacier thence in a direct line to Timaru, and on the west and east by the sea.

The figures show a considerable increase over those for the previous year. This is largely the result of the upward trend in opossums destroyed.

The introduction of air transport of supplies to personnel engaged in operations against deer has resulted in facilitating operations against these animals in more remote and inaccessible areas and, in conjunction with the fact that the improving staff position has made it possible to commence operations in additional areas, has resulted in a considerable increase in the number of deer destroyed. It is evident, however, that operations against these animals must be further intensified.

(8) *Personnel*

All officers have had a strenuous year and their efficiency in their work is most commendable.

E. ROTORUA ACCLIMATIZATION DISTRICT

(1) *The 1949-50 Fishing Season*

Many limit bags of well-conditioned fish were taken during the season, more especially in the Taupo Trout-fishing District where fishing at the mouths of some of the main rivers and streams was, at times, good.

In the Rotorua Trout-fishing District during the middle portion of the season fishing was particularly good at the mouths of some of the streams.

A large number of anglers visited both districts.

In all, for the 1948-49 season, 5,736 licences were sold for the Rotorua Trout-fishing District and 10,007 for the Taupo Trout-fishing District. An analysis of the sales was made according to the angler's address given on each cash licence. The extent to which anglers from neighbouring acclimatization districts visit the Rotorua Acclimatization District is shown by the following table:—

ROTORUA TROUT-FISHING DISTRICT

Place of Residence, by Acclimatization Districts.	Number of Licences Sold.
Auckland	2,473
Rotorua Trout-fishing District	1,863
Tauranga	335
East Coast	347
Wellington	344
Hawke's Bay	242

TAUPO TROUT-FISHING DISTRICT

Place of Residence, by Acclimatization Districts.	Number of Licences Sold.
Wellington	3,356
Auckland	2,543
Hawke's Bay	1,492
Waimarino	650
Taupo Trout-fishing District ..	559
Rotorua Trout-fishing District	431
Wanganui	488

Numbers of excellent-conditioned fish were taken, as will be evident from the following records of fish for both districts:—

(a) TAUPO

Weight, lb.	Numbers of Fish Recorded.
16	1
15	1
14	1
12	2
11	3
10	14
9	26
8	57

(b) ROTORUA

Weight, lb.	Numbers of Fish Recorded.
18	1
15	1
14	3
10	5
9	3
7	33
6	63

(2) *Fisheries Conservation*

(a) Ova were recovered and laid down in the two hatcheries for “eyeing” or complete incubation as follows :—

No. 1 (Ngongotaha) Hatchery (Rotorua area)	2,410,000
No. 2 (Tongariro) Hatchery (Taupo area)	5,358,000

Of the above ova 1,914,000 were sold to acclimatization societies and 1,435,000 were sent to the Department’s Southern Lakes District.

(b) *Restocking of Waters*.—Fry were liberated in the district as under :—

Waters.				Hatchery.	Rainbow.	Brown.	Totals.
Rotorua area .. ..	..	..	..	No. 1	1,661,000	500,000	2,161,000
Taupo area .. ..	..	..	..	No. 2	144,000	..	144,000
Totals .. ..	..	..	..	..	1,805,000	500,000	2,305,000

A total of 100,000 fry was sold to the Tauranga Acclimatization Society.

In addition 109,000 rainbow fingerlings are being held in ponds at No. 1 Hatchery, Rotorua, and 40,000 are held at Castleton’s ponds.

(c) *Trout Food*.—Smelt are still abundant in most of the lakes throughout the district.

(d) *Anti-poaching Measures*.—Operations against out-of-season taking of fish were continued this year. A considerable number of persons committing offences were prosecuted and eight fines amounting to £31, with Court costs in addition, were imposed.

(e) *Black Shag Control*.—The following black shags were destroyed :—

(i) Under bounty paid by the Department	280
(ii) Destroyed by departmental officers	134

(3) *The Game-shooting Season*

The sum of £1,927 10s. was received from the sale of 1,288 game-shooting licences.

(4) *Game Conservation*

(a) *Game Farm*.—A total of 1,218 pheasants and 29 mallard grey crossbred ducks were liberated.

(b) *Vermin Control*.—The table hereunder shows the numbers of the various species on which bounties were paid under the scheme operated by the North Island Vermin Control Board and those destroyed by departmental officers :—

—	Hedge-hogs.	Hawks.	Stoats.	Felcats.	Rats.	Cats.
(i) Destroyed under North Island scheme	1,252	795	209	48	..	..
(ii) Destroyed by departmental officers ..	41	39	7	..	99	4

(c) *Anti-poaching Measures*.—The intensive operations against illegal taking of trout were extended to cover operations against persons committing breaches of the Animals Protection and Game Act, 1921–22, and regulations thereunder.

(5) *Absolutely Protected Birds*

The operations referred to in (c) above covered the illegal taking of absolutely protected birds. Special attention was paid to the illegal taking of native pigeons.

Fines imposed in respect of all prosecutions for breaches of the Animals Protection and Game Act, 1921–22, and regulations amounted to £92 10s.

F. SOUTHERN LAKES ACCLIMATIZATION DISTRICT

(1) *The 1949-50 Fishing Season*

Fishing throughout the season was good in spite of the unsettled weather conditions. This was specially so in the case of the Clutha, Hawea, and Makarora Rivers where good-conditioned fish were caught right up to the close of the season.

The improvement in the size and condition of fish taken continues, and it is evident that results are now accruing from the heavy restocking of district waters which was commenced when the Department assumed control of the district and is still being carried out.

In all, for the 1948-49 season, 1,300 licences were sold. An analysis of sales was made according to the angler's address given on the licence. The five districts showing the highest figures were (North Island figures are shown as one unit):—

Otago	..	..	..	..	..	456
Southern Lakes	..	..	..	..	..	247
Southland	..	..	..	..	..	389
North Island districts	..	..	..	..	..	63
North Canterbury	..	..	..	..	..	56
Westland	..	..	..	..	..	28

(2) *Fisheries Conservation*

(a) *Fish Salvage*.—Owing to the wet season no rivers dried up, but owing to a change of course in the Lindis River it was necessary to salvage 1,800 fish. These were reliberated in the Clutha and Hawea Rivers.

One thousand fish salvaged during the artificial straightening of the course of the creek flowing into Lake Hayes, were reliberated in the new channel of that creek.

(b) *Hatchery Operations*.—The hatchery at Lake Hayes commenced operations on the 29th April, 1949. A total of 2,373,000 brown-trout ova was collected and disposed of as follows:—

720,000 to the Federation of West Coast (North Island) Acclimatization Societies.

375,000 to the Wellington Acclimatization Society.

500,000 to the Department's Rotorua Acclimatization District.

100,000 to the Hawke's Bay Acclimatization Society.

185,000 to the Otago Acclimatization Society.

493,000 were laid down for complete incubation at the Wanaka Hatchery.

From the Department's hatchery in the Taupo district a total of 1,435,000 rainbow-trout ova was received and these were distributed as follows:—

Te Anau Hatchery	..	..	..	..	..	600,000
Wanaka Hatchery	..	..	..	..	..	835,000

(c) *Restocking of Waters*.—Liberations of fry were made as follows:—

Waters.				Rainbow.	Brown.	Totals.
Lake Hawea system	..	..	..	189,000	..	189,000
Lake Wanaka system	..	..	..	251,000	262,000	513,000
Lake Wakatipu system	..	..	..	571,000	11,000	582,000
Lake Te Anau system	..	..	..	265,000	..	265,000
Grand totals	..	..	..	1,276,000	273,000	1,549,000

(d) *Destruction of Black Shags*.—Eighty-nine black shags and 21 eggs were destroyed by departmental officers and 26 heads of these birds were presented by private persons for payment of the bounty.

(e) *Destruction of Eels*.—Staff shortages militated against a full implementation of the campaign this year. Limited operations were, however, carried out and 504 eels were destroyed. Fewer eels than usual were seen in the rivers in the district. Members of the Clutha Rod and Gun Club assisted by departmental officers arranged an eel drive in February, 1950, at Glendhu Bay, Lake Wanaka, and 267 eels were destroyed.

(f) *Ranging*.—No breaches of the Fresh-water Fisheries (Southern Lakes) Regulations 1945 were detected during the year. The district is particularly fortunate in this respect and few breaches occur.

(g) *Research*.—For recording purposes 4,220 fish were marked when passing through the trap in Lake Hayes Creek. A further 102 fish netted in the lake were also marked. While officers of the Department gathered a good deal of information from anglers' diaries, co-operation in these by anglers is not entirely satisfactory. Much more could be learned if anglers co-operated more fully.

(3) *Animals Protection and Game Act, 1921-22*

(a) *The 1949 Game-shooting Season*.—The season opened in fine weather. Paradise and grey duck were numerous over most parts of the district, but very few birds were shot after the first few days of the season owing to the large expanses of water to which they migrate and remain in safety by day.

Californian quail are very plentiful. More Canadian geese were shot than normally and there is evidence that shooters are commencing to appreciate the sporting qualities of this bird. Chukor are plentiful especially in the Wanaka, Hawea, and Cromwell areas.

The sum of £370 was received from the sale of 246 game-shooting licences. The tendency towards increasing sales of these licences still continues.

(b) *Game Conservation*.—The table hereunder shows the number of various species on which bounties were paid under the scheme operated by the South Island Vermin Control Board :—

Stoats	..	..	..	..	..	1,615
Polecats	..	..	..	..	..	63
Ferrets	..	..	..	..	..	1,327
Hawks' feet (pairs)	..	..	..	..	..	967
Hedgehogs	..	..	..	..	..	585
German owls	..	..	..	..	..	134

(4) *Absolutely Protected Birds*

(a) Officers of the Department are vigilant in preventing the illegal taking of absolutely protected birds.

The native pigeon is increasing in the Queenstown, Hawea, and Manapouri areas.

(b) *The Takahe*.—Officers of the Department are watchful of the welfare of the recently discovered colony in the Te Anau area. A number of stoats has been destroyed in the area and a careful watch on these animals will be maintained.

No further colonies of takahe have yet been discovered.

G. GLOSSARY.

Smelt (*Retropinna lacustris*).
 Rainbow trout (*Salmo irideus*).
 Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*).
 Yellow-eyed penguin (*Megadyptes antipodes*).
 Royal albatross (*Diomedea epomophora*).
 Black shag (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).
 King shag (*Leucocarbo carunculatus carunculatus*).
 Gannet (*Sula serrator*).
 Paradise duck (*Casarca variegata*).
 Mallard duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*).
 Grey duck (*Anas poicloryncha*).
 Brown duck (*Elasmonetta chlorotis*).
 Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*).
 Black swan (*Cygnus atratus*).
 Pied stilt (*Himantopus leucocephalus*).
 North Island weka (*Gallirallus greyi*).
 Takahe (*Notornis hochstetteri*).
 Pukeko (*Porphyrio melanotus*).
 Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus* and *P. torquatus*).
 Stubble quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*).
 Californian quail (*Lophortyx californica*).
 Chukor (*Alectoris chukar*).

Pigeon (*Hemiphaga novae seelandiae*).
 Little (German) owl (*Athene noctua*).
 Kea (*Nestor notabilis*).
 Parakeets (*Cyanorhamphus auriceps* and *novae seelandiae*).
 Kakapo (*Strigops habroptilus*).
 Crows (*Callaeas cinerea*).
 Tuatara (*Sphenodon punctatus*).
 Opossum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*).
 Wallaby (*Wallabia rufogrisea*).
 Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*).
 Hare (*Lepus europaeus*).
 Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*).
 Polecat (*Mustela foetidus*).
 Ferret (*Mustela foetidus*).
 Stoat (*Mustela erminea*).
 Cat (*Felis domesticus*).
 Wild cattle (*Bos taurus*).
 Wild sheep (*Ovis* sp.).
 Goat (*Capra hircus*).
 Pigs (*Sus scrofa*).
 Tahr (*Hemitragus jemlaicus*).
 Chamois (*Rupicapra tragus*).
 Red deer (*Cervus elephus*).
 Wapiti (*Cervus canadensis*).

V. FILM CENSORSHIP

The figures for the period reflect fairly substantial increases in nearly all phases of the work handled by the office of Censor and Registrar of Films. A total of 1,578 films of all classes, totalling 4,479,200 ft., were examined, as compared with 1,573 films, totalling 4,274,700 ft., in the previous year—an increase of nearly 5 per cent. in total footage. There were considerably more “quota” (or feature-length) films, though “non-quota” (or short) films were rather fewer. In the following analysis, figures for the previous year are given in parenthesis:—

Origin.	Quota (or Feature) Films.		Non-quota (or Short) Films.	
	Number.	Length (in Feet).	Number.	Length (in Feet).
British	76 (66)	615,890 (581,180)	508 (563)	508,900 (589,750)
Foreign	332 (302)	2,799,290 (2,526,320)	662 (642)	555,100 (577,450)
Totals	408 (368)	3,415,180 (3,107,500)	1,170 (1,205)	1,064,100 (1,167,200)

Countries of origin of the quota films were as follow: Great Britain, 73 (last year, 65); United States of America, 320 (last year, 290); France, 3; Russia, 4; Italy, 3; Australia, 2; New Zealand, 2; Palestine, 1; Yugoslavia, 1.

EXCISIONS AND CERTIFICATES

During the year cuts affecting 143 films were made, as compared with 85 in the previous period; the number of films recommended as being more especially suitable for adults (“A” certificate) was 127, as against 154 last year; and the number

recommended as being unsuitable for children ("Special A" certificate) was 46—including two shorts and one serial—as against 28. Two films were granted certification for screening by film societies only.

This year saw the introduction of a new use for an already-existing type of special conditional certificate, by extending it to permit the ordinary theatrical exhibition of certain films to specified age-groups only. Its two-fold effect is definitely to exclude children under the specified age from seeing films which are considered much too mature, or in other ways quite unsuitable, for them; and at the same time, by so doing, to make it possible for adults to see films which might otherwise have to be banned entirely or else cut drastically. Thus the interests of adults as well as children are safeguarded. Up to the end of March, 4 films had been granted certificates of this type, though not all of these had been released for exhibition by that date. This new usage for an old certificate is still on trial, but reactions up to the end of the period under review have been most satisfactory, and the innovation has been widely welcomed. To it may be partly attributed the fact that no films had to be rejected outright this year, as compared with 4 rejections by the Censor in the previous period.

APPEALS

Although no films were banned outright, appeals affecting 7 films were heard by the Board of Appeal. In 3 of these cases the distributors appealed against certain excisions required by the Censor, 2 of the appeals being rejected and 1 upheld. Three other appeals were against the type of certificates given by the Censor; 2 of them, against "Special A" certificates, were rejected, and 1 against an "A" certificate was allowed, the film being approved for universal exhibition as a result. The remaining appeal was against rejection by the Censor of a film examined in the previous year, the Board upholding the Censor's decision and disallowing the appeal.

TYPES OF EXCISION

There has been much recent discussion, especially in reports from Great Britain, about the incidence of undue violence in the content of many current films, and its alleged relationship to certain types of crime. The British Board of Film Censors has twice in the past year protested to Hollywood producers about the inclusion of such material in their pictures. In view of this, there may be fairly wide interest in the results of an analysis which has, for the first time, been prepared by the New Zealand Censor to show the reasons for the excisions made in the films submitted to him during the year.

A total of 147 individual cuts, involving 97 films, were made on the grounds of wanton violence, unnecessary brutality, over-prolonged fighting, over-emphasis on murder, sadism, torture, terrifying or gruesome incidents, and scenes of women being struck by men. In 20 of the above films, the incidence of the offending material might be described as very marked. The number of individual cuts made for all other reasons was 63, involving 46 films. Thus out of every 10 cuts which had to be made, 7 were for reasons which may be embraced under the general heading of "violence."

Further analysis of the "violent" material removed by the New Zealand censorship shows that 30 separate cuts involving 25 films (6 of them trailers) were made because the striking of women was shown; 15 cuts were made because of an undue emphasis on torture, flogging, or physical intimidation; and there were 51 individual cuts, involving 38 films, to remove terrifying or gruesome elements.

(NOTE.—Some films demanded cutting for "non-violent" as well as "violent" reasons, and some contained a mixture of the "violent" elements, so that there is a certain overlapping of the figures in this respect.)

Of the 63 separate excisions made for reasons other than "violence," 33 cuts (involving 25 films) were made on the score of what may be very broadly described as "sex"—that is, unduly suggestive scenes or dialogue, but including also coarse expressions, &c. It will therefore be seen that, especially as compared with manifestations of violence, sex is an element in screen entertainment which is not particularly troublesome to censorship to-day. It may be noted, too, that 36 per cent. of the cutting which had to be carried out for this reason was done in British pictures, whereas less than 9 per cent. of the films affected on the score of violence were British. To put these percentages in correct perspective, however, account should be taken of the fact that less than one-quarter of the feature films examined during the period were of British origin.

It should be pointed out that not only were a good many of the cuts of all kinds of a relatively minor nature, but also that, as a result of making them, it was possible in some cases to avoid total rejection of the films concerned, and in others to make films suitable for universal exhibition which would otherwise have to be given the "A" or "Special A" classification.

GENERAL

New miniature films examined in the period showed an increase to 159 (including 9 features) from 95 in the previous year. A total of 655 certificates were issued for reissue copies of films. This figure was made up of 522 certificates for 16 mm. prints of both features and shorts previously released in standard size (the corresponding figure last year was only 287), and 133 certificates for standard-size reissues of features and shorts.

Pictorial publicity material—*e.g.*, posters and photographs—for 393 feature films was examined during the year, as compared with 340 last year. On an average 1,650 separate pieces of publicity material were examined monthly, and of this number an average of 20 pieces were rejected or amended each month.

A good deal of the work described immediately above is at present largely of a formal or routine nature and makes disproportionate demands on the facilities of the office while in other directions as well experience indicates that some of the legislation is in need of overhaul. Consideration is now being given to various proposals designed to produce improvements in the general working of the censorship system and bring it more up to date.

Revenue from fees during the year totalled £1,697, a slight increase on the previous year. It may be noted that the work of the office is self-supporting.

During the year, Mr. W. A. von Keisenberg retired, after eleven years' service as Censor and Registrar of Films and nine years as Assistant Censor.

VI. DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

The most important distinguished visitors who came to New Zealand last year were His Excellency Admiral Sir Hugh Binney, K.C.B., D.S.O., Governor of Tasmania, Lady Binney, and Lady Lawrence; Sir Henry Hallett Dale, O.M., G.B.E., F.R.S., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., and Lady Dale; Lady Spencer, Lady-in-waiting to Her Majesty the Queen; Mrs. John Curtin, Australia; Mr. Paul Bastid, French Deputy, and Political Director of the newspaper *Aurore*; Hon. M. O'Sullivan, Minister of Transport and Railways, New South Wales, and Senator Critchley; Hon. E. F. Paul, M.L.A., of Western Samoa, and Mrs. Paul; Hon. Fonoti Ioane, M.L.A., Western Samoa; Hon. A. Stowers, M.L.A., Western Samoa; Hon. W. H. Watson, M.L.C., Cook Islands; Sir Frank Newson-Smith, Bart., former Lord Mayor of London; Right Hon. Sir John Milne-Barbour, M.P., (Northern Ireland); Sir Rupert Shoobridge, President, Legislative Council of Tasmania, and Lady Shoobridge; Sir William Currie, G.B.E., Chairman, P. and O. Company, and

Lady Currie ; Sir J. Angus Gillan, Representative of the British Council in Australia ; Sir Alexander Mackenzie Livingstone and Lady Livingstone ; Senator M. J. van Breda, South Africa ; Mr. G. S. Garfield Todd, M.P., Southern Rhodesia, and Mrs. Todd ; Hon. E. C. Isaac, M.P., Victoria, and Mrs. Isaac ; and Admiral Pizey, Member of the United Kingdom High Commissioner's staff, Canberra, and Mrs. Pizey.

Leading churchmen who visited this country were Dr. J. Hutchison Cockburn, Director of the Reconstruction Department of the World Council of Churches, and General Albert Orsborn, C.B.E., head of the Salvation Army, and Mrs. Orsborn.

Among the leading press personalities were Mr. Gavin Astor, of *The Times*, London ; Mr. F. A. E. Ellis, Paris representative of the *London Daily Mail* ; and Mr. Peter Hennessy, cameraman for "This Modern Age," J. Arthur Rank Production.

Other distinguished visitors were Dr. Gaha, former M.L.C. for Tasmania, and also leader of the Opposition in Parliament of Tasmania, and Mrs. Gaha ; Dr. Ronald Jarman, a prominent London Anaesthetist ; Miss Marjorie Lawrence, Australian singer and her husband Dr. T. King ; Mr. J. Forrester-Paton, Chairman of the World's Alliance of the Y.M.C.A., and Mrs. Paton, a World President of the W.C.T.U. ; Dr. D. J. Patton, an American geographer ; Mr. Maurice Pate, Executive Director, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund ; Mr. Maurice Passmore, Chairman, Seed Committee, National Farmers' Union, England ; Mr. E. J. Riches, Economic Adviser, International Labour Office, Geneva ; Mr. P. S. McGovern, Federal Commissioner of Taxation, Australia ; Mr. L. Farrer-Brown, Secretary, Nuffield Foundation, and Mrs. Farrer-Brown ; Dr. E. L. Palmer, of Cornell University ; and Mr. Ian Rettie, "Otaki" Shield Winner, 1949.

Important missions and delegations that came during the year were the United Kingdom Mission to inspect dockyard and docking facilities, the members of which were Rear-Admiral (E) L. A. Taylor, C.B.E., and Mr. L. E. Hoggan ; Air Vice-Marshal R. L. R. Atcherley, C.B.E., A.F.C., Air Commodore R. G. Bowditch, and Air Commodore M. K. Janjua, Pakistan Air Force delegates ; the United Kingdom Planning Mission ; and the Australian Trade Delegation.

One of the major activities of the Branch arose out of the British Empire Games which were held at Auckland. Mr. A. E. Porritt, C.B.E., F.R.C.S., Chairman of the British Empire Games Federation, and Mrs. Porritt, and Captain K. S. Duncan, M.C., Hon. Secretary of the Federation, were the principal guests. At the conclusion of the Games, tours through the North and South Islands were arranged for the Rhodesian, Ceylonese, Nigerian, Fijian, English, Scottish, Welsh, and Canadian teams. In addition, Mr. H. J. Oaten, representative of the *Evening News*, London, was granted the usual facilities. A preview of the British Empire Games film was held in Wellington.

STATE FUNCTIONS

In addition to functions tendered to some of the visitors mentioned above, State luncheons were held in honour of His Excellency Mr. Emmanuel Lancel, Minister of France in New Zealand ; His Excellency Mr. Alexander Alexandrov, Minister of the U.S.S.R. in New Zealand ; His Excellency Mr. C. R. Price, C.M.G., High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in New Zealand ; and Mr. C. W. Strath, Economic Planning Mission, England.

Appropriate functions of farewell were tendered to Sir Patrick Duff, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., and Lady Duff ; and Mr. R. Boulter, C.M.G., Economic Adviser and Senior Trade Commissioner for the United Kingdom in New Zealand.

Morning-tea receptions were held in honour of Sir William Halcrow and Mr. J. P. Thomas ; Sir Stanley Unwin ; and Dr. J. L. Savage, U.S.A., a world authority on hydro-electric schemes.

During the year morning-tea receptions were given to certain visiting sporting teams, including the Australian Rugby Football Team, the Australian Rugby League Football Team, the Australian Surf Life-saving Team, the Australian Ski Team, and Messrs. Richard Bergmann and Victor Barna, Table-tennis stars.

Appropriate welcomes were given on their return to the New Zealand Rugby Football Team and the New Zealand Cricket Team, and a farewell was held in honour of the New Zealand Rugby Football Team prior to its departure for South Africa.

This Branch assisted in organizing the campaign for Compulsory Military Training.

Early this year the Australian Fleet visited New Zealand, and also during the period under review the French Sloop "Francis Garnier" berthed at Auckland. The usual hospitality was extended.

As in the past, the Department acknowledges the help and assistance given by all local authorities and the Maori people, which assisted materially in entertaining guests of Government.

VII. WAR HISTORY BRANCH

Progress in research for both the service and civilian volumes of the official history of New Zealand's part in the Second World War and in the writing of preliminary narratives was continued during the year. On the publication side, six more of the Branch's productions in the illustrated popular series were produced and others will follow at regular intervals. One volume in the unit history series, the History of the 1st Ammunition Company, has been published, met great success, and has been sold out.

A. DOCUMENTS

Unexpected delays in publication of the first volume of the series of official documents relating to New Zealand's participation in the Second World War occurred, but it is now promised by June, 1950. The typescript of the second volume was sent to the Commonwealth Relations Office in the United Kingdom and approval to publish was obtained. The third volume in this series is almost completed.

B. POPULAR SERIES

Twelve numbers in this series have now been published and more are in preparation. Sales have been very good.

C. OFFICIAL HISTORY

Research for the Army campaign volumes and the writing of narratives has continued and several sections have been completed. As they are completed, sections of these narratives are being sent to the historians, several of whom have begun work on their volumes. The exchange of narratives and information with the other historical sections of the British Commonwealth is operating satisfactorily.

The prisoner-of-war history is the most advanced and should be published next year.

For the two projected volumes on the Royal New Zealand Navy and on New Zealanders in the Royal Navy the research is well advanced. Several of the sectional narratives have been completed and good progress is being made with the writing of the main narrative. Research for the Royal New Zealand Air Force volumes is within twelve months of completion. The greater part of the narrative work has been completed or is nearing completion and the writing of the first drafts of the history is proceeding. Work is continuing on the medical and dental volumes and the research for the civilian histories is also progressing well.

D. UNIT HISTORIES

Two more of the projected twenty volumes in this series are nearly completed. The Chaplains' History is almost ready for publication. The authors of the other volumes report varied progress.

E. HISTORY OF NEW ZEALAND CONTINGENTS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR

This volume has now been published.

F. TRANSLATION OF ENEMY DOCUMENTS

Valuable material has been obtained by the translation of captured German documents lent to the branch by the Historical Division of the United States Army. A member of the Branch's staff has been attached to the New Zealand Embassy at Washington, and has supplied translations of many interesting and valuable enemy documents.

VIII. WAR GRAVES

A. BURIALS IN NEW ZEALAND

During the year the deaths of 1,775 ex-servicemen were registered by the Division, compared with a total of 1,806 for the previous year.

B. HEADSTONES AND BRONZE PLAQUES

A total of 418 headstones and 310 bronze plaques were ordered during the year. Of these figures 337 headstones and 247 bronze plaques for graves of servicemen who died not as a result of war service were paid for by relatives or branches of the N.Z.R.S.A. They were able to make these arrangements through the Department at a reduced cost. The balance of headstones and bronze plaques respectively—*i.e.*, those not paid for by relatives and branches of the N.Z.R.S.A.—were supplied by the Department at the cost of the Government since the deceased were reported by War Pensions Department as having died as a result of war service.

C. SERVICEMEN'S CEMETERIES IN NEW ZEALAND

Considerable work in the construction of servicemen's cemeteries in New Zealand was carried out during the year, and the classification and respective numbers of such cemeteries as at 31st March, 1950, is shown below:—

(1) Original type of layout, graves covered with concrete using upright headstones	10
(2) Semi-lawn, using upright headstones set on narrow concrete beams ..	37
(2a) Semi-lawn, using sloping bronze plaques set slightly above ground-level ..	10
(3) All lawn, with plaques at ground-level	62
(4) Proposed new cemeteries or others under construction	11
	<hr/> 130

The above figures differ slightly from those shown in previous reports on account of the reclassification of some existing cemeteries and the alteration in type of proposed cemeteries before work actually commenced.

Generally speaking, a very good standard of maintenance of servicemen's cemeteries in New Zealand was provided during the year by local bodies and branches of the N.Z.R.S.A. concerned. Officers of the Department inspected many servicemen's cemeteries during the year, it being found necessary to defer payment of the Government grant towards cost of maintenance in one case only where the particular cemetery was not being properly cared for. The Government paid during the year the sum of £2,751 12s. 8d. as a contribution towards the upkeep of servicemen's cemeteries.

D. HISTORICAL CEMETERIES

Essential renovations and improvements to some historical cemeteries and graves were carried out under arrangements made by the Department.

E. OVERSEAS GRAVES

Of the 11,863 casualties suffered by the New Zealand Forces during the Second World War, decisions in respect of 45 deaths only, are awaited. These are cases where search for the bodies and graves has not yet been completed. It is expected that information will be received from the Service Departments concerned at an early date.

IX. ELECTORAL OFFICE

The past year has undoubtedly been the busiest in the history of the Branch. While disposing of work that was on hand from the recent special gaming and licensing polls, the usual extensive arrangements were put in train for the 1949 general election. A cleansing of European rolls preparatory to printing, and the compilation and printing of the first Maori rolls for use at the general election, were carried out simultaneously with preparations for and the holding of a further special poll on the question of compulsory military training. Considerable reorganization was necessary to preserve the continuity of these various undertakings and to ensure their completion within restricted time-limits.

LEGISLATION

The Military Training Poll Act, 1949

The purpose of this Act was to ascertain, at a special general poll, the will of the majority of European and Maori electors upon the proposal that provision be made for compulsory military training.

Provision was made for using the general and supplementary rolls used at the last general election, together with the supplementary roll prepared for the poll taken under the Gaming Poll Act, 1948, and a further special supplementary roll of recent registrations.

The Act further provided for the European and Maori vote to be taken simultaneously, under the appropriate rules of the Electoral and Licensing Acts, on a date to be fixed by the Governor-General by Order in Council.

The Licensing Amendment Act, 1949

Provision was made in this Act, in accordance with Government policy, for Maoris to vote at general licensing polls.

There is also provision for special local polls on the question of Trust control, to be held if "local restoration" is carried in any no-licence district.

Statutes Amendment Act, 1949

Several sections of this Act are machinery clauses in connection with preparation of rolls. Further provision is also made as to campaigning by candidates at election-time.

The Electoral (Postal Voting) Regulations, 1949

While retaining the essential basic principles of the existing postal-voting system, these regulations adjusted weaknesses as revealed from experience at the 1946 elections. The principal alterations in the new system are:—

- (i) Applications for postal votes are required to be in writing.
- (ii) The form of declaration obviates the necessity for the elector to strike out reasons not applicable to his right to vote as a postal voter.
- (iii) "Authorized witness" to the elector's declaration includes similar classes of persons overseas to those authorized in New Zealand. This facilitates voting by electors temporarily absent from New Zealand.
- (iv) Authority is given to Customs officers to issue postal votes and so facilitate postal voting by seamen.
- (v) A scheme is provided by which officers appointed by the Electoral Department may arrange for postal voting by patients in hospitals or by inmates of other similar institutions.

The Electoral Regulations 1928, Amendment No. 4

These regulations prescribed simplified forms of declaration for use by absent and declaration voters.

THE COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING POLL

On the 3rd August, 1949, a special poll was taken in all electorates under the Military Training Poll Act, 1949, on the question of compulsory military training. A special supplementary roll, which closed on the 11th July, was printed and used at this poll in conjunction with the 1946 rolls and the supplement prepared for the gaming and licensing polls.

The return of votes polled and the declaration of the result of the poll were gazetted on the 25th August, 1949.

CLEANSING OF ROLLS

A restricted cleansing procedure was followed in preparing the rolls for the general election. As those who had voted as ordinary voters at the recent gaming and licensing polls could be assumed to be still residing in the electorates in which they had voted, inquiry notices were sent only to those who had not voted or who had voted as absent voters outside the electorates for which they were registered. This procedure reduced below normal the risk of removing names of persons who were qualified to vote, and was as effective in ensuring clean rolls as the usual system of sending notices to all registered electors.

PREPARATION AND PRINTING OF ROLLS

Upon completion of the cleansing work, the preparation of the rolls for printing was proceeded with.

The general rolls for European electorates were closed on the 5th September, and the supplementary rolls on the 7th November.

In accordance with the usual practice, the roll-printing work was allocated, through the Federation of Master Printers of New Zealand, to printers situated in or near to the headquarters' towns of the various electorates.

Maori Rolls

To avoid the period when printing facilities throughout the country would be taxed to capacity in the production of the European rolls, the Maori rolls were closed on the 20th June, to which date 31,091 enrolments had been effected.

The supplementary rolls for the Maori electorates were closed for printing on the 7th November with 3,805 further names.

GENERAL ELECTION AND LICENSING POLLS

Writs for the general election were issued on the 7th November, 1949, fixing the following dates:—

Nomination day	..	..	..	..	16th November.
Polling-day—					
Maori	..	..	..	..	29th November.
European	..	..	..	..	30th November.
Writs returnable by	..	..	..	..	17th December.

Contested elections were held in all electorates, 196 candidates (European and Maori) being nominated.

Simultaneously with the parliamentary elections the general licensing poll was taken in all electorates (including Maori electorates), and in each no-licence district the usual local-option licensing poll was held.

From the administrative point of view it can be said that the elections were well conducted despite the fact that preparations were appreciably retarded by the work of the special polls earlier in the year. However, a redeeming feature of those polls was that the majority of polling officers acquired useful knowledge and experience of their duties in the booths and proved more efficient at the general election.

LICENSING COMMITTEES' ELECTIONS

In terms of the Licensing Act, 1908, which provides for elections of Licensing Committees after every licensing poll, these elections were held on the 14th March, 1950, in 27 licensing districts where the number of candidates nominated exceeded the 5 required for a Committee.

X. EXPLOSIVES, DANGEROUS GOODS, CINEMATOGRAPH THEATRES

LICENCES

The following licences were issued during the year:—

Importation of Explosives.—Polar gelignite, 1,341,250 lb.; polar gelatine dynamite, 141,650 lb.; polar ajax, 133,900 lb.; polar quarry monobel, 172,450 lb.; polar A2 monobel, 568,750 lb.; geobel, 5,000 lb.; blasting-powder, 82,500 lb.; sporting-powder, 41,538 lb.; plain detonators, 821,000; E.D. fuses, 1,242,000; safety-fuse, 28,688 lb.; fireworks, 77,108 lb.

Other licences issued during the year were: Conveyance, 161; sale, 488; storage, 438.

Dangerous Goods.—During the year, 2,482 licences were issued as against 2,328 for the preceding year.

Cinematograph Films.—Licences issued under the Cinematograph Films Act for the year ended 30th September, 1949, were as follows: Exhibitors', 511 (561); itinerant exhibitors', 36 (25); renters', 8 (17); storage, 21 (12); miscellaneous, 10 (7). The figures in parenthesis are the corresponding ones for the previous year.

EXPLOSIVES-TESTING STATION

Further progress towards the re-establishment of these facilities has been achieved during the year. Authority for the necessary alterations and additions to the testing-station building has been obtained, and work on this part of the project is expected to commence shortly. A small amount of equipment was received during the year but delivery of the majority of the items ordered will apparently be protracted owing to production difficulties overseas.

USE OF EXPLOSIVES

This office continued, as in the past to assist the Post and Telegraph Department in the training of employees in the use of explosives. Investigations into complaints of defective explosives have also been conducted at the request of the Works Department.

INSPECTION WORK

As envisaged in the last annual report it has been possible to extend inspection coverage throughout New Zealand. Although it has not yet been possible to achieve the aim of complete coverage once a year, satisfactory progress towards this end is being made, and with recent increases in inspection staff the desired objective should be achieved in the near future.

LOCAL-AUTHORITY ADMINISTRATION

Local-body licensing authorities under the Explosive and Dangerous Goods Amendment Act, 1920, number 163. This is the same figure as in the past few years, there having been no change in this direction.

AMENDMENT OF LEGISLATION

Substantial progress has been made towards the completion of the proposed new regulations to replace the Dangerous Goods Regulations 1928. The regulations have now been printed in draft form and are shortly to be circulated to trade interests concerned. During the year two minor amendments were made to legislation. These comprise the insertion of a section in the Explosive and Dangerous Goods Act, 1908, giving power to issue certificates of competency in the use of explosives to specialized classes of user, and an alteration to the Explosive and Dangerous Goods Amendment Act, 1920, bringing all fuel oil within the definition of dangerous goods.

INDUSTRIAL EFFICIENCY ACT

Reference was made in the last annual report to negotiations with the Bureau of Industry for the adoption of a simplified procedure in handling and routing applications and annual returns. As an outcome of this a satisfactory arrangement has now been reached whereby applications within the areas administered by local-body licensing authorities under the Act are now sent direct to the Bureau of Industry without having to pass through this office as was previously the case. This arrangement not only assists to speed up the handling of such applications, but also relieves this office of a burdensome task.

CINEMATOGRAPH THEATRES

During the year the parliamentary committee set up to inquire into the operations of the motion-picture industry completed its work and published its report. The report contains recommendations which, if put into effect, will have far-reaching consequences, particularly in so far as the licensing of theatres is concerned. Action has already been taken to implement a recommendation of the Committee that the aggregation of theatres by chain interests should be controlled. To this end, amending regulations known as the Cinematograph Films (Issue of Exhibitors' Licences) Regulations 1937, Amendment No. 2, were enacted in September. These regulations define in some detail what constitutes "control" of a theatre, and go on to give the licensing officer power to refuse to transfer a licence to or issue an additional licence to any person, company, &c., which has a control of 10 or more theatres. Provision is also made to require an applicant for transfer of an exhibitor's licence to obtain the precedent consent of the licensing officer. Whilst the powers conferred by these regulations are extremely wide they are permissive in form.

Many problems of considerable perplexity still arise in connection with applications for licences to exhibit 16 mm. commercial entertainment film. In the absence of specific legislation there is no option but to apply the existing regulations, and confusing situations thus frequently arise. The determination as to whether an application is or is not one for commercial exhibition becomes in practice a matter of no little difficulty, and the position is not made easier in that certain classes of applicant do not apparently scruple to endeavour to cloak what is in fact the commercial exhibition of ordinary entertainment films under the guise of community activities, film clubs, &c. These difficulties will persist until regulations are brought down clearly defining the powers of the licensing authority to the screening of 16 mm. films.

XI. RACING

With the coming into force on the 15th December, 1949, of the Gaming Amendment Act, 1949, many important changes have taken place.

The major provisions of the Act have authorized :—

- (1) The establishment of an off-course betting scheme to be administered by an organization set up by the New Zealand Racing Conference and New Zealand Trotting Conference. The scheme is to be approved by the Minister of Internal Affairs.
- (2) The doubles totalizator.
- (3) An additional 19 totalizator permits for trotting (as recommended by the Royal Commission on Racing and Gaming).
- (4) An extension of section 45 of the Gaming Act, 1908, to permit the use of the "equalizator" at non-totalizator meetings.

For the current racing year ending 31st July, 1950, the allocation of totalizator permits is 240 days for racing and hunt clubs and 99 days for trotting clubs.

Non-totalizator permits for meetings on 151 days were issued for the year ended 31st March, 1950.

The reintroduction of the doubles totalizator which operated on the 17th December, 1949, for the first time since 1907, was carried out smoothly. Discussions between departmental officers and the various totalizator supervisors resulted in a uniform method of operation.

It is interesting to note that an amount of £505,051 10s. was invested on the doubles totalizator during the period 17th December, 1949, to 31st March, 1950. The average daily double during that period was £104 for £1.

Inspectors of the Department attended all totalizator meetings to ensure compliance with the law regarding the operation of the totalizators.

Particulars of the investments and the details of the taxation thereon are published in the *Monthly Abstract of Statistics*.

XII. RAFFLES AND ART-UNIONS

Thirteen licences were issued during the year for the regular £5,000 art-unions, the aggregate result of these being :—

	£
Gross sales	281,405
Commission on sales	42,208
Expenses	33,102
Lottery duty	28,138
Net profit	112,946

Out of the commissions on sales district agents are required to find office accommodation, clerical assistance, telephones, postages, and exchange.

The following allocations were made during the year :—

	£
Mayoral and other recognized central relief of distress funds	39,918
Charitable and philanthropic organizations	32,410
Childrens' health camps	9,855
Miscellaneous grants to individuals in need	3,969
CORSO	5,000
Cultural fund	19,740

Six hundred and thirty-four licences for small raffles were issued under section 42 of the Gaming Act, 1908.

The Gaming Amendment Act, 1949, made several important changes in the law relating to raffles. Major changes are :—

- (1) Real and personal property may now be raffled. Formerly, licences to raffle were issued only in respect of works of art and mineral specimens.
- (2) Authority is given to any Superintendent or Inspector of Police or any member of the Police Force authorized by such Superintendent or Inspector to issue raffle licences where an individual prize does not exceed £10 in value, and where the total value of the prize does not exceed £25.

Any Superintendent or Inspector of Police or any member of the Police Force authorized by such Superintendent or Inspector may from time to time approve organizations to conduct raffles provided the value of the prizes in any raffle does not exceed £5.

XIII. PASSPORTS

New passports totalling 10,357 were issued, and 203 renewals were granted where the traveller was already in possession of a passport.

During the year, authority for the issue and renewal of New Zealand passports was granted to the Charge d'Affaires, New Zealand Legation, Paris, and to the New Zealand Trade Commissioner at Bombay.

XIV. NATURALIZATION, NATIONALITY, AND CITIZENSHIP

The following shows the number of applications granted under the British Nationality and New Zealand Citizenship Act, 1948, during the year under review :—

Naturalization certificates granted	139
Registrations of alien married women	60
Registrations of British subjects as New Zealand citizens	25
Registrations of alien minor children	13

Facilities are now available at New Zealand overseas posts for persons with claims to New Zealand citizenship and resident abroad to apply for citizenship by registration. A small number of applications mainly from wives of New Zealand citizens have been received and dealt with.

Arrangements are being completed to provide for the registration of the births and deaths of New Zealand citizens in foreign countries.

XV. TRANSLATION SERVICE

In the past all translation work for Government Departments was carried out on a part-time basis by the then Naturalization Officer. The demand for translations, however, has been increasing steadily for some years and the volume of work finally grew to such an extent that a full-time translator had to be appointed. The increased demand for translation has arisen particularly in the technical and scientific fields. Research being world wide, a specialist can only keep up to date, especially in a geographically isolated country like New Zealand, by being able to read also material published in foreign languages.

All correspondence in foreign languages addressed to any Department of the Government in New Zealand, including Departments not under Commission control, is handled by the Translation Service. In addition, any documents in foreign languages received

by various Departments have to be translated. The following Departments, to name but a few, have made extensive use, during the year under review, of the facilities provided :—

Customs Department: Correspondence by intending immigrants and foreign documents submitted in connection with immigration.

Department of Internal Affairs—Naturalization Section: All documents supporting applications for naturalization.

Department of Justice and Prisons: Censoring of prisoners' mail in foreign languages—*e.g.*, ship deserters.

Prime Minister's Department: Foreign correspondence in various languages and draft conventions submitted by overseas bodies for the consideration of the Government.

Government Railways: Translations of overseas technical reports on railway electrification and related matters, making use of valuable technical experience gained overseas over many years.

Department of Scientific and Industrial Research: Translations of overseas scientific papers, reports, articles, &c.

Social Security Department: Translation of all foreign documents supporting applications for age-benefits, family benefits, &c.

State Hydro-electric Department: Translation of a comprehensive technical report on the largest French hydro-electrical scheme in connection with the visit of an American expert inspecting New Zealand water-power installations.

In addition to this, certified translations of documents are provided for members of the general public on request, such as overseas matriculation certificates, &c., for which fees are charged. The increased number of foreign immigrants, especially displaced persons, has augmented the work in this connection.

Government Departments were circularized during the year, informing them that all overseas periodicals and magazines of a technical or scientific nature received by them on an exchange basis could be submitted for translation of tables of contents. Summaries are made in the first instance so as to enable them to keep abreast of modern developments overseas of interest to them, and this service is being used increasingly.

The Service also assisted with some translation problems in connection with the Conference of social security experts representing various overseas countries, held in Wellington in February, 1950. It is pleasing to note that several Departments have made known their approval of the service provided.

While the translator handles the greater number of the main European languages himself, a panel of part-time translators, including experts in many fields of science and technics, is in existence, and also some rarer languages such as Chinese, Arabic, Fijian, and Tahitian, and some of the Indian languages were dealt with. Several interpreters were made available to the Magistrates' Courts from the translators' panel, when required. It has so far been possible to handle all translation problems within this country, without recourse to overseas linguists.

XVI. WAR MEMORIALS

The policy of encouraging the establishment of "living" war memorials in the form of community centres was furthered during the year by the approval in principle of a number of new projects. Of 72 under consideration, 40 were approved, involving a subsidy of approximately £188,000.

XVII. COMMUNITY CENTRES

Following a Government decision in May, 1949, to subsidize community centres not being established as war memorials, consideration was given to a number of schemes submitted. Three schemes were approved, the subsidy involved being approximately £38,000, and others were under review at the close of the year.

XVIII. ADVERTISING BRANCH

Casual Government newspaper advertising-costs recorded for the year ended 31st March, 1950, totalled £47,778 4s. 8d., an increase of £6,339 14s. 1d. over the total listed for the previous twelve months. Approximately half of this increase was due to advertising in the general election.

The Press Section maintained the supply of newspaper clippings to Ministers of the Crown, Government Departments, and the nine overseas posts. Counts taken at intervals indicate that approximately 4,500 clippings are despatched weekly.

XIX. WAR FUNDS ACT, 1915

As a result of proposals made by the National War Funds Council, and agreed to by the New Zealand Patriotic Fund Board and the New Zealand Returned Services' Association, the amalgamation of 1914–19 war funds with 1939–45 patriotic funds was authorized by the Patriotic and Canteen Funds Amendment Act, 1949 (further details appear under "Section II, Local Government, E. Patriotic Purposes").

The purpose of the amalgamation, as authorized by this legislation, is that the funds concerned should be available for welfare assistance to those who served the Crown in any war the same as provided for those who served in the Second World War and thereby to avoid all differentiation in benefits.

Under this provision, the number of war funds operating under the War Funds Act, 1915, was, at 31st March, 1950, reduced to 38, holding assets valued in the latest balance-sheets received at £385,581 9s. 5d.

This is a reduction of 10 organizations and of £25,136 15s. 4d. as compared with the figures shown in the last annual report.

The great bulk of the funds of the remaining societies will be transferred to the New Zealand Patriotic Fund Board during the ensuing twelve months.

XX. GENERAL

A. HISTORICAL BRANCH

The Historical Atlas continues to be dogged by lack of draughtsmen and the nomadic nature of its own staff. This latter handicap is reflected mainly in the economic geography section, where progress has been slower than anticipated. Improvement here seems rather remote unless the attenuated staff can be strengthened. Research for the rest of the work is much more advanced, and the next step is dependent on the good offices of the Lands and Survey Department.

During the year the Branch assisted the Maori Purposes Fund Board in publishing Sir Peter Buck's "The Coming of the Maori," and completed the publication of Mr. Roger Duff's "The Moa-hunter Period of Maori Culture." It continues, in a minor key, to act as a clearing-house for inquiries of an historical nature.

B. "MOTURAU MOANA," STEWART ISLAND

During the year plans were completed for Moturau Moana—a large two-storied house set in 2 acres of native garden, donated to the Government by Miss N. I. Baker—to be used in accordance with the donor's request. A permanent caretaker was

appointed and the house is available to *bona fide* research students, preferably but not necessarily of biology. The house can accommodate up to six students at a time, and the only fee charged is to cover actual expenditure.

The garden, for which Miss Baker was awarded the Loder Cup, specializes in native flora and has attracted the attention of a great number of visitors.

C. POMPALLIER HOUSE, RUSSELL

The work of restoration has now been completed and suitable period furniture is being sought to place in the house, which is to be established as a museum specializing particularly in local history. Many thousands of visitors have been shown the house by the resident caretaker during the year. The gardens make a good setting for the historic building.

D. CULTURAL FUND

During the year financial assistance was given from surplus art-union moneys to a number of cultural organizations and individuals studying the arts overseas. It is gratifying to note that a number of these students are distinguishing themselves in their particular fields, and that grants made to organizations such as the New Zealand Drama Council are being wisely used to foster the arts in New Zealand.

E. NEW ZEALAND LITERARY FUND

During the year, on the recommendation of the New Zealand Literary Fund Advisory Committee, 12 grants involving a total expenditure of £1,786 were made to assist chosen books and writers. The grants include subsidies on publication, travel grants, and typing costs.

F. LICENSING OF CINEMATOGRAPH OPERATORS

One hundred and forty-nine new applications for provisional and assistant operator's licences were considered, as compared with 136 for the previous year.

Fifty new provisional licences and 86 new assistant operator's licences were issued. Fifty-nine grade licences were issued to operators who qualified during the year.

Since the coming into force of the Cinematograph Operators Licensing Regulations 1938, 1,543 operators and 1,144 assistant operators have been licensed.

XXI. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY

The library's use and service continue to grow apace, and it is probably as much that its resources and accessibility are becoming better known as that advancing education, especially at the higher levels, leads more people to research as well as study for its own sake. This latter is culturally the healthier sign, for study to a specific end such as a degree can be construed as mercenary, whereas post-graduate or other private research often makes contribution to the common store of knowledge.

Moreover, the greater range of research aids in the Turnbull Library to-day provides facilities and access to mines of information that could not have been quarried so well before the war. The demand for genealogical information and for illustrated material is a matter for astonishment, and increases to the full physical capacity of the staff and building.

It is appropriate here to stress the congested state of the building, which has rendered working conditions difficult and often uneconomic. In addition staff turnover has been phenomenal, with several losses and five absent on protracted overseas leave.

CATALOGUING SECTION

The number of volumes catalogued at 31st March, was 80,880. As the number of acquisitions was greater than the number of books catalogued, the department is now behindhand with current work. The loss of trained cataloguers is in large part responsible for the present position, but mainly the carrying-out of stocktaking—the first since the library was thrown open to the public—meant that during the past year cataloguing was done on only three days each week. It has been found that the demands of routine work make very difficult such additional tasks as this.

The stocktaking involved also much checking and amendment to the catalogues, and many irregularities were remedied. The shelves now, however, apart from crowding, are in better order than since the removal of half the bookstock to Masterton.

ACQUISITIONS

The past year has been particularly fruitful in developing the library's collections, for it has been possible to take advantage of a number of opportunities of acquisition on the antiquarian book market, and both the Pacific and English literature sections have profited. A few of the more interesting are noted here.

Pacific Material

A work that has been sought for some years is Stolpe's essays on the Ornamental Arts of Savage Peoples, of classic importance in Pacific ethnology. In the same field studies by such authorities as Bastian, Leenhardt, Kubary, Finsch, Wagner, Kaudern and Clerk and Schmeltz, were located and secured. It was particularly satisfactory to acquire Gervais "Historical description of the Kingdom of Macassar," 1701, and Ansdell's "Highlands of Viti Levu," 1876, a rare Fijian work that has been needed for many years. Good files of "The American Anthropologist" and the "Journal of American Folklore" completed groups that were already held in part and which have much Pacific material. Similarly, the reports of the Netherlands Scientific Expedition to New Guinea were completed, commenced originally by Alexander Turnbull. Sets of the Nautical Magazine, the "Proceedings of the United States Naval Institute," and of the "Church Missionary Record" added strength in their fields for Pacific reference.

Two magnificent works of Australian interest were Fitzgerald's "Heemskirk Shoals" and Prout's "Sydney Illustrated," both published during the year, but of historical importance.

The most notable acquisition, however, was a group of MSS. of Katherine Mansfield. These included several poems, a portion of "The Aloe" and of an early diary. These came from Mr. Middleton Murry, and apart from a few other items in the Library are almost the only manuscripts of this writer known to be in New Zealand.

English Literature

Further additions, mainly of first editions, were secured of the following authors' works: Gissing, Defoe, Wm. Godwin, Conan Doyle, Lancelot Andrewes, Aphra Behn, Shelly ("The Masque of Anarchy," 1819), William Cobbett, Joseph Ritson, and Sir Philip Sidney's "The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia," 1598. Capell's edition of Shakespeare's works has been almost the only notable one lacking in the very strong Shakespearean collection, and a good set was added this year. Of especial note was a fine copy of Jethro Tull's "Horse-hoeing husbandry," 1733, a landmark in the march of British Agriculture.

An effort was made to strengthen the cultural background of the seventeenth and eighteenth century literature collections by adding important musical works. Music has never been more than an incidental in the library, but derives some importance from the excellent group bequeathed by the late T. Lindsay Buick. But the relationships of drama, literature, and music in these early periods were important, and better representation has now been gained. Important books here are Rousseau's "*Traite de la Viole*," 1687, and Ariosto's "*Cantate e Lezione*," 1728.

Bibliography gained considerably at the same time by such items as the British Museum subject indexes, catalogues of MSS. music, and further volumes of the main Catalogue of Printed Books. A long run of the Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America, the Royal Society "*Index of Scientific Papers*," 1800-1900, Churchill's "*Watermarks in Paper*," Bohatta's "*Bibliographie des livres d'heures*," and an early edition of "*Index Librorum Prohibitorum*," 1596, are highlights of the section.

The Book

Fine printing and the history of bookmaking endow the library with much of its repute, and this year a number of good additions have been made. Three mediæval MSS. on vellum provided better range of fourteenth and fifteenth century calligraphy and illumination. A number of seventeenth and eighteenth century books were quite important showing the art of binding. Through the helpfulness of Dr. J. C. Beaglehole, a good group of modern finely-printed volumes was secured, and also a further volume printed by Bodoni, "*The Castle of Otranto*."

MANUSCRIPT SECTION

There has been little progress in the manuscript work, as there has been no member of the staff able to devote full time to it. The papers are all readily accessible to research workers, are methodically arranged and carefully listed, but the detailed work of calendaring and indexing must wait until there is an experienced worker able to give full attention to it. Meanwhile, a part-time officer has continued with the cataloguing of the bound manuscripts, which is now nearly completed, and with the routine work of the section—general care of the manuscript collection, cataloguing and arranging of new items, and assistance to research workers and students. It is hoped that at an early date a commencement will be made towards a printed or duplicated catalogue or guide to what is probably, for research purposes, the most potentially useful single unit of the library.

REFERENCE SECTION

As there are now three officers engaged in reference work, conditions have improved in this branch of the library over the past year. Space in the reading room, however, is still at a premium, especially during the school holidays, and more accommodation for readers is a matter of urgency. Since the end of the war the amount of reference work has more than trebled and entails a great deal of correspondence within New Zealand as well as overseas.

During the year, an index was compiled of the names of migrants to New Zealand from 1842 to 1860, taken from the passenger lists published in the "*New Zealand Spectator*" for those years. This, with an index to the New Zealand Company's Embarkation Register, makes a much quicker service available in handling the numerous inquiries about the arrival of early settlers. New Zealand obituaries published in the *Australian and New Zealand Gazette* from 1852 to 1882 are now being added to the obituary index, and already these have been of value in reference work. A start has been made on compiling an index of illustrations in books here. This is a task of some magnitude and could usefully employ the full-time services of at least one officer, but when completed,

it will satisfactorily supplement the portrait index and the photographic collection. Already it has been of service to readers. Among the subjects covered by students are the following :—

Trade between New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.
 Timber-milling in Canterbury.
 History of Cheviot district.
 Thomas Fyssh Palmer.
 John Ballance.
 Sir Robert Stout.
 Rev. James Buller.
 Flags of the Pacific.
 Labour traffic in the Pacific.
 New Zealand's part in antarctic exploration.
 The sub-antarctic islands of New Zealand.
 New Zealand fiction.
 History of Belfast.
 History of Coromandel.
 Dumont D'Urville.
 Wakefield family.
 Katherine Mansfield.
 History of education in Otago.
 Land confiscation in Taranaki.

PHOTOGRAPH SECTION

The number of photographs in the collection now approaches 120,000, of which approximately one-third is either completely or partially catalogued. Acquisitions through the year have been many, valuable, and various, and include several thousand negatives of the work of a Nelson photographer, Tyree. These pictures, mostly made in the 1890's, though largely of Nelson and Marlborough Provinces, include modes of transport and dress and are of national importance. When catalogued they will be a most valuable acquisition.

Progress has been made in the cataloguing of other important collections—namely, those of F. N. Jones of Nelson, J. H. Kinnear of Auckland, and A. P. Godber of Silverstream, Wellington. This last-named photographer, whose work was largely concerned with Maori and railway subjects, has provided the Library with a splendid pictorial record of the first twenty-five years of the present century.

Considerable progress has been made in the classifying and indexing of the shipping section, and an effort to bring it up to date to include photographs of present-day shipping has resulted in over one hundred vessels being added. These photographs representing the usual traders to New Zealand are the work of the photograph librarian.

DONATIONS

The volume of worth-while material presented has shown no diminution this year. The most notable is probably the bequest of the late Percy Godber's collection of New Zealand photographs, railways history, and Maori material. Several letters and a poem by Katherine Mansfield, and a hitherto unrecorded piece of sheet music by her, were striking additions to our records of this writer. Mr. James Andrew of Ika, Wairarapa, was instrumental in our receiving the original brand-book of the early Wairarapa sheep-runs. Mrs. G. Mintoft and Mr. Roland Hipkins presented early water-colours by Brees, the originals of the engravings in his highly valued "Pictorial Illustrations," 1847. Miss Cox of Gisborne presented in memory of her father several volumes of seventeenth and

eighteenth century English drama. Mr. D. N. Strang made a spectacular gift of an original Boswell letter, which contained interesting references to his interest in a Botany Bay convict. Dr. H. von Haast added to the records of his father already presented, a number of diplomas, medallions, and associated items.

Early editions of works by Boccaccio and Andreas Alciatus, together with several mediæval MS. documents came from Mr. Clifford Clements of Matamata. The British Medical Association libraries in Sydney and Melbourne were most helpful in building up Medical Congress publications. Of other institutions, the Auckland Public library, the Melanesian Mission, the Presbyterian Bookroom, and the British and Foreign Bible Society have presented valued and important items.

The Library is glad to express its gratefulness for these and other gifts too numerous to detail.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation not given printing (644 copies), £104.

By Authority: R. E. OWEN, Government Printer, Wellington.—1950.

Price 1s.]