

## KAURI-GUM RESERVES.

These reserves, which cover an area of about 223,000 acres, are being inspected by a Royal Commission set up for the purpose of determining what areas should be retained for gum-digging and the land that can be opened for settlement without interfering with the industry.

It is possible that the evidence given will result in the Commission reporting that a great many of the reserves have been so efficiently worked for gum or that the deposits are so small that there is no necessity to retain the areas as gum reserves. Should this be the case steps will have to be taken to utilize such areas for settlement. Hitherto these reserves have not been looked upon with much favour from a farming point of view, but the demand during the last few years for fruitgrowing areas has brought them into prominence.

## NATIONAL-ENDOWMENT LANDS.

The area within the endowment at the close of the year was 8,607,000 acres, of which 6,525,034 acres was held under lease or license, producing an annual rental of £99,600.

The gross amount received during the year from the rentals of the leases and from royalties in respect of timber and coal was £103,271, to be distributed in accordance with the statutory provisions governing the endowment.

## INSPECTIONS BY CROWN LANDS RANGERS.

An area of nearly 4,000,000 acres was covered by the inspections made by the Rangers attached to the various districts throughout the Dominion. The value of the improvements effected still continues to be well in advance of that required by law. There is a small increase in the number of defaulters over last year's figures, but, generally speaking, the position as disclosed by the following table may be regarded as very satisfactory.

TABLE D.—RETURN OF NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE RANGERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1914.

District.	Number of Properties visited.	Area.		Value of Improvements.				Number of Defaulters.						
				Required.		Actually made.		For Deficient Improvements only.	For Non-residence only.	For Non-residence and Improvements.	For other Reasons.	Total.		
		A.	R. P.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.					
Auckland ..	1,096*	442,801	2 10	194,228	10	9	431,384	15	7	72	110	78	16	276
Hawke's Bay ..	633	416,237	3 14	364,047	14	3	799,987	19	7	52	44	..	4	100
Taranaki ..	228	89,468	3 35	50,236	0	0	116,506	0	0	16	14	5	..	35
Wellington ..	579†	140,192	0 0	97,579	13	9	261,783	11	6	14	75	2	..	91
Nelson ..	1,142	350,449	0 0	99,749	0	0	264,072	0	0	97	119	71	..	287
Marlborough ..	533	296,351	3 13	130,928	14	0	322,912	19	10	4	24	3	..	31
Westland ..	304	52,564	1 9	25,234	15	1	77,566	16	8	8	8	9	..	25
Canterbury ..	2,044	910,990	3 29	390,333	0	0	698,955	5	0	142	27	15	86	270
Otago ..	1,365	965,553	1 10	289,716	5	0	533,999	13	10	125	63	..	..	188
Southland ..	1,383	282,230	3 11	112,278	3	8	240,258	3	3	35	10	13	..	58
Totals ..	9,307	3,946,840	2 11	1,754,331	16	6	3,747,427	5	3	565	494	196	106	1,361

\* In addition, 1,456 miscellaneous inspections were made, covering an area of 442,857 acres.  
inspections were made, covering an area of 125,293 acres.

† In addition, 509 miscellaneous

## REBATES OF RENT.

In the rebates granted for the prompt payment of rent 20,947 tenants participated, the total amount being £43,039. The details for each district are given in Table 35 published in the appendix.

## POSTPONEMENTS OF RENT.

The provisions of section 13 of the Land Laws Amendment Act, 1912 (whereby a tenant who is unable, through any natural disaster or other sufficient cause, to pay the rent due may, with the approval of the Land Board and the Minister, obtain postponement), have been taken advantage of by some of the settlers. At the close of the year the rental remaining postponed amounted to £10,585, owing by 199 tenants.