

1917.  
NEW ZEALAND.

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DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND SURVEY.  
PUBLIC DOMAINS OF NEW ZEALAND  
(ANNUAL REPORT ON).

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

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SIR,—

Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, 1st June, 1917.

I have the honour to report on the public domains of the Dominion for the year ended 31st December, 1916.

At the commencement of the year under review there were 567 domains subject to the provisions of Part II of the Public Reserves and Domains Act, 1908. Ten new ones, comprising an area of 521 acres 3 roods 1 perch, were made during the year. The Taumata and Poti Domains were amalgamated under the name of the Eltham Domain, and placed under the control of the Eltham Borough Council. The reservation over 3 acres 3 roods 34 perches of the Pukekohe Domain was cancelled, and the area vested in the Pukekohe Borough Council for water-supply purposes. The number of domains under the control of the Department at the end of the year was therefore 576, containing a total area of 86,543 acres, including the Wanganui River Trust Domain of 33,104 acres.

Fifty-one domains are controlled by Commissioners of Crown Lands, and 525 by local Domain Boards appointed from time to time.

Owing to the absence of a large number of men at the war the domains are not at present used for sports and pastimes to the same extent as formerly, and, speaking generally, Domain Boards have not undertaken many additional improvements, attention being given chiefly to maintenance-work.

Steps are being taken to revoke the appointment of a number of Domain Boards. This course has been considered advisable owing to the lack of interest taken by these Boards in their trust, and their failure to comply with the law. The domains concerned will be controlled by the Commissioner of Crown Lands until such time as local Boards who will take an active interest in the care of these places of public recreation can be appointed.

Inquiries are being made with regard to those Domain Boards that have not yet furnished a report for last year.

I have, &c.,

T. N. BRODRICK, Under-Secretary.

The Right Hon. W. F. Massey, P.C., Minister of Lands.

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# INDEX OF

CONTENTS

Page

Introduction ..... 1  
Chapter I ..... 10  
Chapter II ..... 25  
Chapter III ..... 40  
Chapter IV ..... 55  
Chapter V ..... 70  
Chapter VI ..... 85  
Chapter VII ..... 100  
Chapter VIII ..... 115  
Chapter IX ..... 130  
Chapter X ..... 145  
Chapter XI ..... 160  
Chapter XII ..... 175  
Chapter XIII ..... 190  
Chapter XIV ..... 205  
Chapter XV ..... 220  
Chapter XVI ..... 235  
Chapter XVII ..... 250  
Chapter XVIII ..... 265  
Chapter XIX ..... 280  
Chapter XX ..... 295  
Chapter XXI ..... 310  
Chapter XXII ..... 325  
Chapter XXIII ..... 340  
Chapter XXIV ..... 355  
Chapter XXV ..... 370  
Chapter XXVI ..... 385  
Chapter XXVII ..... 400  
Chapter XXVIII ..... 415  
Chapter XXIX ..... 430  
Chapter XXX ..... 445  
Chapter XXXI ..... 460  
Chapter XXXII ..... 475  
Chapter XXXIII ..... 490  
Chapter XXXIV ..... 505  
Chapter XXXV ..... 520  
Chapter XXXVI ..... 535  
Chapter XXXVII ..... 550  
Chapter XXXVIII ..... 565  
Chapter XXXIX ..... 580  
Chapter XL ..... 595  
Chapter XLI ..... 610  
Chapter XLII ..... 625  
Chapter XLIII ..... 640  
Chapter XLIV ..... 655  
Chapter XLV ..... 670  
Chapter XLVI ..... 685  
Chapter XLVII ..... 700  
Chapter XLVIII ..... 715  
Chapter XLIX ..... 730  
Chapter L ..... 745  
Chapter LI ..... 760  
Chapter LII ..... 775  
Chapter LIII ..... 790  
Chapter LIV ..... 805  
Chapter LV ..... 820  
Chapter LVI ..... 835  
Chapter LVII ..... 850  
Chapter LVIII ..... 865  
Chapter LIX ..... 880  
Chapter LX ..... 895  
Chapter LXI ..... 910  
Chapter LXII ..... 925  
Chapter LXIII ..... 940  
Chapter LXIV ..... 955  
Chapter LXV ..... 970  
Chapter LXVI ..... 985  
Chapter LXVII ..... 1000