

REPORT.

THE attached tables show that the volume of work handled by the Department for the last year has been maintained. The tables give a concise summary of the amount of work completed. Full details are contained in the reports supplied by the Chief Surveyors, which are filed as departmental records.

Under the heading of "Rural Surveys," in Table B, an area of 440,448 acres is shown as completed work, as compared with 613,810 acres for last year. The falling-off in the acreage returned is due to the smaller area of pastoral country included in this year's return.

The area of Native land surveyed shows an increase from 122,248 acres to 266,890 acres.

The average cost per acre of rural surveys has advanced from 2s. to 2s. 2d., and the average cost per acre of Native-land surveys has decreased from 2s. 4d. to 1s. 6d., as compared with the prices ruling last year. These figures show that the work is being done at a reasonable price.

A second increase of 20 per cent. to the schedule of rates for the surveys of Native and Crown lands, making a total of 40 per cent. on the 1913 schedule, was authorized on the 10th March. The effect of this increase will make the cost of surveys done by the staff surveyors more in agreement with the cost of the work done by contract surveyors.

The number of surveyors employed during the year under report was eighty, consisting of forty staff, four temporary, and thirty-six on contract, sixty-three of whom were employed in the North Island and seventeen in the South Island.

TABLE A.

Class of Work.	Area, &c.	Average Cost.	Total Cost.
			£ s. d.
Triangulation, by staff surveyors	38,100 acres	2.2d. per acre	356 17 11
Topographical, for selection, by staff surveyors	3,576 acres	0.42s. „	75 13 0
Rural	438,925 acres	1.96s. „	43,087 14 7
Village and suburban, by staff surveyors ..	503.5 acres	20s. „	503 9 11
Village and suburban, by licensed surveyors ..	69.1 acres	41.45s. „	142 15 0
Town, by staff surveyors	249 sec.	45.14s. per section	562 0 0
Town, by licensed surveyors	140 sec.	30.91s. „	216 7 3
Native Land Court, by staff surveyors ..	6,193 acres	3.36s. per acre	1,041 10 6
Native Land Court, by licensed surveyors ..	246,452 acres	1.50s. „	18,540 3 7
Native Land Court (paid by applicants) ..	14,245 acres
Coal- and gold-mining areas (paid by ap- plicants)	2,669 acres
Sawmill areas (paid by applicants) ..	1,523 acres
Roads, by staff surveyors	197.06 miles	£27.91 per mile	5,499 7 6
Roads, by licensed surveyors	13.38 miles	£30.22 „	405 0 3

TABLE B.

Land District.	Rural Surveys.	Native Land Court Surveys.
	Acres.	Acres.
North Auckland	43,588	17,490
Auckland	102,550	110,839
Hawke's Bay	55,513	42,702
Taranaki	19,307	5,574
Wellington	40,578	88,770
Marlborough	6,474	3,038
Nelson	40,331	..
Westland	2,936	..
Canterbury	9,825	107
Otago	102,278	344
Southland	17,068	1,026
Totals	440,448	266,890