

1908.
NEW ZEALAND.

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS: SURVEYS

(ANNUAL REPORT ON).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

The SURVEYOR-GENERAL to the Hon. the MINISTER OF LANDS.

SIR,—

Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, 1st June, 1908.

I have the honour to submit herewith the annual report on the survey operations of the Department for the twelve months ended the 31st March, 1908.

I have, &c.,

THOS. HUMPHRIES,

Surveyor-General.

The Hon. R. McNab, Minister of Lands.

THE FIELD STAFF.

The demands on the Department have been particularly heavy this year. An average number of seventy-three staff surveyors have been employed, and it was found necessary to increase the strength by the addition of eight authorised assistants in charge of parties under the direct supervision and control of a similar number of the staff surveyors. Besides the foregoing, a number of licensed surveyors were from time to time employed on contract in sectionising Crown lands; forty-five undertook surveys at schedule rates of Native land and Court orders and mining claims, and many were engaged privately on Land Transfer surveys; all of these classes of survey come under the scrutiny of the Department, and must receive its approval before the plans become authoritative.

WORK COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR

By far the greater part of the work has been sectional survey, necessitated by the unceasing demand for land, though surveys of Native lands have been considerable, for, in addition to the usual amount of Native Land Court orders, extensive surveys and reports have been made for the Maori Land Boards, preliminary to the disposal of the land.

The following is a summary of the principal work completed during the past year:—

Class of Work.	Area.	Cost per Acre.	Total Cost.
	Acres.		£ s. d.
Minor triangulation	224,552	·98d.	915 4 8
Topographical	120,273	3·16d.	1,582 0 10
Topographical, for selection as unsurveyed land	69,985	4·07d.	1,186 17 8
Rural and suburban, by staff	263,612	2 14s.	29,956 18 0
Rural and suburban, by licensed surveyors	15,935	23·86s.	1,825 9 3
Town	1,530	£10·570	973 17 11
Native Land Court, by staff	22,093	per section	..
Native Land Court, by licensed surveyors	193,330	4·84d.	93 8 10
Maori Land Board	4,638	12·81s.	19 17 0
Gold-mining, by staff	31
Gold-mining, by licensed surveyors	4,234
Roads and railways	318 miles	£19·88 per mile	6,313 17 7
Miscellaneous work and other duties	9,672 8 11