

## STATEMENT OF CAPITAL.

The following statement shows the capital controlled by the Lands and Survey Department at 31st March, 1924, and revenue transactions during the financial Year ended 31st March, 1924.

Account.	Capital, 31st March, 1924.	Accrued Revenue.	Revenue Charges.
	£	£	£
Lands and Survey Department—General .. ..	7,485,700	384,985	363,240
Land for Settlements .. ..	10,862,400	519,000	467,400
Land for Settlements (Discharged Soldiers Settlement) ..	3,222,050	131,600	157,000
Cheviot Estate .. ..	373,480	27,850	11,950
National Endowment .. ..	5,057,100	151,125	177,645
Native Land Settlement .. ..	2,213,250	74,900	18,650
Hunter Soldiers Assistance Trust .. ..	19,850	800	275
Primary Education Endowment .. ..	2,294,300	113,950	114,670
Secondary Education Endowment .. ..	119,100	9,350	9,425
Scenery Preservation .. ..	101,650	2,200	2,000
National Endowment Trust .. ..	19,500	420	..
Totals .. ..	31,768,380	1,416,180	1,322,255
Rangitaiki Land Drainage .. ..	472,900	16,000	16,900
Swamp Land Drainage .. ..	331,000	..	..
Kauri-gum Industry .. ..	75,000	33,000	32,250
Hauraki Plains Settlement .. ..	60,500	22,550	20,550
General Purposes Relief .. ..	35,000	1,750	1,575
Totals .. ..	974,400	73,300	71,275
Discharged Soldiers Settlement .. ..	20,074,665	952,725	1,058,885
Grand totals .. ..	52,817,445	2,442,205	2,452,415

This is the first time that it has been possible to afford such information, and the statement is of the utmost value as indicative of the magnitude of State operations in connection with the lands of the Dominion.

## INSPECTION OF OFFICES.

During the year the whole of the twelve district offices have been visited by the Inspector, and particular attention has been paid to the inspection of the accounts and revenue sections. The large volume of work in connection with advances under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, in addition to the collection of land revenue, makes it necessary to have a complete system of internal check, and one of the most important of the Inspector's duties is to see that this check is continuously applied. For this purpose frequent visits have to be paid to the various offices, and this means continual travelling on the part of the inspecting officer. The organization and control of the staff is a difficult matter in some of the district offices on account of the inadequate accommodation provided, but despite this disadvantage the work has been carried out expeditiously owing to the energy and diligence displayed by the members of the staff.

In addition to the departmental inspection, the offices are occasionally visited by Inspectors from the Treasury and the Public Service Commissioner's Office, who have always found the work carried out to their satisfaction.

An inspection was made of the Chief Drainage Engineer's Office at Auckland, whilst the drainage-works at Hauraki Plains and Waihi Swamp were also visited for the purpose of checking the preparation and payment of wages, and to see that the system of recording the receipt and issue of stores is being properly carried out.

## LAND-DRAINAGE OPERATIONS.

The Land Drainage Branch of the Department has been actively engaged during the year, not only in the completion of the many large schemes now in progress, but also in the preliminary investigation of several new projects for the unwatering of large areas of swamp country.

For the year ended 31st March, 1924, 1,700,298 cubic yards of spoil was excavated, as against 1,335,140 yards for the previous year. The up-to-date excavating plant now in the possession of the Department has been the great factor in the progressive increase in the work of excavation during the last few years.

Fuller particulars of the work of the Branch are given in Appendix III.

## STAFF EMPLOYMENT.

On the 1st April, 1923, there were 619 permanent officers in the Department and 36 officers temporarily appointed, making a total of 655. During the past twelve months 53 new appointments (chiefly junior officers) were made to the permanent staff and 15 appointments to the temporary staff,